

Ronald James Ayotte, 87, of East Sandwich, Massachusetts died at home on Thursday, May 20 th, 2021. Born in Chicago, Illinois, he attended the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois where he was initiated into the Phi Kappa Chapter of Alpha Chi Rho on September 3, 1952. Upon graduation in June 1955 he was commissioned in the US Army. The same afternoon, he married his wife Carol, who was by his side for 66 years.



His Army career spanned 30 years, starting with a deployment to Korea, and including a tour in Viet Nam as an advisor to the Vietnamese Army, and a tour as an advisor to the Ethiopian Army. On active duty during the Cold War years, he was a Soviet Russian Foreign Area Specialist that led to assignments at the US Liaison Mission in Berlin, as the US Army Attachè in Moscow, and the Defense Attachè in Warsaw. Other assignments included the US National Airborne Command Post, where he followed President Nixon's trip to China, and senior staff positions on both the Army Staff and Joint Chiefs of Staff, culminating as the Executive Officer of the J5, Plans & Policies Directorate. Upon retirement, he worked for another 10 years in the Intelligence Community.

Among his many awards were the Combat Infantry Badge, Defense Superior Service Medal with Palm, Legion of Merit, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star, and Meritorious Service Medal. He was also awarded the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation and the Viet Nam Service Medal with four stars.

Throughout his career, while he was often unable to discuss in details of what he was doing, it is not hyperbole to say that he had a significant role in winning the Cold War and that he provided great service to this nation, which he loved and served willingly.

In retirement, he enjoyed birding and was the treasurer of the Cape Cod Birding Club. He also participated in the Sandwich Citizens Police Auxilliary and was a former Mason. He was the beloved husband for 66 years of Carol (Petefish) Ayotte and the loving father of Brett D. Ayotte (and Karen) of East Sandwich and Ross P. Ayotte of Queen Creek, AZ. Brother of the late Geraldine Hofflander. Grandfather of Timothy (and Katie), Suzanne, Emily (and Madison), Catherine and Elizabeth Ayotte. Great-grandfather of Kemper James Ayotte. He was also a Grandpa to the extended O'Donnell Clan.