



Bradley Jon Pester

May 21, 1940 - October 8, 2020

Pester, Bradley J. 80, died of heart failure on October 8th, 2020 after finishing his morning coffee and a letter to his granddaughter. Born in 1940 to Forest and Mae Pester, Brad grew up in the Prospect Park neighborhood of Minneapolis with his brother Gary and sister Sandy. He was Homecoming King of Marshall High School, where he broke his teeth and shoulder playing football, and excelled in competitive swimming. He also made money on the side delivering groceries and illegally parking cars during University of Minnesota football games. Brad then went to Gustavus Adolphus College with the primary goal of swimming and the secondary goal of an accounting degree. During the summers he held two full time jobs to cover the tuition, including grinding castings at a foundry, where the other workers put the "college kid" in charge of assuring they received the correct pay. Having also met his first wife, he graduated in 1962, then flew to Newport, RI for Navy Officer Candidate School. Ensign Pester then drove west to his port of San Francisco, CA, ultimately boarding a ship to Okinawa, Japan. Desperate to get out of sea duty, he was reassigned to Basic Underwater Demolition training in Coronado, CA. Here he received a debilitating back injury, but he came through (including the famed Hell Week) with a determination that included surreptitious injections from a civilian doctor for the pain. He served two tours with the special forces, one as a UDT frogman, and another with the first SEAL team. He was also a diver selected to recover the second unmanned Apollo space capsule. Brad resigned from active duty in 1967 (rank Lt. Cmdr.) to be with his wife and two young sons, and the family made their way back to MN on the basis of his accounting degree. A decade later, he remarried, had a third son, and moved on to a successful career in financial services. Brad was a loving, supportive father, gave the best hugs in town, and never hesitated to help friends/family in need. He maintained lifelong friendships and impeccable lawns. He was the DJ at his 50th high school reunion, and wore 25-year-old shoes with pride. Bradley was preceded in death by his brother and sister, and his son Christiaan Tearse. He is survived by his sons David Tearse (Selden) and Nicholas Pester (Kimberly), his three grandchildren Squire and Béla Tearse and Alan Pester, and the now hungry woodpeckers of the Twin Cities west metro. A service with honors will take place at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery in the spring of 2021. Please email RememberBradPester@gmail.com if you wish to be notified of details on a future

date.