

Marshall Redfield Willenbucher



Captain Marshall R. Willenbucher, USN (Ret.), of Bethesda, MD, and Newport, RI, passed away on 30 April 2022 in Bethesda, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on 20 May 1936, he was the son of Captain Franz Otto Willenbucher, USN, and Amy Hart Willenbucher. He was a graduate of the Bullis School in Potomac, MD, and a member of the Class of 1960 at the United States Naval Academy.

Captain Willenbucher served on HAZELWOOD (DD-531), JOSEPH K. TAUSSIG (DE-1030), LEAHY (CG-17) and JOSEPHUS DANIELS (CG-16); and was commissioning commanding officer of O'BANNON (DD-987), which at the time was the newest ship in the United States Navy. He was chief staff officer of River Squadron 9 of the Mobile Riverine Force in the Mekong Delta of

Vietnam. Shore assignments included Ships Parts Control Center in Mechanicsburg, PA; Commander in Chief Naval Forces Europe in London, England; Fleet Introduction Team Spruance, Pascagoula, MS; the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon; and the Naval Sea Systems Command. On retirement, he was the International Marketing Director for two Washington, DC, area firms.

An amateur radio operator since his teenage years, his call sign was W3YTS. His memberships included the "N" Club at the Naval Academy, The Army and Navy Club in Washington, DC, and the New York Yacht Club.

He was the devoted husband of the former Joan Croughan of Newport, RI. In addition to Joan, he is survived by his two sons, Timothy Redfield and Steven Hart Willenbucher (and his wife, Shannon Thomas Willenbucher); two grandchildren, Lauren Anderson and Thomas Hart Willenbucher; and several nieces and nephews. His son, Christopher Marshall, and his sisters, Dorothy W. Imlay and Shirley W. Randall, predeceased him.

July-August 2022 Shipmate