

Robert Edwin Traister



Rear Admiral Robert E. Traister, USN (Ret.), 88, died on 2 March 2026 in Los Angeles, CA, after a life of distinguished service to his country and devotion to his family.

Born on 15 September 1937 to Anne and Frank Traister, “Bob” was raised in Haverhill, MA. He attended the Naval Academy, where he was a member of the swim team. He went on to serve a long and accomplished career in the U.S. Navy, ultimately attaining the rank of rear admiral (upper half). Throughout decades of service, he was respected for his steady leadership, integrity and unwavering commitment to duty.

Following his Navy retirement, Bob worked with Westinghouse at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington State, a site established during the

Manhattan Project in World War II to produce plutonium for the development of the atomic bomb. There, he was involved in efforts related to the cleanup and long-term storage of nuclear materials. He later worked with Boeing, where he was responsible for building and converting ships used for the Sea Launch program, transforming ocean-going vessels into platforms capable of launching satellites from the sea. His work took him around the world, including time living in Russia, where he worked alongside former Russian military engineers. Bob and Janet Weinberger were married in 1962 and shared 55 years of marriage until her passing in 2017. Together, they built a life centered on family, loyalty and enduring partnership. They shared a passion for travel and exploration, visiting nearly every country in the world and often returning to many of them multiple times.

Active and energetic throughout his life, as a young man he worked as a beach lifeguard. He remained a dedicated athlete for many years, running numerous marathons, swimming regularly and maintaining a lifelong passion for the game of golf. He was also a devoted Boston Red Sox fan.

Bob is survived by his sons, James and Jeffrey (Laura); his grandchildren, Louis, Coco, Alex and Emma, of whom he took great pride in their lives and accomplishments; and his brother, David. Rear Admiral Traister will be remembered for his lifelong service to the nation, the example he set through leadership and character and the deep love he held for his family. He will be remembered with pride by family, friends and the many classmates and shipmates who served alongside him.

May-June 2026 Shipmate