

J. ASHLEY ROACH

(January 22, 1939 – August 20, 2024)

Captain J. Ashley Roach C'60, L'63, beloved husband, father, grandfather, expert in law of the sea, and retired officer of the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General Corps, passed away peacefully at home with his family on August 20, 2024, at the age of 85. Born January 22, 1939, in Philadelphia, PA, the son of esteemed architects, historic preservationists, and genealogists, Franklin Spencer and Hannah Benner Roach, Ash graduated from Central High School in 1956. Ash earned both his BA (American civilization, 1960) and his JD (1963) at the University of Pennsylvania. He received his LLM (public international law and comparative law) from the George Washington University School of Law in 1971. After receiving his JD, Ash embarked on a 25-year us naval career with posts in Newport, RI; Yokosuka, Japan; Holy Loch, Scotland; San Diego, CA; and the Washington, DC area. Ash continued his public service as an attorney adviser in the Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. State Department, responsible for law of the sea matters. He retired from public service in January 2009. He taught, advised and published globally on national maritime claims and other law of the sea issues. He negotiated, and participated in the negotiation of, numerous international agreements involving law of the sea issues. After retiring, he concentrated his intellectual gaze on piracy, the Arctic, BBNJ Agreement, and island-dispute issues. One of his most enduring contributions was his co-authorship with Dr. Robert W. Smith of the seminal work *Excessive Maritime Claims*, which has been an essential reference for legal scholars, policymakers, and practitioners worldwide. He relished his role as colleague, teacher, and mentor. Ash was a devoted Philadelphia Eagles and Phillies fan. He was an avid stamp collector and expanded the family's genealogical history begun by his mother. He was a long-time usher and member of The Falls Church, later The Falls Church Anglican. Ash was married for 47 years to Pamela Shippen Patterson (Pam) Roach who preceded him in death. Devoted father of Elizabeth (Liz) and her husband Robert (Rob) Albro of Arlington, VA; Christina (Tina) Roach and her husband Scott Presson of Silver Spring, MD; and Ashley and his wife Marion (Mimi) Roach of Denver, CO. Loving grandfather of Jonas Albro of Brooklyn, NY; Madeline (Maddie) Albro and her husband Joseph Ravan of Quincy, MA; Ezekiel (Zeke) Albro of Chicago, IL; Delaney and Eliza Roach of Denver, CO. Brother-in-law of Elise and her husband William Gelpi-Toro of Bronxville, NY. All were a source of great pride and joy in his life