



## Philip Michael Quast

May 15, 1939 - September 25, 2019

With sadness we announce the passing of VADM (ret.) Philip Michael Quast who died on September 25 surrounded by his loving family in Annapolis, Maryland. Phil Quast was a devoted husband to Peggy, his wife of 55 years, father to five children, grandfather to 12 grandchildren, friend to many, mentor to countless more. His faith, his family, and his country reigned supreme in his life.

Phil was born May 15, 1939, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, the second of three sons. He showed a strong work ethic from an early age, ice fishing on Lake Michigan, earning extra money fur trapping muskrats, collecting minnows for fishing bait, and running a newspaper route. As a teenager, he excelled in basketball, baseball, football, and served as team captain for all three. As a "Wisconsinite," it was only natural he adopted the Green Bay Packers (which he watched play at his high school) and the Milwaukee Braves, where he watched Hall of Famers Hank Aaron and Warren Spahn play in the 1957 World Series season.

Phil studied history at Carroll College and began his Navy career in 1961. While serving in California, he met Margaret Barbara (Peggy) Lord and they married in Peggy's hometown of Santa Barbara on July 11, 1964. Their first three children, Tim, Molly, and Gretchen, were born in California; they and their siblings Annie and Thomas had a very mobile Navy upbringing in Newport, Rhode Island, Annapolis, Maryland, Norfolk, Virginia, Honolulu, Hawaii, Coronado, California, Pascagoula, Mississippi, and Alexandria, Virginia.

Vice Admiral Quast served two tours of duty in Vietnam leading Riverine Forces deep in country, where he earned a Bronze Star with Combat Vs. He served early sea tours aboard USS MATTHEWS, USS KING, and USS TWINING. As XO (Executive Officer) on the USS TALBOT, his subordinates remember with fondness that he said they could address him by his first name: "X." Subsequently his tour at the US Naval Academy began a lifelong association with officers then serving at the Academy, as well as many classes of USNA Midshipmen.

Phil's command tour on the BENJAMIN STODDERT (for which he won the Admiral Stockdale Leadership Award) and as commissioning CO of BUNKER HILL were brilliant successes - as were his tours as the NIMITZ Strike Group Commander during Operation Desert Storm and Commander, Military Sealift Command, the worldwide military logistics

command. While many ship captains are very successful, Admiral Quast led BUNKER HILL in such a way that he made every crew member feel important and a vital part of the ship's success. He was the first Navy ship captain to choose to eat with his officers in the wardroom, a gesture that endeared him to his crew, fostered strong unit cohesion, and became a Navy tradition.

Phil retired from active duty in 1997 as Commander, Military Sealift Command, and as the longest-serving officer in the Navy at the time, the "Old Salt." From that storied moniker came his family nickname, "Salt." In 2002 Phil went on to serve as the Navy's Executive Learning Officer, teaching leadership to rising captains and admirals.

In his retirement years, he and Peggy turned their efforts to adventuring with their grown children and growing brood of grandchildren (the "dozen cousins"). They took cross-country road trips and gathered in various summer havens—Cape May, Rehoboth, Sheboygan, Chicago, and others, watching his favorite sports teams, and teaching his grandsons how to properly grill a bratwurst. In 2015, the 40th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, Phil was able to take Peggy and some of his children and grandchildren to Vietnam to revisit sites of his experiences and offer stories and amazing history lessons. Phil Quast's courage, compassion, character, faith, and humor are legacies being passed through countless people touched by his leadership, his friendship, and his example, as well as his children and grandchildren, for which they are eternally grateful.

His viewing will be held Friday, 4 October, 6-8PM at Lasting Tributes at 814 Bestgate Road in Annapolis, MD. A funeral mass will be held at 9:30 am on October 17 at the USNA Chapel, followed by a reception. In lieu of flowers, Phil wished for contributions to the following organizations:

EWTN  
Eternal Word Television Network  
5817 Old Leeds Rd  
Irondale, AL 35210  
[ewtn.com](http://ewtn.com)

National Shrine of St. Therese  
8501 Bailey Rd.  
Darien, IL 60561  
[saint-therese.org](http://saint-therese.org)

Priests for Life  
PO Box 141172  
Staten Island, NY 10314  
[priestsforlife.org](http://priestsforlife.org)

FOCUS

Fellowship of Catholic University Students

PO Box 33656

Denver, CO 80233

[focus.org](http://focus.org)

Monterey Herald (California)

Coronado Eagle

Coronado Journal

# Cemetery

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**Arlington National Cemetery**

Arlington, VA,

# Events

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**OCT** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

**4**

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Lasting Tributes Cremation & Funeral Care

814 Bestgate Road, Annapolis, MD, US, 21401

**OCT** **Service** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

**17**

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United States Naval Academy Chapel

121 Blake Road, Annapolis, MD, US, 21402

# Comments

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“ Dearest Peggy and Family, How can Karen and I ever forget you both from our Newport days, when you and Phil hosted our first 'New England' wedding shower. Just last evening, March 8, 2020, the production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' that we went to see, and finally when Phil agreed to speak at my retirement. You both always gave, and never expected anything in return; just the Christian way. Again, prayers sent to you from me. Karen passed away in January, 2018, so it has been rough as you well know. Having dear friends to remember always eases the pain. Again, I am hoping to be at the service on April 14. God Bless you and the Quast Family. Tom Snee

**Thomas J. Snee** - March 09, 2020 at 04:28 PM

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“ Dear Peggy and family,

My deepest condolences to every one of you. Phil was an amazing man and he (and Peggy) were/are wonderful examples for us all. My Navy Knights would often come to Happy Homeport and share stories of Watch Commands. His fellow seamen loved to regale the stories with much laughter. Phil is a special part of all those memories - treasures pigeon holed in my heart. Loved and appreciated by all those he came in contact with. The Admiral was definitely Admired!

Thoughts and prayers to you all. His stories live on.

Moira (Allen) Auld

**Moira Auld** - October 27, 2019 at 01:05 AM

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“ Dear Peggy: My deepest sympathies to you and your family in the loss of your beloved husband ,father, and grandfather. May you find comfort in the love of your family and friends. Although I never met your husband, he certainly seemed to be a man of integrity caring, and faith. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Chris Carlson Kenny

**Christine Kenny** - October 18, 2019 at 08:30 AM

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“ I never met any of the Quast family but Admiral was my first CO and he was the one who believed in me and gave me the opportunities he bypassed the selection board and advanced me to a Third Class Petty Officer but not just any third class as I was a deck seaman he gave my rating. He will be truly missed. Fair winds Admiral Quast.

**Thomas Rathbun YN3** - October 12, 2019 at 11:30 PM

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“ Dear Peggy,  
I met Phillip at our 60th class reunion and spoke with him briefly. One of my all time favorite heroes was Horacio Hornblower. I thought it unlikely that I would ever meet anyone like him but your husband was such a man. You have been blessed. You can look forward to an eternity with him in the presence of our Savior, Jesus. Our prayers are with you. Love, John and Jane Dietz

**john dietz** - October 11, 2019 at 03:28 PM

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“ Dear Peggy and Family,

My most sincere thoughts are with you at this time. I worked with Admiral Quast on several occasions, the last being in Monterey at the Naval Postgraduate School. It was always a pleasure to sit down for a meeting with the Admiral. There was never a doubt as to his love for and dedication to the Navy and for the training and well-being of everyone under his command. I have fond memories of not only Admiral Quast but of lovely dinners with his family members in Monterey. He was a true Gentleman who will be missed by all who knew him.

Martha Bills

**Martha Bills** - October 10, 2019 at 08:56 PM

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“ Dear Peggy,  
Lorrie and I just heard of ADM Quast's passing from Kwa. We are so sorry for your loss however know that we will all be together again. Will miss him! May God bless you and your family during this difficult and sad time.  
Pete and Lorrie Dausen

**Peter G Dausen, COL USA (ret)** - October 09, 2019 at 08:46 PM

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“ Cindy and I are so very sorry to learn of Admiral Quast’s passing. I had the great fortune of working for him on the CRUDESGRU THREE staff while deployed with the NIMITZ Battle Group, and I have nothing but the fondest memories of him. He had a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh! He was a great leader who led by example, and he always, always put sailors first. In so many ways, every single day, he showed in big and small ways his devotion to his faith and to his family. Phil Quast was a great American and a good and decent man, and I feel blessed to have known him. Our deepest condolences to Peggy and the entire family. Rest in Peace, Admiral Quast.

**Mark & Cindy Lawton** - October 09, 2019 at 12:07 PM

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“ I am saddened to hear of the passing of the CO. Fair Winds and Following Seas.

Robert J Durio

**Robert Durio** - October 08, 2019 at 11:53 PM

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“ Our thoughts and prayers to Peggy and the family. We have so many memories of 56 years starting with visiting on our patio in Long Beach while Don and I and peggy and Phil were dating. Then meeting them all over the country over the years, so much fun.

**caron Franke** - October 08, 2019 at 10:34 PM

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“ Peggy: My condolences to you and the family. I was Phil's XO in BENJAMIN STODDERT. It was such a pleasure to work for Phil, and such a positive experience for me. We made a great team!

Sincerely,

John Mitchell

Capt, USN {Ret.}

**John B. Mitchell, Jr.** - October 07, 2019 at 04:27 PM

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“ Dear Peggy,

I am very sorry to hear of the death of your husband Phil. Though I never met him, I always felt close to him because of you and because of my own time as a Naval officer. I send my deep sympathy to you on his loss. And I retain the hope you and I can someday meet again, and I don't mean in heaven.

Love and respect,  
Dennis Kennedy

**Dennis Kennedy** - October 07, 2019 at 09:42 AM

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“ Rest in Peace my brother-in-law Phil Quast. He was a noble man, a family man, a man of faith and a patriot. A hero in peace and in wartime and a man who made the Navy and his family proud. What a life Phil had! Truly amazing. Reading Phil's obituary today, there are many things about his early life and his career that I didn't know, which makes perfect sense, as he was not someone to brag or boast about his accomplishments; he just did what he had to do. He loved his work, but most importantly, he loved his family. And what a wonderful family that Peggy and Phil raised. Such great children they have and all those grandkids!

God bless you Phil and the whole Quast family. I and my sisters will be seeing you soon to share in your sorrow but also in the joy of his life.

Auntie Chrissy Lord

**Christine Louise Lord** - October 05, 2019 at 06:59 PM

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“ I met Admiral Quast when our fathers served together almost 30 years ago, and become close lifelong friends with his son Tom. I remember his gravitas, great sense of humor, and love of family and faith. He always treated me like a part of the family, and without fail would take interest in my life and my own family. His legacy lives on in the multitude of children and grandchildren that carry on the tradition of service. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Rest easy, Admiral.

**Pat Lee** - October 04, 2019 at 04:52 PM

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“ What an amazing leader and mentor. I am the servant leader I am today because I had the fortunate opportunity to be in the midst and learn from the best - VADM Philip Quast. I was his EA while he was the director for The Executive Learning Office, and for a short year of apprenticeship and years of following after, I grew and appreciated what a great man, father, husband, and friend he was. Thanks for allowing me to learn listen and grow. We have the watch. With deepest admiration and respect  
RDML Philip Sobeck

philip sobeck - October 04, 2019 at 11:51 AM

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“ Nora & Deacon Ed Baker purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Philip Michael Quast.



Nora & Deacon Ed Baker - October 03, 2019 at 08:48 PM

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“ Phil was a friend and colleague for ~40 years. His friendship I believe is best described in the Book of Sirach (6:14-16a; RSV-CE) "A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he that has found one has found a treasure. There is nothing so precious as a faithful friend, and no scales can measure his excellence. A faithful friend is an elixir of life, ..."

Phil was my faithful friend, a treasure and the medicine of life. Thank you God for giving us Phil.

Deacon Ed Baker

Ed Baker - October 03, 2019 at 08:37 PM

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“ A truly great man in every respect VADM Phil Quast gave us a lasting example of how to live life. His devotion to his family, his faith, and the country was evident in everything he did. To all of us who served with him we will never forget his commitment to us. To all of us who knew him we are blessed by his friendship. May he Rest In Peace. His legacy will be with us always. Nancy and Dave Lee

**Nancy and Dave Lee** - October 03, 2019 at 07:04 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Carl Boone** - October 03, 2019 at 05:47 PM

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“ About four years ago a Facebook post was popular: “One thing my mother taught me was RESPECT. I greet the janitor with the same respect that I greet the CEO with. I immediately thought of my father-in-law, one who shows interest in everyone. And I had story that fit the situation perfectly. My father-in-law was a career Navy guy, retired as a vice admiral in the sea service. He was in the Navy so long that he was named the “Old Salt” at the time of his retirement. His family still calls him “Salt.” When my husband and I first started dating, I was not really keen to meet this guy—a navy admiral? Got to be quite stiff and tightly wound. But when I did meet him, I liked him very much. Over the 25 years I’ve known him, my respect for him has only grown. What I always noticed—that you rarely see in a high-ranking person of any sort—is that he always listened to people, wanted to hear their story and wanted to hear their perspective. In his career his number one priority was taking care of his people. [Given some recent events, or “today’s Navy,” I’m surprised he rose in the ranks while putting his people first—but he did.] This year we had an opportunity for our family to meet my in-laws in Vietnam and revisit the places where Salt had served in two tours in Vietnam, at one time in charge of a fleet of river-going boats. It was amazing to hear the history, see the history, hear the personal stories. What a priceless tour for our children—and us. My father-in-law planned the trip with some help from guys he had served with, and especially an old friend named Kwa, a Vietnamese immigrant whom he had met at the VA in California about twenty years ago. Over the years they had shared their life stories with each other—both pretty amazing. When Kwa heard about the proposed trip, he wanted to go also, show us around and visit some relatives. Kwa was a wonderful tourguide and an amazing and inspiring person—amazingly hard-working, with an eternally optimistic view of life. We all enjoyed meeting him and traveling with him. So who is Kwa? He’s the janitor at the VA.

**Sarah Jones** - October 03, 2019 at 04:10 PM

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“ Admiral was a deeply devoted gentleman who loved God, family, country and the Navy. He was indeed a man who was admired and respected by many. When speaking on the phone with him I told him what an honor it was to work with him at ELO. It was by far the best 7 years of my career! He just chuckled in his humbleness. Bravo Zulu for a job well done Admiral!

Roxane Lynn - October 03, 2019 at 02:03 PM



“ Thank you, Roxane.

Sarah - October 04, 2019 at 04:28 AM



“ Thanks Roxane

TJ - October 04, 2019 at 06:18 AM



“ Peggy just found out. I remember how you and Phil hosted a Wedding Reception in Newport, RI just after Karen and I got married. I always admired Phil for his personal and professional sense of direction to 'the finish'. My Karen passed away in 2018. Our days in Newport were of absolute delight because of both you and Phil. Remember in your VW Bus to Providence to see, Jesus Christ Superstar? I do. God bless you and rest in peace Admiral Phil. You were also my guest speaker at my retirement which I will never forget either. PAX!

Thomas Snee - December 04, 2019 at 01:42 PM

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“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Philip Michael Quast.



October 03, 2019 at 09:42 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Sarah Jones** - October 02, 2019 at 06:00 PM



“ A Sailor's Sailor. I was the Independent Hospital Corpsman on the USS Talbot during Admiral Quast's tenure as XO. One of the finest Naval Officers I had the Pleasure to meet and work for in my entire Naval Career. I treasure the one on one conversations I had with him on Talbot and he was always ready to point me in the right direction. May He Rest in Peace. I will never forget him and his sage advice.  
HMCM Tommy DeRouville.

**Tommy DeRouville** - December 22, 2019 at 07:54 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Sarah Jones** - October 02, 2019 at 01:35 PM



“ Phil Quast and family in Hoi An, Vietnam  
**Sarah Jones** - October 03, 2019 at 03:42 AM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



**Sarah Jones** - October 02, 2019 at 01:34 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Rudy Falle** - October 02, 2019 at 10:26 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Philip Michael Quast.



October 01, 2019 at 08:33 PM