

R 151445Z MAY 25 MID120001946573U
FM COMCOGARD PSC WASHINGTON DC
TO ALCGPSC

BT

UNCLAS

ALCGPSC 066/25

SUBJ: DEATH OF A RETIRED FLAG OFFICER

A. COMDTINST M1770.9A

1. It is with great sadness that I announce the death of Rear Admiral Joseph E. Vorbach, USCG (retired), who passed away on Saturday, 03 May 2025, in Midlothian, Virginia, at the age of 88.
2. RADM Vorbach was born 2 April 1937, in Queens, New York. He was a 1959 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut.
3. Early in his career, he sailed aboard three Coast Guard cutters, commanding one, and served as commanding officer of a LORAN station on Eniwetok Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. In 1965, RADM Vorbach attended George Washington University, earning a Juris Doctorate with Honors in January 1968. His legal assignments included duty at Coast Guard Headquarters Legislation and Regulations Division, the Assistant Professor of Law at the Coast Guard Academy, and the Eleventh District legal officer to the Commander. In August 1977, he became the Chief Counsel of the Coast Guard, and two years later was appointed the Acting Assistant General Counsel for International Law for the Department of Transportation.
4. After two more tours at Headquarters (Chief, International Affairs Staff) and the Coast Guard Academy (Commandant of Cadets), RADM Vorbach was promoted to flag rank, and he returned to his position as Chief Counsel for the service. His final assignment was Commander of the Thirteenth District in Seattle, Washington.
5. RADM Vorbach retired from the Coast Guard in 1993, and later worked for the American Bureau of Shipping, concluding that service as General Counsel. He was known for his work as a law professor, author, and guest lecturer.
6. RADM Vorbach was predeceased by his beloved wife of 51 years, Alice (Gordon) Vorbach. He is survived by his four children Fran Babashak (Larry Friedkin), Joseph Vorbach (Colleen), Emily Gretz (Daniel), and Justin Vorbach (Anne Marie), nine grandchildren, and numerous other family. He also enjoyed the gift of deep lifetime friendships, some of more than 70 years. During the past decade, he was blessed by the friendship of Sue Lefko and her family.
7. RADM Vorbach will ultimately be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. Funeral service information and half-mast instructions will be sent via separate message.

8. RADM Vorbach's full obituary can be found at:

<https://www.blileys.com/obituaries/Joseph-Edward-Vorbach?obId=42373664>

9. RDML Z. Merchant, Commander, Personnel Service Center (CG-PSC) sends.

10. Internet release authorized.

BT