



Robert Lee McKnight
EMC(SS) Ret. B ??-71
Dec 6, 1933 – Mar 8, 2024

Robert L. McKnight passed away on Friday, March 8, 2024, at 90 years old.

Robert was born to Condie and Naomi McKnight in Ava, Missouri, on December 6, 1933. At an early age, Robert helped run their family's business.

He joined the U.S. Navy at 19 years old and through years of hard work and dedication ultimately achieved the rank of Chief Petty Officer. During his years of service, Robert and his beloved wife Betty welcomed four children—Terry, Kimber, Bridget, and Jeffrey. The family spent years moving across the U.S. as Robert served his country. He served at length on several nuclear submarines, including the H.L. Stimson, before his retirement in 1971.

After Robert's retirement, the family settled in Illinois. He went on to work for several companies and was known for his tireless work ethic and warm sense of humor. In 2003, Robert and Betty found their forever home and settled in Bedford, Texas.

Robert officially retired at the age of 82, but his loved ones knew this was a mere technicality, as Robert continued to keep his time and his mind steadfastly occupied through household projects, passion for current world events, and unprecedented enthusiasm for deciphering the latest technology. He is perhaps the only 90-year-old to read the manual for his iPad and laptop cover-to-cover, text message family members his unique witticisms back within seconds, and revel in the installation of smart appliances in his home (which he keenly controlled through his iPhone).

Robert was savvy, social, loving, steady, and kind. He was a veteran, a Christian, and a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He will be deeply missed by those lucky enough to have known him.

Robert is survived by his wife of 70 years, Betty, and their children: Terry McKnight, Kimberly (William) Sunday, Bridget (Jerry) Barnes, and Jeffrey (Rhetta) McKnight. He is survived by his 11 grandchildren: Nathan (Desiree) McKnight, Sally (Gaston) Donoso, Kelly (Andy) Johnson, Ryan (Amanda) Sunday, Chad (Cayla) Sunday, Daniel (Claudia) Sunday, Allison (Brad) David, Nicholas (Brittany) Barnes, Sydney (Ricky) Matsko, Dylan (Megan) McKnight, and Jacob (Jessica) McKnight. He is also survived by 16 great-grandchildren. Robert is preceded in death by his parents, sister Doris, daughter-in-law Janis, grandson Jay, and great-grandson Jonah.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to the Fisher House Foundation.

The visitation for Robert L. McKnight will be held at 10 a.m. with memorial service to follow at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 22, 2024, at J.E. Foust & Son, 523 S Main St, Grapevine, TX 76051.

[Robert McKnight Obituary - Grapevine, TX \(dignitymemorial.com\)](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/robert-mcknight)

Mission Summary: The family of Chief Petty Officer McKnight has asked the North Texas Patriot Guard Riders to stand a Flag Line at his funeral service and at his interment service and to also serve as Pall Bearers at the funeral home and the cemetery.

From: Mark Littel - North Texas Patriot Guard

I regret to inform you of the passing of a great American, Retired Chief Petty Officer McKnight.

His funeral service is on Friday in Grapevine, Texas and his interment is at DFW National Cemetery at 1300 on the same day. I do not know if you have any contact with any submariners in North Texas but we as the Patriot Guard will stand honors at the funeral home in the morning and at DFW National Cemetery.

If you can contact some submariners who may want to honor his service that would be great.

He served on diesel and nuclear subs, he was an electrician and trained on nuclear systems. He retired after 20 years of service and his last assignment on the USS Henry L. Stimson, SSBN 655, he served on the Blue Team, I think his wife said. He served on boats from early 1950 until the early 1970s.

