

**CHARLES HAMPTON**  
**MERRITT ISLAND**  
**Died: Nov 18, 2003**

CHUCK HAMPTON

MERRITT ISLAND Commander Charles Thomas Hampton, Sr., U.S. Navy, retired, 76, died Tuesday, November 18, 2003. Born in McCloud, Oklahoma, he attended Iowa State College, where he met his future wife. He graduated with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a commission in the U.S. Navy in 1950, after having served as a Seaman Apprentice during World War II. His early Navy career included such positions as Assistant Operations Officer, Surface Craft Officer, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer on-board various Navy vessels. He was Missile Flight Safety Officer (MFSO) for the only full-range, full nuclear detonation ever launched. He also served as MFSO at the Pacific Missile Range in Point Mugu, California. His career brought him and his family to Brevard County in 1965, when he was assigned as Weapons Officer aboard the Observation Island stationed at Port Canaveral, testing Polaris and Poseidon missiles. He retired from the Navy in 1969 as Executive Officer of the Polaris Missile Facility Atlantic in Charleston, S.C., and returned to Brevard County. He worked as a CLU for New York Life Insurance Company and later joined Pan Am/Johnson Controls. He retired from Pan Am/Johnson Controls as Pad Safety Officer. He was active in many civic and religious organizations. He was past President and Paul Harris Fellow for the Merritt Island Rotary Club, past Board Member of Brevard County Museum of Science and History, Former Brevard County Republican Party Executive Committee Precinct Committeeman and National Delegate. He also served in various positions at Faith Lutheran Church, including Trustee and Elder. His parents and eight brothers and sisters predeceased him. His wife of 51 years, Betty; his son and daughter-in-law, Charles Jr. and Kristy Hampton; daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Stephen Tuttle; his brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Jo Hampton; sister-in-law, Ida Belle Hampton; and many nieces and nephews survive CDR Hampton. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, November 22, 2003 at Faith Lutheran Church in Merritt Island. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy, P.O. Box 196, Libertyville, IL 60048 or to the MDA, P.O. Box 78960, Phoenix, AZ 85062. Arrangements entrusted to Wylie-Baxley Merritt Island Funeral Home.