

Peter Anthony Shanley



Peter A. Shanley, a longtime Newburyport, MA, resident, passed away at his home on April 5, 2020 after treatment for pancreatic cancer.

Born May 18, 1939 in Rego Park, N.Y., he was raised in Queens, NY until 1956, when he attended the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD. After graduating, he served in the Navy onboard the USS Boston, the USS Albany, and the USS Witek, where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant. He later served in the Naval Reserves in both Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. and retired with the rank of Commander.

In civilian life, he attained an M.B.A. from George Washington University while working for the U.S. Patent Office. After moving to Massachusetts in 1968, where he was struck by the beauty of the landscape and colonial architecture, he worked for The Raytheon Co. and the Polaroid Corp. He moved back to Maryland in 1975 to work for the U.S. General Accounting Office. In 1977, he relocated permanently to Newburyport to raise his growing family. There he had a long career with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture as a financial analyst for school lunch, WIC, and Food Stamps programs.

In the Navy, he traveled extensively to ports of call in South America, Europe, and the Caribbean. He also traveled widely throughout New England and New York State while employed by the USDA and continued to travel far and abroad in his personal life. In his travels, he visited locations as exotic as Russia before the fall of the Soviet Union, Northern Ireland before the end of armed conflict, China, and the Grand Canyon always with family members.

In his younger years, he loved skiing his beloved New England mountains and sailing the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. In his later years he enjoyed planning trips, and visits with his children and grandchildren, including a family trip to Walt Disney World. He maintained fond memories of his boyhood in New York City, his time at Annapolis and in the Navy, and the many friends and acquaintances he made throughout his career. About his life, he once wrote, "Looking back, I don't think I would have done anything differently".

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Elaine O. Shanley of Newburyport, sister Patricia Pape of Bridgehampton, NY, cousins, Mary Hughes of Queens, NY and Donald Hughes of Springfield; daughter, Elisabeth Bean and husband Terrance of Bradford; son, Peter, wife, Maria and their daughter, Mia of Orlando, Fla., and son, Michael, wife, Carla and their daughter, Keira and son Julian of Bloomington, Ill.

Maresca Funeral Home