

## Michael James Lees



Captain Michael J. Lees, USN (Ret.), passed away on 6 June 2023. He was 85 years old.

“Mike” was born in 1937 in Honolulu, HI, the son of Gail A. and Captain James S. Lees, USN. After graduating from San Lorenzo High School in California, he attended the University of California, Berkeley, for one year, where he was a member of the NROTC unit. He then entered the Naval Academy, where he was a member of the 14th Company, the track team and the *Lucky Bag* staff.

After graduating with the Class of 1960, he spent 18 months on a surface warship and then attended Submarine School. He then served on six submarines; commanding two, DANIEL BOONE and ANDREW JACKSON. Staff assignments included the

Naval Nuclear Propulsion Board and Deputy Commander of Submarine Squadron Fourteen. His final two assignments included command of the submarine tender CANOPUS and as commanding officer of the Fleet Ballistic Missile Training Center. He retired from the Navy in 1987 and was awarded the Legion of Merit, plus a number of other medals/awards. He received a master’s degree in Oceanography from Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, CA.

Civilian employment included five years as a consultant with Arthur D. Little in Charleston, SC, and eight years with Westinghouse at the Savannah River Plant in Aiken, SC.

Upon retirement, Mike became an avid golfer. He did volunteer work mentoring grade school kids and doing tax returns for underprivileged people. He was a lifetime member of the USNA Alumni Association, a member of the Naval Submarine League, a member of Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness, a member of the Aiken Center for the Arts and the First Presbyterian Church of Aiken.

Mike is survived by his wife, Sara Myers Lees of Aiken, SC; his children, Sharon E. Hayes (Bruce) of Tinton Falls, NJ, and James W. Lees (Allison) of Summit, NJ; stepchildren, Amy Merry (Philip) of Aiken, SC, and Greg Boozer (Patience) of Gilbert, SC; and two sisters, Patti Gail LaGregs (Jim) and Sue Reed, both of California. He was blessed with 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

*July-August 2023 Shipmate*