

Ronald Lee Koontz



Captain Ronald L. Koontz, USN (Ret.), passed away on 29 January 2026 at his home in Medford, NJ. He was 87 years old. Born in Gettysburg, PA, “Ron” was a 1960 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and dedicated his life to national service and naval excellence. His distinguished military career spanned 31 years, including 16 years aboard submarines, where he served as a commanding officer. His shore assignments took him from the West Coast, U.S. Naval Post graduate School to Pearl Harbor, HI, and the Pentagon and Washington, DC, area, where he worked as a submarine program manager and earned a second master’s degree from Central

Michigan University.

Following his retirement from the Navy, Ron spent 18 years as a senior manager at Lockheed Martin in Moorestown, NJ, focusing on Defense and Advanced Naval Systems. His significant contributions to national security were recognized in 2004 with the prestigious Dr. Eugene G. Fubini Award from the National Defense Industrial Association.

Beyond his professional achievements, Ron was an avid golfer at the Medford Lakes Country Club, famously achieving his goal of shooting “80 at 80.” Fondly remembered for his quick wit, sense of humor and passionate love of sports, he will be sorely missed.

A devoted family man, he is survived by his wife of 65 years, Joyce Ann Kendlehart Koontz; their daughter, Kendle Priestley (Perry); son, Kyle Koontz (Leah); and grandchildren, Heston and Claire Priestley.

May-June 2026 Shipmate