

Lowell Elliot Webb



Lieutenant Commander Lowell E. Webb, USN (Ret.), 86, of Picayune, MS, passed away on 30 November 2023, after a short illness.

Lowell was born in Bloomer, WI, on 16 December 1936, to Charles Willard and Norma (Lane) Webb. After graduation from Bloomer High School in 1954, he attended Northwest Preparatory School in Minneapolis, MN. He received a congressional appointment to Annapolis, where he rowed crew his Plebe and Youngster years. After an injury, he competed in intramural sports. He was in the Third Company and was affectionately called “Shags” for his receding hairline. He had a sharp wit and fine sense of humor.

Commissioned as an ensign, he became a Surface Warfare Officer.

He married Sandra DiStefano on 29 April 1962 after she graduated from Baltimore’s St. Agnes Nursing School.

Over Lowell’s 20-year career he served aboard JOHN W. WEEKS (chief engineer), and BOXER and JOHN F. KENNEDY (chief meteorologist). He earned a master’s degree in physics from the Naval Postgraduate School, specializing in Air Ocean Environment. He served a combat tour in Vietnam as OIC of a patrol boat river (PBR) unit in the Mekong Delta. He changed his specialty to Oceanography/Meteorology and his subsequent assignments in that field were mostly with the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office. During shore assignments, he managed to complete academic requirements for a PhD with Penn State U. From his family genealogy, he was a MAYFLOWER descendant and a descendant of both officers and men who served in the American Revolution.

After retiring from active duty, Lowell taught chemistry and physics at Picayune Memorial High School. He returned to the Naval Oceanographic Office as a civil service oceanographer, until retiring in 2018. His combined military and civilian service to the Navy totaled 60 years. His oceanographic work contributed to the safety and security of the Navy’s nuclear submarine forces. A lifelong proponent of USNA, he served as a Naval Academy Blue and Gold officer for Southern Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama.

Lowell carried his love of the outdoors from his Wisconsin upbringing. He treasured sharing outdoors activities with his family.

Predeceased by his parents, Lowell is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Sandra; their children (and spouses), Christopher, Michelle (Paul) and Andrea (Brian); seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and his brothers, Layne Dix and Commander Bruce C. Webb ’63.

January-February 2024 Shipmate