

ROBERT PAUL BAKER

Robert P. Baker died on 9 June 2011 in Sun City, AZ.

“Bob” was born on 24 November 1936 in Wichita, KS, to Paul Odwin and Nellie Mae Harris Baker. He moved to Tulsa, attended public schools, graduated from Will Rogers High School 1954 and enlisted in the Navy on 3 August 1954.

He graduated from Electronic Technician School at Treasure Island, CA, was assigned to FORT MANDON (LSD-21) and attended NAPS in Bainbridge, MD, where he lettered in football, wrestling and lacrosse. He entered the Naval Academy in 1956, appointed by the Secretary of the Navy. At the Academy, Bob was on the wrestling team and lettered in ocean sailing, sailing aboard HIGHLAND LIGHT and GYPSY in two Bermuda races. He was very proud to serve aboard the destroyers BENHAM, WADLEIGH and R.K. HUNNINGTON during Midshipman cruises and always considered himself a destroyer man. He became a shellback on BENHAM on the way to Rio during Plebe Cruise.

After proudly graduating with the 16th Company, Class of 1960, Bob earned his Wings as a naval aviator in 1962, served patrol squadrons VP-42 and VP-1, flying P5Ms and P2Vs in the Pacific Fleet, with Vietnam tours in 1964 in support of De Soto missions and 1966 Operation Market Time. He was assigned to VT-1 as instructor before resigning his commission on 3 August 1967, serving exactly 13 years in the Navy.

Bob then worked as an electrical engineer for Hughes Aircraft on the TOW weapons system, Sanders Associates S3A acoustic processing system, Texas Instruments undersea warfare systems and Emerson Electric experimental acoustic processing equipment. Leaving the military-industrial sector, he moved to Washington State in 1976. He earned a Washington Professional Electrical Engineering License in 1980 and was later licensed in Arizona and Oklahoma. He designed electronic equipment for B-1 and B-2, as well as test and production equipment for Boeing's 747, 757, 767 and 777 aircraft. He holds patents on several electronic circuits and the robot used to assemble the hull and wings of the C-17 and Boeing commercial aircraft. Leaving Washington in 1991, Bob lived and worked as a consultant and contractor in commercial industries.

Bob is survived by his children, Laura Jean and Jeffrey Lynne, from his marriage to Carol J. Porter of Annapolis, MD; his wife of 40 years, Jean; and their children, Kelly Lynn and Sean Michael.

He was an officer and a gentleman.

The Baker Family – Fall 2011 Shipmate