

**CAPT PAUL H. MOLEND
(RET)**



Captain Paul Henry Molenda (ret), age 77, passed away on Feb 1 in Ocala, Florida after a long illness. Paul is survived by his wife, Joan, three children: Susan Roberts, Captain Patrick Molenda, USN, and Laura Risinger. He also leaves behind six grandchildren: Trevor Roberts, Amy Roberts Merritt, Charlotte Molenda, Madeleine Molenda, Evan Molenda, and Sarah Risinger, and one great granddaughter Laney Roberts.

Captain Molenda retired from active duty in 1987 after serving 31 years in the United States Navy. During his naval service he earned numerous medals to include: the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Joint Commendation Medal. He

grew up in Cheektowaga, NY, the only son of Francis and Henry Molenda and attended Pine Forest High School where he met his wife Joan. They were married in the April of 1958 and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2008. Paul attended Erie County Community College and upon graduation was accepted into the Naval Aviation Cadet Program and earned his Navy wings of gold in May of 1957. After completing duty as a flight instructor in Corpus Christi, Texas, Captain Molenda attended the Navy Post-Graduate School in Monterey, CA where he earned his bachelor's degree. Captain Molenda served as the special weapons officer on the aircraft carrier Franklin D. Roosevelt and qualified as an aircraft and mission commander in the: S-2 Tracker, P-2-V Neptune and the P-3C Orion. In 1975 he served as the executive and then commanding officer of Fleet Composite Squadron-8 in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. After his command tour, Captain Molenda served as the operations officer for the Commander, Naval Forces Caribbean. In 1979 he moved to Newport, Rhode Island where he earned a Master's Degree upon graduation

from the Naval War College. He subsequently served as the Director of both the Naval Command and the Naval Staff Colleges, the international components of the Naval War College. In 1982 he returned to Puerto Rico where he served as the Chief of Staff for the Commander, South Atlantic Fleet. Captain Molenda's final assignment was as the Director of the Navy Reserve Officer Training Program in Pensacola, Florida where he resided upon his retirement from the Navy. During his final Navy tour, he was the guest speaker at the ceremony where his son, Ensign Patrick Molenda was awarded his Navy wings of gold.

Captain Molenda will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery at a date still to be determined. In lieu of flowers, gifts in memory of Paul Molenda may be directed to support Cancer Research at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center. Gifts may be mailed with a memo indicating that this gift is in memory of Paul Molenda to the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, 750 East Pratt Street, Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD or make a gift online.

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