



Roy L. Robertson, Jr.
RMCS(SS)
Gold COB 1978-1979
Eternal Patrol April 20, 2023
SERVICE DATES: Sep 1958 – Sep 1989

Roy L. Robertson, Jr., of Charleston, SC, husband of Joanne Marie Nemeth Robertson, died peacefully Sunday April 30, 2023. Roy Robertson enlisted in the Navy in 1958 and served on active duty for over thirty years. During his service, he was assigned to a wide variety of ships, submarines and shore stations,

including a repair ship, fleet tug, destroyer, communications ship and four submarines. He also served as a radioman ashore in a combat zone.

Roy was particularly proud of his submarine service, having earned his dolphins later in his career. His final duty station was as Group Master Chief for Submarine Group Six in Charleston SC. During his career he earned, among other awards, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Combat Action ribbon, his dolphins and an FBM Patrol Pin with two stars.

Roy was passionate in his support of programs benefitting active-duty military, Veterans, and the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina. Roy was a major supporter of the PGA Hope program for veterans in the Charleston area and the Navy Wives Club located on board the Naval Weapons Station Charleston. He also founded the Roy and Joanne Robertson Foundation to support organizations that provide transportation to military service members in need and to help fund scholarships for those attending Anglican Seminary.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Joanne Marie Nemeth Robertson; His daughters, Susan Taylor and Stephanie Easterling and his son, Roy L. Robertson, III. His sons-in-law, Jake Taylor Jr., Chuck Easterling and daughter-in-law, Colleen Robertson. He also leaves behind eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A burial side service will be held at St. Paul's Anglican in Summerville for family and close friends May 9, 2023, at 11:00 am. Visit our guestbook at

<https://obits.postandcourier.com/us/obituaries/charleston/name/roy-robertson-obituary?id=51816290>

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COMMANDS:

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USS HENRY L STIMSON SSBN 655G COB



A VETERAN'S STORY

Roy Robertson Chief of Boat on Nuclear Submarines

By Shirley Berardo with Bill Vroman



Roy Robertson remembers that the prediction of his Navy recruiter, who said he didn't have much promise, was way wrong. The recruiter was a Southerner and was keying off Roy's Northeastern upbringing. Another stereotype fails...

Well Roy quit school and followed his own nose and skill set and ended up as the top enlisted man in the Navy. Just 1% make it to the rank of Master Chief.

It is the dream of every boy to run something; get your hands dirty and maintain or improve

something. Well Roy found his pathway through the echelons of the enlisted ranks in the Navy. He got his education in radio, security and the mechanics of attending to the many systems on a ship, initially, then nuclear submarines at the end of his career. Roy excelled and his competence spoke loudly.

His career went steadily upward until one incident occurred where he stood out and then the promotions exploded.

Roy entered the service in 1958 with deployments around the world. He was Master of Arms in the early 1970s, keeping discipline on the USS Bryce Canyon, in the Straits of Formosa, for one assignment.

The incident occurred in 1978, when he cleared the radio room on the submarine, Omaha, which was on an initial 'sink/rise' test for new subs. It's kind of momentous when you clear out Admiral Hyman Rickover as well as his entourage while doing your job. Rickover was bigger than life and known for doing things his way. That didn't make a difference, the radio room was too small and Roy had responsibilities. Out they went.

Rickover was the 'Father of the Modern Navy' and probably appreciated Roy's no-nonsense style of organizing his ship, which paralleled his own attitude. Also, because of weather issues, Rickover borrowed Roy's sailor Khaki's to wear.

Roy's reputation exploded because of that incident. And he got several rapid promotions soon after. He was Operations Department Chief of the Fleet Ballistic Sub, Daniel Boone, before being promoted to Chief of Boat on the Submarine, Henry L. Simpson, in 1980, noted for the array of Trident Missiles on board.

Chief of Boat is the highest enlisted rank on a boat. While there were officers for executive decisions the Chief of Boat coordinated the order, discipline and functioning of the many processes on a nuclear submarine.

Roy retired after 31 years in the Navy, in 1989. His wife JoAnne had a NTRP tennis ranking of 5.5 which meant she was an elite tennis player. Roy maintains that marrying JoAnne was one of his real accomplishments in life. After retiring he assisted her tennis teaching efforts and branched into golf, among his activities. He's proud of helping form the PGA Hope Program for Vets which now has 400 chapters across the country. He's involved in his church, St. Timothy's, as a lay Eucharist minister. Roy and JoAnne live at 315 Tidal Creek in Del Webb.



The Del Webb Writers' Circle, working with The Veterans Club is interested in interviewing veterans and learning about past experiences they are willing to share. There are many interesting stories that need to be told. If you would like to share some of your past military experiences, contact Shirley Berardo (843-771-7505) or Dennis Miskewicz. (843-761-4408.)



Roy L Robertson, Jr , RMCM(SS)



Personal Information

Nickname	
Spouse / Partner Next of Kin	Joanne
Address	4015 2nd Ave #224 Summerville SC 29486
Phones	
E-mail Addresses	
Deceased	Yes Date went on Eternal Patrol: 4/30/2023
Doing Now	Born on March 24, 1941 - Entered into Eternal Patrol on April 30, 2023.
Status	Changed on: 5/5/2023 Updated by Frederick W. Borgmann ()

US Navy Service Information

Years Served	Joined in 1958 left in 1988
Highest Rank - Rate	E9 - RMCM(SS)
Service Number	
USN Retired	Yes in 1988
Naval Service Highlights	From his obit: "During his service he was assigned to a wide variety of ships, submarines and shore stations including a repair ship, fleet tug, destroyer, communications ship and four submarines."
Ships Served On	