

Thomas Edmund Doherty



Lieutenant Colonel Thomas E. Doherty passed peacefully at his home on 31 December 2018 with Gail, his wife of 58 years, by his side.

“Tom” was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1938. His love of basketball and football at St. Francis Prep (1956) earned him an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, Class of 1960. Tom served in the U.S. Air Force for over 24 years. The majority of his career was in the Military Airlift Command as a navigator, operations officer within search and rescue and notably, a tour of duty in Vietnam. One of Tom’s most fulfilling roles was his command of

the Pararescue Training Squadron. His assignments took him and his family to Kansas, Texas, New Jersey, the Philippines, New Hampshire, Illinois and New Mexico.

Tom then took his leadership talent to Citigroup for 12 years as a vice president. Tom was devoted to his country and community, living a life dedicated to service, compassion and care. After retiring in Albuquerque, NM, he devoted years to volunteering with Catholic Charities; supporting Gail with administration of Project Linus; cuddling at the UNM NICU; providing pet therapy with Klancy, his German shepherd, to patients at the VA and children’s hospital; and supporting John XXIII Church and Aquinas Newman Center.

Tom and Gail relocated to Phoenix, AZ, where he was able to receive wonderful medical care and eventually eldercare from the staff at Morning Star, Endeavor and most recently from Hospice of the Valley, allowing him to spend time with his family and dear friends.

Tom is survived by Gail; their four children, Suzanne Doherty Glenn (James), Michelle Doherty, Jeannine Doherty and Mark Doherty (Shari); grandsons, Aidan and Finn; and his brother, Marty Doherty. Tom was predeceased by his sister, Sheila McGuire; and brothers, Bill and Phil Doherty. His personal toast of “to family,” guided his life and he will be deeply missed by all whose lives he touched.

March 2019 Shipmate