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## Obituaries

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**Richard C. Smith**

Captain Richard C. Smith, age 82. Richard Smith was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He enlisted in the Navy at the end of World War II and found himself on the submarine Amberjack for two years. He was then offered an opportunity to apply for entry into the US Naval Academy from where he graduated with the 18th Company in 1952. After graduation he reported for duty aboard the USS Hickox, (DD 673) which provided gunfire support off North Korea before departing for a world tour. A few years of active duty on various types of ships brought him his first command on a DER as executive officer. The skipper had become ill off the coast of Portugal, and after leaving him at the Azores for medical attention, Captain Smith continued the planned journey to northern Germany, the Azores, and back to Newport, RI. His next command was a DER which had a nine month deployment to Antarctica, giving support to the US command in Christchurch, New Zealand by reporting weather conditions necessary for US planes to fly to Antarctica. In 1954 he was ordered to the USS Baltimore (CA 68) where he performed as CIC officer until February 1956 when he was ordered to the Staff of COMMANDER DESTROYER FLOTILLA THREE as Aide and Flag Lieutenant for Admiral C. Bergin. From 1969 to 1971 he had command of the SS Davidson. During that command he received a Bronze Star and the citation reads in part "For meritorious service while serving as Commanding Officer of USS Davidson, Cdr Smith displayed exceptional leadership while directing his ship in the execution of varied tasks, including high speed carrier escort, plane guard duties, and naval gunfire support. A typical example of DAVIDSON's outstanding readiness was exhibited when the ship assumed a full anti-air warfare role, a mission which the ship is not normally assigned. Through outstanding leadership, training and equipment reliability, the job was successfully accomplished. CDR Smith's leadership, professionalism, and dedication to duty reflected great credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service". Upon his retirement from the Navy, Capt. Smith taught math for ten years at Oakton High School. He won many gold medals in the Senior Olympics, and volunteered at nursing homes by performing stand-up comedy. He nicknamed himself the Humor Doctor. Capt. Smith was a graduate of the National War College in Fort McNair. He also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications Engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and a Masters in International Relations from George Washington University.

**Survivors:** He leaves behind his loving wife of 58 years, Lois S. Smith; his sons, Brant, Philip, and Kerry; his daughters-in-law, Donna, Terry, and Gina; and his three grandchildren, Quentin, Louisa, and Nicholas.

**Services:** He passed away on Memorial Day from complications of Parkinson's. A memorial service is planned with interment at Arlington National Cemetery.

**Contributions:** The family has requested that expressions of sympathy be made to the Parkinson's Foundation in lieu of flowers.