

Henry Lemle Phillips



Captain Henry L. Phillips Jr., USN (Ret.), died peacefully on Friday, 24 July 2020, in New Smyrna Beach, FL, after a brief illness. He was 82 years old.

The son of Colonel Henry L. Phillips, USA, and Elizabeth (Blakemore) Phillips, "Hank" received his appointment to the Naval Academy from College Station, TX, after enlisting in the Marine Corps Reserve and briefly attending Texas A&M. A member of the USNA Track & Field team, he earned two varsity letters and two N* for Navy. Hank graduated in 1960 with the 17th Company, and to the surprise of many of his classmates, chose naval aviation over the Marine Corps.

Hank earned his Wings of Gold and joined the S-2F Tracker carrier-ASW community in 1961. His flying assignments included three carrier-based S-2F and S-3A deployments to the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and Norwegian seas. He commanded VS-31 aboard INDEPENDENCE and EISENHOWER (earning two "Battle E" awards) as well as the S-3A Fleet Replacement Squadron, VS-41 at NAS North Island, CA. In addition to a tour as a Company officer at USNA, Hank's career included assignments as an intelligence briefer with J2 at CinCEur, FlagSec for CarGru 6 in Mayport, FL, and the S-3A/B program coordinator at OpNav. In 1985, he transitioned to the "Gator Navy" to command RALEIGH (LPD-1) in Norfolk, VA, and later as Commodore, Amphibious Squadron 12. Hank attended the Royal College of Defense Studies in London before returning to DC for his final tour as Deputy, Mine Warfare (OpNav N72). After the Navy, Hank worked at Lockheed Martin before retiring to Annapolis and subsequently, New Smyrna Beach, FL. Hank was an avid skier, and while he settled permanently at the beach, his heart was and will always be in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

Reflecting on his own career, Hank believed: *"separately and collectively, whether they were the Skippers that showed me how, or the sailors that were the true architects of whatever success ascribed to me, the people of this great Navy of ours were the quantity that made the difference."*

Hank is survived by his wife of 32 years, Marion Field Phillips; his children, Kelly Phillips-Henry and Blake H. Phillips '94, and their mother, Mary Helen Phillips; stepchildren, Charles, James and Merrell Kehler; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

November-December 2020 Shipmate