

Edward Harvey Szweda



Edward H Szweda Jr. of Charleston, SC, died Saturday, 1 August 2020. He was 82 years old.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, in 1938, "Ed" was the son of Edward H. and Wanda W. Szweda. A 1960 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he entered the U.S. Marine Corps as a first lieutenant. Ed remained in the Corps, serving in Quantico, VA, Twentynine Palms, CA, and Cherry Point, NC.

Leaving the service in 1964, he was employed a short time as an engineer for DuPont and Company, Wilmington, DE. In 1965, he began training school with the Federal Bureau of Investigation,

Quantico, VA, an agency he proudly served for 23 years.

His first assignment as a Special Agent of the FBI was in Tampa, FL. Ed was selected to learn the Polish language at the Presidio in Monterey, CA, where he studied intensely for a year. Ed became proficient in Polish, assisted by his parents who were fluent. A transfer to the FBI Chicago office enabled him to use the skill. In 1970, he was transferred to FBI Headquarters, Washington, DC, as a supervisor. He remained in that position until a transfer to FBI Baltimore, MD, two years later. His assignment to Squad 8, a criminal squad, investigating bank robberies, kidnappings and extortions defined his chosen career. He became the quintessential investigator. In Baltimore, Ed became a firearms and defensive tactics instructor, general police instructor and a SWAT team leader. He contributed his expertise to the development of Ballistic Shield training and tactics.

Ed retired from the FBI in 1988. That same year, he opened his own very successful business, Szweda Investigative Services. His first case was for NBC; he was hired as part of a security team for the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea. He retired his business 23 years later, eager to spend more time on the golf course.

Ed is survived by his wife of 60 years, Laura Liberatore Szweda of Charleston, SC; daughters, Christine Lord of Charleston, SC, and Lorraine Szweda of Florida; four grandchildren, Justin Szweda (Allison) of Summerville, SC, Bruce Self (Meghan) of Denver, CO, Jessica Self (Keith Lamb) of Atlanta, GA, and Brett Self of Atlanta, GA; two great-grandsons, James and Theo; two sisters, Natalie Dente (Joseph) of New Jersey and Frances Szweda of Connecticut; and many nieces and nephews.

January-February 2021 Shipmate