

Rear Admiral John D. Summers, Ret., USN, 76, of Roanoke, Va., died unexpectedly on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at his home. John was born on September 18, 1933, in Kearny, N.J. He was preceded in death by his parents, Louise Tartaglia Summers and John Dennis Summers; his daughter, Ann Elizabeth Summers; his sister, June Montagnino; and his brother, James Summers. He is survived by his wife, Mary Louise Hardie Summers; his son, John Timothy Summers and wife, Diane; granddaughters, Dylan and Cora Hannah Summers; his two sisters, Eleanor Milius and Betty Crocker and husband, Harold; and several nieces and nephews.



He was a graduate of Roanoke College, The National Defense University, The Army War College, The Armed Forces Staff College, The Navy War College and Harvard University's Curriculum on National and International Security.

Admiral Summers entered the United States Navy through the Aviation Officers Program and received his navy wings in 1958. On active duty, he was assigned to Patrol Squadron 44 where he flew PM5 and P-3 Orion anti-submarine patrol aircraft. Upon release from active duty, he joined the Naval Air Reserve in Norfolk. He was selected for flag rank in March 1983. That same year he was assigned as Assistant Chief of Staff for Resources/Readiness to Commander-in-Chief U.S. Naval Forces Europe. In 1985, he received additional duties by the Chief of Naval Reserves, as Commander Readiness Command Region Six Washington, D.C. In 1986, he received his second star. In 1987, he was awarded The Legion of Merit by President Reagan.

Admiral Summers last Naval Reserve assignment was as Deputy Commander, United States Naval Forces Europe based out of London. During Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Admiral Summers and his staff planned the recall of Naval Reserves to augment and facilitate the logistics pipeline through Europe and the Mediterranean and into the theater of operations. He and his staff made a series of visits to sites ranging from Northern Norway to the Red Sea to establish requirements, plans for sites and personnel requirements, and, as operations progressed, to assess results. Following the Gulf War, he and his staff developed and proposed to Commander in Chief U.S. Naval Forces Europe and the Innovative Naval Reserve Concepts Task Force a new organization of Naval reserve logistics, to better respond to the Navy's logistics support requirements in the post Cold War era. This resulted in the creation of new Naval Reserve Logistics organizations, which have been employed in many subsequent operations including Iraq and Afghanistan.

As a civilian, Admiral Summers was an active businessman in Roanoke. He was General Agent for The John Hancock Companies and a member of the Million Dollar Round

Table. His civic duties include chairmanship of the YMCA, United Way, and Multiple Sclerosis Fund drives. He was an active member of Covenant Presbyterian Church. A Funeral Service will be held 11 a.m. on Monday, July 19, 2010, at Covenant Presbyterian Church with the Reverends Dusty Fiedler and Dr. Robert Fiedler officiating. Interment will follow at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery. For those wishing to make a memorial contributions, please consider the Covenant Presbyterian Building Fund. The family will receive friends on Sunday, July 18, 2010, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Oakey's South Chapel, 540-989-3131.

OBITUARY GUESTBOOK COMMENTS

August 01, 2010

Jack was one of the first people that I met when we entered our Freshman year at Roanoke College. He was a good friend and fraternity brother. He will be missed.

~

David Sipes,
Morehead City, North Carolina

July 21, 2010

What a terrific man, it was a pleasure to say that I know him. He gave me a gentle push in the right direction a lifetime ago.

John Dombroski

July 19, 2010

I wish to send condolences to the family of Johnny Summers and his family. We were neighbors back in the sixties. They were wonderful neighbors My prayers are with the family

~

Jennie Fobare

July 18, 2010

Mary Lou,

Tony and I are thinking about you during this difficult time. We look back with great fondness on the trips we took together and all the good times we shared. We're sorry that we can't be with you. We will both miss John very much. This message comes with condolences and much love.

Sue Hewitt Tony Alfonso,
Savannah, Georgia

July 18, 2010

Timmy and Keenie, please know that Cam and I are thinking of you.

~

Helen Masters Durham,
Rochester, Minnesota

July 17, 2010

Roanoke College classmate, fraternity brother, roommate, friend, many pleasant memories of years gone by.

~

Tom Row,
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

July 17, 2010



Mary Lou: I am thinking of you in this sad time. What a wonderful life John has lived. He will certainly be missed by many.

~

Eleanor Stevens,
Blacksburg, Virginia

July 16, 2010

My prayers go out to your family, I worked for John, when he was the general agent at John Hancock. He was a great boss and a very kind hearted individual. He will be greatly missed.

~

Judy Driggers,
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

July 16, 2010

Celebrating a life well lived. We will cherish the memories forever.

~

Lary & Joyce Slusser,
Blacksburg, Virginia