

Thomas Dean Paulsen



Rear Admiral Thomas D. Paulsen, USN (Ret.), loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, left to be with our heavenly Father on 27 March 2020 surrounded by family. “Tom” was born in Watford City, ND, on 14 April 1936 to H. Arthur and Agnes Lillian (Quale) Paulsen. Forever a proud North Dakotan, Tom graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1960. He married his lifelong love, Marbeth Hirsch, on 18 December 1960, sharing together 59 years of adventure, laughter and love.

Upon his commissioning, Tom Paulsen entered the submarine force, serving on *Corporal* (1960-1963) and *Theodore Roosevelt* (1963-1968). He attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, earning a master’s degree in Computer Science (1968-1970). He served as XO of

Sailfish (1970-1972). In 1972, he transferred to the Surface Warfare community, serving as XO of *REEVES* (1972-1974); CO of *WHIPPLE* (1975-1977); and aboard *OKLAHOMA CITY* (1977-1980). In 1982, he returned to USNA to serve as Pro-Dev (1980-1983). In 1984, he returned to sea as CO of *BLUE RIDGE*, 7th Fleet (1984-1986). He concluded his service as (EA) CinCLantFfl (1986); (EA) CNO (1986-1989); ComCruDesGru2 (1989-1990), CinCPacFlt N3 (1990-1992) and with his final role being Deputy CNET (1992-1994).

Retiring after 34 years of service to his country in 1994, Tom began his civilian career as CIO for Williams Telecommunications.

Board leadership roles included: director and board chair of Umbanet, Inc.; board of governors of the Institute of Knowledge Management; George Washington University, advisory board chair; president emeritus of the Center for Advanced Technologies (CAT); board of directors, eMagin; managing partner, National Knowledge and Intellectual Property Management Taskforce; and board of governors for the Japanese American National Museum.

Following his faith, Tom served as an elder at Christ Church in Kailua, HI, and Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, VA. Tom and Marbeth delivered meals to the homebound with Meals on Wheels.

Tom is survived by his wife, Marbeth H. Paulsen; three daughters, Kari P. Schaeffler (Mark Schaeffler), Kendel A. Paulsen (Kevin Stenstrom) and Katherine P. Luke (JP Luke); seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; three sisters, Delores Engelstad, Barbara Peterson and Gracie Paulsen; and a large extended family of cousins, nieces, and nephews, and grand-nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Gary Paulsen.

June 2020 Shipmate