



Donald Richard Batze

August 20, 2024

Donald Richard Batze

Donald R. Batze passed away on 20 August 2024 in Orlando, FL, after a long and heroic fight against cancer. He was 75 years of age.

Born and raised in Friant, CA, he was the son of Richard and Priscilla Batze. Following graduation from Sierra High School, Donald studied for four years at Fresno State and the University of Missouri.

Donald reported to the Naval Academy in 1971, where his classmates quickly knew him as “Doc.” Due to his prior college career, he held the distinction of being the oldest member of the graduating class, referring to himself as “WOM” (World’s Oldest Man). At Annapolis, Donald majored in English and served as a “three striper” on the regimental staff. He was considered the most literary scholar of the Company, known for toting around historical and philosophical novels that were not associated with the curriculum. He proudly boasted that he would not let the Academy get in the way of his education! His classmates elected him as their honor representative all four years at the Academy; a testament to their respect for his integrity and good judgment.

Upon graduation with the Class of 1975, Donald served in the Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer with shipboard duty as legal officer on OKLAHOMA CITY and engineer on JOHN A. MOORE. He also served at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, where he was the Pacific Command’s maintenance

representative.

Donald's civilian career continued to serve the U.S. Navy in sales and management with Dresser Rand, managing compressor and steam turbine assets for the Pacific Fleet; and, with General Electric, managing power plant control systems. He finished his career as a sales manager for General Electric.

In retirement, Donald lived in Nampa, ID, and resumed his lifelong hobbies of fishing and birding. He relocated to Orlando, FL, in 2021.

Predeceased by his parents and brother, William, Donald is survived by his wife, Candice; their daughters, Kimberly (Thomas) and Tiffany (Thibault); grandchildren, Molly, Dylan and Bentley; sister, Elinor; and brother, Warren.

Donald was a devoted husband to Candice for 42 years, a proud father and grandfather. He was a cherished friend to his Classmates, always available for spirited conversation and good advice. Even during his long sickness and up to the last few days of his passing, he ensured you left all conversations and visits uplifted.

Services will be held at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, CA, on 26 September 2024.

Cemetery Details

Riverside National Cemetery

Riverside, CA

Previous Events

Service

SEP 26. 11:15 AM.

Riverside National Cemetery
Riverside, CA

Tribute Wall



“ *Rest in peace Classmate. Fair winds and following seas!*

Glenn Lanzer - October 07, 2024 at 01:40 PM

MC

“ I have so many fond memories of uncle Donald. I remember traveling with my family to attend uncle Donald and aunt Candy's wedding. My sister Brandy and I were teenagers. Uncle Donald was exiting the church with aunt Candy and when blades were in the air. I don't remember what was said, but he was laughing and the biggest laugh was when she swatted him on the butt with one of the blades. Another memory is when my dad (William, his brother), sister, and I meet uncle Donald in San Francisco during Gleet week. We started out eating sushi. Then we barely finish and he's asking ok, where's next to eat? So off we head to Mexican food. At the end of the meal I was so proud that I was the only one to keep my area clean. The next thing I know, uncle Donald, Dad, and Brandy take spoon and catapult salsa at me. But my favorite memories have to be the fishing ones! We've been to Alder Creek with uncle Donald and my dad. They were both ahead of me. The next thing I know I'm underwater and surfacing to the most joyous laughter. The best trips had to be the ones spent together with uncle Donald, my dad, and then later his youngest daughter Tiffany. We had countless trips of fishing brown and rainbow trout. Going into the cold stream to get nature's bait, rock larva, is a fond memory that uncle Donald and my dad showed us. A day off from fishing and we would be at Mt. Shasta's golf course. Uncle Donald would get one golf cart and my Dad would get another. Tiffany and I were the best caddies. We would always go to one of uncle Donald's favorite restaurants in Mt. Shasta, Piemont. Steak was always on the menu. Uncle Donald would drive out to visit my dad when every he was on the road for his job. I love you uncle Donald, today, tomorrow, forever, and always. Love, Melissa M. (Batze) Christensen

MELISSA CHRISTENSEN - September 26, 2024 at 01:35 PM

TK

“ *The "Doc" was my USNA classmate and roommate at NAS Chase Field in Beeville Texas. A good friend with a great outlook on life.
RIP, Classmate*

CAPT Tom Kapurch, USN ret

Thomas Joseph Kapurch - September 13, 2024 at 08:36 PM