



Edwin Morton Custer Jr.

October 24, 1933 - January 8, 2020

Commander Edwin (Ed) Morton Custer Jr, USCG, Retired age 86, of Annapolis, MD passed away suddenly January 8, 2020 in Incheon, South Korea after celebrating the holidays with family at USAG Camp Humphreys.

He leaves his wife, Laura Custer; son from his first marriage Edwin M Custer III, his brother Jonathon Custer and wife Linda of San Diego. He was preceded in death by his brother Calvin Custer.

Ed was born on October 24, 1933 in Fall River, MA to Edwin Morton Custer and Edith Rasmussen. Ed's father was a Navy medic stationed on Guam with his family in 1941. Ed, his mother and brothers evacuated and returned to the US prior to the Japanese invasion, where his father was taken as a POW and held in Japan for the duration of WWII. During this time, Ed lived with family in Fall River and spent many hours with his cousins at his favorite place in the world, simply known by him and his cousins as, "The Island."

After WWII the family reunited and moved to San Diego, CA. Ed was an avid tennis player while attending St Augustine High School in San Diego. Ed proudly served in the U.S. Coast Guard for 30 years and was a graduate of George Washington University. In 1963 he married Marjorie Dickerson after she drove cross country to join him in Portsmouth, VA. While in the Coast Guard, Ed spent time aboard a buoy tender in Adak, AK and the USCGC Aurora as the XO in Puerto Rico. The highlights of his career included his time aboard the USCGC Taney, which was decommissioned in 1986 and is now part of Baltimore's Inner Harbor and cared for by the Baltimore Maritime Museum. At Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC he led a team managing all Coast Guard housing around the world. Years later he would say it was the best job he ever had.

Over the years Ed remained an avid volunteer with the Boy Scouts. While stationed in Alaska, he and his wife, Marjorie Dickerson, started Troop 21, the Keet Killer Whales, in Juneau. He fondly recalled the troop's camping trips, including an overnight on a glacier.

After retiring from the Coast Guard, Ed and Marjoire went on to establish a successful career in real estate in the Annapolis area. After 32 years of marriage Marjorie passed away in 1993.

Ed then married Edie Drosten. They were married for fifteen years before her passing. He spent time with her four children and their families and was known as “Granddaddy” to her seven grandchildren.

Ed and Laura Brandt were married on Aug 4, 2012, the Coast Guard’s birthday. They enjoyed traveling the world together and visited over 50 countries. Germany was Ed’s favorite country and Munich his favorite city. He was fond of the theater and frequented many productions in the Annapolis area, however, London was a particular favorite theater destination of his. He looked forward to monthly meetings with the couples book club. WWII books ranked among his favorites. Ed attended weekly luncheons with “The Lost Patrol,” a group of veterans who enjoy swapping stories. Ed spent many hours working in his yard and landscaping the garden in his tireless effort to outsmart the deer!

Ed was a kind and loving man and will be missed by many.

Memorial donations may be made to:

US Coast Guard Foundation (<https://coastguardfoundation.org/>)

Boy Scouts of America National Capital Region (<https://www.ncacbsa.org/>)

Events

JAN **Viewing** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

24

Lasting Tributes Cremation & Funeral Care
814 Bestgate Road, Annapolis, MD, US, 21401

JAN **Viewing** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

24

Lasting Tributes Cremation & Funeral Care
814 Bestgate Road, Annapolis, MD, US, 21401

JAN **Service** 10:30AM - 11:30AM

25

St. Mary's Catholic Church
109 Duke of Gloucester St., Annapolis, MD, US, 21401

JAN **Reception** 12:00PM - 02:00PM

25

Heritage Harbor Lodge
959 River Strand Loop, Annapolis, MD, US, 21401

Comments



“ An incredible man of integrity and character. Proud to say that I knew him while growing up in MD.

T. Alan Miner Sr
Charlotte, NC.

T. Alan Miner Sr. - July 27, 2020 at 12:58 PM



“ Posted by Karen Landes, Laura's daughter on Facebook January 10, 2020.

"But now the days grow short, I'm in the autumn of the year. And now I think of my life as vintage wine from fine old kegs. From the brim to the dregs and it poured sweet and clear. It was a very good year."

One week ago we sat in the living room by the light of the Christmas tree (my mom, Ed, Chris, the kids and I) playing our favorite songs. Our playlist that night was eclectic. Billy Joel, Cat Stevens, Bon Jovi, plus I do think Lizzie played us a cat singing video. We had just returned from our last Korean BBQ dinner. The following day my Mom and Ed would take the bus to the airport hotel in Incheon. But for this moment we were content. My mom and I sipping Baileys, the men, scotch. It wasn't just any scotch though: It was Johnnie Walker Blue Label and it was the last two glasses from the bottle.

On the first evening they arrived, Chris gave Ed an early Christmas present. As Ed peeled back the wrapping and recognized the blue box, tears sprang into his eyes. He was so surprised, and for once, Ed was speechless! Over the next three weeks, Ed masterfully rationed the scotch so that there would be one final drink on our last night together.

The following afternoon they were off to the airport hotel where they would spend their last night before flying back to the US after a fantastic three weeks of merry making, sightseeing, and storytelling. During the night however, Ed fell ill. The next 48 hours would be some of the most intense and heart wrenching of my life. We are raw and gutted, literally in a state of shock. Our Ed passed away on Wednesday morning. Our hearts are broken.

"It Was a Very Good Year," came Ed's request when we finally gave him a turn at picking songs. Sinatra, of course...

"It was a very good year. It was a mess of good years."

Rest in Peace, Edwin Morton Custer Jr.



Karen - January 20, 2020 at 01:11 PM