

John Patrick Cecil



“Pat” Cecil died on Wednesday, 22 June 2016, after an extended illness. He was 77 years old.

A native of Spartanburg, SC, Pat attended Sewanee Military Academy prior to receiving a congressional appointment to the Naval Academy from South Carolina. At Annapolis, he was a varsity swimmer, was Company Commander of the 17th Company and graduated with the class in June 1960.

He then earned his Wings as a naval aviator and flew S-2F aircraft. Later, he chose to pursue Surface

Warfare as a destroyer officer, but shortly thereafter was selected by Admiral Rickover to undergo nuclear engineering training and then reported to ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) as a nuclear qualified engineer.

In 1965, he separated from active service and returned to Spartanburg to join Cecil Construction, serving as a general contractor and developer for many years. His firm built many of the facilities that are now part of Trident Submarine Base in Kings Bay, GA.

He served his community as a Scout leader, a member of Sertoma and as a deacon and elder in the First Presbyterian Church, where he was part of church leadership and lead Sunday school classes for many years. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing with friends and family.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, the former Nancy Gray of Spartanburg, SC; sons, John Patrick Cecil Jr. (Murray), Nathan (Annie) and Thurman Gray (Mindy); and four grandchildren, Ellie, Lake, Cannon and Daphne.

September-October 2016 Shipmate