

Walter Salvador Cumella



Walter Salvador Cumella, 88, died March 21, 2026, at Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla. He was born Dec. 24, 1937, in Alexandria, Louisiana, to Tony and Lena (Panzica) Cumella. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1960. He served five years active duty on destroyers, taught at the ASW school, and served another eight years as a Naval Reserve intelligence officer. After retirement, he worked for Boeing Aerospace at Kennedy Space Center on the Saturn V moon landing project on the Site Activation Team and later as a telemetry engineer. For the next twelve years he worked for Computer Power, Inc., in Jacksonville. Followed by nine years with Southern Bell/AT&T, and 10 years with SunTrust Bank.

He was a member of St. Matthew's Catholic Church, in Jacksonville, where he was a member of the St. Vincent De Paul Society. He was also a 60-year member of the Knights of Columbus. He formerly served on the boards of St. Johns Country Day School and the American Red Cross. He served on the disaster relief team for the Red Cross and drove the ERV to areas hit by tornadoes and hurricanes. And he was a former member of Timuquana Country Club. He was preceded by his parents and two brothers, John and Fr. Anthony Cumella. He is survived by his wife Mary Richards Cumella; his children Michael, Claire McBride (Jay), Stephen (Stephanie), and Patricia Lacey (James); grandchildren Matthew, Sarah (Tyler), Alexander and Sean, and great-granddaughter, Lilly. He is also survived by three brothers Charles, Camille and Frank (Wanda) and their children.

Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Chapel