



Norman Raymond Lessard

July 22, 1942 - November 30, 2015

Norman R. Lessard – Husband, Father and Grandfather (73)

Norman R. Lessard, Lieutenant Commander, Naval Aviator (ret.), passed away on November 30th with his wife of 31 years, Cindy, and loving family by his side. His friends and family remember Norm as a good and kind man who lived life with honesty and fairness. As a boy growing up in Shrewsbury, MA, eldest son of Raymond and Blanche Lessard, Norm developed a love of hockey and rowing and dreamed of one day becoming a pilot. So, after attending Wentworth Institute of Technology and at the age of 20, he joined the United States Navy and realized his goal of becoming a Naval aviator. Known by the call-sign “Lizard,” Norm flew his A-1 Skyraider off the U.S.S. Ranger and the U.S.S. Intrepid aircraft carriers during the Vietnam War. For his years of distinguished service, LCDR Lessard was honored with 13 Air Medals, 3 Navy Commendation Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the Galloway Cross Ribbon and the Vietnam Service Medal. He was depicted as a character in the movie, Rescue Dawn, which told the story of Norm’s fellow pilot’s escape from a POW camp during the Vietnam War. After retiring from the Navy out of Lemoore (CA) Naval Air Station, Norm moved to Florida and went on to a successful career in the private sector working at Hughes Aircraft and later retiring from its successor company, Raytheon Corp. Despite his best efforts, Norm failed at retirement - the only thing he had ever set his mind to which he didn’t achieve. He spent the final 14 years of his life running his own business, donating his

time and boundless energy to numerous causes, including Hospice (where he worked primarily with veterans), Habitat for Humanity and Sunrise Kiwanis of Sanford, and organizing reunions for his Navy squadron, the VA-145 "Swordsmen". Norm loved to travel and he and Cindy had seen much of the world together, recently returning to Vietnam, traveling from Moscow to Beijing on the Trans-Siberian Railroad and visiting Australia, Ireland and Kenya where he went on his first safari. A widower, Norm met his first wife Sharon while stationed in Alameda, CA. Norm and Sharon were married for 17 years and had five sons before she lost her battle to cancer at age 35. Through Sharon, he became a loving member of the John and Sally Smith Family. Norm is survived and loved by his wife, Cindy, his sons, Norman (Jr.), Casey, Brady, Ryan, Patrick, Bob and Drew, his daughter, Anna, their respective spouses, and his sisters, Claudette White and Michele Scholl. Norm was also blessed with 23 grandchildren, whom he loved and adored. They'll remember their Pepé's kind and gentle spirit and his laugh. A great example and a just man, LCDR Lessard flew straight and level to the end.

Should friend desire memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of the Comforter at:

<http://www.hospiceofthecomforter.org/>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Ann's Catholic Church
26 Dogwood Trail
Debary, FL 32713

Tribute Wall

RM

“ So sorry to hear of Norman's passing. He was one of the *BIG KIDS* on South Street .

And as I read about him he truly was a BIG BIG MAN.

Roland Mallett from up on golden hill.

roland mallett - November 22, 2018 at 11:22 AM

“ Close Encounters of the "Spad" Kind

It was a hot morning flight for us flying Search and Rescue in the Navy SH-3 helicopter off the northern coast of Vietnam in 1966, so we climbed to 3,000 to beat the heat. One racetrack orbit after another. It was getting boring in the left seat as copilot and the cockpit got quiet for a while. Then, I heard a "different sound" and quickly checked the cockpit gauges, then reported "all green" to my aircraft commander (Lt Vann Goodloe) in the right seat. Suddenly, the sound got louder, and was coming from the left side of the aircraft so I turned to look out the left cockpit window.

I was SHOCKED!

There, tucked under the helicopter's rotor system was an A-1 "Skyraider" flying no less than 20 feet from us in perfect formation with gear and flaps down, canopy in the full-back position, pilot's visor up, and the the handlebar mustache pressing closely to the pilot's face in the wind. When we made eye contact, he smiled and let me take a quick photo of him and his plane. Not to be outdone, he place the plane's control stick between his knees, smoothly reached in the upper pocket of his flight suit and pulled out a slim miniature camera and took a photo of me! Just below the A-1s canopy was the name "Lizzard". This done, he smoothly took the control stick in his right hand, quickly increased the throttle, eased away from his position, raised the gear and flaps, and roared ahead.

Not a word was spoken, but I knew that that man "had my back" should we have to go "feet dry" for a rescue pickup.

That man was LT "Lizzard" Lessard.

*Buck Carlton CAPT USN (Ret) (HS-6 1965-1968)
Charleston, SC
(904) 254-8247*

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Buck Carlton - March 26, 2018 at 09:12 PM

PI

“ *Dear Cindy and family. Nancy and I are only now aware of Norm's passing! Please accept our deepest and most sincere condolences!! Norm was a very special gentleman, Naval Officer and friend! As you may recall he and I served on the Latwingspac staff together where he was very highly regarded by the two Admirals we served and the entire staff. A world famous pilot, he was admired by the entire wing! As a young guy, he was certainly an inspiration to me!! I loved his stories told in that New England accent. As Nancy and I talked, she brought up how much you contributed to the community and younger wives! With deep sadness/Bear and Nancy*
Pickavance

*W. W. Pickavance, Jr.
Rear Admiral USN (Ret)
321-536-5006*

pickavance - October 23, 2016 at 11:10 AM

TF

“ *The Skat Family purchased the Red, White & Blue Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Norman Raymond Lessard.*



The Skat Family - December 11, 2015 at 11:18 AM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Norman Raymond Lessard.*



December 09, 2015 at 10:10 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Norman Raymond Lessard.*



December 08, 2015 at 08:35 AM