



ERICH H. KUNZE

July 11, 1941 - February 12, 2023

Erich H. Kunze, of Oak Ridge, passed peacefully on Sunday, February 12, 2023 after a sudden brief illness. He was 81.

Born on July 11, 1941 to the late Otto Kunze and Ella Kunze (nee Richter) in Englewood, Erich grew up in Cliffside Park and graduated Cliffside Park High School in 1959. He then joined the Navy and served honorably aboard the USS Independence, CVA-62, taking part in the naval blockade during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Discharged in 1963, he married Judith (nee Holt) in 1965 and moved to the Oak Ridge section of West Milford in 1973, where they raised two sons. Professionally, Erich worked as a purchasing and logistics manager for north jersey manufacturers until his retirement.

Throughout his life he worked to help others, in ways big and small. An active participant in his community, he served as a Little League coach, member of the West Milford Planning Board and member of the Oak Ridge Homeowners Association. Erich was an avid modeler, building replica airliners and warships. He was also a history buff and enjoyed classical music. He will always be remembered as a conversationalist and storyteller and for his love of coffee.

Erich was predeceased by his parents Otto and Ella Kunze and sister Marilyn Belushi. He is survived by his beloved wife Judith of Oak Ridge, NJ., his children Richard and wife Jessica of Hardyston, NJ, Erich W. Kunze and wife Tammy of Cape Coral, FL.; his cherished grandchildren Tiffany, Samantha, Erica, Sabina and Samuel; and many dear nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations in his name may be made to the West Milford Township First Aid Squad www.wmfas.org.