



OS & AS Newsletter

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Texas White House



10TH ANNUAL 2021 REUNION FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS 18-22 APRIL 2021

INN ON BARONS CREEK HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

OS&AS has negotiated a special room rate of \$109/night plus tax (currently 13%) with the Inn on Barons Creek, 308 S. Washington St., Fredericksburg, TX 78624. This is an all-suite hotel (king or double queen) with parking, hot breakfast buffet, internet access, exercise facility, and heated pool included in the room rate.

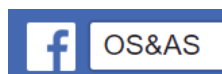
You must call the hotel at 830-990-9202 to make reservations requesting the "Old Salts" reunion rate. **The reunion rate is not available online.** Make your hotel reservation prior to **March 19, 2021** for this group rate. Reunion room rates may not be available after the March 19 cutoff date. Pre- and Post-Reunion room rates are \$160 per night.

Note: If you made a room reservation last year it has been carried forward to this year. You will still need to call the hotel to confirm your reservation and be sure to mention last year's reservation.

Book your room now at Inn on Baron's Creek - **830-990-9202.**

http://os-as.com/?page_id=1228

<http://os-as.com/>





Old Salts & Assorted Spies
10th National Reunion
Fredericksburg, Texas
APRIL 18-22, 2021



REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Registration instructions:

1. Complete registration and event forms
2. Make check for total amount due payable to: OldSalts2020
3. Mail Registration to: Bill Craig, 15610 Robin Ridge, San Antonio, TX 78248

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM & CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 19, 2021

Name: _____ Rank/Rate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone/Cell: _____

Names of Spouse/Companion/Guests: 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____

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EVENT REGISTRATION AND FEES

Notes:

- (1) Each individual attending the reunion must pay the registration fee. The registration fee covers reunion incidental costs. **NO REFUNDS AFTER MARCH 19, 2021.**
- (2) Each person attending the Wednesday business meeting must pay for the meeting breakfast.
- (3) Registration packet, reunion program, name badge and promotional items may be picked up at OS&AS desk near the Hospitality Suite.
- (4) Dinner sign-up sheets for each evening will be located at the OS&AS desk and the Hospitality Room
- (5) All bus tours will depart from the Inn on Barons Creek front entrance.

<u>DAY</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>COST/PERSON</u>	<u># PEOPLE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
SUN 18 APR	Registration & Hospitality Suite	\$40/ea		
SUN 18 APR	President's Reception – Presidential Suite	No Charge		
MON 19 APR 9:00 AM	Docent tour of Nimitz Gallery at National Museum of the Pacific War – Includes 3 day pass to Museum	\$15 ea.		
MON 19 APR 2:00-5:00 PM	Winery Tour with tastings at two wineries	\$69 ea.		
TUE 20 APR 9:30AM – 1:30PM	Wildflower Tour with lunch at Wildseed Farms	\$69 ea.		
Wed 21 APR	Breakfast - Business & Directors Meeting	\$28 ea.		
WED 21 APR 1:00-5:00 PM	LBJ Ranch and Texas White House Tour with stop at Luckenbach	\$59 ea.		
WED EVENING 21 APR	BANQUET*	\$58 ea.		
Donation to the General Fund				
TOTAL				\$

*Texas BBQ Buffet with Pulled Pork, Smoked Brisket, and Beef & Pork Sausage plus tomato cucumber salad with cilantro lime dressing, borracho pinto beans, creamy coleslaw, potato salad, and jalapeno cornbread. Choice of cobbler or pecan pie for dessert. Includes OPEN BAR!

Note: Meal prices include city & state taxes and gratuity.



OS & AS Newsletter

REUNION Plan Of The Week

Old Salts 2021 Reunion
Fredericksburg, Texas

Sunday, April 18

Arrival and Registration – Inn on Barons Creek

President's Reception

Monday, April 19

9:00am – Docent guided tour of Nimitz Gallery at National Museum of the Pacific War (includes three day pass to the Museum)

Lunch on your own

2:00-5:00pm – Winery tour with tastings at two wineries

Dinner on your own

Tuesday, April 20

9:30am – 1:30pm – Wildflower tour through the Hill Country ending with behind the scenes tour and lunch at Wildseed Farms

Afternoon at leisure

Dinner on your own

Wednesday, April 21

8:00am – Breakfast, Business meeting, Board of Directors meeting

Lunch on your own

1:00-5:00pm – Tour of LBJ Ranch & Texas White House with stop at Luckenbach

6:00pm-9:00pm – Reception and Dinner Banquet with open bar

Thursday, April 22

Depart



OS & AS Newsletter

A message from your President, Reunion Coordinator, and Deck Hand:

Ahoy, Shipmates! Thanks goodness we are leaving 2020 in our wake and are looking forward with hope for a better year in 2021. The onset of the coronavirus pandemic led to the postponement of our 2020 reunion in Fredericksburg, TX. I say “postponement” rather “cancellation” because we have every intention of holding that reunion. After discussion amongst the organization’s leadership we have decided to make all preparations for getting underway, to set the special sea and anchor detail, and have rescheduled the reunion for the week of April 18-22, 2021, in Fredericksburg. All of the vendors in Fredericksburg (hotel, museum, caterer, tour agency) have been most accommodating in helping us modify our plans. They are all open for business with appropriate COVID safety precautions in place. We will open the registration process soon after the first of the year. Registration information will be available on the 2021 Reunion page on our website at www.os-as.com. There you will find information about planned activities, hotel arrangements and reservation information, and reunion registration form and instructions. We will continue to monitor the coronavirus situation and make adjustments as necessary. Hopefully, with the vaccine, case numbers will begin to drop and it will be safer to move about again.



Bill Craig



OS & AS Newsletter

A message from your Chairman:

Reflecting upon 2020 I recall a year unlike most of us have experienced before. Military experience and strong bonds with our OS&AS organization have been beneficial for those of us who have experienced losses as well as those who have had positive successes. While the losses of Pete Younce, Tom Verdel and Jim McLeod brought sadness they also help us recall many great experiences with our shipmates. For those of you who have experienced losses, may you find peace and comfort. With the challenges that have occurred in 2020 we should be better equipped to handle the adversities in the future.

Jan and I are looking forward to seeing you in April at the OS&AS reunion in Fredericksburg, TX. We have several friends who have enjoyed visiting Fredericksburg over the last few months as well as Jan and I went on a small tour and had lunch there a few months ago. That part of Texas is especially beautiful during the spring. Blessings and best wishes for the new year.

Pat Merrill



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TREASURER'S REPORT December 31, 2020 OS&AS Operating Fund:

2019 Financial Activity

Beginning Balance 1-1-2019	\$16,043.62
Donations	\$825.00
Ship Store Sales	\$258.00
2018/2019 Reunion Revenue	\$18.36
Landing Zone Grace Donation	\$(2,500.00)
2021 Reunion Advance	\$(2,500.00)
Administrative Expenses	\$(70.52)
Membership Expenses	\$(384.12)
Ending Balance 12-31-2019	\$11,690.34

2020 Year To Date Financial Activity

Beginning Balance 1-1-2020	\$11,690.34
Donations	\$1,869.00
2022 Reunion Advance	\$(2,500.00)
Ending Balance 12/31/2020	\$11,059.34



2020 Contributors



- ⚓ Anna Clark
- ⚓ Bill & Laura Craig
- ⚓ Charles & Beth Morrison
- ⚓ Dale & Suzanne Willey
- ⚓ Drew Jones
- ⚓ Gary & Sally Ryan
- ⚓ Gary Powers
- ⚓ Gene Dickey
- ⚓ George Nelson
- ⚓ George Snyder
- ⚓ James & Denise Manzelmann
- ⚓ Jim Goldsmith
- ⚓ John A. Jones
- ⚓ John Geist
- ⚓ John Hitchcock
- ⚓ Jon Meek
- ⚓ Louis Wright
- ⚓ Merlyn & Pamela Moore
- ⚓ Michael & Shirley Winkler
- ⚓ Nick & Charlotte Schaus
- ⚓ Normand & Peggy Lussier
- ⚓ Pat Merrill
- ⚓ Paul Pappenheim
- ⚓ Ralph & Nina Ross
- ⚓ Richard Juda
- ⚓ Rick & Bea Martinez
- ⚓ Russ & Carol Dyer
- ⚓ Steve Earles
- ⚓ Terry & Linda Kaltenbach



OS & AS Newsletter

OS&AS Ropeyarn

Wallach & Faschini SITREP

OS&AS members Cynthia Faschini & Andrew Wallach hosted the Norfolk Reunion Attendees in their magnificent home. Last December they were in a terrible accident and have been striving to recover this year. We look forward to seeing them at the 2021 OS&AS Reunion!



THANKS!

I, Andy Wallach, thank all the wonderful members of OS&AS who have called, e-mailed, sent cards, and prayed for me over the past year. If you do not already know, my wife, Cynthia, and I were in an accident during December 2019. While Cynthia made a speedy recovery from a broken femur, I am paralyzed from the chest down. But, with all of your support, I have progressed and plan to walk again. Currently, I am working on standing. Cynthia works me out three hours a day (one hour at 0600 before I get out of bed), and I go to physical/occupational therapy six hours per week. The Veterans Administration has been generous in paying for equipment and provided excellent treatment during my stay at the Richmond VA hospital. I especially like to thank Bill Hoyle who mobilized support for me from both OS&AS and previous members of RIA 15. I am so lucky to have my guardian angel/wife, Cynthia Faschini, without whom, I would probably not be alive today.



OS & AS Newsletter

OS&AS Ropeyarn

Jim Goldsmith's After Action Report (AAR): Namibia Safari

One more activity off my bucket list. I had talked about doing a safari in Africa. When I saw a good deal, I asked Rose and she declined. My son, Jay, said he would go with me. We left 8 March for Namibia (just north of south Africa). Long flights -23 hours total. We got in at 2130 and were met by a driver to take us to our hotel for the night. The next morning he picked us up to transport to Estosha National Park. We met our other 10 members (2 Irish and 8 British) around 130. We left hotel around 1430 for our first drive through the park. Saw zebra, gnu, oryx, kudu, impala. Then back to the lodge, which was very nice. For dinner we were served zebra, gnu, oryx, kudu and impala. I tried a little of all.

The next day we did a full day safari. Saw lions, rhino, ostrich, and kori bustard, the largest flying bird in Africa. The vehicles used were Toyota pickups with seats built over bed of truck to seat 9 people. Sides were open. We traveled some rough terrain.

Then to Twyfelfontein-Swakopward to see the paleontological site of the petrified forest. Also had to climb up half a mountain to see larges collection of petroglyph rock engravings in Africa.





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OS&AS Ropeyarn

Also did harbor tour in Swakopmund. 150,000 to 180,000 seals breeding on beaches. Had a seal actually come up on boat looking for fish from guide. Also had a pelican land on boat. Supposed to be pet of guide. Pelican walked around boat and would let you pet him. Guide said she had saved the pelican when he was tied up with fishing netting. Now her friend.



That night's accommodations were to be tents. Wasn't too excited at first but it wasn't that bad. Tents were on plywood platform up against the rocks. In back of tent was bathroom: toilet, shower and sink. With screens in tents, the temperature got chilly. The stars were beautiful. Felt like could reach out and touch Milky Way. There was a big rock perched on top of the rock formation above our tent. It didn't fall.

Then on to Serriem. Spent night in a safari camp. It was OK. Very weak AC. This is when we started getting news of all the closing taking place around the world. As a group we decided to skip the next day activities and head back to Windhoek to get to airport.

I checked on line to see about moving my flight from Wednesday to Sunday. No seats. We left at 0400 to drive 4 and half miles to back to Windhoek. Went to South African Airlines to get booking. The flights for the other 8 in group had been canceled. I tried to advance my flight to Monday. No seats. There were two business class seats on Tuesday for an additional \$13,000. I deferred. Word was that South Africa was shutting the Johannesburg Airport at midnight Wednesday.



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Our flight was to leave at 1245. The rest of the group was finally able to arrange flights back to England. We had to spend two more nights. Flight went as scheduled. Windhoek, Namibia to Johannesburg, South Africa to Accra and finally 11 more hours to Dulles. Every seat was filled on the flight. People wanted to get home. Got back to Dulles at 0700. Customs was actually very fast, less than 10 minutes. Took longer to get luggage. Shuttle to parking hotel and on the way back home. Got home about 0930. Due to possible exposure, my son and I went into 14 days self isolation.

Rough Roads

I would estimate that 80% of roads we traveled were dirt roads straight thru the desert. It appeared they had a spot 100 miles away and just started bulldozing sand. Might see a car coming towards you every 10 miles. Very little traffic. Since roads were dirt they had the washboard affect and very rough They would be graded couple times a week. I was luckily sitting in front seat but Jay was in back. He was really bounced around. Could knock fillings out of your teeth. You would see tires along the road where they had been blown. They would cut the rubber off the rim and leave the rubber part of the tire. That last drive for 4.5 miles back to Windhoek in the dark was very rough and unpleasant.



Souvenir stop

We stopped at a roadside to look at and buy some handicraft. The local natives were very good at making the items. There were three tribes there: Damara, Herero, and Himba. The Herero and Damara wore very colorful full length dress with interesting headgear. Herero were more colorful outfits. The Himba women were topless as is their culture. They are also head of the family. I bought dolls with the attire of the Indians.

Tropic of Capricorn

We stopped at spot where on 21 December you can stand at that point and the sun is directly overhead and does not cast a shadow.





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Items of interest

The local Indians could build anywhere they pretty much wanted. It would usually be a small shack. The government would then have to drill them a well. Per guide water is not that deep so water is available. No electricity. Could be one house by itself or several. Rough environment.





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OS&AS Ropeyarn



Gary Ryan's grandson, Charlie Ryan was just pinned a Naval Aviator, on 23 October 2020. He is being stationed at NAS Norfolk for the next three years. He's attached to Helicopter Sea Combat **Squadron** (HSC) 2. The "Fleet Angels" operate the Sikorsky MH-60S Knighthawk helicopter. The pictures are of Charlie and his fiancée Angela Fancett.





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OS&AS Ropeyarn

"Saw the USA in our Chevrolet"

Will Rogers Highway was a route through small town America. Will Rogers and Route 66 are symbols of American Optimism.

We concluded an arduous trek across 8 states - Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California - in September. Whether you refer to it as Route 66, America's Highway or Will Rogers Highway, it was a memorable adventure across the sweltering USA in a dazzling Corvette.

Route 66 is the highway that allowed people to seek their fortunes out west. This road became a life saver for families by providing jobs during the depression. America's Highway turned the vast unknown into land that Americans could venture through, and if they wanted, return home.

Unfortunately, when President Eisenhower began creating the interstate highways, this main artery of travel was allowed to deteriorate.

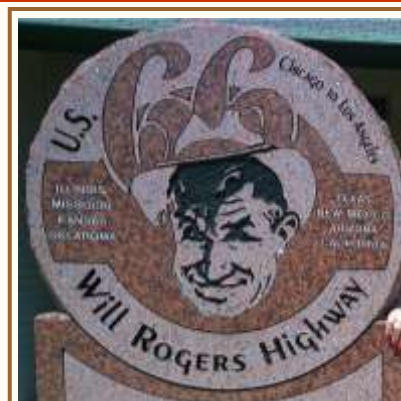
All the friendly, personally owned businesses that welcomed, fed and housed the traveler were forgotten. At that time, the Magnolia Petroleum Company shipped gasoline in 55 gallon drums by train to small filling stations along the route so travelers could fill their tanks and their gas cans (themselves).

At that time, cars only traveled about 70-80 miles on a tank of gas and filling Stations were few and far between and no one wanted to run out of gas along Route 66. Now, some of these ancient structures have been polished up and currently welcome, feed and house those of us who choose to see what our country was like 70-100 years ago. America's Highway was magnificent but it was quite nice to traverse 600 miles on a tank of gas and not have to tote a supplementary carafe of liquid nourishment.

We drove Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica. What a fine site to see. On the way, we stopped in this small town in Arizona. Liked this location so much I wanted to take a picture of Bill just standing there. Wouldn't you know it, some girl in a big red truck slowed down just when I snapped the shot! Have no idea what she was looking at, but you can see her reflection in the window of the building.

Oh, now I remember where we were, it was Winslow, Winslow, Arizona. Take it eeeezzz . . . and have a safe and healthy 2021.

See you in Fredericksburg – Ronda McCauley



"We are here for just a spell and then pass on . . . So get a few laughs and do the best you can. Live your life so that whenever you lose, you are ahead."

- Will Rogers



Bill Kelberlau standing on the corner in Winslow, Arizona. What a fine site to see!



OS & AS Newsletter

OS&AS Ropeyarn

Virtual OP:

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONALS VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES

Author Matt Zullo Discussed his Book Series, *The U.S. Navy's On-The-Roof-Gang*, With Virtual NIP Audience – December 1, 2020

During NIP's November Virtual Speaker Series event on 19 November 2020, retired Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) Master Chief (Ret.) Matt Zullo treated his NIP audience to a fascinating inside look into the research behind his recently published two-volume book series, *The U.S. Navy's On-The-Roof-Gang*. The books trace the origins of the Navy's cryptologic pioneers and radio intelligence organization in the interwar and early years of WWII.

Zullo opened his talk with a photograph of him receiving the On-The-Roof-Gang (OTRG) award in 2001. Up to that point, he had never heard of the OTRG, and nothing had ever been written. The surviving OTRG members didn't talk about their work and had never felt comfortable talking about it. After talking to some of the OTRG members that evening, Zullo was intrigued—enough to devote his thesis to the subject when he studied at the Joint Military Intelligence College/National Intelligence University. Thanks to his wife, he finally decided to publish his research in the form of a series of books.

Zullo stepped through a series of slides, full of great supporting photographs, to explain the evolution of the OTRG, their training and where they ended up operating. It was an insightful presentation that clearly showed the extent of his research. What began as just a couple of individuals involved in decoding Japanese naval communications turned into a group of exquisitely trained individuals who made a decisive impact on the outcome of U.S. operations in World War II. When asked whether the books were fiction or non-fiction, he told the audience that he had made the decision, based on the wishes of the families of OTRG members, to write their story as historical fiction.

For further information about this presentation and the book series visit:

<https://navintpro.org/news/2020/12/01/author-matt-zullo-discusses-his-book-series/>



OS & AS Newsletter

OSINT

Budget For Secretive Military Intelligence Program Hits Nine-year Spending High



Military Intelligence Program funds partly go to U.S. Special Operations Command to pursue “several current acquisition efforts focused on outfitting aircraft — both manned and unmanned, fixed and rotary wing — with advanced ISR and data storage capabilities that will work in multiple environments,” according to the Congressional Research Service. (Tech. Sgt. Lealan Buehrer/U.S. Air National Guard)

The Pentagon’s secret intelligence fund received \$23.1 billion in appropriated funds for the recently concluded fiscal 2020 — the highest total for the account in nine years.

The increased funding for the [Military Intelligence Program](#), or MIP, comes after FY19 saw a rare decrease in year-over-year spending power for the classified account. The funding, which includes both base dollars and overseas contingency operations money, “is aligned to support the National Defense Strategy,” per a four-sentence statement from the Pentagon.

The department annually waits until after the fiscal year ends to announce how much money it was given for the fund. The Pentagon [requested](#) less than \$23 billion for the MIP in its FY20 budget request, meaning Congress gave the fund a slight increase over requested amounts.

According to a 2019 [Congressional Research Service](#) report, the MIP funds “defense intelligence activities intended to support operational and tactical level intelligence priorities

Read the full Article:

<https://www.defensenews.com/pentagon/2020/10/21/secretive-military-intelligence-program-budget-hits-nine-year-spending-high/>



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OSINT

After months of delays, spy agency launches 5th mission of 2020



A United Launch Alliance Delta IV Heavy rocket carrying the NROL-44 mission for the National Reconnaissance Office lifts off from Space Launch Complex-37 at 8:09 p.m. EST on Dec. 10, 2020. (United Launch Alliance)

Following three months of delays, the National Reconnaissance Office successfully launched its fifth mission of 2020 on Dec. 10 from the renamed Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

“We are proud to launch NROL-44 alongside our partners at ULA [United Launch Alliance], the 45th Space Wing, and the U.S. Space Force Space and Missile Systems Center,” said U.S. Air Force Colonel Chad Davis, director of the NRO’s Office of Space Launch. “This launch is a testament to the resilience and expertise of our launch teams, who have worked together to troubleshoot issues to make this launch possible.”

While ULA’s Delta IV Heavy launch vehicle put several large NRO payloads on orbit over the last decade, issues with the mission launch pad and inclement weather led to several last-minute scrubs. After months of persistence, however, the launch team was finally able to complete the mission — *three months after their original launch date in late August.*

Read the full Article:

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/battlefield-tech/space/2020/12/11/after-months-of-delays-spy-agency-launches-fifth-mission-of-2020/>



OS & AS Newsletter

Scallywag SITREP



Jonathan Pollard
- *Who Sold Cold War
Secrets To Israel -
Completes
Parole*

Jonathan Jay Pollard is a former intelligence analyst for the United States government. In 1987, as part of a plea agreement, Pollard pleaded guilty to spying for and providing top-secret classified information to Israel. He was sentenced to life in prison for violations of the Espionage Act. He was released from prison in 2015. As of November 20 2020, Pollard has completed the terms of his parole and is a free man and he intends to live out his life in Israel.

One of the most prolific spies in modern American history, who delivered hundreds of classified American documents to Israeli intelligence during the waning years of the Cold War, is now a free man.

The Justice Department announced Friday that former Navy intelligence analyst and convicted spy Jonathan Pollard has completed his parole. Pollard's attorneys say the 66-year-old plans move to Israel.

As a young analyst in the mid-'80s, Pollard said he had evidence that the U.S. was withholding information from its close ally, Israel. Recruited by an Israeli intelligence officer, Pollard spent the next year delivering intel to the Israelis, in exchange for gifts and thousands of dollars a month.

Read the full Article: <https://www.npr.org/2020/11/21/937634284/jonathan-pollard-who-sold-cold-war-secrets-to-israel-is-a-free-man>



OS & AS Newsletter

Final Orders



Jonathan Peter Younce

May 1, 1945 - November 16, 2020

Captain Jonathan P. Younce, USN Ret., 75, of St. Louis, MO, passed away peacefully at his home on November 16, 2020 surrounded by his family. Peter waged a courageous battle with a rare form of cancer.

After graduating from Washington University, St. Louis, MO, with degrees in History and Theology, he entered Officer Candidate School and received a commission as an officer in the United States Navy in 1967.

Peter was a Vietnam War Veteran and went on to serve in significant leadership assignments in the training and administration of the Naval Reserve Intelligence Program. He was a highly respected and admired mentor and was loved by many he served with. Other key leadership assignments included XO Fleet Intelligence Center Pacific and N2R Washington, DC. Peter had a distinguished 30-year career as an Intelligence Officer, retiring in 1997.

During his service, his favorite duty stations were Hawaii, Thailand and SHAPE, Belgium. It was while stationed in Hawaii that Peter and Bari tied the knot and began an amazing 30-year love story. After his service in the Navy, he joined Booz Allen as an Associate serving in the Wash. DC area and later in Hawaii where he provided support to the intelligence community both military and civilian. Peter enjoyed traveling the world, shooting, archery, boating, crosswords, Sudoku, and everything history related. He enjoyed fine restaurants and fine wine. All who knew Peter will miss his sense of humor.

Peter is survived by his wife Bari, his stepson Christopher (Jaime) and his stepdaughter Stefanie (Pat) along with his 3 step grandchildren Michael, Julia and Jacob.

The family wishes to thank his team of doctors at MUSC and St. Joseph Candler Nancy N. and J.C. Lewes Cancer Center (Bluffton) for their compassionate dedication to his healthcare. The family also wishes to thank the amazing team at Hospice of the Lowcountry for the wonderful support they provided Peter and the family. A local "Celebration of Life" will be held at a later date, as well as interment at Arlington National Cemetery.

The family asks that contributions be sent to Hospice Care of the Lowcountry, P.O. Box 3827, Bluffton, SC 29910



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Final Orders



Captain Thomas Hearne Verdel, III
(USNR, Ret.)
1942 - 2020

Capt. Thomas Hearne Verdel III (USNR, Ret.) was born on December 16, 1942 in Florence, South Carolina to Thomas Hearne Verdel, Jr. and Dorothy (Drumwright) Verdel. He passed from this life on December 12, 2020 at the age of 77 in Tulsa.

Tom was born into a family with a long military tradition that he continued by joining the U.S. Army in 1964. He served with distinction in the Vietnam War and was awarded commendations for heroism including the Soldier's Medal and three Bronze Star Medals. He resigned his commission in the Army as a Captain in 1972. In 1977, Thomas rejoined the military as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He spent another 24 years with the Navy, largely serving in Naval Intelligence and including a stint in the Gulf War, until he officially retired as a Navy Captain in 2001. Beyond his military service, Thomas was also an academic. He attended the Citadel, Vanderbilt University, Georgia Tech, and the University of Oklahoma. Along the way he learned to speak German, Russian, and French, and he had particular interests in history and culture. He first earned a B.A. in Political Science, but, after returning from the Vietnam War, Tom discovered his love of design and architecture, earning a B.S. in Environmental Design and an M.S. in Architecture. He utilized these talents during a multi-decade career as an architect with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Tulsa. Preceded in death by his parents, Tom is survived by his wife, Sharon Kay (Bernardi) Verdel, and his sons, Charles Steven Verdel and Thomas Wesley Verdel. he family suggests donations be made in Tom's memory to Wounded Warriors.

Obituary: <https://ninde.com/tribute/details/2667/Captain-Thomas-Verdel-III-USNR-Ret/obituary.html>

"Tom Verdel told me about while in the Army in Vietnam the helicopter he was aboard crashed and he was one of the few who were not severely wounded." Pat Merrill

"A sea story about Tom. Tom Verdel and Tom Kirby were serving on ADT aboard USS Blue Ridge, the Seventh Fleet flagship, for an exercise. The ship made a port call at Perth, Australia. One of them had a membership card some a small time yacht club back in Oklahoma. They managed to use this membership to boondoggle their way into the Royal Perth Yacht Club where they were treated like visiting dignitaries." Bill Craig



OS & AS Newsletter

Final Orders



James Carol McLeod Jr.
June 28, 1938 - December 6, 2020

James Carol McLeod, Jr., 82 of Wewahitchka, Florida, passed away on Sunday, December 6, 2020 at Bay Medical Center in Panama City, Florida. Jim was born in Apalachicola on June 28, 1938 to James Carol McLeod, Sr. and Voncile Sangaree McLeod. He graduated from Chapman High School in 1956 and attended Gordon Military College in Georgia. He then attended and graduated from Livingston State College in Alabama in 1961.

It was there that he met and married Rebecca Cabaniss of Samantha, Alabama, on March 16, 1961.. After his graduation Jim received his commission in the U. S. Navy and began his 20-year career in Naval Intelligence. He served on the USS Saratoga, Fleet Intelligence Center, Europe and Atlantic, Fleet Intelligence Center, Pacific, the Pentagon's National Military Intelligence Command Center, and the Pacific Command's Airborne Command Post, flying with the Blue Eagles. His final tour was with the Reserve Intelligence Program at NAS Jacksonville, Florida. After his retirement from the Navy at the rank of Lieutenant Commander in 1981, Jim spent the next 20 years managing and instructing the Navy Junior ROTC programs at Wewahitchka and Port St. Joe High Schools, retiring in 2001.

Jim loved sports and played high school football and baseball for Coach Bill Wagoner, and also in college. In 1999, Jim and his wife Rebecca went on their first ever cruise to Alaska, and in cruising, Jim found his passion. He loved being at sea on cruise ships, and he and Rebecca spent the next 20 years travelling all over the world on two or three cruises a year.

Rebecca would like to give a special thanks to Al Harrison, their friend and neighbor for the past 38 years, for his always dependable help and support over the years.

Jim's survivors include his wife Rebecca, daughter Kimberly McLeod Tubbs, and sons James Carol McLeod, III, (Diana) and Durand Manley McLeod (Sherri), a brother, Roderick Donald McLeod (Ana), four grandchildren: James Carol McLeod, IV, (Julie), Morgan McLeod DeLeon (Daniel), Joshua Tubbs (Kady), Jeb Tubbs; and seven great-grandchildren.

Private Funeral services were held at Kelley Funeral Home in Apalachicola on Friday, December 11, 2020, with interment in Magnolia Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Jim's favorite charities: [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#), and [Shriners Hospitals for Children](#).

Obit: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/starfl/obituary.aspx?n=james-carol-mcleod&pid=197337916&fhid=24297>



OS & AS Newsletter

Holiday Dress



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