

Guy T. Goodwin

Guy T. Goodwin, Captain (Retired) United States Coast Guard, of Wake Forest, NC, sailed on to calmer waters on March 3, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of service, leadership, and the gift of laughter to all who knew him.

Raised in West Reading, Pennsylvania, Guy often reflected that he never in his "wildest dreams" imagined that a "young, skinny kid from a small Pennsylvania town would be selected for ... the Coast Guard Academy." This opportunity, which came through a recommendation from his brother, Rusty, became what Guy called "a profound decision that turned into a career and a life-altering event."

For 30 years, Guy served his country with distinction in the United States Coast Guard, rising to the rank of Captain. His Coast Guard assignments took him across the nation, from Boston to Alaska, Washington D.C. to Hawaii, with numerous stops in between. His career highlights included commanding three Coast Guard units – USCGC Cape Romain, USCGC Papaw, and USCG Group Milwaukee – and serving as the Coast Guard Liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives, Chief of Congressional Affairs, and Chief of Staff of the 14th District.

His most notable achievements included a three-week search and rescue mission while commanding a 95' patrol boat in Alaska, searching for a downed aircraft carrying the Governor of Alaska and a Louisiana Congressman. While in Charleston, his crew seized 111,000 pounds of marijuana from a freighter tracked from Colombia to South Carolina. His dedication to service earned him the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal with two gold stars and operational distinguishing device, and Coast Guard Achievement Medal, along with numerous unit awards.

A graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (Class of 1970), Guy cherished his time as the Academy's quarterback and team captain, proudly wearing #3. With his characteristic humor, he often joked about "mastering the forward pass from flat on [his] back." Goodie built lifelong friendships through the Academy. Eileen and Guy were often found traveling, golfing, and enjoying life with his fellow Coasties and their spouses.

Guy earned his Master's degree in Public Administration from New York University in 1981. Following his Coast Guard career, he put his expertise to work with several organizations, including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Computer Systems Corporation, General Dynamics Information Technology, and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation.

In his personal reflections, Guy often spoke of the joy he found in his career path and the "band of brothers with whom I was lucky enough to travel with and what fun we had all along the way!" Guy's service adventures enriched his life in countless ways, including meeting and marrying the love of his life, Eileen, forging unbreakable bonds with his class of '70, and making friends in every city he called home. He embraced life to the fullest, always ready with a good joke, known for his infectious laugh and giving the best hugs. From the moment he met someone, he made them feel like family and truly enjoyed getting to know them. He found immense joy in celebrating others especially his children and grandchildren. His warm sense of humor, leadership abilities, and dedication to service impressed everyone he met.

Guy is survived by his loving wife and best friend, Eileen Hoffman Goodwin; his daughter Brigadier General Kristin Goodwin, USAF (Ret) (and Traci); son Grant Goodwin (and Megan); and son Will Hoffman; grandchildren Dale, Joie, Sloan, and Slater; his brother Commander Edward M. Goodwin, USCG (Ret) (and Becky), his sister Eleanor "Candy" Goodwin Bickel (and Don), as well as many nieces and nephews, all dear to his heart, who will miss his guidance, wisdom, and humor.

Guy was preceded in death by his parents Edward Mills Goodwin Jr and Elizabeth Cowherd Goodwin.

As Guy himself wrote, "I can't imagine a more enjoyable path to have followed."

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Coast Guard Foundation or The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center.

Celebration of Life will be held at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home with burial at Arlington National Cemetery on later dates to be determined.

All who remain in life, are in our prayers for the gathering in the future.