



MATTHEW PAUL MINAHAN '73 Matthew P. Minahan passed away peacefully at his home in Charleston, SC, on 10 June 2017 in the loving presence of his family after his courageous four-year battle with a disabling brain disease. "Matt" remained positive to the end, typical of his outlook on life and his enduring faith in his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Matt was the pride of Chippewa Falls, WI. He was affectionately known as "Lendahand" by his company mates, a testament to his cheerful, generous and caring personality. A dedicated student and runner, Matt was considered to be an efficiency expert by his buddies for his ability to juggle his academic and professional load and still be in bed by Taps. He was universally liked and respected by his Seventh Company shipmates and Naval Academy leadership, who in turn, selected him to be the first set Company Commander. His leadership was instrumental in producing Color Company honors. Graduating with honors in aeronautical engineering, Matt entered the nuclear power program, serving on SIMON BOLIVAR and SANDLANCE. After two successful tours at sea, Matt left the Navy to pursue a career in software development. In the ensuing years, while raising his family, he earned his master's degree in Divinity from Calvary Baptist Seminary in Lansdale, PA, and served many years as an assistant pastor and deacon in his churches in New Jersey and Temple Baptist Church in Charleston. It was at Temple Baptist Church, where in God's providence, he met his true soulmate, Cheri. In February 1978, they were married, starting their life of 38 years together, and were blessed with four children and six grandchildren. Matt has truly left behind a legacy of truth, honesty, integrity and the joy of serving others selflessly. Matt was a very godly man who deeply loved and served his family. His Christ-like love was evident not only in his commitment to his family, but also through his passion for cultivating meaningful relationships with everyone he met and serving their individual needs. He is survived by his twin brother, Michael; older brother, Dan; his wife, Cheri Gresh Minahan; son, Michael Minahan (Presa Bullington); daughters, Heidi Minahan Johnson (Kit), Jessica Minahan White (Richard) and Michelle Minahan Thompson (Paul); and grandchildren, Ariana (5), James (3), Josephine (3), Isaac (2), Olivia (2) and Isabelle (born 23 November 2017). Matt was laid to rest at Beaufort National Cemetery. H