



John P. Tazewell

September 25, 1920 - May 31, 2016

Resided in Virginia Beach, VA

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## OBITUARY

John Parks Tazewell, 95, passed away on May 31, 2016, at Westminster-Canterbury in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He was born on September 25, 1920, in Wilmington, Delaware, to Calvert Walke Tazewell and Sophie Goode Tazewell.

John grew up in Norfolk, Virginia, and graduated from Maury High School in 1939. After high school, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated in 1942. During World War II, he served on the destroyer U.S.S. O'Bannon, and battleships U.S.S. Alabama and U.S.S. West Virginia, and was awarded a Bronze Star (V). After the war, he attended the Navy Post Graduate School and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he received a Masters of Science in Electrical Engineering. He also served as Commodore of a destroyer division, which included NATO-manned U.S.S. Claude V. Ricketts, Commander of the destroyer U.S.S. Laffey, Commander of the Norfolk Test and Evaluation Detachment, project officer for the Tartar missile program, and program manager of the Aegis missile area defense system. He retired in 1970, at the rank of Captain.

After retirement, John volunteered with a number of organizations in Norfolk, Virginia, including the Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia (formerly SEVAMP), Chrysler Museum Library and Lee's Friends. He enjoyed sailing, rowing, traveling and visiting his children and grand children with his wife and best friend, Elizabeth "Betsy" Taylor.

A memorial service will be held 2:00 p.m., Saturday, August 27, 2016 at Westminster Canterbury, Virginia Beach. A reception will follow the service. A private ceremony to scatter John's ashes will follow in Norfolk.