



## Melvin M. Holda

January 22, 2022

Melvin M. Holda, 81, of Portsmouth, RI and Englewood, FL passed away peacefully at his RI home with his wife and two sons at his side. Mel, as he was known by friends and family, lost his courageous 2-year battle against lung cancer on January 22, 2022. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Elaine (Sobodacha), two sons Jonathan and Ethan, their wives and five beautiful grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Felicia Goldin and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and his sister Dolores Stowe.

Mel was born in Chicago, IL to Marion and Karoline (Kaczor) Holda. He enlisted in the Navy at age 17 and served aboard destroyers in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. Following his tour of duty, Mel attended and graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Accounting, followed by Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI. Mel was then commissioned as a Supply Officer and served aboard an LST during a tour of duty in Vietnam. He eventually retired as a Lt. Commander from the US Naval Reserve. During his professional career Mel worked for the Navy in Newport as a civilian Finance Officer and Auditor.

Mel met Elaine in Newport, RI and they married in 1967. Over the years, Mel

and Elaine traveled widely, enjoying adventures in Europe and beyond. Mel was an avid stamp collector and his favorite activities included downhill skiing, kayaking, bicycling, and ballroom dancing, but he enjoyed being with his family most of all.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in his name to Visiting Nurse Home and Hospice, 1184 East Main Road, Portsmouth, RI 02871 or to a charity of your choice.

# Tribute Wall

MW

“ *Elaine, my heart goes out to you and your family. Mel was one of the best. Gone way too soon. May God hold him in the palm of His hands.*

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**MaryKay Wood** - February 05, 2022 at 09:55 AM

SG

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are sent to the entire Holda Family. It is with sorrow that we say Good Bye to such a nice guy and neighbor in Englewood FL. I will always remember watching Elaine and Mel enjoying dancing together at the Club House. Their professional dancing was a treat for all. You will be missed. Regards, Alan & Sue Gamble*

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**Susan Gamble** - February 01, 2022 at 03:54 PM

MS

*Mel will be missed in our Oak Forest community. I will miss his smiles and his determination to stay active and support so many activities. Goodbye to you Mel.*

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**Marcia Sumerix** - February 01, 2022 at 04:05 PM

JS

*Rest In Peace Mel !  
Joe and Joanne Saliba*

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**Joe & Joanne Saliba** - February 02, 2022 at 07:01 AM

LC

*With love and sympathy. Rest In Peace, Mel.  
Lynne and Paul Clough*

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**Lynne Clough** - February 02, 2022 at 10:37 AM