

Samuel Jay Greenberg



It is with heavy hearts as well as peaceful hearts that we announce the passing of Samuel Greenberg on January 22nd, 2025, at the age of 87 years old. Born September 27th, 1937, to Joseph and Ida Greenberg, raised in New York City.

Samuel was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend. He lived a life of kindness, service, and unwavering dedication to his loved ones and community.

He is survived by his wife, Lilly, son, Grant, niece and nephew, Lori and Stuart, and grandchildren Colin, Connor, Atticus and Celeste.

Captain Greenberg was a native New Yorker who graduated from the Bronx High School of Science, and then, the U.S. Naval Academy in 1960. He entered Navy flight training in Pensacola, FL and was carrier qualified and multi-engine advanced trained (Grumman S-2F Tracker,

Lockheed P-2V Neptune) earning his Naval Aviator wings in 1961.

Captain Greenberg first fleet assignment was flying the Lockheed WV-2 Warning Star (Super Constellation) in Argentina, Newfoundland and Keflavik, Iceland. He was then assigned as a Patrol Plane Commander to VP-56 in Norfolk, VA, an anti-submarine warfare and maritime patrol squadron. He was then sent to the Naval Air Test Center at Patuxent River, MD, as a Test Pilot and Project Officer and worked on numerous projects to convert the maritime patrol SP-2H into low-altitude, all-weather, medium bombers (AP-2H) and special operations (OP-2E) for the Vietnam War.

In 1968, Captain Greenberg left active duty and immediately entered the Naval Air Reserve, flying the SP-2H at NAS New York (Floyd Bennett field), as a standardization and check pilot. He later moved with his squadron to NAS Willow Grove, PA, and transitioned to the Lockheed P-3A/B Orion (Electra). On promotion to Commander, he entered the Reserve Naval Air Systems Command program with commanding officer tours for both the Naval Air Development Center and the Naval Air Test Center. He retired from the Reserve in 1990.

He joined Grumman in 1968 as a Consulting Pilot on the manned Lunar Module program and worked on the LM-5/Apollo Eleven in which he was part of the Launch Team at Kennedy Space Center. He later gained considerable fame (and notoriety) as a member of the Apollo Thirteen rescue team and author of the humorous Grumman invoice to North American-Rockwell for "towing charges".

After Apollo, he was part of the founding team for Grumman Training Systems Department, where he invented, and was awarded a patent, for a portable cockpit procedures trainer (SCEPTR). In 1978, he left Grumman and started a career in magazine publishing, first as associate publisher of Countermeasures, then as editor-publisher of Defense Science and president of the publishing company. In 1990, he started his own publishing company and founded and published Russian Life magazine.

Captain Greenberg founded a computer school for children with his wife Lilly and continued to be an active flight instructor at both Republic and Long Island-MacArthur airports until the age

of 83. He was the Past- Commander and active officer of American Legion Aviators' Post No. 743.

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