



# **Captain, Richard Grant, USN, Retired**

OCT 21, 1940 - SEP 22, 2023



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**MEMORIAL PARK**  
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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# Captain, Richard Grant, USN, Retired

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**C**aptain Richard "Rick" Grant USN (Retired) of Memphis, TN, passed away on Friday, September 22nd, 2023, leaving behind a lasting legacy of family, friendship and service to his country and community.

Rick will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 56 years, Elyse Howard Grant of Lovington, NM; his daughters, Stacey Grant Navin and her husband, Paul Navin, along with their three children, Amanda, Stephanie and Elizabeth, who reside in Milton, GA; and Kelley Grant MacDonald and her husband, David MacDonald, with their two children, Margaret (Maggie) MacDonald, and Grant MacDonald, who live in Fort Mill, SC. He is also survived by his loyal dog and favorite walking companion, Sunshine.

Born October 21, 1940, in Jackson, MS, Rick grew up in Chicago, IL, and was the only son of the late Margaret O. Schultz and Maurice H. Paquette. He held a deep affection for his grandparents, frequently sharing fond memories of his time at their home in Blue Mountain, MS. Cherished moments included his grandfather taking him hunting and fishing, playing Rook with his grandmother, and enjoying her delicious Southern cooking.

As a teenager, Rick's passion for sports, especially baseball, took root during high school and continued through his graduation from Fenger High School in 1957. He pursued his education at Murray State University where he played baseball, graduating in 1963. Rick later earned his Master's Degree from the University of Utah in 1970, where he taught Navy ROTC.

Rick had a distinguished military career in the United States Navy, proudly serving for 26 years. In August 1963, Rick reported to Pensacola, Florida for flight training as an Aviation Officer Candidate and was commissioned an Ensign in 1964. He served two tours in Vietnam and was involved in five combat rescues of downed U.S. pilots. Additional following notable assignments included command of aircraft-carrier based Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron HS-5



## Obituary

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(Jacksonville, FL) and HS-10 (NAS North Island, CA), where he made lifelong friendships. Rick, Elyse, Stacey and Kelley took their final Navy family adventure in 1987 when he screened for major command as Commanding Officer, NAS Memphis, at Millington, TN, an assignment he loved.

After retiring from the Navy in 1989, Rick and Elyse made Memphis their permanent home. Rick continued with his civilian career as the Director of Economic Development for the City of Millington and Vice President of Distribution at TBC, eventually retiring in 2001. Rick remained deeply committed to his community and served in various leadership roles including President of the Germantown Rotary, President of the Memphis Navy League, and President of the World Cataract Foundation. His passion for veterans led him to serve on the board for the Tennessee State Veterans Home, where he played a pivotal role in the establishment of a VA home in Memphis, which is currently under construction.

Rick was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and a loyal friend. His family was a source of immense pride, and he never missed a chance to tell them. On the golf course, where he found great joy, Rick celebrated three holes in one – though he always attributed them to luck. Known for having a wonderful sense of humor, love of puns, gregarious nature, and genuine enthusiasm for celebrating the successes of others, Rick was beloved by all who knew him.

A celebration of Rick's life will be held on Saturday, October 21st, 2023. Visitation will begin at 12:00 PM with a Memorial Service to follow at 1:00 PM all in the Riverside Chapel of Memorial Park Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made in Rick's honor to the World Cataract Foundation, National Helicopter Association (NHA) Scholarship, or the Memphis Navy League





# Events


**Captain, Richard Grant, USN, Retired**

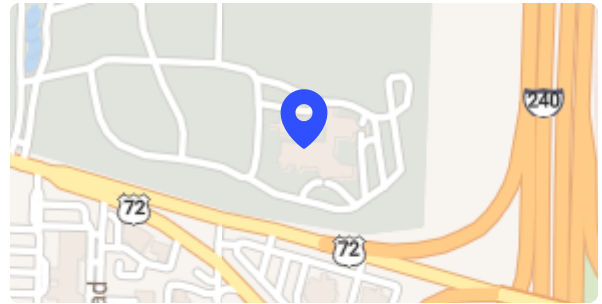
OCT 21, 1940 - SEP 22, 2023

## Visitation

 **Saturday**, October 21, 2023

 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT


 **Memorial Park Funeral Home-Riverside Chapel**  
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119

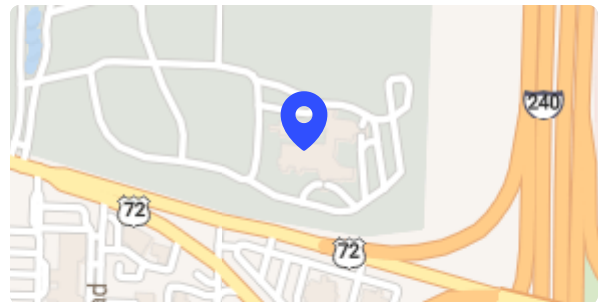


## Memorial Service

 **Saturday**, October 21, 2023

 1:00 PM CT

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home-Riverside Chapel**  
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119





## Tribute Wall

**Captain, Richard Grant, USN, Retired**

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**Anonymous** sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Grant, USN, Retired family.

October 16 at 12:17 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Grant, USN, Retired family.

October 16 at 4:33 AM



**Johnny Jones** posted:

Mr Grant was a junior officer in HS 6, a helicopter pilot, and I met him while we sailed to Vietnam on the old Kearsarge, a carrier left over from WW 2. Mr Grant had a special talent. He could make each individual believe that his effort was important and that each person was important. He was a quiet leader with unflappable courage. Because he lived, humanity was elevated. A leader, skilled pilot, and a courageous officer that faced death numerous times to bring his fellow Americans home. Thank you for your friendship JW Jones

October 6 at 4:09 PM



**Cara Curtin** posted:

The Curtins were dismayed to learn of Rick's passing. We were just talking about him the other day and his wonderful athletic ability in several sports. We knew Lieutenant Commander Rick Grant when we were all stationed at HS-1 in Jacksonville, Florida. Rick was the Operations Officer Lieutenant Commander Andrew Curtin was Maintenance Officer, and Lieutenant Cara Curtin was Education Services/Public Affairs. Rick loved the Navy and he loved his job, most of the time. He was a true professional who brought a smile with him when he entered the room. We offer our sincere condolences upon his passing. Andrew and Cara Curtin, email [wordsmythe1776@gmail.com](mailto:wordsmythe1776@gmail.com).

October 3 at 6:16 AM



## Tribute Wall

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BS

**Bill Shannon** posted:

I first met Rick in 1975 when, as a newly minted Ensign, I was assigned to HS-1 while awaiting my flight school start. I was assigned to work for Rick and he took clueless me under his wing and educated me on the ways of a Navy helicopter squadron. I also had a chance to join him on the squadron softball team where he was coach and our star player. What a great ballplayer! He took the team all the way to the Atlantic Fleet Championship! I watched him work as the squadron's Maintenance Officer and it was clear to me, even then, that I was watching a great leader at work. Even though I was only there for four short months, Rick made a lifelong impression on me. I will always remember him with fondness and awe! Farewell ShipmateRADM Bill Shannon USN(Ret.)

October 2 at 10:36 AM

MS

**Morrie Steen** posted:

I am deeply saddened to learn of Rick's passing. Rick and I first met in Jan 1980 when we (HM-16) cross-decked from the Kitty Hawk to the Nimitz in the North Arabian Sea during the Iranian Hostage Crisis. He and his squadron (HS-5) were extremely helpful in our transition from one deck to another. Shortly after meeting, we realized we belonged to the same college fraternity. A few years later, we reconnected while serving on the OPNAV Staff and have remained friends through the years via social media. My deepest condolences to Elyse and family!Morrie SteenCaptain, USN )Ret)

September 28 at 3:58 PM

JM

**John And Myra** sent a Gracious Lavender Basket to the Grant, USN, Retired family.



September 28 at 6:43 AM

PW

**Phil Work** posted:

Rick and Elyse were among the first couples with Memphis and Navy connections to whom my wife Jane and I were introduced when arriving at NAS Memphis for my XO tour in 1994. They went out of their way to make us feel welcome and part of the Memphis Navy community. Rick always struck me as being very kind and humble, though he was a man of many accomplishments. I enjoyed playing golf with him at the old Germantown Country Club, and appreciated his fellowship and counsel in Navy League and ANA. He will be missed!

September 28 at 5:46 AM



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**Gerhard Skaar** posted:

Elyse and family. Peggy and I send our deepest sympathy and condolences to you and pray for peace and tranquility in your time of need. Rick was always a friend and inspiration to me and I have fond memories of our many years of friendship. God bless, Peggy and Gary Skaar

September 28 at 3:39 AM



**Gerhard Skaar** shared a photo to the **Capt. Rick Grant USN?RET** album.



September 28 at 3:34 AM



**Capt Bradd Hayes, Usn (Ret)** posted:

Rick was an inspiration for many, whether they were helicopter pilots or the men who worked with them. He will missed.

September 26 at 4:34 AM



## Media

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Gerhard Skaar shared a photo to the **Capt. Rick Grant USN?RET** album.

September 28 at 3:34 AM



Rick Grant, Robert (Vann) Goodloe, Gary Skaar. Sept 2018  
Pensacola, FI



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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