



Old Salts & Assorted Spies Newsletter, 4th Quarter 2022

President's Message: *Words from Bill Anderson*

Many thanks to Tim Kathka and Team Denver for an extraordinary Rocky Mountain Reunion! Nearly one hundred Old Salts and Assorted Spies convened at the DoubleTree Hilton in Colorado's Greenwood Village for our 11th national reunion. During the customary President's reception Sunday evening, we were blessed and encouraged to talk with RADM Gene Dickey and Fanna Loma via Zoom from their home in Austin, TX.

Scenic bus excursions on Monday and Tuesday took us by shimmering yellow-gold aspens to Idaho Springs, Georgetown, the Air Force Academy and Garden of the Gods as we listened to commentary by Tim, Steven Maffeo and Suzanne Brannon in perfect fall weather. To glimpse a sample of what you missed, check out the animated and still-life after action posts on our website, recently updated by Gary Powers http://os-as.com/?page_id=2023

A successful one-day "reunion within a reunion" reunited local shipmates who gathered in the hospitality and banquet rooms for Wednesday's activities.

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Editor's Corner:

I am pleased to be the new editor of your newsletter. The quality of the content is supported by the membership. If you have an article to share, just email me in word.doc format at osasnewsletter@gmail.com. I plan to issue 4 newsletters per year.

Robin Barnes

The first RIA 5 reunion alumni photo on the website (I counted at least 40 people) shows the positive results of dredging up old recall bills and unit rosters in the Denver area. I've been informed that eleven new members came aboard following the banquet.

Banquet comradery, special awards and delicious food was enjoyed by everyone. Then our keynote speaker, best-selling author and Naval aviator, Stephen Coonts, gave us an enthralling presentation via Zoom from his West Virginia home.

This year, our OS&AS footprint, given during each reunion to a local veteran's charity, was awarded to Rocky Mountain Honor Flight. Volunteer staff showed an emotional video Wednesday afternoon of a three-day trip to Washington, DC visiting monuments and memorials dedicated to veterans. Trained volunteer guardians accompany all veterans and the Denver organization hosts 3-4 flights per year, based on their financial support. Following the presentation, additional cash contributions were collected and over \$3,800 was donated to Rocky Mountain Honor Flight!

We're most fortunate to have Robin Barnes, who succeeds Suzanne Brannon, as our next OS&AS newsletter editor beginning with this edition. During the Denver business meeting we recalled how our newsletter, website and membership directory are the glue that holds us together. It is much easier on the editor if Robin has more copy than she needs rather than the other way around, so I ask all of you, as much traveling as we do, to become travel writers, particularly when visiting museums, or areas of military or historical interest. Send your text to osasnewsletter@gmail.com with photos.

Our next duty station, commanded by the very capable Mike Halbig, is in his hometown of historic Annapolis, MD. Mike is a former Dean of Faculty at the U.S. Naval Academy and resides just outside the gate. Needless to say, he has many options and contacts that will make our next OS&AS reunion a memorable one!

**Congratulations to the OS&AS Officers and Board Members
who have agreed to continue in their positions until April 2024.**

OFFICERS:

President – Bill Anderson, Vice President – Gary Powers,
Secretary – Michael Barnes, Treasurer – Rick Martinez

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS:

Lester Alfortish, Suzanne Brannon, Anna Clark, Bill Craig, Jim Goldsmith, Bill Hoyle,
Bill Kelberlau, Ronda McCauley, Pat Merrill – Chairman, Chuck McClain,
Paul Pappenheim, Gordon Russell, Gary Ryan, Mike Winkler

Chairman’s Message: Greetings from Pat Merrill

With a couple of months behind us since the Denver Reunion, I continue to reflect on the success and enjoyment we all shared while there. I don’t recall any other reunion when the banquet schedule was changed by a delay of the food preparation. As one of our shipmates mentioned the Airline chicken listed on the menu proved to be correct because it is always late. Although Admiral and Fanna Loma Dickey were unable to attend the reunion, we were fortunate that their son, David, was able to host a zoom visit which was very nice. Tim Kathka and his reunion planning crew were exemplary with the activities and successful invitation of RIA 5 shipmates, most of whom I knew when I was the RIAC there. We were so happy that Andy Wallach and Cynthia Faschini were able to attend and treat us with the delicious French martinis. Jan and I continue to send prayers for Tim Kathka and family for their loss of Lela. I expect that everyone shed a tear during the presentation of the Rocky Mountain Honor Flight as well as Bill Craig’s presentation of the roll call for our missing shipmates.



A few days after Jan and I returned from Denver we visited Newport, RI where we enjoyed several variations of lobster and other seafood. I’m thinking lobster eggs benedict is now on my favorite food list. Several of our shipmates attended OCS at Newport and aside from the rigorous schedule enjoyed the



area attractions. The architecture and design of the buildings and houses remains to be a beautiful sight. I expect that there are no painters without work there. Due to the storms off the coast, there was an abundance of sail and motor craft in the harbor of all sizes. We were definitely ‘in’ boat and seafood heaven.



Special thanks to Mike Halbig for our preview of the next reunion planned for 21-25 April 2024 in Annapolis, MD. Mike has many details already planned in the area that is rich in U.S. Navy history. Please encourage all your prior shipmates to attend. OS&AS is certainly not exclusive with membership and invites other visitors to share old sea stories whether or not they are fabricated.

God Bless America

ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLORADO REUNION: IT'S A WRAP

Tim Kathka- Reunion Planning Committee Chair

After about three years of preparing, the Rocky Mountain Colorado Reunion, AKA the Denver Reunion, is in the books. Serious planning was delayed by the one-year COVID postponement of the Fredericksburg reunion. Recognizing that I was faced with a personal family situation that would not allow me to prepare without great support from others, I formed a team to create and execute a plan. This team, which grew as the reunion dates came closer, ultimately consisted of the following members, whom I now wish to thank for all their work: Mike (MVP) and Robin Barnes, Roc Beaver, Suzanne Brannon, Anna Clark, Karon Dawson, Bob Dolezal, Steve Maffeo, Paul and Judy Pappenheim and Gordon Russell. Finally, Judy, who took on full responsibility for the hospitality suite, recruited her good friend, Pam Nease, and her niece Nancy Harsch for additional help. Nancy, a pianist and vocalist, was brought to the reunion specifically to provide live entertainment during the banquet.

Early in our planning, the committee, made up primarily of RIA5 veterans, seized upon the idea of holding a RIA5 reunion day within the overall reunion plan. A significant effort was made to get the word out and this plan helped to shape the final day's activities featuring those which would appeal to the local veterans. There was a great turnout of the RIA5 folks for their reunion, joining the major events on the final day.



Sunday - began with early arrivals enjoying camaraderie in the hospitality suite. The President's reception had some special moments, when we all celebrated the return of Andy Wallach and Cynthia Faschini to the reunion scene. They made it extra special by preparing French Martinis for all.

We then enjoyed a welcome greeting from Admiral Dickey and Fanna Loma via Zoom. The evening's entertainment was closed with several of our members starring in brief music videos, which can now be viewed on the OS-AS website; [AFTER ACTION – DENVER REUNION – OLD SALTS & ASSORTED SPIES \(os-as.com\)](https://www.os-as.com)

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Monday - With a goal of showing off some of our Rocky Mountains and other front range venues during the colorful autumn days, the planning team chose to spend a day in the gold mining town of Idaho Springs and the silver mining town of Georgetown, while also riding the Georgetown Loop railroad. Lunch and shopping in Idaho Springs were highlighted by a stop at Margie's Place, a fun little store that we thought should be providing a little commission to Margie Black, for all of the folks who left a bit of cash there.



Georgetown Train through the Aspens.



Tuesday - was highlighted by a trip to Colorado Springs, featuring a tour of the Air Force Academy and lunch in the Falcon Club, followed by a tour through the beautiful Garden of the Gods Park and its magnificent 300-foot-tall red rock formations.



Wednesday - Planning this event was challenged by the recurring fears of COVID. For the events planned on Wednesday, Navy Health alerts prevented us from carrying out the bulk of travel plans including foregoing travel to, and tour of, the JRIC. The CNIFR Command responded to this situation by sending their briefing team to the reunion hotel. Not only did the briefers provide a very comprehensive brief about the JRIC expansion, but they also joined our members in the hospitality suite for further discussion. While this tour change also eliminated our visit to the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum, it provided a window for our selected Footprint Charity, Rocky Mountain Honor Flight, to make a very moving presentation about their service to local area veterans.

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Guest Speaker – The committee was thrilled when best-selling author and former Denver area drilling Navy Reservist, Stephen Coonts, accepted our invitation to speak at the banquet. Unfortunately, just three days prior to our event, Steve had to cancel his trip due to COVID. Quick adjustments were made and Steve joined the banquet via Zoom. His presentation was the highlight of the reunion, with an inspiring speech that was current and relevant to our troubled times. NOTE: His presentation video will be posted on the OS-AS website at OS-AS.com “DENVER AFTER ACTION” page. You should check it out.

Personal Note - For me, the reunion ended early. On Tuesday afternoon, while on the grounds of the Garden of the Gods, I received a call from hospice beckoning me home. My wife of 54+ years, Lela, was in a memory care community and began failing quite suddenly. While I had felt comfortable in fulfilling my role in the reunion, I had also made some contingency plans to leave early if necessary. The committee continued to execute our plan perfectly and Pat Merrill stepped in to take over as emcee at the banquet. I got to spend the final 36 hours of Lela’s life at her bedside.

Also, it turns out that I had an unknown personal connection to the “footprint” charity we selected, the “Rocky Mountain Honor Flight”. We discovered that the representative who attended the banquet had known my wife, who taught his children in their 4th grade years. So, having been unable to attend the banquet, I will be personally delivering a final donation from me to RMHF when we meet for a burger at the local watering hole.

After -Action Report - In concluding, here are just some of the things I am proud to report about this reunion:

First to offer online registration, about 25% of you took advantage. **First** to offer electronic payment; again, about 25% of you paid through Zelle, with zero issues. **Largest** number of registrants at 103. **Largest** number of banquet attendees at 97. Greatest amount donated to the Footprint recipient, \$2500 for the OSAS award plus \$1300 in personal donations for a total of \$3800. **Started** the Remembrance Table as a means of recognizing our shipmates who have passed since the previous reunion. **First** to provide live music during the banquet.

The baton has been passed to Mike Halbig and his team. His presentation at the business meeting revealed that he has an exciting and well-planned reunion scheduled for April 21-25, 2024, in Annapolis. I am aware of several of our reunion attendees already making plans to attend our next reunion in Annapolis and I am looking forward to joining them.

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Annapolis Reunion Announcement:

Old Salts & Assorted Spies

Annapolis, MD 21-25 April 2024

OLD SALTS AND ASSORTED SPIES, a not very tightly organized group of retired Naval Intelligence professionals, will be getting together for its biennial reunion in Annapolis MD 21-25 April 2024 at The Graduate Hotel, 126 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. Hotel reservations are now available at 1-800-221-2618. Reference code OSAS2022. Or, online: [Old Salts & Assorted Spies - Graduate Annapolis Booking Link](#) (Ctrl-click to follow link)

Some members have shown interest in staying beyond these dates. If you wish to extend your stay, a small number of rooms have been set aside on April 20th and April 26th by the Graduate Hotel as a courtesy. You can use the booking link to make your reservation. Should you have any trouble, please contact Jennifer Rodriguez, Sales Coordinator: jrodriguez@graduateannapolis.com, with the subject "Old Salts and Assorted Spies Reservation" in the subject line.



The Graduate Hotel –

Outstanding Accommodations: Room, Internet, and Parking

- **126 West Street:** walking distance to central Historic District and Harbor– \$119/night. Parking – self park – \$20/day. Includes complementary ‘simple internet’. Internet upgrade: \$17/day. 13% tax (6% state; 7% occupancy).
- **Fit and Finish.** Graduate has just completed facilities upgrade in the last 18 months.



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Tentative Schedule, Sunday 21 Apr – Thursday 25 Apr 2024

- **Sunday, 21 April 2024.**
- Afternoon: arrival and check in at Annapolis Graduate Hotel.
- 1800. OS&AS President’s Reception. Welcome. Handouts of four-day schedule. Cocktails & heavy hors d’oeuvres. **Stevedore’s I & II, Graduate Hotel.**

- **Monday, 22 April 2024.**
- **Breakfast:** event hotel or on your own (list of breakfast restaurants provided).
- 0900-1130. Watermark Walking Tour of Historic Annapolis. Start at (and return to) **Graduate Hotel**. 410 268 7601.
- **Lunch:** on your own. (List of restaurants provided.)
- Day’s events: list of historic sites to visit in historic center or at USNA.
- 1700-1800. **Watermark Twilight Harbor Cruise: Harbor Queen.** 40-minute narrated cruise. Annapolis dock. 410 268 7601
- **Dinner:** on your own (List of restaurants provided). *Or* reception (heavy hors d’oeuvres) at Armel Leftwich Visitors’ Center overlooking Annapolis Harbor-walking distance from Harbor Queen dock).

- **Tuesday, 23 April 2024.**
- **Breakfast: Graduate Hotel** or on your own.
- 0900. **Tour of USNA** (Stacy Morrow, POC, 410 293 8113). Tour of USNA Museum (Museum Director Claude Berube, POC, 410 293 2108, museum@usna.edu. Claude is an NRIC alum).
- **Lunch:** at USNA Club. Lunch buffet. POC: McKenna Bondura, 410 293 -2632. (Club is immediately adjacent to Museum)
- Afternoon’s events: list of historic sites to visit in historic center or at USNA.
- **Dinner:** on your own (List of restaurants provided).

- **Wednesday, 24 April 2024.**
- **Breakfast: Graduate Hotel** or on your own. Business meeting with breakfast buffet at event hotel. Spouses/Guests: bus tour of Historic District and immediate environs. 0900 depart event hotel.
- **Lunch:** on your own. (List of restaurants provided.)
- Day’s events: list of historic sites to visit in historic center or at USNA.
- **Dinner: dinner buffet with OS&AS speaker. Award presentation. Graduate Hotel. “Carrick Bend:” or central atrium.**

- **Thursday, 25 April 2024.**
- **Breakfast:** event hotel or on your own.
- Check out and departure.

OLD SALTS & ASSORTED SPIES		
<u>Treasurer's Report</u>		
September 30,2022		
2020 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
2021 Financial Activity		
Beginning Balance 1-1-2021		\$ 11,059.34
Donations	\$ 1,100.00	
2021 Reunion Reimbursement	\$ 1,993.03	
2021 Reunion Donations	\$ 1,413.00	
Merchandise Sales	\$ 20.00	
Wounded Warriors At Nebo	\$ (2,500.00)	
Admiral Nimitz Foundation	\$ (225.00)	
Ending Balance 12-31-2021		\$ 12,860.37
2022 Financial Activity		
Beginning Balance 1-1-2022		\$ 12,860.37
Donations	\$ 1,500.00	
Ship Store Sales	\$ 49.57	
2022 Reunion Second Advance	\$ (2,100.00)	
2023 Reunion Advance	\$ (3,000.00)	
Rocky Mountain Honor Flight **	\$ (2,500.00)	
Ending Balance 6-30-2022		\$ 6,809.94
** Outstanding Check		

Treasurer's Note: Above report covers three years in order to reflect Reunion Advances.

OLD SALTS & ASSORTED SPIES	
<u>Contributor's Report</u>	
September 30,2022	
Bill & Bonnie	Anderson
Michael & Robin	Barnes
Albert	Baxter
Daniel	Benney
Bruce & Marjorie	Black
David	Carroll
Chris	Christopher
Mack & Linda	Cox
Bill & Laura	Craig
Henry & Diana	Domeracki
John & Catie	Geist
Michael & Louise	Haubner
Jeff & Stephanie	Johnson
Drew	Jones
Bill & Ronda	Kelberlau
Norman & Christine	Krimbill
Normand & Peggy	Lussier
Rick & Bea	Martinez
William & Jean	Mitchell
Doug & Pamela	Moore
Charles & Beth	Morrison
George	Nelson
Lawrence & Barbara	Nolan
Paul & Judy	Pappenheim
Gary	Powers
Ralph & Nina	Ross
David & GERALYN	Savoie
Dennis	Selig
Jennifer & Rick	Shay
Dale & Suzanne	Willey
John	Wilson
Mike & Shirley	Winkler

Treasurer's Note: This list includes Q4 2021 and 2022 contributors prior to the reunion.

Special Request from Anna Clark:

History of Naval Reserve Intelligence

DRAFT as of OCT 2022

**Please send corrections / additions to CAPT Anna Clark at amcxeno@gmail.com
(Subject line: NRI Include page number)**

CAPT Clark’s job is to help Mr. Bryce Burk, the Headquarters historian, who has been assigned to this project and will take over when she has received the last few inputs.

Here’s the link to the document...

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1izrTePVgXPq0uMgsRR5ZCL-d2jRLI_Mvt5L0xTqv8OM/edit#heading=h.ty1ft29hte4d

Looking for input from 1990 to now. Requests have been sent to all former CNRICs as they would be the best to relay the changes and accomplishments under their leadership. If this works, future leaders could each add their information at the conclusion of their tour when it is fresh in their mind. Thus, the History of Naval Reserve Intelligence would be preserved and the project continued.

The planned structure is to show what each CNRIC / DNRIC tour had to deal with and how the responses kept the Program moving forward. **The goal is to capture personal accounts written in third person narrative.** What were the challenges and successes? Who went above and beyond and deserves personal recognition? Who had exceptional expertise? This program has grown because of the blood, sweat, and tears of the Part One personnel, and the expertise they brought with them to the job. It is still growing more and more every year and that’s what needs to be captured. **Bottomline:** What happened on each tour? What "firsts" occurred? Who did what to make it happen?

This is not easy but if we wait any longer, it will be more difficult to preserve the corporate knowledge.

Would appreciate any help those reading this can provide. Submissions should include dates and page numbers. Send in a Word document or a Google drive document and it will be incorporated. **THANK YOU!!!!**



Travels with Bill and Laura Craig and Chuck and Beth Morrison:

Bill and Laura boarding the Amtrak California Zephyr in Denver bound for San Francisco. They were accompanied by Chuck and Beth Morrison.



Travels with Bill and Bonnie Anderson:

Hadrian's Wall

During a recent trip to Scotland (17-31 MAY 2022), Bonnie and I took a road trip to northern England's Lake District and the city of Durham. It was an opportunity and excuse to rent a manual shift Skoda and relive my bygone Navy days driving on the wrong side of winding single-lane English country roads to JAC Molesworth in heavy fog. Fortunately for us, the late May weather was ideal and newborn lambs populated the rolling green pastures. In exchange for staying in an upscale B&B picked by Bonnie (we recommend www.bessiestown.co.uk), the quid pro quo for me was a day's visit to the largest Roman artifact in the world, Hadrian's wall, and an impressive Roman Army Museum near Hexham in Northumberland National Park.



A preserved section of Hadrian's Wall near the museum. Roughly 10% of the original wall is left. Average height was 15' and width started at 9.5', but was reduced to 7.5' as construction progressed.

Roman emperor Hadrian decided at the peak of the empire's geographic expansion in 122 AD that he was holding too much real property-- the mighty empire had grown enough--at least in this part of the world.

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But a barrier was needed to solve the barbarian problem (i.e., Picts), to keep them out of conquered territory and up north. By enforcing the border, Romans controlled immigration, trading and the economy as well.

It took three Roman legions (5,000 men per legion) six years to build Hadrian's Wall, with some help from the Roman Navy. Roman Britain actually had one of the great fleets of the empire-- Classis Britannica. A well- preserved Roman lighthouse still stands on the grounds of Dover Castle.

Hadrian's 73-mile wall, runs east to west, from the North Sea to the Irish Sea and, on a map, looks similar to the former DMZ of Vietnam. It was built with alternating series of forts that billeted around 600 men, spaced astride the wall at approximately seven-mile intervals. Gates, or mile-castles were positioned between the forts, each garrisoned by 12-20 men. Outposts served as observation points, alerting the Romans of an incoming attack or bad weather. The average 15' wall height acted as a deterrent to slow down enemy forces while additional troops were mustered.



Romans took advantage of natural boundaries, such as this sheer rock formation, when routing Hadrian's Wall. Note the rock climbers.

An added defensive measure, now long gone, consisted of trenches or holes in front of the wall with sharpened stakes and thorns that acted as the Roman equivalent of concertina wire.

Most of the wall is built in stone, but the eastern 30-mile section is turf. Over the years many pre-cut stones have been removed and used as foundations for nearby churches, farmhouses, and as stone fences.



Roman Army Museum near the village of Greenhead, approximately 28 miles from Carlisle, UK in northern England.

The Roman Army Museum (<https://www.vindolanda.com/roman-army-museum>) is found in gorgeous countryside adjacent to a mostly intact section of Hadrian's Wall at the site of a former Roman fort. Inter-active exhibits and films focus on the life of a Roman soldier at the edge of the empire. Roman Vindolanda, an active archeological dig (April-Sep) is only 6.2 miles away with accompanying museum and more artifacts. All worth the visit!

Thanks to Bill Craig, we have this very interesting article to include in our newsletter.

The Last Naval Battle of World War II Was Fought by Sailing Ships-Blake Stillwell



World War II changed everything we know about warfare; from the weapons we use to the way we fight. Despite immense technological advancements, the final naval engagement of the war wasn't fought between steel battleships or large aircraft carriers. It was fought between two junks off the coast of China.

Junks were a common sight in that area, especially in the days before the Japanese invasion of China. With wooden hulls and rigid sails, they are perfectly suited for the waters off the Chinese coastline. They are not suited for combat against World War II artillery.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Livingston Swentzel and Marine Corps 1st Lt. Stuart Pittman were in command of the two junks, traveling from Hainan to Shanghai in August 1945. Seven Americans and 20 Chinese guerrillas were manning the tiny flotilla. Not all of them would make it to Shanghai.

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Just days before, this journey would have been perilous. Though Japan was losing in the Pacific Theater, Japanese ships were still aggressively prowling the waters of the East China Sea. But since Emperor Hirohito had announced the surrender of the Japanese Navy and Army on Aug. 15, the sea voyage should have been uneventful.



Swentzel and Pittman spotted another junk in the distance on the morning of Aug. 21. When the mystery junk saw the American ships, it came about and fired a round from a 75-millimeter howitzer. The shot hit Pittman's junk, killing its .30-caliber machine gun crew and the helmsman. The rest of the crew scrambled, not knowing what to do next.

While these junks may have been old technology, they were ready for a more modern kind of combat. The two officers coordinated their counterattack via handheld radios as Swentzel and Pittman took over their respective helms. They got their crews under control and went to work on knocking out their attacker, even as more 75-millimeter shells rained down on them.

Swentzel ran up the colors as their junks moved closer to the enemy ship and the two sides exchanged heavy machine-gun fire. When the Allied ships were within 100 yards, each brought out a bazooka, the heaviest weapons they had. With only a few bazookas rounds between them, they hit the Japanese with everything they could.

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The third bazooka round finally knocked out the Japanese howitzer. Low on ammunition but still maneuverable, Swentzel then pressed their advantage, bringing his vessel alongside the Japanese boat and shouting an order to his men to prepare to board.

To prepare for the boarding party, American and Chinese troops began tossing grenades at the enemy vessel, killing many of the 83 Japanese defenders on board. Pittman's crew locked onto the enemy ship and boarded it with rifles and knives drawn. The fight was over almost as quickly as it had begun.

By the time Swentzel's crew also boarded the Japanese junk, the entire engagement had lasted 45 minutes. They met little resistance, considering the bulk of the defending crew had been killed in the bazooka and grenade attacks. Still, they had to drop grenades down the hatches and below decks.

When the smoke cleared and the enemy crew finally surrendered, 44 Japanese soldiers were dead with another 35 wounded and captured. The third junk was secured as they all made their way toward Shanghai.

Swentzel would later receive the Navy Cross and Pittman a Silver Star for the last naval battle of World War II, the last battle between sailing ships and the last naval engagement in which an American prize crew boarded an enemy vessel in combat.

-- Blake Stilwell can be reached at blake.stilwell@military.com. He can also be found on Twitter [@blakestilwell](https://twitter.com/blakestilwell) or [on Facebook](#).

The NEW National Museum of the US Navy

The U.S. Navy intends to build a new campus-style museum honoring American Sailors and enhance the public's understanding of our Navy history. The Navy will construct a \$450 million museum at a location to be determined near the Washington Navy Yard and will replace the existing museum at the Navy Yard. The ground breaking is planned for 2023. (<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/museums/nmusn.html>)



Free Entrance to National Parks for Gold Star Families and Veterans

[Free Entrance to National Parks for Gold Star Families and Veterans \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/plan-a-visit/learn-more/visit-free/entrance-to-national-parks-for-gold-star-families-and-veterans)

The National Park Service in partnership with Operation Live Well would like to thank military personnel and their families for their service and invite them to enjoy their national parks.

The free Military Pass is a way to thank current US military members and their dependents, Gold Star Families, and US military veterans for their support of our country and to encourage them to explore recreational opportunities on their public lands and waters.

A free **lifetime Military Pass** is available for Gold Star Families and US military veterans. A free **annual Military Pass** is available for current US military members and their dependents. The passes provide free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests.

Who is eligible to get a free Military Lifetime Pass as a veteran?

For purposes of this program, a veteran is identified as an individual who has served in the US Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and is able to present one of the following forms of identification to get the Interagency Military Lifetime Pass when entering a national park:

- Unexpired Department of Defense Identification Card (DD Form 2, DD Form 2765, or Next Generation USID replacement)
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- Veteran ID Card
- Veterans designation on a state-issued US driver's license or identification card

For further details: [Free Entrance to National Parks for Gold Star Families and Veterans \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/plan-a-visit/learn-more/visit-free/entrance-to-national-parks-for-gold-star-families-and-veterans)

FINAL ORDERS



LCDR James Wesley (Wes) Cole, USN (Ret)
August 12, 1953 – September 4, 2021

LCDR Cole was an active-duty TAR assigned to COMNAVRESINTCOM staff for Admin and Finance. He played a major role in the Command's successful program to improve and upgrade the 9 Joint Reserve Intelligence Center (JRIC) facilities that are the responsibility of the Navy. He long supported the Navy's efforts to develop the finest JRICs in the military, both in his active-duty status, and later as a contractor. The outstanding JRIC facilities that are currently in operation are due in large part to his leadership efforts in developing this program. Wes's family has graciously allowed us to share his obituary.

Obituary:

James Wesley (Wes) Cole was born in Oklahoma City, OK, August 12, 1953 to Allen Joe Cole and Lillian June Cole (Shrum). On December 22, 1975, Wes married his high school sweetheart, Jeannie Marie Cole (Butner). Wes is preceded in death by his father, Allen Joe Cole, his mother, Lillian June Cole (Shurm), and his brothers Calvin Joe and Douglas Allan Cole. Wes is survived by his wife of 46 years, Jeannie, and son Christopher and daughter-in-law Andrea (Million), son Jeremy and daughter-in-law Katie (Rollins), daughter, Elisha, and six grandchildren: Colter, Emily, James, Nathan, Abigayle, and Olivia. Wes enjoyed biblical studies, western movies, reading, history, archaeology, chess, wooden ship modeling, and sailing.

Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) James W. (Wes) Cole retired United States Navy, enjoyed a career, spanning over three decades, with the USN and after retirement was a successful business owner and cattle rancher. He worked within Executive and Senior Level Intelligence, Public Administration, Law Enforcement, Human Resources, Finance, Child Welfare, as well as, Program and Project Management positions.



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Through his years he had the pleasure of serving many roles. Wes was a former Intelligence Officer, County Administrator, Resident Agent, Chief of Staff, Chief Finance Officer, and Department of Defense (DoD) Chief of Strategic Indications & Warnings Intelligence for Central and South America. He presented daily briefings for the White House Situation Room, and worked with the CIA, NSA, DIA, FBI, Embassies, and U.S. Customs among numerous other federal and state organizations and agencies. As a natural leader, Wes used his analytical and intellectual talents to excel in every position within his industrious career.

In 1998, an entrepreneur at heart, Wes decided to utilize his extensive expertise and skills by founding a consulting company that would provide a variety of technical and support services to DoD, and other federal and state agencies and organizations, as well as, domestic and international businesses. Wes the founder, owner, President, and Chief Executive Officer of COLE Technology Corporation, created a prosperous and thriving company. Wes was also the majority owner and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Georgetown Resources, LLC, an Oil and Gas Production Company, as well as, the owner of Sand Creek Ranch, located near Okemah, OK. In 2013, Wes sold Sand Creek Ranch, closed COLE Technology Corporation, and retired to Fort Worth, TX.

Wes held M.S. Degrees in Psychology and Business Administration and B.S. Degrees in Business Administration and Public Administration. He was a Certified Mediator by the Oklahoma State Supreme Court, and a Certified Spanish Linguist by the Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA.

Wes was a dedicated husband, loving father, and admired grandfather. He will be greatly missed.

The works of his hands are verity, and judgement; all his commandments are sure.

They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.

Psalm 111 7:8

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