

Gaeton Anthony Long



Commander Gaeton A. Long Jr., USN (Ret.), died suddenly on 16 August 2022. He was 86 years old and died peacefully of Parkinson's disease.

"Gaet" was born in 1935 in Brooklyn, NY. After graduation from high school from Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School in Kingston, PA, he accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. He graduated from Annapolis with the Class of 1960.

After graduation, he reported aboard COGSWELL (DD-651), followed by a tour with ComDesRon One. After three WestPac deployments, he was assigned to the Naval Communications School in Newport, RI.

During this time, he married his longtime sweetheart, Beth Edwards. Next, came a tour aboard JOSEPH STRAUSS (DDG-16), homeported in Pearl Harbor, HI, making two deployments to the Tonkin Gulf.

After leaving the Navy in 1969 for a brief time, he returned to active duty via the TAR program as CO of NavResCen Brooklyn RC (NY). His next assignment was with CTF-60 (Attack Carrier Strike Force in the Med) as communications officer. Following, was a tour with ComNav-ResRedCom Reg Four in Philadelphia, and tours as CO of reserve centers in St. Petersburg and Tampa, FL. He retired from active naval service in 1982, and also received an MBA from Florida Tech the same year.

Gaet and Beth remained in Tampa Bay, where he was employed by Raymond James Financial, and subsequently, Tech Data Corporation as manager of facilities and office services. He ventured into real estate sales, followed by five years coordinating disaster services for the American Red Cross in the Tampa Bay area. He completed his working years in 2000, retiring as director of facilities for Shorecrest Prep School in St. Petersburg.

In retirement, he learned to play golf, continued his lifelong hobby of stamp collecting, enjoyed cruises, traveling, swimming, bridge and shipboard reunions, but his greatest love was his Sunday School class, where he taught for ten years. He had a love of people and will be sadly missed by many friends who remember his detailed sea stories and travel escapades. Gaet and Beth were blessed to share 57 wonderful years together.

March-April Shipmate