

Michael Francis Treacy



Commander Michael F. Treacy, USN (Ret.), died peacefully in Williamsburg, VA, on 7 December 2021. At 85, he died holding hands with Joan, his wife of 61 years.

“Mike” was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 30 August 1936 to Irish American parents and spent his childhood in Argentina and Chile before leaving home and country at age 14 to finish school. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. Observing Mike’s intellect, his company officer saw potential in him and helped Mike to win an appointment to USNA’s Class of 1960. At Annapolis, he was active in the Glee Club, the Catholic Choir and sailing on the Yard Patrol boats.

He also demonstrated a passion for marching tours under supervision of the Commandant and the Brigade Conduct Staff! He married Joan Braciszewski of Philadelphia, PA, in a June Week wedding before heading south to earn his “Wings of Gold” in Pensacola, FL.

He joined the Aviation Anti-Submarine community, flying P-2 Neptunes and P-3 Orions (as well as S-2s and S-3s). In other tours, Mike taught Spanish at the Naval Academy; was part of the Superintendent’s executive staff; XO of the University of Wisconsin’s ROTC; and safety officer aboard ENTERPRISE. Mike valued education, and in his free time, he earned an MS from The George Washington University and an MBA from the University of Wisconsin. A tragic accident in his community inspired him to choose the Naval Safety Center after his Department Head tour.

Mike retired in 1980, bringing his passion for aviation safety to Hughes Aircraft and Boeing, where he was a pioneer in the field. His Navy experience, natural curiosity and engineer’s mind brought to light practices that made flying safer. His work continues today, and we are all safer in the air because of him.

If you met Mike, you immediately knew that he was the most interesting man you would ever know. He was well travelled, educated and sophisticated. He will be remembered for his faith, his dry and incisive wit, his intelligence and his curiosity. Mike’s love for family was always his top priority.

Mike is survived by his wife, Joan B. Treacy; their four children (and spouses), Monica, Michael (Tiffany), James (Christina) and Christopher ’91 (Jennifer); eight grandchildren, Declan, Fiona, Meara, Emily, Lauren, Connor, Hannah and Hagan; and his sisters, Suzanne McGovern and Margaret Boushehri.

The Treacy Family