

Capt. Norman Kjeldsen

WASHINGTON TWP. (Morris) — Services were held March 13 for Capt. Norman C. Kjeldsen, 70. He died March 10 at Morristown Memorial Hospital after a brief illness.

He was born June 14, 1921, in Elizabeth to the late Hans and Martha Larsen Kjeldsen. He lived in Cranford before moving to Long Valley in 1971.

Capt. Kjeldsen was a merchant captain with U.S. Lines in Cranford before retiring in 1981. His Merchant Marine duty included executive officer of the U.S. Lines S.S. America and master of many classes of ships. He served on assignment to Newport News Ship Building Corp. as a trial captain on the super tanker S.S. National Defender and the aircraft carrier U.S.S. America.

He was a 1943 graduate of the Merchant Marine Academy and a member of its alumni association. He was on the council of the America Master Marines Society of New York City and a member of the Master Mates and Pilots Association.

Capt. Kjeldsen was a veteran of three wars and served on troop and cargo ships on convoy duty until 1944. During the Korean and Vietnam wars, his ships were placed under the U.S. Navy Sea Lift Command. He carried munitions and served under fire making deliveries through the Mekong Delta. He retired as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

He is survived by his wife, Lea; two sons, Robert A. of Cincinnati and Ronald C. of Washington; a brother, Charles of Elizabeth; a sister, Signe of Roselle; and five grandchildren.

A son, Richard C., died in 1987.

He was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Gladstone, where the burial services were held.

Cochran Funeral Home in Hackettstown was in charge of the arrangements.

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Date of Death

March 10, 1992