

Daniel Timothy Coughlin



Captain Daniel T. Coughlin Jr., USNR (Ret.), 83, died at his home in San Diego, CA, with his family by his side on 13 October 2020. He had been ill for an extended period of time and died from complications of Alzheimer's disease and cancer.

Dan grew up in Philadelphia, PA, and was an accomplished singer, performing professionally as a teenager and young adult, and had appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show. He attended Archmere Academy in Delaware and his childhood dream had been to be a pilot. Subsequently, he went on to the Naval Academy, graduating in June 1960.

Dan went directly to flight training and was designated a naval aviator in November 1961. He then had sequential tours with VS-36 in Norfolk aboard RANDOLPH (CVS-15) and INTREPID (CVS-11). From 1965-1967, Dan was in postgraduate school at Monterey, CA. He then was assigned as Replacement Air Group instructor pilot (1967-1968), with one short trip to Vietnam on KEARSAGE (CVS-33) as war room and CIC officer.

Dan left active duty in 1969, but continued as an aviator in VS-81, a Reserve squadron at NAS North Island, CA. He had numerous commands in the Reserves, including VS-81, VS-194 and two air intelligence units at the Naval Amphibious Base. His final tour was as officer-in-charge of the Naval Air Reserve Unit in Encino, CA. Through his career, Dan had over 1,500 carrier landings and retired as a captain.

His first civilian job was as program manager for Sperry Rand Univac, the S-3A integration and software design. This was state of the art avionics in the Navy's most sophisticated carrier aircraft. With an entrepreneurial spirit, Dan then started a financial consulting business, working with banks, CPAs and lawyers to provide individuals and businesses with appropriate products.

Dan met Patricia in Los Angeles in 1984 and moved to San Diego in 2014 to be closer to family, where they enjoyed the sunshine, Del Mar racetrack and spending time with grandchildren. They were inseparable until his passing.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia; three stepdaughters, Tricia (Geoff), Maria and Rita; and three step-grandchildren, Ruby, Ryan and Riley. He is also survived by his daughter, Laura, from his first marriage with Eileen. His children, Daniel and Kathleen, from this marriage, predeceased him.

January-February 2021 Shipmate