



LEONARD ANTHONY BRACKEN JR. '55

Captain Leonard A. Bracken Jr., USN (Ret.), 84, died of natural causes in Falls Church, VA, on 25 September 2018.

A native of Philadelphia, "Tony" attended Chestnut Hill Academy and William Penn Charter School. He was the manager of the Naval Academy varsity wrestling team his First Class Year. He graduated with the Class of 1955 as a member of the 20th Company.

He earned his Navy Wings in 1956 and served on active duty for 25 years following graduation. His first assignment was in Iceland, flying the Lockheed P2V-5 Neptune to Europe with Patrol Squadron 16. His second deployment with the squadron was to Morocco and Spain. He then transitioned to carrier-based aviation with Fleet Air Support Squadron 3 (FasRon 3), flying Grumman C-1 Traders to carriers in the Atlantic Ocean. Tony then transferred to intelligence school in Washington, DC, attended Russian language school and was assistant U.S. naval attaché in Moscow from 1962 to 1964. Returning to aviation, he specialized in airborne anti-submarine warfare, flying Grumman S-2 Trackers on carriers deployed in the Caribbean, Mediterranean and Baltic seas. Dispatched to Athens (1969-1970), he headed the U.S. anti-submarine training detachment to Greece. He became the executive officer and then the commanding officer of Air Anti-Submarine Squadron 31 (VS-31) aboard INTREPID (CVS-11). Subsequently, while commander of the West Coast based Carrier Anti-Submarine Air Reserve Group 80, which comprised six squadrons, he became a helicopter pilot. He assisted in the Soviet rescue off the Kamchatka Peninsula of a U.S. military aircraft that crashed in the Bering Sea in October 1978 and received the Defense Superior Service Medal for his insight and interpretation of Soviet intelligence. Tony then headed the Nuclear Negotiations Branch of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (1979-1980), earning the Legion of Merit.

He retired in June 1980 and pursued a career as a business executive with a focus on international sales of oceanographic research devices with Sippican, Inc. He retired in 1993 as vice president of marketing.

While in retirement, he wrote a book, *Lake Barcroft History* (2001), for which he received a commendation from the Fairfax County Historical Society.

He was predeceased by his wife of 59 years, Martha, on 3 August 2018. They are survived by their son, Leonard III.

Memorial services were conducted on 25 October 2018 at Queen of Apostles Catholic Church in Alexandria, VA. Interment took place at Arlington National Cemetery on 15 November. ★