



RODNEY LENOD SHOCKLEY '73

Commander “Rod” Shockley, USNR (Ret.) passed away in Houston, Tx, on 9 July 2017, after a battle with a rare neuroendocrine cancer. He was 67 years old.

Rod was born in Salem, NJ, on 19 November 1950, to the late Leonard Gibson and Ceretha Shockley. He graduated from Salem High School in 1968 and attended the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Tx, for college prep school. He received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy and graduated with the Class of 1973. Upon graduation, Rod attended flight school at NAS Pensacola, FL, and NAS Corpus Christi, Tx. He served in the P-3 community at NAS Jacksonville, FL, and as a flight instructor at NAS Whiting Field in Milton, FL. He served on active duty until 1980 and then in the Navy Reserve, retiring with the rank of commander. Rod was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

After leaving active duty, Rod flew for Eastern Airlines (1980-1989) and continued his aviation career flying for FedEx based first in Memphis, TN (1989-1999), and then in the Philippine Islands, until he retired as a captain in 2011. He remained in the Philippines until he moved back to Pensacola, where he learned of his illness.

Rod is survived by his son, Rod G. Shockley of San Jose, CA; daughter, Maureen D. Shockley of Newark, DE; stepdaughter, Tara Guerra (Will) of West Palm Beach, FL; grandsons, Braden C. Shockley and Jaden and Gianni Guerra; brothers, Ronald A. Shockley (Rose) of New Castle, DE, and Donn Shockley (Margaret) of Houston, Tx; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and life-long friends.

A memorial service with full military honors was held on 16 September 2017, at Salem County War Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery in Woodstown, NJ. [H](#)