

Jerome Edward Benson



Captain Jerome E. Benson, USNR (Ret.), 77, died at his home in Lufkin, TX, while receiving hospice care, on 30 December 2013, of Haemophilus influenza, a complication arising from his valiant battle against non-Hodgkins lymphoma. A Wyoming native son, “Jerry” graduated from Natrona County High School and received his appointment to the Naval Academy Class of 1959, 21st Company, from Wyoming Senator Frank Barrett. Bilging Youngster Year European history necessitated his “joining” Third Company, Class of 1960, where he became a boxer, First Battalion Commander, Third Company Commander and a varsity ocean sailor. After having been awarded the Fleet Reserve Association sword, he wed his high school OAO, Mary Bunce, a teacher at

Annapolis’ St. Mary’s High School, on 8 June 1960 in St. Andrew’s Chapel.

His first assignment was in FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754) followed by two years as CO of CAPE (MSI-2). Leaving active duty in 1964, he continued in the Naval Reserve, serving in numerous units and locations for the next 23 years. Assignments included five tours as a commanding officer and four years as a staff officer. As a USNA Blue & Gold officer for more than 20 years, he interviewed all Academy candidates from his Texas area.

A civic leader, Jerry received the Boy Scouts of America’s Silver Beaver Award for exceptional service. He served as post commander, adjutant and Boys’ State coordinator of American Legion Post 113; founding commissioner, Angelina Youth Soccer Association; board president, St. Cyprian’s Episcopal School; president, Lufkin Kiwanis Club; director of the boards of the Texas Forestry Museum, Angelina County Health Association, and Angelina Chamber of Commerce; and founding member, president and Service Above Self awardee, Angelina Rotary Club. He was Lufkin’s longest tenured stocks and bonds broker and owner of East Texas Investment Services. He was a 40-year member of St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church in Lufkin. He is survived by Mary and their three children, Ted Benson of Laramie, WY, Mary Kathryn Billington (m. Corey Billington) of Lutry, Switzerland and Elizabeth James (m. Charlie James) of Anna, TX; and granddaughters, Claire and Morgan.

The Benson Family