

CARL VAUGHN RIPA

Carl V. Ripa died of a sudden heart attack on 27 September 2000, the day before he was to leave his home, in North Haledon, NJ, with his wife, Virginia, to attend the Class of 1960 40th class reunion in Annapolis, MD.

Besides his wife, Virginia, whom he married within a week of graduation, he is survived by his children, John and Jennifer; their spouses, Theresa and Steven; and grandchildren, Brendan, Michael, Rebecca and Emily.

He entered the Naval Academy after a year at Union College at Schenectady, NY, and graduated from Teaneck High School in Teaneck, NJ. He was a four-year member of the Fifth Company and graduated in the top 10% of the class. He is remembered for his diplomatic style and willingness to help others with their academic needs.

Upon graduation, Carl was commissioned in the civil engineering corps. After required civil engineering training at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, he was assigned as public works officer at the Navy Supply School in Athens, GA. After leaving Athens in 1965, Carl joined a SeaBee battalion and immediately deployed to the Antarctic to assist National Science Foundation projects.

Upon completion of two later deployments to Vietnam, Carl left the Navy in 1968. He joined the New York Bell Telephone Company as an engineer and obtained an M.B.A. degree from Pace University in New York. More than 20 years later, he retired from New York Bell as vice president of engineering.

He then embarked on a five-year contract assignment as vice president of national security and emergency preparedness for the Bellcore Corporation. Here, he headed a Washington-based project on emergency command and control communications. In this capacity, he served on the President's advisory panel for emergency communication backup systems. Retired for the past three years, Carl had been deeply involved in the administration and maintenance of the Meadowbrook Church in North Haledon, NJ. The memorial service was held at the church and was attended by most of the congregation reflecting the positive impact he had made on the church.

Classmates Duane Beck, Vance Fry, Larry Sarno and their wives left the reunion early to attend the services. At the memorial service, each spoke of his friendship and filled the congregation in with anecdotes about various stages of Carl's life. Many of the parishioners spoke fondly of the leadership he provided the church in its efforts to grow and the impact he had on their personal lives.

Carl was buried at Paramus Memorial Park in Paramus, NJ.

I am proud to have known him, to have roomed with him and to have had him as a friend since graduation. He played no small part in my life or others that he came in touch with during his lifetime. He embodied not only all the qualities of a leader and a Gentleman, but he was a gentle man as well. I, for one, feel a void in my life.

*Larry Sarno '60
Shipmate, April 2001*