Vice Admiral Edwin R. "Rudy" Kohn, Jr.
(June 29, 1931 - November 10, 2009)

Vice Admiral Edwin Rudolph (Rudy) Kohn, Jr. (retired) Naval Aviator, slipped the surly bonds on earth’ on November 10, 2009.

Vice Admiral Kohn was a NROTC Graduate of Pennsylvania State University where he received his degree and U.S. Navy Commission in 1955 and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1956.

“Rudy” had over 5,000 flight hours, 750 carrier landings and 310 missions over Vietnam. Some of the medals that he was awarded were two Distinguished Service Medals, the Defense Superior Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, two individual Air Medals, and 30 Strike/Flight Air Medals for missions flown in Vietnam.

Highlights of Vice Admiral Kohn’s 38 year Naval career are Commanding Officer of VA-93, which included two Vietnam Combat Cruises, commander of Carrier Air Group One aboard the USS Kennedy (CV 67), the USS Kalamazoo (AOR 6), the aircraft carrier USS Forrestal (CV 65), “Rudy” also was Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Republic of the Philippines/Commander, Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, U.S. Pacific Fleet and his last orders were as Commander Naval Air Force, United States Pacific Fleet.

Upon retiring from the Navy in 1994, Rudy and his wife, Marilyn, moved to Camden, South Carolina. He quickly became involved in community, school district, and church activities. Since 1995, he consulted to the Naval Research Advisory Committee study panels of which are under the auspices of the Office of the Chief of Naval Research, and the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. He served as a board member of the local hospital foundation, was President of the United Way of Kershaw County, President of the Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County, and Chairman of Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site. In 2000, he received the Palmetto Award of Merit for the Camden Polo Field project as well as the 2009 United Way of Kershaw County Jake Watson Award. He also served on South Carolina’s Blue Cross Blue Shield Palmetto GBA board.

Admiral Kohn is lovingly survived by his wife, Marilyn, brother Tom, and was predeceased by his sister, Corlena. He was fortunate enough to have his four children, and eight grandchildren live nearby throughout South
Carolina: Jennifer Kohn and Peter Kohn from Charleston; Thomas Kohn and Edwin Rudolph Kohn III from Camden. His grandchildren left to cherish his memory are: Jessica P. Kohn, Michael T. Kohn, Mary C. Kohn, Spencer Kohn, Riley Kohn, Preston Kohn, Hampton Kohn, and Caroline Kohn.

For memorial contributions, please consider Bethesda Presbyterian Church of Camden, or the following non-profits that Rudy held close to his heart: The United Way of Kershaw County, Christian Community Ministries, Community Medical Clinic of Kershaw County, or the Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County.

The family wishes to express their deepest gratitude to Dr. Leland McElveen and Dr. Alice Brooks.

The family will be receiving friends from 10:00 to 11:00 AM in the church courtyard at Bethesda Presbyterian Church prior to the Memorial Service at 11:00 AM Friday, November 13, 2009 in the church sanctuary. A military burial will be held at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington DC in the spring of 2010.

Back