

WILLIAM FRANK RAMSEY

Captain William Frank Ramsey, SS, USN (Ret.), died at his home on 11 June 2003 after a courageous battle with lung cancer. He was 66 years old.

Ramsey joined the Naval Reserve in his hometown of Groves, TX. while still in high school and was appointed to the Class of 1960. While at USNA, Bill was one of the initial team of Midshipmen that restored and started using the cannon to celebrate scores by the football team.

Bill went to Submarine School immediately following graduation and his first action was on TROUT in the Cuban Missile Crisis. Bill's subsequent sea tours included VALADOR, JAMES K. POLK, and commanding officer of TROUT. Shore duty tours were: Trident and Strategic Systems, ComSubPac; Chief Staff Officer, SubRon 16; commanding officer, Naval Communications Station Puget Sound; command officer, Submarine Base, Kings Bay, GA, with concurrent commanding officer responsibilities for the Trident Training Facility and Trident Refit Facility. Bill put together several COM groups in the Pacific Northwest to make up the new NavComSta as the initial CO. Bill was also CO of Kings Bay for three years throughout the construction period and took it operational. In fact, Bill was the first non-nuclear power qualified submariner to be CO of a submarine base in more than 20 years. For this service Bill was awarded the Legion of Merit. Bill also received the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy Commendation (two awards), Submarine Qualification Dolphins, and Polaris Missile Patrol Pin (multiple Stars), as well as many other recognition medals.

Bill will be best remembered by his logical approach to life and the business of the Navy, his unfailing willingness to help those of all ranks and station within his ability, and his loyalty to his family, the nation, the Navy, and his close friends. Bill is missed and I, personally, hope he is waiting to fly kites with me when it is my time to join him.

Bill is survived by his wife, Karen Gilmore Ramsey; children, Jean-Marie, Laura, and Rob; four grandchildren; his mother; and two sisters.

A portion of Bill's ashes will be inurned in Naval Academy Columbarium and the remainder scattered at sea by a submarine based at King's Bay.

*George M. Singer '63
Shipmate, October 2005*