

MELVIN HUGH SOLLBERGER



Captain Melvin "Buz" Sollberger, USN (Ret.), passed away on 7 December 2015 in Annapolis, MD. He was 78 years old.

The son of the late Lowell Sollberger and Irma Hainaut of Cuyahoga Falls, OH, Buz excelled in academics throughout his education and attended Ohio State University before transferring to the U.S. Naval Academy. He graduated with the Class of 1960 with distinction, in the top one percent. He earned his BS at the Naval Academy, an MS in oceanography from Scripps Institute of Oceanography at UCSD and a Ph.D. in engineering from Case Western Reserve University.

Buz attained the rank of captain (O6) during his stellar naval career, beginning with division officer and department head assignments before moving on to become commanding officer of a nuclear ballistic attack class submarine, ANDREW JACKSON. He then became a submarine division commander of Submarine Squadron One before moving on to become the commanding officer of a Submarine Tender, EMORY S. LAND. His fondest memories included being commanding officer of SKATE and those who served aboard.

Following his naval career, Buz moved into the private sector as the vice president of operations manager for Nova Power, Inc., followed by work at Southern California Edison, Transpace Carriers, Inc. and Energy Systems (DoE), before finally becoming an independent senior management consultant for the Special Project Office (DoD).

Buz was a humble and devout Catholic, generous to many, and he will remain as a cherished memory to all who knew him.

Buz was so very proud of our country and the contributions that he made during his naval and civilian careers.

He is survived by his loving daughter, Teresa Dzambasow (and her two sons, Alexander and Nicholas, and grandson, Orion); three sons, Michael, Kurt (and his daughter, Faith) and Karl (and his sons, Michael and Brandon) Sollberger; and his devoted caregiver, Manny Sortillon, in addition to his beloved sister, Judith Cole, and brother, Gary Sollberger, both from Ohio, and their extended families.

January-February Shipmate