

Torrence Wiseman Rogers



Colonel Torrence W. Rogers, USMC (Ret.), 82, passed away in Virginia Beach, VA, on 6 July 2020.

“Torry” was born on 21 April 1938 in Indianapolis, IN, to Torrence Baxter and Margaret Leslie Rogers. He graduated from Park School and received a congressional appointment to the Naval Academy, where he ran cross country, rowed 150-pound crew and was managing editor of the *Lucky Bag*. In June 1960, he graduated with the Third Company and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Following The Basic School and Artillery Officers School, he was assigned as a series platoon commander at the USMC Officer Candidate School. He then served with the artillery battery in Okinawa, Japan, and Udon, Thailand, followed by instructor duty at the Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, OK.

He completed an electrical engineering degree at the Naval Postgraduate School and earned an MPA from American University, while concurrently teaching systems engineering at USNA. He served an 18-month tour in Vietnam, initially with the artillery battalion in I Corp, and then as a briefer in Saigon.

Subsequent postings included the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico; First Marine Brigade, Hawaii; Australian Joint Services School, Canberra; First Marine Airwing, Okinawa; and FMF Pacific HQ, Hawaii.

Senior assignments included fleet marine officer for Commander Seventh Fleet aboard BLUE RIDGE; commanding officer 14th Marine Regiment (reserve artillery); and plans officer FMF Atlantic, Norfolk, VA.

His decorations include the Bronze Star w/Combat V, the Meritorious Service Medal w/3 Gold Stars and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

He retired from the Corps in 1990 and became involved in mentoring his school-age children, renovating a classic house on the Lynnhaven River in Virginia Beach, VA, volunteering with the neighborhood civic league and the Methodist church. After acquiring a Midnight Lace Express Cruiser in 2001, he and the family spent time exploring the Chesapeake Bay and the ICW as far as Florida. For many years, he was an active member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, working regular shifts at the Little Creek Coast Guard Station. During the last decade of his life, he enjoyed many ocean cruises.

Torry is survived by his wife of 48 years, the former Lynette Cummings of Sydney, Australia; children, Andrew (Leslie), Stuart and Alexandra (Shawn Graft); four grandchildren; and his brothers, Alexander and Randall. He was predeceased by his brother, Baxter.

January-February 2021 Shipmate