



Captain David Howard McKinley

Obituary

Captain David H. McKinley, USN (Ret.)

On Thursday, 12 August, my husband of almost 52 years, Captain David H. McKinley died at home from complications following abdominal surgery.

Dave was the eldest of 5 children of Howard and Barbara McKinley and grew up in several states due to his father's Naval career. Dave graduated in June 1964 from the University of Washington with a BA in Political Science (International Relations) and commissioned Ensign, USN through the NROTC Program. His initial sea tour was served in USS HOOPER (DE 1026) as Communication Officer and included two deployments to the Western Pacific. In March 1967, he served as Weapons Officer, USS BRINKLEY BASS (DD 887), also with two deployments to the Western Pacific. Captain McKinley reported to Commander-in-Chief, Pacific at Camp Smith, Hawaii in May 1969 for duty as Assistant OIC of the CINCPAC Communications Center before becoming Aide and Administrative Assistant to CINCPAC.

In August 1971, Capt McKinley studied at the US Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA culminating in June 1974 in his being awarded the degree Master of Science in Electrical Engineering. His next tour was as Combat System Officer in USS MAHAN (DDG 42), including a deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. In August 1976 Capt McKinley attended the Command and staff course at the US Naval War College, Newport, RI where he graduated "With Highest Distinction". Following a tour as Executive Officer, USS BUCHANAN (DDG 14) from October 1977 to May 1979, he was assigned duties until June 1982 as Head, Combat Direction Systems Section for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Surface Warfare) (OP OJ).

Capt McKinley commanded USS ROBISON (DDG 12) from January 1983 to July 1985, including one deployment to the Western Pacific/ central America and one to the Persian Gulf. From October 1985 to September 1987, Capt McKinley was assigned duties as Assistant Chief of staff for

Operations, Plans, Readiness and Training for COMNAVSURFGRU WESTPAC/CTF 73/CTF 75 in Subic Bay, RP with additional duties for the last three months of the tour as Chief of Staff; he functioned as the Operations Officer for the first-ever USN ship visit to the People's Republic of China at Qingdao in November 1986. In October 1987 Capt McKinley assumed duties as Senior Combat systems Member and in May 1988 additional duties as Senior Surface Member, Washington Board of Inspection and Survey. He commanded USS REEVES (CG 24) from October 1989 until November 1991, during which REEVES was awarded the FY 90 CINCPACFLT Golden Anchor Award for retention excellence. His final tour of duty before retirement was as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (CJI/EW/Space) on the staff of the ASN (Research, Development and Acquisition).

Decorations and awards include Legion of Merit (with three Gold stars), Meritorious Service Medal (with Gold star), Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V", Joint Service Commendation Medal, and various service and campaign medals and ribbons. He was designated a Materiel Professional in November 1985 and was a proven subspecialist in both Weapons system Engineering and Electronic Engineering. David loved baseball and his rose garden. He gave me the best 51 and ½ years of my life. Thank you sweetheart for all the wonderful memories. I will always love you. Paula

Friends and neighbors may call at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home , 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA, 22032 on Sunday, August 29th, 2021 from 2-4PM and 5-7 PM. Masks must be worn inside the Funeral Home. Funeral service will be held at the Fort Myer Old Post Chapel with internment following in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.