



Captain Stephen D. Sudkamp, USN (Ret.) passed away on 10 June 2019 surrounded by his family. He was 67 years old.

A native of Madison, Wisconsin, Steve entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1969. As a proud member of the 17th Company, “Suds” guided his fellow midshipmen in the finer points of engineering and nuclear power, while earning his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He maintained his innocence in the training of gerbils to parachute out of Mother B’s windows. In recent years he assumed the task of “herding the cats” for off-year 17th Company reunions in Maine, Colorado, and Annapolis.

After graduating with the Class of 1973, Suds served 30 years on active duty as a nuclear submariner. During his twenty years with the submarine force he spent time underneath the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, along with the Mediterranean and Caribbean seas. He honorably served as engineer of SEAWOLF (SSN-575) and XO for BATON ROUGE (SSN-689). During his command tour on HENRY CLAY (Blue) (SSBN-625), he led the consolidation of the crews and decommissioning following the end of the Cold War. He earned the Battle “E” on SEAWOLF and HENRY CLAY. He also served on TINOSA (SSN-606), FINBACK (SSN-670). Post-command, he transitioned to positions in communications, becoming J6 for U.S. Forces Japan, leading Y2K efforts. He retired after being the deputy J6 for Strategic Command, where he was stationed on 11 September 2001, and provided support to President George W. Bush. In 1997, he earned a Masters of Business Administration from Auburn University-Montgomery and was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Following retirement, Steve moved to Virginia Beach, and worked for Johns Hopkins University-Applied Physics Lab, still focusing on communications, radar, and satellite technology. In 2016, he settled into “full-retirement.” He filled his time volunteering at the local children’s hospital, tutoring engineering students, and actively participating in HENRY CLAY crew reunions.

Steve is survived by his wife of almost 39 years, Gail, his two daughters Karen and Julia, his brother Thomas, and their families; his son Gregory preceded Steve in death. Throughout his life, he showed his family the world and instilled independence, a love of travel, acceptance of new adventures, and emphasized the importance of an open and giving heart. Per his wishes, following a mass of Christian burial, Steve will be laid to rest along the banks of the St. Lawrence River in New York State.