

JAMES INSLEY DUDLEY

Lieutenant Commander James I. "Jim" Dudley, USN (Ret.), died on Friday, 10 November 2000 of complications following treatment for acute myelogenous leukemia. He was 64 years old.

Jim was born on 17 February 1936 in Hagerstown, MD. He graduated from the Naval Academy with the Class of 1960 and spent that summer instructing plebes. He then headed to Pensacola for flight training. While in Pensacola, he met Judy Ingram and they were married on 1 July 1961. Jim completed flight training and received his 'Wings of Gold' in February 1962.

His first squadron was VP-49 in Bermuda flying P-5Ms from July 1962 to July 1963. He transitioned to P-3s as the squadron changed home port to Patuxent River, MD, in July 1963. His next duty station was the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, where he received his degree in aeronautical engineering in 1967. He was stationed at Pan River again from 1967 to 1969, as an instructor pilot with VP-30. Back to the West Coast in September 1969 joining VP-1 at Whidbey Island, WA, as they transitioned to P-3s. Two WestPac deployments and a homeport change to Barber's Point, HI, from 1970 to 1971 followed. A Washington D.C. tour came next, where he worked with P-3 derivatives at NavAirSysCom from 1971-1975. Sea duty followed on board NIMITZ as communications officer, with the occasional COD flight to pick up the mail!

Jim finished his 20-year career at Naval Support Activity, Brooklyn, and Mitchell Field, on Long Island, NY. He and Judy retired to Opelika, AL, where they first had an 1840s plantation house on 20 wooded acres, and then lovingly restored Judy's grandparent's home in town. Jim's second career was as the office manager for a law firm in Auburn, AL, from 1981-1998.

Jim was an active member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Opelika. He served in many capacities over the years, as junior warden, senior warden, lay reader and lay eucharistic minister, and treasurer. He was active in the restoration of the historic church building for its 125th anniversary.

Jim and Judy enjoyed traveling together to visit their children and grandchildren, and to the beach with friends. They attended several high school reunions and a VP-49 reunion of those who served that squadron when it was Bermuda based. In September of 1999, they traveled with a group of USNA alumni for a wonderful week in Ireland. Two events that he had looked forward to, a VP-1 reunion in May 2000, and his 40th USNA class reunion in October 2000, had to be missed due to his treatment schedule.

Jim had two great loves - his Lord, whom he served faithfully, and his family. His two girls and his five grandchildren were his pride and joy. Jim was a warm and generous person - a wonderful, loving husband, a good man and friend. He was a good and faithful servant of the Lord, and he will be missed so very much by both family and friends.

Jim is survived by his wife, Judy; daughter, Beth, and her husband, Commander Bill Orr, of Annandale, VA, daughter, Amy, and her husband, Dr. Michael Edwards, of Beaufort, SC; grandchildren, Jim, Emily and Sara Off, and Julie and Maggie Edwards; and his sister, Betty Litton of Hagerstown, MD. He also leaves four nephews and two nieces.

Jim was laid to rest with full military honors at Fort Mitchell National Cemetery in Seale, AL.

Judy Dudley, Beth Orr & Amy Edwards
Shipmate, March 2001