

## Thomas Edward Wilson



“Tom” Wilson passed away peacefully with his family by his side on 12 May 2017. A large and beautiful bird flew just outside of his window as his spirit released—a sign to his family that he is soaring in the sky once again.

Born in Cambridge, MA, on 22 February 1939, he graduated from the Naval Academy in 1960 and received his MBA from Washington University. He and his wife, Susan, met on a blind date and found love from their first meeting. Tom was a pilot on the carrier, BON HOMME RICHARD, during the early days of the Vietnam War.

In late 1966, he left the service and moved East with his growing family. He worked in aircraft engines, eventually landing his family in Cincinnati, OH, in 1979. After a long career at GE, he became the CEO of LCA-Vision, a calling he loved. He worked as a consultant, turning around several struggling businesses with his patience and knowledge.

Tom was committed to keeping fit his entire life and he was adept at fixing things. His determination to fix things that couldn't be easily fixed often introduced those around him to his unmatched talent for colorful words! Tom was both a melanoma and spinal cord injury survivor. After the spinal cord injury in 2003, he was told he would not walk again. He battled back to walk his daughter, Sara, down the aisle one year later. Though physically limited, he never once gave up. He continued his daily workout ritual, understanding how important it was to maintain the quality of life he wanted. Over the years, he spent much of his time being a loving mentor to his children and grandchildren, creating bonds that will be cherished forever. Tom was brilliant, determined, wickedly funny and a valiant fighter until the end. Susan understood him as no one else ever would and they shared a loving passion for family and one another.

He was the beloved husband of 53 years to Susan (Horgan) Wilson; loving dad to Lisa, Kristina (Bill Baldwin), Tom (Jenny), Tricia (Jim Blase), Sara (Sean Foley) and Sheila (David Pinto); and he was an amazing “Popsie” to 16 grateful grandchildren, Sam, Ben, Tyler, Zak, Peyton, Lily, Davis, Kate, Jack, Tommy, Miles, Owen, Colin, Cameron, Oscar and Lukie.

*September-October 2017 Shipmate*