

Rodney L. Ault August 3, 1949 - August 10, 2023



Rodney Lee Ault, age 74, of Gnadenhutten, PA, joined the Navy shortly after high school graduation obtaining the rank of Second-Class Petty Officer classified as an ASE ground support electrician. Rod served fourteen months aboard the USS SHANGRI-LA, an Essex Class Aircraft Carrier. Much of this time was spent providing flight support for the ground forces fighting in South Vietnam. He was then transferred to the USS WASP, another aircraft carrier, which was equipped to locate, track, and sink enemy submarines entering United States territory. Rod finished his service at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, California where he taught proper operation of all mobile equipment used to move, service and start jet-powered aircraft. Even after his honorable discharge, Rod enjoyed maintaining a 50-plus-year friendship with his Navy buddy, Bob Lipinski. Throughout this time, he worked on refractory furnaces in many of the United States Honda plants. Rod kept himself busy helping family and friends with their own home improvement or repair projects. In his younger years, Rod enjoyed fishing on Lake Erie, hunting, and golfing. Rod will be deeply missed by his wife of 48 years, the former Mary Jane Wolf whom he married on May 3, 1975, and by a son and daughter.

John Roy Barnett October 28, 2023,



John, age 78, of Norwalk, CT, attended Westport public schools and Milford Academy before graduating from the University of New Hampshire in 1967. Following his graduation, John dutifully served in the U.S. Navy on the aircraft carrier USS WASP, where he worked in radio/communications. He was honorably discharged in 1971. Professionally, John excelled as a sales manager for various wholesale food distributors, including Musante, Berman & Steinberg in Bridgeport and American Frozen Foods in Stratford. John will be remembered for his sociable nature, sense of humor, and his ability to strike up conversations on a wide range of topics including boating, fishing, sports, and current events. He ran in many Marine Corps marathons in Washington DC in the 1980s and 90s. John is survived by his wife of 52 years, Cathy, of Norwalk and his son, Eric, his brother, Dr. Ted Barnett and other beloved family members.

Barry F. Belardinelli, Sr., May 27, 2023

Barry, from Norwalk, CT, enlisted in the US Navy and proudly served his country aboard the USS HORNET, USS WASP, and LAKE CHAMPLAIN from 1962-1966. Prior to his retirement he worked for the City of Norwalk Data Processing Department for 29 years. He is survived by his wife of 55 years Antoinette "Toni" Belardinelli, his daughter Patricia, his son Barry and other relatives and friends.

Raymond J. Birnbaum January 2, 1940 - September 13, 2023



Ray, age 82, served in the U.S. Navy onboard the USS WASP. He was in operations on the Super Constellation planes as a part of the early warning squadron that was assigned to the North Atlantic Barrier. After the Navy, he returned to Hankinson. Ray was a lover of the outdoors and was a gardener, hunter, trapper, and fisherman. He loved to plant trees, grow tomatoes and leaf through seed catalogs. Ray was resourceful and entrepreneurial, finding a way to always provide for his family. He and Marilyn loved to travel the world, spending time in places like Egypt, Hong Kong, and Costa Rica. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn Volgerson Birnbaum, four children and other family members.

James B. Bradstock December 25, 2023

"Brad" attended Pennsylvania State University before enlisting in the US Navy and was a Vietnam Veteran who served as an Aircrewman/Aviation ASW operator on the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Norwegian Sea as part of Air Antisubmarine Squadron VS 32 of which he was very proud. He also was deployed aboard the



USS WASP, USS INTREPID and USS SARATOGA performing catapult takeoff and arrested recovery. Brad was the beloved husband of Linda (DeCubellis) Bradstock to whom he was married 50 years. He worked as a Senior Process and Service Engineer with Davis Standard for 40 years until he retired. James traveled the world with his position which he enjoyed and kept him in "flight". Brad loved the beach, traveling, flying, fishing and was a true animal lover. He was extremely talented in engineering and enjoyed working with machinery. Besides his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Karra, and his son Matthew.



Amante Bermundo March 16, 1940 - May 27, 2023

Amante, 83, of Bellflower, Amante was a member of the Exalted Order of Recoverers of US Manned Orbital Capsules (RUSMOC). In June 1965, participating in Gemini recovery operations, Amante sailed the Sargasso Sea with Commander Task Group Bravo on the USS WASP (CVS-18) under the command of RADM William McCormick and ship's captain James Conger. Aboard the GT-4 were USAF Majors James McDivitt and Edward White. As an SD3, Amante was asked by the Chief Steward to prepare a light menu for McDivitt and White's first meal back from their mission. On Dec. 16, 1965, the USS WASP recovered USN Capt. Walter Schirra Jr. and USAF Maj. Thomas Stafford aboard the GT 7-6. Two days later, under the command of RADM William Leonard USN, Lt. Col. Frank Borman USAF and CDR James Lovell, Jr. USN, were recovered aboard the GT 7. One month after that, Amante changed rate to Hospital Corpsman and last duty station at Great Lakes where he was honorably discharged in Aug. 1969. He is survived by his wife, Imelda, a retired LBVA ICU Nurse, as well as 5 children and 15 grandchildren.



Merle "Chappie" W. Chaplin May 18, 202

Chappie, age 99, of Iowa Falls, enlisted in the U.S. Navy on December 14, 1942 through May 2, 1946. He served on the staff of Admiral J.S. McCain, SR, Commander 2nd Carrier Task Force Pacific. Ships included the USS WASP, USS HANCOCK, and the USS SHANGRI-LA. He was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Award (American Area) with 6 stars, the Philippine Liberation with 2 stars, WW II Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. During WW II he served in the Palau, Morotai, Late Samar, Mindor, Luzan, Formas, Okinawa Jima battles. Merle was extremely modest in talking about his service. On June 15, 1947 Merle married Theola Anderson making their home in rural Iowa Falls. Merle spent many years with a career with the U.S. Postal Service. He also farmed his family farm. He was very active in the Iowa Falls Elks Lodge #1674. Merle was also active in the community, involved in the following for 50+ years: Hardin County Veterans Affairs, American Legion, VFW, U.S. Postal Workers Union, Iowa Falls Housing Board and Meadow Hills Golf member. Merle is survived by his four children and other family members. . He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Theola.



Roy A. Christ December 28, 1932 - September 28, 2023

Roy, age 90, of Oswego NY, served in the U.S. Navy on the USS WASP. He worked as an auto mechanic, was a former owner of a Texaco Gas Station and retired from General Motors at the age of 62. He was Past Chief and President of the Kenmore Volunteer Fire Department. Together with his wife, Ann, who predeceased him, they had two children, Ann and Peter with several grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Raymond A. Darden, Sr. December 11, 1935 - November 7, 2023

Raymond, age 87, following high school, enlisted in the Navy from 1955-1961. He was on reserve duty until 1962 where he received his honorable discharge. He worked as an electrician mate third class and took a course in firefighting. He trained in San Diego, California and served in Boston, Massachusetts on the USS WASP. He also worked at

Bethlehem Steel Mill for several years. In his leisure time he loved to swim, collect records, and play the trumpet. Raymond met his wife, Viola Darden at the tender age of 12 and they have been inseparable ever since. They married 10 years later in Boston, MA on the USS WASP. Their marriage produced 6 children. On November 7th, 2023, Raymond Sr. heard the call of his heavenly father and received his wings into eternal glory. He leaves to cherish his memories, wife: Viola, six children and other family members.



James Dennis February 27, 1946 - October 13, 2023

Jim, age 77, enlisted in the Navy following his high school graduation and served on the USS WASP. He then settled back in La Crosse and worked as a machinist for Machine Products for 25 years and retired as a bus driver for the city. Jim married Carole Hanson in 1967. They were happily married for 48 years before Carole's passing in 2015 from cancer. Out of that union, Jim and Carole raised 7 children. They enjoyed road-tripping across the country, especially on Route 66, as well as singing and making music together. Jim's legacy is one of faith and family. He came to know and accept Jesus as his LORD and Savior in his mid-twenties and continued to grow in his faith in Christ up until the day he went to be with Him. He will be remembered for his kind and caring nature, servant heart for others, infectious smile and laughter, silly voices, wearing hats, shooting guns, and dancing. Jim is survived by his loving partner of over 3 years, Suzzanne Schiebel, who cared for him until the end. Jim was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Carole.



Richard M. Galecki May 30, 1951 - February 19, 2023

Rich, age 72, attended Villanova University under the NROTC program. During his time with the NROTC, Rich participated in a Foreign Exchange program with the Mexican Naval Academy serving on the ARM CHIHUAHUA (B8). Upon graduating from Villanova Rich continued to serve as a LTJG aboard the USS NIMITZ. Rich is a veteran of the Cold War and Gulf War serving on the USS WASP (CVS18), USS NIMITZ (CVN68), UUS FORRESTAL (CV59), USS INCHON (LPH12), Amphibious Construction Battalion 2 (ACB2), USS AINSWORTH (FF1090), Military Sealift Command HQ, USS CLARK (FFG11) and the USS PATTERSON (FF1061). Rich served honorably achieving the rank of Captain. Rich's duty and honor played a very important role in his life. After serving over 21 years on active duty and in the reserves, he retired honorably from the Navy but continued to serve his country and community. He served on the Board at Lord Fairfax Community College, was the former President of the USS NIMITZ Association. Rich is survived by his wife Eileen, his son and daughter and other family members.



Fred Wiley Grant, October 26, 1943 - July 3, 2023

Fred, age 79, better known as Wiley, of Muncie, IN, attended Iola Junior College before joining the Navy. While in the Navy, he flew anti-submarine missions from the aircraft carriers USS INTREPID, USS RANDOLPH, and USS WASP. He was also a participant in the recovery operations of the Gemini IX space capsule. Following the Navy, Wiley flew corporate and charter commercial planes where he met his wife of 38 years, Constance Ritchie. Wiley flew for many corporations in the Muncie area such as: Paws Inc., Ontario Corporation, and Saint Gobain Containers. During his career with Paws Inc., he was recognized for setting two airspeed records. He was a lifelong learner who earned his BS of Professional Aeronautics from Embry Riddle at the age of 60. Wiley is survived by his wife, Constance Grant; his four children and six grandchildren.



Bruce R. Johnson September 21, 2023

Bruce, age 77, of Westfield, NJ, attended Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, NJ, where he was the first freshman to play on the varsity men's basketball team. In 1966, Bruce enlisted in the US Navy and served 2 years in the legal office of the USS WASP aircraft carrier, followed by 4 years in the US Naval Reserves. He was honorably discharged in 1972. While in the Reserves, he began his 50-year journalism career, working as a sportswriter and copy editor at newspapers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, including the

Bucks County Courier Times. He retired in 2018. Bruce published 3 books, including Covered Wooden Grandstands, which was accepted into the library of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY. In addition, he was one of New Jersey's winningest swim coaches ever, coaching the boys' swim team at Westfield High School. He was a founder and trustee of the Westfield Athletic Hall of Fame, into which he was inducted in 2010. Bruce is survived by his wife of 42 years, their daughter, Susan and other family members.



Raymond Peter Knoblach June 21, 1944 - November 25, 2023

Ray, age 79, of St. Cloud, MN, joined the U.S. Navy after high school graduation and served his country aboard the USS WASP CVS 18 stationed at Boston, MA. He received his Honorable Discharge on June 7, 1967. He was united in marriage to Carol Borgerding on August 12, 1967 and made their home in St. Cloud where Ray worked for Burlington Northern for 25 years. He retired in 1993 and moved back to St. Cloud. Ray enjoyed fishing, hunting, playing cards, going to the casino, and spending time with family and friends. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, American Legion, Silver Star Post 428 of Waite Park, and Catholic Order of Forrester's. He is survived by, his wife of 56 years, Carol of St. Cloud, three children and other family members.



Paul J. Kowal February 5, 1933 - December 4, 2023

Paul J. Kowal, age 90, of East Greenwich, RI, joined the US Navy with pride and dedication. He served four years as a skilled aircraft electrician on the USS WASP, making lasting memories with fellow servicemen during deployments to Europe in the Mediterranean. Upon discharge Paul had a successful career at Quonset Point as an aircraft electrician, later working at the Turnkey Post Office in Providence and Sears in the RI Mall, where he took pride in being one of the first employees of the store. It was during his stationing at Quonset Point in 1953 that Paul found not only professional fulfillment but also love. At a dance, he met Ann, his beloved wife, with whom he shared 48 years of marriage until her passing in 2003. Following Ann's passing, Paul found companionship and happiness with Palmera Nolan, his partner for nearly 20 years. Despite his Chicago roots, he developed a deep affinity for the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots. Paul is survived by his son, Richard and other family members.

Frederick W. Lodek November 29, 1945 - August 7, 2023



Frederick, age 77, of Lower Gwynedd, PA. was the beloved husband of Donna (Prochorenko) Lodek. Fred served his country in the U.S. Navy where he was a pipefitter and was stationed on the USS YORKTOWN and the USS WASP. He was an avid gardener and enjoyed taking his children and grandchildren fishing, shopping at candy stores and vacationing in Aruba and the Poconos. He loved playing Parcheesi and going to vineyards with his wife. Along with his wife, Donna, he is survived by his three children and other family members.

Alton Mackey, Jr. September 28, 1976 - March 8, 2023 No obituary available



Hugh L. Mc Cormack November 3, 1941 - March 10, 2023

Hugh, age 81, enlisted in the Navy at age eighteen in 1960. After an intense military training period he served on the aircraft carrier USS WASP (CV-18) for multiple years on several overseas tours. Among his laurels are the Naval Expeditionary Medal, Marksman Medal (rifle and pistol), Good Conduct Medal and Honor Man of his training class. He proudly wore his Naval Airman "Wings" insignia to important events. He graduated from Lowell Tech (now UMass Lowell) with a Bachelor's and Master's of Applied Science Electrical Engineering degrees while working full-time at Raytheon. Hugh published a book "The Science of Strategic Collaboration" while working at Digital Equipment Corporation in the 1990s. Hugh realized a highly distinguished engineering career which

included being the author or co-author of five patents. He rose to the rank of Executive Director at First Data and worked globally on his life's passion which spanned five decades. The foundation of Hugh's life was his family. Hugh loved, trusted and relied upon his wife Durena "Dee" who shaped high goals and ambitions into a caring family.

John Patrick McDevitt May 12, 1929 - January 16, 2023

John, age 93, of New City, NY, joined the U.S. Navy in 1948, serving first as a flight mechanic on P2V attack and surveillance aircraft at the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland. At the start of the Korean War in 1950, he was reassigned to the aircraft carrier USS WASP. On one month leave prior to re-enlistment, he met his future wife, Dolores M. Kopack. In short order, John determined that his future lie in marrying Dolores rather than embarking on the next deployment by re-enlisting. He received his Honorable Discharge on July 1, 1952. Now a civilian, John became an electrical lineman with Orange & Rockland Utilities on July 21, 1952. By the time of his retirement on January 1, 1990, he had ascended through the ranks to Area Line Supervisor. John also served as a volunteer fireman with the Hillcrest Fire Company No. 1 for many years. Throughout much of his retirement, he and Dolores traveled to regions from Alaska to Central America, cruised the Caribbean, and enjoyed many reunions with his USS WASP shipmates and 68 happy years of marriage to Dolores, who predeceased John by just one year. John is survived by his son John, daughter, Diane and many other beloved family members and friends.

James Albert Leko III April 30, 1940 – January 6, 2024



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Jim, age 83, of Milford, CT, joined the Navy upon high school graduation and proudly served his country until 1961, then continued on in the reserves. He traveled the sea on carrier USS WASP. He remained a loyal and true patriot to the American Way.

He worked most of his life as a group leader for the Bodine Corp. in Bridgeport. He even learned sign language for one hearing impaired man so this man could understand and succeed in his job. Jim and Stephanie loved to travel. Their most memorable trip was to The Holy Land. It was the year of their 46th wedding anniversary and they renewed their marriage vows. Jim found joy and comfort in tending his gardens. He shared all the fruits of his labor generously with everyone. He placed God, family, and America first in his life. He was kind, patient, and generous with his time, his talents, and his treasures. A wise steward in all that he was provided with. He claimed "his cup runneth over." He leaves behind his loving, faithful wife, Stephanie (Griz) Leko. He also leaves behind his two daughters, Christina and Kimberly in addition to many family members.



Frederick W. Lodek November 29, 1945 - August 7, 2023

Fred, age 77, of Lower Gwynedd, PA, was the beloved husband of Donna (Prochorenko) Lodek. Fred served his country in the U.S. Navy where he was a pipefitter and was stationed on the USS YORKTOWN and the USS WASP. He was an avid gardener and enjoyed taking his children and grandchildren fishing, shopping at candy stores and vacationing in Aruba and the Poconos. He loved playing Parcheesi and going to vineyards with his wife. Along with his wife, Donna, he is survived by his children: Heather, Jessica, John and many other family members.



Walter "Wally" A. Marczak March 4, 1944 - April 17, 2023

Wally, age 79 Manitowoc, WI, served in the US Navy as a Boatswain's Mate for the USS-WASP and participated in the Bay of Pigs Invasion. He worked as a Machinist after his service. Wally was married to Joyce Marczak for 50 years and loved playing various sports at the YMCA in Manitowoc, WI. Wally was a devout Catholic and coached the Women's Softball League. He is survived by three sisters and preceded in passing by his parents and twin sisters. His family and friends will miss his sense of humor.

Michael Conrad Nowicki September 11, 1945 - December 30, 2023



Mike, age 78, of Port Washington, WI, served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and later dedicated 22 years to teaching and coaching at Milwaukee Public Schools. He founded Milwaukee's first African American Swim Team, earning numerous accolades. Mike's love for water, philosophy, photography, and film enriched his life. His deep loyalty, humor, and open-heartedness endeared him to his community, family, and friends. He is survived by his daughters, Corinne and Jessica, and other beloved family members.

John H. McKelvey, Sr. January 10, 1933 - November 19, 2023



John, age 90, proudly served his country with the U.S. Navy on the aircraft carrier USS Wasp. He was a parishioner of Our Lady of the Lake Chapel, a Little League Coach, High School and College Baseball Umpire and former member of the Town of Newburgh Zoning Board. John was also past President of the Colden Park Homeowners Association. He was a fan of the NY Yankees, NY Giants, and the NY Rangers. John was a retired control room operator with Central Hudson Gas & Electric at both the Danskammer and Roseton Generating Stations. He was predeceased by his wife, Diana M. McKelvey in 2011 and is survived by his two sons, John and Edward, and other beloved family members.

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Lawrence Larry F. Menetre June 29, 1937 - June 1, 2023



Larry, age 86, of Alpharetta GA, entered the Navy and proudly served as a Seaman AKAN, VS30 Squadron, aboard USS ANTIETEM, USS VALLEY FORGE, USS TARAWA, and USS WASP based out of Norfolk NAS. Larry was retired as Regional Manager Southeast District from Capitol Records and Pickwick Industries. He enjoyed his career in the record industry, being with many artists and introducing the latest hits to the Southeast. He was an avid boater and a skilled doubles ALTA tennis partner. Larry loved his Church and served in the Knights of Columbus and as an Extraordinary Minister while at St Andrew in Roswell GA. Most of all,

Larry loved his family and friends and will be greatly missed. Larry is survived by his wife, Rebecca Curlee Menetre, three children and other family members.

Robert H. Miniati July 31, 1940 - July 21, 2023



Bob, age, 82, of Pawtucket, RI, served on active duty in the Navy from September 19, 1957 to May 27, 1977, retiring as Chief Hull Technician. After Boot Camp in the Great Lakes, he was assigned to the Security Department at the Newport Naval Station, Newport, RI. He then served seven and a half years on the USS WASP CVS-18 in the Repair Division; NETC Bainbridge, MD, in the Public Works Department; Staff Member with DESRON 20 working with eight destroyers as the Navy Career Counselor Coordinator. He was Chief in charge of "R" Division on the USS McCloy. Bob then became Fire Chief with Operation Deep Freeze in

Antarctica for three years. After Antarctica, he was the Head Instructor for the Wet Trainer teaching Damage Control at the Newport Naval Station, Newport, RI, where he was also in charge of Hull Repair for the YP's there. Upon retiring from the Navy, Bob started Miniati's Home Improvement & Custom Homes until his retirement in 1998. He was a life member USS WASP Association and Disabled American Veterans. Bob is survived by his loving wife Emma E. (Vecoli) Miniatito whom he was married for fifty-seven years, three sons and other beloved family members,

Odell Peck, August 06, 1932 - December 17, 2023,



Odell, age 91, of Republic, MO, joined the Navy shortly after high school graduation and served as a radio operator on the USS WASP from 1952 to 1956. In 1957 he married Norma Lee Pittman and to this marriage brought three children, Dwayne, Cindy, and Julie. Odell loved to play golf. If someone called and wanted to play, he'd say, "just let me get my shoes on" and he was off and playing. He also loved to garden and grow flowers, especially roses, but mainly he loved his family. He was well known for his beautiful, well-maintained yard, which was the

setting for many family gatherings. He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Norma; son Dwayne Peck; daughter Julie Zackrisson and other beloved family members.



Douglas P. Sabin March 12, 1935 - November 6, 2023

Douglas, age 88, of Salem, MA, enlisted in the Navy and proudly serving his country during the Korean War and Suez Crisis. During his tenure with the military, he traveled the world aboard the USS RANDOLPH, USS WASP, and USS VALDEZ. He retired from the Naval Reserves as Chief Petty Officer in 1988 after 32 years of dedicated service. Following his service to his country, Douglas continued his education, receiving his Master's Degree in American History from Salem State University. Douglas had an extensive career with the National Park Service. He was the author of "April 19, 1775: A Historiographical Study," which is a deeply detailed account of the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Doug was a proud longtime member and the current Commander of the American Legion Post #23 of Salem. He developed an oral history for Coast Guard Air Station Salem and led tours on Winter Island, advocating its development as a historical resource. During and since the pandemic, and throughout the decline in his health, he comforted others with his resilience, praying aloud Psalm 23. He continued to inspire, raising the flag daily from his front door. He was predeceased by his wife, Margaret (Paton) Sabin, and survived by his daughter, Margaret, his son, Daniel and other family members.



William "Bill" Lopes Santos December 19, 1942 - December 12, 2023

Bill, age 80, of Peabody, MA, was born in Murganheira, Portugal, and came to the United States at the age of 9. He graduated from Peabody High School and immediately joined the Navy, proudly serving for over 20 years, working on the aircraft carriers USS WASP, USS LEXINGTON and USS JOHN F. KENNEDY. He was the beloved husband of Sandra (LaPointe) Santos with whom he shared over 59 years of marriage. He always worked two jobs to support his family. He was a mechanic and he worked for 33 years at the Peabody Electric Light Company. Upon retirement, he and his wife enjoyed several winters in Florida. William was a member of the Portuguese American War Vets Post where he enjoyed weekly lunches with his brother and friends. He was also a member of the CLC in Peabody. In addition to his wife, Sandra, Bill is survived by his son, Bill; his daughter, Patti and other beloved family members.



William W. 'Boo' Schaffer November 15, 1931 - October 22, 2023

Boo, age 91, of Saugerties, N.Y, lettered in three Varsity sports in high school: soccer, basketball and baseball and after graduation signed a professional baseball contract with the New York Giants. After sustaining a shoulder injury, he returned home and entered the Marine Corps in 1951. He completed basic training from Parris Island S.C. and became Captains Aid aboard the Aircraft Carrier USS WASP during the Korean War. Boo completed his tour of duty, returned to Saugerties and married his High School sweetheart Nancy Sweeney in December of 1953. Boo and Nancy had four children: Cathy, Betsy, Stephen and Billy. Boo worked for Central Hudson Gas and Electric as a lineman. Boo coached and sponsored a number of men and women sport teams in the Saugerties Athletic Association. Boo was elected to both the Saugerties and Kingston Sports Hall of Fame. He was predeceased by his wife, Nancy and survived by his daughter, Betsy; two sons, Stephen and William and other family members.



Keith M. Sheldon Aug. 5, 1924 - November 11, 2023

Keith, age 99, of Akron, OH, a World War II veteran, musician, genealogist and retired sales executive for Eastern Air Lines, enlisted in the Navy and was accepted as a member of the U.S. Navy Band. Following months of training at the U.S. Navy School of Music in Washington, D.C., he was assigned to the newly launched U.S.S. WASP (CV-18), where he was part of a gun crew and played in the aircraft carrier's band. Aboard the WASP, he served in the Pacific

Theater of Operations in 1944 and 1945 and survived a direct hit on the carrier by a Japanese armor-piercing bomb, an attack that killed at least 102 of his crewmates. After the war, he played with the Navy Band in postings on the West Coast and finally in New Orleans, La., where he met Ruth Elaine Thomas. The couple were married on Oct. 23, 1948, and over the next 20 years had six children. Also in 1948, Keith began work for Eastern Air Lines retiring in 1983. Throughout most of his life, Mr. Sheldon pursued his love of music. During his early days in New Orleans, he occasionally played with jazz ensembles at clubs in the French Quarter. He sang in and directed church choirs. Through his interest in genealogy he discovered his ancestors included a Quaker who became a prisoner-of-war during the American Revolution after the ship he captained was captured by the British, the 17th century British poet John Dryden, and a knight who rode with William the Conqueror during the Norman conquest of Britain in 1066. Mr. Sheldon was preceded in death by his wife Ruth and is survived by many family members.



Merle G. Sly October 12, 1939 – October 31, 2023

Merle, age 84, of East Aurora, was a proud Marine Veteran, having joined the Marines in 1957 when he was 17 and served for four years. He joined because his wife to be's brothers had joined and convinced him to sign up, though he needed his parents' signature because of his age. The tradition would continue for many generations, as [the couple] had three of their four children enlist, and a couple of grandchildren have signed up. Merle met his wife, Margaret 'Marge' while attending high school but did not marry until later when he was in the Marines. Upon discharge they returned to Wales to be closer to their family.. He drove trucks for Buffalo Fuel for 32 years, officially retiring in 2010. He is survived by his wife of 63 and a half years, Margaret Sly. He is also survived by his children Mark, Marla, Marcy and Michael and other family members.



Patrick Starr November 25, 1945 - October 14, 2023

Patrick, age 77, of Warren, MI, served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. He was also on the USS WASP while it picked up the space craft and astronauts. In his leisure time, Patrick was an avid hunter, but nothing brought him greater joy than being surrounded by his loving family. Patrick is survived by his loving wife Rosemary and other family members.



Donald E. Waggoner, Sr. December 20, 1938 - February 24, 2023

Donald, age 84, of Toledo, OH, enlisted in the Navy and proudly served aboard the USS FORRESTAL, CV-59, Squadron VA-43, USS RANGER, CV-61, Squadron VA-43, and Ships Company aboard the USS WASP, CVS-18, V2 Division. Upon discharge he worked at Sandusky Foundry and Machine, before moving to Toledo, where he worked for several retiring from the Toledo Moulding and Die Co. in 2004. A man of faith and a devout Catholic, he was a Eucharist Minister and Liturgical Assistant for ten years. Donald was preceded in death by his loving wife, Vallie, who passed on January 20, 2023. He is survived by his children Candy, Constance, Donald, Ted and many other family members.



Roscoe G. Wyatt May 15, 1933 - June 8, 2023

Roscoe, age 90, of Wilmington, NC, turned 17 one day after graduating from high school and a week later joined the US Navy t. He served on the USS CORREGIDOR which was a transport ship carrying supplies to NATO. His second ship was the USS WASP which was an operating Carrier. He was a "yellow shirt" who worked on the flight deck which controlled the traffic for take-offs and launching air craft and landing back on the flight deck at the completion of their mission. The aircraft was fully armed when they were launched by the catapult. During operations, the flight deck crew was permitted to eat ahead of everyone else in line for meals in order to be ready to receive the returning aircraft. Other sailors were reluctant to allow flight crew to jump the line for meals, but they had no choice. Upon discharge Wyatt was employed by J. A. Jones Construction Company for 30 years in heavy construction, i.e., dams, power houses, etc. He married

Royestine Stephenson on June 17, 1962. He is survived by his wife, two sons, Kevin and Roger and many other beloved family members.