Robert (Bob) E. Karas
Commander, USN (Retired)
Membership, Central Florida Navy League

Midshipmen 1955

USS Henderson DD-785
Commanding Officer

Navy League 2009

Bob Karas is a life member of the Navy League, Past President of the Central Florida Council and past National Director of the Navy League of the United States. Bob was a career Naval Officer with 25 years of active duty service.

Following graduation from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin with a Bachelor of Science Civil Engineering (BSCE) in 1956 Bob reported to his first Duty station as an Ensign. As the Control Mines Officer, Harbor Defense Unit San Francisco he received dispatch orders to report as the Officer In Charge of The Harbor Defense Unity Yokosuka, Japan in 1957. As a tenant activity and on the staff of Fleet Activities Japan his additional duty was to negotiate an agreement between the Japanese Self Defense Forces and the U.S. for the transfer of lands and naval material to Japan. The agreement was signed in Tokyo by the U.S. Ambassador and the Head of Japan's Self Defense Forces in 1958.

Following 6 months of Combat Information and Air Control School he reported to the USS Laffey DD-724 in 1959 at Norfolk , VA. As the Operations Officer and Navigator he participated in two Mediterranean and Middle East Deployments before detachment in Naples Italy for the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA in August 1961.

After a year of Advance Science followed by Steam Engineering School he reported to the USS Wasp CV S-18 as the Main Propulsion Assistance (MPA) in

1962. He participated in the Cuban Missile Crises and a major Engineering Overhaul before being detached in 1964 to the Staff of Destroyer Squadron two.

As the Material Officer and later the Chief of Staff Officer of DesRon Two, Lieutenant Karas was certified as a 1200psi Boiler Inspector and made a Mediterranean and Middle East Deployment.

In 1965 he reported to Commander Training Command Atlantic for duty as Engineering, Damage Control and ABC Officer. He was responsible for updating Fire Fighting and Damage Control Courses for the Fleet.

Lieutenant Commander Karas reported to the USS Noa DD-841 as the Executive Officer at the end of 1967. While on the NOA he participated in a Burial at Sea, a ships overhaul, GTMO Training Period and Western Pacific (WESTPAC) deployment from the East Coast through the Panama Canal to the waters off Vietnam. He acted as the Ship's and Squadron Navigator during transit from Mayport, Fl to Vietnam.

In the summer of 1969 he reported to the Operations Study Group, Washington, DC, the Center of Naval Analysis (Navy's Think Tank) as Project Head for two major Computer Modeling Programs. During his tenure he Co-published a major paper on the manning of Commercial Ships with a reduced crew that was presented in England and has been adopted.

In October of 1971 Cdr. Karas reported as the Commanding Officer of the USS Henderson DD-785, in Long Beach, Ca. During his time as CO he saw to the ship's overhaul, training period and deployment to the waters of Vietnam. The ship participated in gunfire support, a counter battery fire fight, Air Craft Carrier Support, training and Operation End Sweep. The ship returned to the U.S. In May 1973.

Cdr. Karas reported to the Pentagon for duty through 1977. Following his duties in Washington he reported as Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve Center Chicago, Illinois in 1977. He retired from the Navy in May of 1980.

Mr. Karas worked as a Mainframe Computer Programmer for The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad from 1980-1985. In 1985 he took over the Technical Market which included Government Equipment's, Commercial Air, Marine and Oil Markets for Everpure, Inc. He retired from that position in 1996 and moved with his wife Bobi to Oviedo, FL.

He continues to be involved in local VA Boards, HOA's and Church activities.