



Jerrold Michael

August 3, 1927 - July 25, 2018

Retired U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS) Rear Admiral Jerrold M. Michael, who rose from the lowest rank in the U.S. Navy in World War II to become the youngest USPHS Assistant Surgeon General in history and later served as the Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Hawaii for 20 years, died July 25. He was 90.

Jerrold Mark Michael was born August 3, 1927 in Kingston, NY, the youngest of 5 children of Joseph and Esther Michael. He moved to Kingston, NY at age 1 and then Washington, D.C. at age 11. A graduate of Anacostia High School in 1945, RADM Michael joined the Navy at age 17 where he was trained as a Corpsman to support the Marines in the planned invasion of Japan, which was cancelled with the Japanese surrender. After serving in Florida for two years, RADM Michael used the G.I. Bill to train as a civil engineer at George Washington University. He met his future wife, Lynn Simon, in 1948 and married on March 17, 1951 after having earned his Masters of Public Health at The Johns Hopkins University and becoming an Ensign in the USPHS.

RADM Michael was assigned to his first USPHS post in Phoenix, Arizona and then Atlanta, Georgia at the Centers for Disease Control before moving back to Washington, D.C. in 1959 where he worked in the Indian Health Service, the Environmental Protection Service (later to become the EPA), and the Bureau of Medical Services. He became a Rear Admiral in 1964 at age 37, the youngest Flag Officer in USPHS history.

Retiring from the USPHS in 1971, RADM Michael, his wife and now two sons moved to Honolulu, Hawaii where he became a Professor of Public Health at the University of Hawaii and the longest serving Dean of a School of Public Health for 20 years developing a new network of public health schools in the Pacific Rim, earned two honorary doctorate degrees, had an endowed chair created in his name at the University of Jerusalem, and was a rare foreigner decorated by the King of Thailand with the Order of the Elephant. RADM Michael trained a generation of public health professionals.

Retiring a second time, RADM Michael returned to the DC area in November 1995 to serve as Professor of Global Health at his alma mater where he assisted in the development of a new School of Public Health and became increasingly active in USPHS organizations such as the Commissioned Officers Association and co-founded the Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health. He trained doctoral students well into his 80s. RADM Michael was committed to service of country, global health, and education.

RADM Michael is survived by his wife of 67 years, Lynn Y. Michael, sons Scott (Mary) and Nelson (Madeline) Michael, grandchildren Joseph (Stacey), Karen (Ian), Joshua and Claire Michael, and great-grandchildren Dale Michael and Sophia Stanaway.

Services will be held Sunday, July 29 at B'nai Shalom of Olney at 11 o'clock in the morning with internment thereafter at nearby Judean Gardens.

Donations can be made to the RADM Jerrold Michael Global Health Fellowship Program of the Koop Living Legacy Fund at www.phscof.org/koop-living-legacy-fund.html.

Cemetery

Judean Memorial Gardens

16225 Batchellors Forest Road
Olney, MD, 20832

Events

JUL **Temple Service** 11:00AM

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B'nai Shalom of Olney

18401 Burtfield Dr, Olney, MD, US, 20832

Comments



“ Lynn and family

I was greatly saddened to read of Jer's passing. I have known him since the late 60's and always found him to be insightful, encouraging and a wonderful friend. For so many years he has been the backbone of the Corps and an advisor to many younger officers. . His role as a member of the advisory board of the clinic in Honolulu was never well publicized but it was tremendously helpful. I hope you and the family navigate smoothly thru these rocks and shoals. RADM Michael was respected, admired and appreciated and loved as a friend. May he rest in peace

John H Eilert, Jr CAPT, USPHS ret..

John H Eilert, Jr - October 08, 2018 at 12:24 AM



“ I read with awe the obituary of Jerrold Michael today. What a long and well-lived life, and a life of service. My condolences to the family.

Eileen Pohutsky Weiss
(Neighbor from Lund Place, Kensington, Maryland)

Eileen Weiss - July 30, 2018 at 12:54 PM



“ RADM Michael was a mentor and friend to me. I will always be thankful for the time he took to meet with me, listen and provide his experience. The thing I remember most though was his uncanny ability to know when I wasn't carrying a challenge coin. I would look up at some uniform function to see him smiling at me with his coin in hand. I have no idea how many drinks I ended up buying, but it was always fun and in good humor. The next round is on me Sir!

CAPT Nate Tatum - July 30, 2018 at 09:45 AM



“ Lynn and extended family -

I want to extend my sincere condolences to you and the Michael family. Jerry was a strong supporter of all activities in which he was involved. His dedicated support for the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is only overshadowed by everything he accomplished from behind the scenes and for which many people are unaware. He will certainly be missed by all.

Van

Van S. Hubbard, Rear Admiral (ret), USPHS

Van S Hubbard, Rear Admiral (ret), USPHS - July 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ CAPT Jill R. Hammond lit a candle in memory of Jerrold Michael



CAPT Jill R. Hammond - July 28, 2018 at 08:34 AM