



## *Lasting Memories*

### Richard "Fritz" Lawrence Snideman II

*Dec. 31, 1938-April 14, 2014*

*Napa, California*

Fritz Snideman passed away on April 14 at age 75. Fritz was a loving husband, a great father and dear friend to many, and will be missed enormously.

He began his life's adventures as Richard Lawrence Snideman II in Elkhart, Indiana, in 1938. As a boy in Chicago he discovered a passion for sailing. By the time he was a teenager he was racing regularly. On one of his favorite sailboats, the all-German crew insisted that "Richard" or "Larry" wasn't a proper German name so the crew named him "Fritz." He has been Fritz ever since.

After attending Lawrenceville School in New Jersey, Fritz headed west to Fountain Valley School in Colorado and immediately fell in love with the vastness and beauty of the mountains and rivers. Fritz was a man of the outdoors. His love of the natural world guided him both personally and professionally.

From Colorado, Fritz headed to Boston and received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University. Having served in high school and college in the ROTC, Fritz entered the United States Navy as an officer on a submarine. After leading undersea submarine patrols during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Fritz rose in rank but left the Navy when he heard the Navy was "getting rid of all those wonderful diesel boats." Fritz again headed west and earned his MBA from Stanford University.

In keeping with his love of the natural world, Fritz served the United States on the President's Commission on Marine Science, Engineering and Resources and helped author "Our Nation and The Sea: a Plan for National Action." This work was the foundation of what today is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

As the president and CEO of an international weather technology corporation, Fritz traveled the globe meeting with ocean shipping executives to demonstrate his company's pioneering weather and ship routing technology. Additional career ventures ranged from aquaculture to viticulture to agriculture.

Fritz was an avid hunter and fisherman. On a business trip to western Montana in the mid-1980s, Fritz immediately fell in love with the area. It wasn't long before he and one of his closest friends were building a solar-powered cabin along the banks of the Blackfoot river. Fritz was most happy in Montana while hunting elk on a cold, snowy November morning or while floating the Blackfoot river on a hot July day.

Fritz had an unmatched wit and was an excellent storyteller. Often this was on fine display in the field with his hunting buddies, on a river while fishing or, as was often the case, as he held court among friends many evenings around his BBQ.

He generously shared his many passions including flying, sailing, hunting, fishing and hiking with Nancy, his loving wife of 47 years, his daughter Laura, his son, and many relatives and friends.