

Eugene Vernon Crabb, CDR, USN (Ret)

August 21, 1932 - February 8, 2022



Gene was born in Pasadena, California. His parents, Vernon and Edna (Turner) gave him a wonderful childhood that included trips to the ocean, to the Colorado River, and to the mountains. Following his early education in Southern California, he attended the California Maritime Academy, graduating with the class of 1953. A 20-year career in the United States Navy included assignments on the USS Wiseman, USS Catfish, USS Remora, USS Grayback, and his ultimate dream job as Commander of the submarine USS Bashaw. Gene was an instructor at the Antisubmarine Warfare School in San Diego

and served as Commander in Chief Eastern Atlantic, a NATO command in England. Naval assignments took the family to Hawaii, San Diego and London, England.

Gene was married to Janet (Perottini) and they raised three children, John (Beth), Lori (Dale) Taylor and Terri (Careccia). After 45 years of marriage, Gene was widowed (1998) and five years later married Suzanne (Browner) McCarthy. They made their home in Phoenix, Arizona, but loved sailing aboard Liberty Call, Gene's 40-foot sailboat, RVing to all 48 states, and traveling. Gene's final year was spent in Lincoln, Nebraska, close to his two daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Words don't begin to describe the man. Gene was fun loving and funny, generous and kind. He never stopped being proud of his family and finding ways to celebrate their accomplishments. He liked to remind them that he had walked a friend, a daughter, and two granddaughters down the aisle at their weddings. He loved good beef on the grill, chocolate ice cream, fresh peach pie and a very ripe blue Stilton cheese. His travels in the Navy, aboard his sailboat and in the RV meant meeting new people, which he was so good at! Gene loved playing games. He was the

unofficial Cribbage Champion of the South China Sea, and his continual gloating and drubbing of all challengers stands as proof. His favorite season was Football Season, and we are sad that he won't be the armchair quarterback for the LA Rams at this year's Super Bowl. He spent his last summer escorted by his son-in-law Dale to many Salt Dogs baseball games in Lincoln, NE. He was honored with a lifetime membership in the Dana Point Yacht Club and served as Commodore in 1992. He navigated through life with a love of the sea and spent as much time as possible on the water as submarine commander, tug boat captain, sailing in Liberty Call and sharing these experiences with family and friends. His adventures are described in his memoir *No Regrets . . . Submarines, Sailboats and the Good Life*, which he wrote at the urging of his daughter Lori.

Gene is preceded in death by his parents, Vernon and Edna Crabb, his sister Louise Quick, and son John. He is survived by his sister Linda (Terry) Eason, brother John, wife Suzanne, children Lori and Terri, step children Paula (David) Monter and Glen (Tabatha) Hodges, nine grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. His ashes will be scattered at sea at a future date.

Crossing the Bar

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning on the bar
When I put out to sea.

Alfred Lord Tennyson