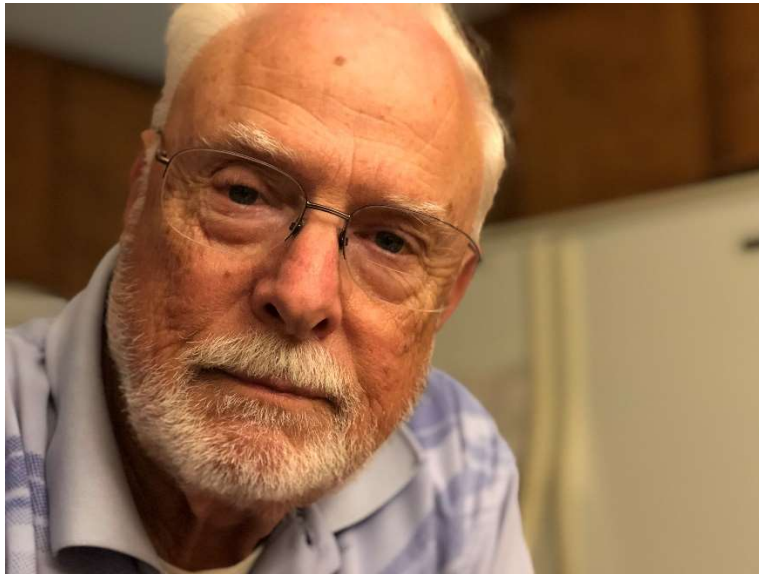


# Remembering



## Ray Rittenhouse

July 26, 1943 – June 1, 2020

Born 26 July 1943 in Miami, FL, Oldest of 4 children. Dad a preacher, mom a teacher; parents met while singing with the Chicago Opera Co. Music went on to play an important part of Ray's life.

Education entirely in FL. graduated 1960 from Southwest Miami HS. Played clarinet in marching band. Worked as a cashier in a grocery store. Delivered papers on a motor scooter. Enrolled in Miami-Dade Jr. College but before end of 1st semester decided to secretly join the Navy. Didn't realize the recruiter was a deacon in his dad's church. Dad picks up Ray and says, "Hi Sailor" Oops the surprise was revealed before he left for Great Lakes Training Center.

Boot Camp Nov 1960 - Feb 1961. Enrolled at ET "A" School Feb 1961- Nov 1961. Every evening rehearsed with the Blue Jacket Choir which sang for chapel and various concerts. Also singing with the choir was a young man from Lacon, IL who invited Ray to come home with him on a June weekend to meet his twin sister. Ray and Ann were engaged during the summer of 1961. In the fall she returned to college. Ray was assigned to the USS Randolph CVS-15 out of Norfolk VA in Nov.

20 Feb 1962 John Glenn orbits the earth 3 times. The destroyer Noa picked him up in his capsule out of the ocean. Glenn was transferred to the Randolph by helicopter. Ray installed the telephone for Glenn to speak with President Kennedy.

23 October 1962 to 29 November 1962 the Randolph participated in the Cuban Quarantine Operations often referred to as the Cuban Missile Crises.

8 August 1964 Ray and Ann were married. The Randolph had finished a summer cruise and berthed in Portsmouth VA at the shipyard. Ray was discharged in October and reenlisted for 4 more years.

Dec of 1964 to summer of 1966 Ray was stationed at Treasure Island San Francisco where he was a ET "A" instructor and student at ET "B" school. Received orders to a refrigerator ship out of Alameda, CA but Nov 1966 new orders were issued to the USS Cimarron AO-22 out of Long Beach CA. Moved to Long Beach.

Ship deployed to Vietnam in early 1967. Son Wiley was born 21 May 1967 while dad was in Vietnam. Cimarron returned Oct 1967. Ray served on that ship until discharged 7 Oct 1968. Enlisted in the Naval Reserve 8 Oct 1968.

Until retirement 31 Dec 1989 Ray had assignments on the USS Dixon AS-37, the USS Lang FF-1060 and the USS Sperry AS-12.

Two daughters were born. Moved to Cerritos CA. Employed at General Automation, Digital Equipment Corporation where he was in the top 10% of salesmen worldwide, and PacifiCom in Costa Mesa until his retirement at the age of 70.

Ray kept very busy. He graduated from Long Beach Police Academy to serve as a reserve officer and was given a trophy for the 1st perfect score an officer had ever had on the gun range. He was an avid target shooter of pistols, rifles and shotguns. Loved to take his kids fishing and water skiing every Mon in the summer. Had a fine collection of toy trains and spent hours with HAM radio serving as the president of the Long Beach Club and actively participating in hospital drills in Orange County.

Ray was always active in church. Sang in the choir, helped Ann with children's choirs, was a leader in Boys' Brigade. Served on the board of Golden Ministries. Volunteered with Long Beach Ballet in charge of lobby sales for theater productions and chaperoned - even traveling as far as China. He and Ann sang with William Lock Singers and Orchestra for many years.

Known very much as a "fix-it" man for family, friends, and neighbors. Autos, computers, electricity, plumbing, etc. etc. he had the knack for trouble shooting, and the knowhow of making things work. That very much fit with his life aboard ship.



He deeply cherished and missed being a sailor. Volunteering on the battleship was most rewarding.

Ray was a man of deep faith and patriotism. Had a wonderful sense of humor and contagious laugh and yes, loved to tell jokes. Honest, well-informed, loyal, dependable, kind and humble. His four grandchildren absolutely adored him and can spend hours recounting hilarious moments with him but many other young people affectionately called him "Grandpa Ray. He was loved and admired well beyond his friends and family.

Almost every morning and evening you would hear him say as he looked at the sky, "Red sky in the morning, sailor take warning; red sky at night, sailor's delight." And, he might add that's a paraphrase from Matthew 16:2-3.

Ann

