

Ronnie Haydon Holloman, age 75, passed away unexpectedly of natural causes on March 6, 2021 at his home in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. Ron was born July 14, 1945 in Micro, North Carolina.

Ron attended Old Dominion College, in Norfolk, Virginia. When he received his draft notice, he enlisted in Army helicopter flight training and graduated as a Warrant Officer Aviator in March 1967 (Classes 66-23 and 67-1). During his training at Fort Rucker, he was a founding member of the infamous Panama City Group and spent memorable days and nights along with other group members living the legend in Panama City. He then joined a newly conceived air cavalry regiment at Fort Knox Kentucky and was assigned to A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry as a gunship pilot. His unit deployed to Vietnam on the USNS General Walker with a memorable stop at the US Naval Base, Subic Bay, in the Philippines before landing at Vung Tau in October 1967. Ron was immediately involved in intense fighting at Loc Ninh and later the 1968 Tet Offensive and Counter-Tet Offensive. For his heroism he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart and numerous awards of the Air Medal. He was badly injured in a crash and was evacuated to the U.S. After recovering from his injuries, he concluded his military service as an instructor pilot at the Army flight school in Savannah, Georgia.

After leaving active duty, he traveled around Europe with fellow Vietnam aviator Mike Lemmon (Ambassador (ret)) and developed a lifelong love of Europe, especially France. He returned home and received his bachelor's degree from Old Dominion University. He married Judy Bonita Cronk Fite on April 7, 1973. They had two sons Christopher (Ph.D) and David MD, Pathologist.

Ron had a long and successful career in the shipping industry with a memorable assignment as the U.S. Lines senior executive in Panama during the reign of Manuel Noriega. He retired from the shipping industry in Atlanta. He was an all-round handyman helping others, an entrepreneur of homemade preserves and a loving and doting father and grandfather. An avid sailor, Ron enjoyed his sailboat and spent a vacation sailing with close friends, out of Norfolk and Charleston, and in the British Virgin Islands. He and Judy also visited friends in Normandy and the D-Day Landing Beaches regularly before Judy passed on October 5, 2015. He is survived by his mother Ruth, brothers Ken (Vicki) and David (Lisa), sons Christopher (Kate), David (Emily) and three grandchildren (Spencer, Caroline and Livie).