

Jesse Raymond 'Ray Ray' Koontz
 ETC(SS) Crew Unknown 1968-1970
 Born: March 28, 1938
 Eternal Patrol: August 24, 2018

Qualified in submarines on the USS Cutlass (SS-478) in 1959 and was a ETC(SS) when he left the Navy.

Cold War Submariner Jesse Raymond Koontz (Ray Ray), 80, of Lima, Montana and Quartzsite, Arizona, departed on his final and Eternal Patrol on August 24, 2018, in Dillon, Montana after a long, hard-fought battle with cancer.

Ray was born March 28, 1938, in Dillon, Montana, to Sherman T. Koontz and Emma June (Brown) Koontz. He was the oldest of 6 children. He married Neva Rae Brown on December 6, 1957, in Idaho Falls, ID, and they were later divorced. To this union were three daughters, Debra Ann, Katherine Lynn and Teri Rae.

He qualified in submarines aboard CUTLASS in 1959 and was a ETC(SS) in the U.S. Navy as a Nuclear Submarine Mechanic and retired after 20 years. He re-enlisted into the Navy and served 10 additional years. He was a lifetime member of USSVI and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Ray Ray became a "snowbird" living summers in Montana and winters in Arizona and was a well-known friend and family member in both communities. He had many interests including softball, desert golf, hunting, shooting, and he loved to sing karaoke.

Ray had a great sense of humor and he loved to tell stories and to make people laugh. He is survived by his daughters Debra Ann Koontz of Quartzsite, Arizona Katherine Lynne Martin (Bart) of Idaho Falls, Idaho; and Teri Rae Koontz of Quartzsite, Arizona; grandchildren: John Koontz (Jamie), Jamie Ryder, Amanda Sturgeon (Kenneth), Scott Ryder, Matthew Grindrod Zachary Grindrod (Anna), Katlynn Holdgate (Daniel, and Cassidy Martin; brothers: Thomas Koontz (Doris), Ronald Koontz, Steven Koontz (Susan; sister: Barbara Schwartz (Robert); and 12 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by both parents; grandson, Shawn Ryder; and one brother, Richard Koontz. Ray was a Life and Holland Club member at Large on USSVI.

Sailor, Rest your oar



Jesse Raymond Koontz , ETC(SS)











Personal Information

Nickname	
Spouse / Partner Next of Kin	Debra Lewis
Address	PO Box 1888 Quartzsite AZ 85346-1888
Phones	406-925-1963
E-mail Addresses	
Deceased	Yes Date went on Eternal Patrol: 8/24/2018
Doing Now	Born March 28, 1938, Eternal Patrol August 24, 2018
Status	Changed on: 2/11/2020 Updated by Pat Householder ()

US Navy Service Information

Years Served	Joined in 1957 left in 1986
Highest Rank - Rate	E7 - ETC(SS)
Service Number	370-32-52
USN Retired	Yes in 1986
Naval Service Highlights	Also served in the Army National Guard
Ships Served On	SS-478, SSN-597, SSBN-598, SSN-585, SSBN-655, SS-340, SS-350, SSN-590

Hull#	Ship's Name	Rate/Rank	Years
SS-478 	Cutlass		1958-59
SSN-597 	Tullibee		1960-60
SSBN/SSN-598 	George Washington		1960-63
SSN-585 	Skipjack		1963-63
SSBN-655 	Henry L Stimson	ETC(SS)	1968-70
SS-340 	Entemedor	ETC(SS)	1970-70
SS-350 	Dogfish	ETC(SS)	1970-71
SSN-590 	Sculpin	ETC(SS)	1981-83

Name	Location	Rate/Rank	Years	
S5G Prototype	Idaho Falls, ID		1964-67	Operator