

Robert Jackson Brenton

Captain Robert J. Brenton, USN (Ret) died of natural causes at his home in Virginia Beach on May 23, 2024. He was 86 years old.

A native of Western Colorado, Bob received his appointment to the Naval Academy from his congressman Wayne Aspinall. He graduated with his class in June 1960, a member of the 12th company. Upon graduation he began his seagoing career, home ported in San Diego, on a series of destroyers serving in the Pacific. He served on USS Perkins (DD 877), USS Halsey Powell (DD 686), Destroyer Division 172 staff, and USS Sutherland (DD 743) as Executive Officer. These last two destroyer assignments were in support of the Vietnam War where assignments included shore bombardment, Operation Market Time, and off-shore interdiction.

After earning his Master of Science in Electronics Engineering at Post Graduate School at Monterey, and attending Naval War College Newport, he served as Commanding Officer USS Calcaterra (DE 390) in Key West. His next assignment took him to Wilhelmshaven, Germany as an exchange officer with the Federal German Navy. This was a wonderful assignment for the whole family. He returned from Germany for his last seagoing assignment as Commanding Officer USS Ainsworth (FF 1090) in Norfolk. His final assignments were ashore at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Virginia. He served as Commanding Officer, Naval Amphibious School and retired in 1985 as Commander, Surface Warfare Development Group.

Bob retired in Virginia Beach and began a small business investing in and renovating residential properties. This segued into a second career as a licensed contractor in residential remodeling. During his retirement years, Bob was active in his church, Bayside Presbyterian. He coordinated and participated in multiple foreign mission trips which took him to Honduras, Dominican Republic, and Mexico. Using his residential construction experience, Bob participated in Habitat for Humanity, and his favorite charity Faith Works Coalition, doing home repairs for low-income families.

Bob is survived by his wonderful wife of 63 years Bobbie Y. Wade. They were married in Bobbie's home church in Hagerstown Maryland on December 3, 1960. He is also survived by his beloved children Rebecca Rawls, Elizabeth Taft, and Brian Brenton, eight grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

The Brenton Family