

THOMAS ALFRED MEINICKE



Rear Admiral Thomas A. Meinicke, USN (Ret.), quietly passed away on 1 March 2012 surrounded by his loving family.

“Tom” hailed from Rapid City, SD, and embarked upon a full career in the submarine service after his graduation from the Naval Academy, 22nd Company, and a June Week wedding to his life-long pal, Alice Almiede diZerega, in 1960. During a career filled with an insatiable appetite for learning, he earned a master’s degree in operations research from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and was a graduate of the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Tom commanded FLYING FISH (SSN-673), the Nuclear Power Training Unit, Idaho Falls, Submarine Squadron Eight, and Commander, Submarine Groups Six and Ten at the Flag rank. In addition to his afloat tours aboard SEA DRAGON (SSN-584), SAM RAYBURN (SSBN-635), MARIANO G. VALLEJO (SSBN-685) and NATHAN HALE (SSBN-623) (Gold), he served as both the Force Nuclear Power Officer and Chief of Staff, Commander Submarine Forces U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Tom was the Director, Attack Submarine Division; SSN Program Coordinator (OP-22); and the Director, Strategic and Theater Nuclear Warfare Division (OP-65).

His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit with four Gold Stars, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Gold Stars and the Navy Commendation Medal with three Gold Stars.

After 32 years of naval service, Tom embarked on a successful second career in the civilian sector. He served first as the manager of the Planning and Assessment Department, and then as the deputy plant manager for the South Texas Nuclear Project. Later, he was vice president of operations for Sithe Independence Power Partners in Oswego, NY, and as vice president of operations for Sithe New England in Boston, MA. Tom retired to Virginia Beach, VA.

Tom, a gifted artist, was not only a life-long voracious reader, but also an avid fly fisherman and a passionate master woodworker.

Tom is survived by his wife of 52 years, Alice; three daughters, Almiede Arnell (Louis) of San Diego, CA, Elizabeth Flynn (John) of Moraga, CA, and Andrea Diamond (Jeff) of Virginia Beach, VA; his 95-year-old father, Merton Lee Meinicke of Seaside, OR; brother, Jerry Meinicke; and sisters, Shirley Cutler and Mary Lee Meinicke. He dearly loved his nine grandchildren, Luke, Sarah, Michael, Tommy, Haley, Anna, Charlie, Chad and Dana.

Interment took place at the Naval Academy Columbarium on 2 April 2012.

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