

## Charles Jackson Simmons



Commander Charles J. Simmons, USN (Ret.), of Port Orchard, WA, died on 29 April 2019, at home surrounded by his loving family.

“Charley” was born in Greenville, SC, on 3 March 1937. While growing up, he lived in Puerto Rico and Hawaii before his family settled in Spencer, WV, where he graduated from high school. After a year at West Virginia University, he entered the United States Naval Academy with the Class of 1960.

After graduation, he entered the Supply Corps, married Carole Eatmen and raised three children until her passing. Active duty on destroyers, submarines, SubPac Staff, BuPers, Navy Supply Activity

Saigon, and finally Naval Supply Corps Puget Sound, rounded out a Navy career, which also included obtaining a master’s degree in computer systems at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA.

Charley’s personal military awards include the Bronze Star with Combat Distinguishing Device, Navy Unit Commendation, Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation, Gallantry Cross Medal with Palm and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device.

After his military retirement, Charley joined Scott Wetzel Services in Bremerton, WA, where he streamlined their services by automating the claims management system. During this time, he met and married Barbara Razy. He designed a spectacular home on the sound in Port Orchard, where he and Barbara raised a combined family. Outdoor activities such as camping, hunting, and especially fishing, were cherished family pastimes. Boating around the San Juan Islands with Barbara added much pleasure to his retirement years.

He continued his lifetime of service to the community, leading the Bremerton Central Lions Club and as the reader at the First Lutheran Church of Port Orchard. Charley received a letter of gratitude from the Governor of the State of Washington for his service with the Lion’s Club. He is survived by wife, Barbara; children, Christopher (Jodi), Sheri (Steve Watson) and Todd (Elizabeth); stepson, Ian Anderson (Cassandra); and eight grandchildren Sean, Travis, Ryan, Heather, Avery, Austin, Goldberry and Austin.

In USNA ’60, Charley lives on with his cheer—“WHO’S BETTER? DAMN FEW!”

*September 2019 Shipmate*