

Forest Terence Rhodes



Forrest T. Rhodes of Burlington, KS, passed away on 14 November 2017, following a battle with Parkinson's disease. He was 79 years old.

A native of Toledo, IL, Forrest graduated from Cumberland High School and received a congressional appointment to the Naval Academy. While at Annapolis, he was active in several intermural sports and the concert band. He graduated with the Class of 1960 as a member of the Fifth Company.

Following commissioning, he served onboard COWELL (DD-547), where he was engineering officer until his selection for submarine service. After completing nuclear power training, he joined the gold crew of JAMES MADISON (SSBN-627) and was later posted to the Navy Nuclear Power Training Unit in Idaho Falls, ID, serving as engineering duty officer and training officer, until his resignation in 1967.

In 1967, Forrest began a civilian career in the nuclear power industry with Wisconsin Electric Power Company, initially in Milwaukee, WI, and in 1968, moved to Two Rivers, WI, to work in operations management at the nuclear plant at Point Beach. In 1980, Forrest relocated to Burlington, KS, to accept a position at Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant, which was then under construction. While at Wolf Creek, Forrest served in various roles, initially as Plant Manager, and later as Vice President of Nuclear Operations, and then Vice President of Engineering and Technical Services. He retired from Wolf Creek in 1995.

While in Wisconsin, Forrest's hobbies included curling and then golf after the move to Kansas, as well as home brewing. He devoted much of his free time to serving on the boards of different local civic organizations. He was a trustee for Coffey (County) Health System and for 20 years, was a founding director (and past-chairman) of the Coffey Health Foundation. He also served two terms on the Burlington City Council.

Forrest is survived by his wife of 52 years, the former Julia Kent "Judy" Waldo of Holland, VA; sons, Forrest T. Rhodes Jr. (and his wife, Tiffany) of El Dorado, KS, and Chris Rhodes of Topeka, KS; and grandchildren, Meghan and Nathan.

January-February 2018 Shipmate