



Capt. Henry David Baldrige, Jr., U.S. Navy (Retired)

October 17, 1924 - January 4, 2019

Capt. Henry David Baldrige, Jr., U. S. Navy (Retired) 94, died January 4th in Sarasota, Florida. He was born Oct. 17, 1924, in St. Louis, MO, raised in Memphis, TN, and came to Sarasota in 1967 from Rockville, MD.

He graduated with High Honors in Chemistry from Rhodes College, Memphis, in 1944 and was commissioned a Navy officer in 1945. He received his Ph.D. in organic and physical chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1950.

During the 1950's, in association with the Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University, he actively participated in structural firing tests of anti-aircraft guided missiles at sea aboard the Navy's very first operational missile ships. He served as liaison officer between the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and all of the Navy's early guided missile programs. From 1957 to 1964, he was on the staff of the Director, Navy Special Projects Office, Bureau of Naval Weapons, with responsibility for identification and control of chemical and physical health hazards incident to the testing, development, and operational deployment of the POLARIS intercontinental ballistic missile and Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarines.

In 1958, he was nominated for the Rear Admiral William S. Parsons Award for scientific research of particular significance to the U. S. Navy.

From 1958 to 1964, he was a guest lecturer on rocket chemistry and physics at the U. S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, San Antonio, TX.

He acted as coordinator of shark repellent testing for the Office of Naval Research and the American Institute of Biological Sciences from 1964 to 1967.

He was associated with the Lerner Marine Laboratory, Bimini, Bahamas, and the Siesta Key Station of Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, where he studied sharks and shark aggression against man.

He retired as a Navy officer-scientist in 1971, after 27 years of military service in a wide variety of research and staff assignments, including a longtime program as a research chemist at the Naval Medical Research Institute, Bethesda, MD. He authored about 100 scientific papers and government reports, one book and two patents. He was an avid tennis player and a certified tournament line umpire.

As a sports car enthusiast., he served as a pit marshal at early 24-hour endurance races at Daytona, FL.

Dr. Baldrige was predeceased by his beloved wife of 71years, Mary Margaret Collins.,

Survivors include their son, Henry David Baldrige III of Marietta, GA; three grandchildren, Cara B. Egan of Seattle, WA, Henry David Baldrige IV and Colleen Denise Baldrige of Marietta, GA; and two great-grandchildren, Sophia Jacqueline Egan and Lily Clair Egan of Seattle, WA.

There will be no visitation or services. Inurnment will be in Memphis, TN, with

Memorial Park Funeral Home in charge.