

Robert Livingston Steele



Commander Robert L. Steele, USN (Ret.), of Lexington, KY, passed peacefully at his home on 20 December 2017 after a long battle with dementia and cancer. He was 81 years old.

“Bob” was born in Corregidor, Philippines. He graduated from Staunton Military Academy (1954), the United States Naval Academy (1960) and MIT, with a degree in naval engineering. He served 20 years in the United States Navy in submarines and retired 1980.

He was the technical director for the American Society of Naval Engineers and retired 2006. He is a member of the Second Presbyterian Church and served as deacon. Bob has a long history of military in his family and close ties to Lexington, including his father, Colonel Preston Steele, USA (World War II), grandfather, Captain Theophilus Breckinridge Steele, USA, and great-grandfather, Dr. Theophilus Steele, MD, who married Sophinisba Breckinridge, daughter of Robert Jefferson Breckinridge, a very influential member of Second Presbyterian Church.

Bob struggled for ten years with dementia and cancer and now is at peace. He was proud of his country and his service and is loved, remembered and respected by many.

Bob was preceded in death by his father, Preston Steele; mother, Jean Herbert; aunt, Connie Archer; and sister, Terry Steele. He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Darlene Croasman Steele; son, Breck Steele; and five daughters, Laurie Davey (Dean), Victoria Logue (Frank), Carol Steele (Tony Risley), Caroline Steele (Carlos Morales) and Kate Steele (Justin Southern); two sisters, Peggy Beaty and Carol Hayes (Pete); six grandchildren, Daniel Flynn (Rebecca), Andrew Flynn, Griffin Logue, Joe LeMay, Sam LeMay and Sophia Yoshimoto; three great-grandchildren, Ellis, Isla and Ryan Flynn; sister-in-law, Kathy Kilgore (Bill); nephews, William Sebring (Shelley) and Christopher Sebring; grand-niece, Julia Sebring; cousin, Sandi Tompkins (Robert); and many extended family members.

April-May 2018 Shipmate