



Captain Michael F. Jaggard SC, USN (RET)

January 27, 1947 - March 14, 2025

Michael Francis Jaggard, Captain, SC, USN (Ret.), a career Naval officer and Vietnam veteran whose love for golf was superseded only by his love for his family, passed away March 14, 2025, in Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. He was 78.

A math major with a flair for diplomacy, Michael served most of his military career in the Navy Supply Corps, including roles aboard the USS Will Rogers, the USS Emory S. Land, and the USS Orion. Upon his retirement from active duty in 2001, Michael joined the Senior Executive Service and acted as the Chief of Staff/Policy to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition and Logistics Management. Michael was “a very capable submariner and perhaps the most sought-after procurement/acquisition professional in the Navy,” says his colleague and close friend Peter S. Eltringham, Captain, SC, USN (Ret.).

Michael’s leadership philosophy was built on his firm belief in open and honest communication, which is perhaps best showcased in a 1996 speech he gave during his change of command ceremony at the Defense Contract Management Command in the U.K.: To communicate effectively, Michael said, “you must learn to listen with compassion, understanding and an open mind. You won’t hear if you are thinking about what you want to say next, rather than listening to what is being said.”

Michael's skill as a listener meant that he was often considered very reserved, but the people close to him knew that his taciturn nature was only one aspect of a bright, thoughtful, caring, and laidback individual – one with a bit of a mischievous streak.

Michael “was so quiet. I thought he was extremely shy,” says his sister-in-law Laurey Jaggard, who met him when he was a teenager. “I didn't realize until later what was behind the quiet.”

A CHILDHOOD ON THE MOVE

Michael was born in Oakland, California, on January 27, 1947, to Mary Agnes Jaggard (nee Glover) and Joseph Franklin Jaggard Sr., Lieutenant Commander, USN (Ret). He was the third son in what would grow to be a family of seven children.

Military service was a bright thread woven through the lives of the Jaggard clan. Michael's father had joined the Navy in 1941 and fought during World War II; he survived the sinking of the USS Hornet (CV-8) during the Battle of Guadalcanal and went on to serve in the Navy for 30 years. That meant Michael grew up on the move as the family transferred to new duty assignments in Texas, Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia.

Michael formed a lifelong bond with his two older brothers, Joseph Franklin Jaggard Jr, Lieutenant Commander, USN (Ret.) and John Thomas Jaggard, Senior Chief Petty Officer, USNR (Ret.). “We did everything together,” Joe says of their childhood. “We played basketball, three-man football, we went to the movies. We even pretty much looked the same because of our school uniforms.”

Michael graduated high school in 1965 and initially went to St. Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania, but he left school in 1967 to join the Army. He served during the Vietnam Conflict as part of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. “I remember most clearly the aroma of the letters we received from Mike during the years that he was in Vietnam,” says his younger brother Tom Jaggard, who was around age 10 when Michael went overseas. “That dirt had an odor I can still smell.”

Michael left active duty in 1969 as an Army sergeant. His time in combat took a toll, but friends and family remark at how he never lost his kind heart. When he returned from Vietnam, Michael first went to Los Angeles to visit his brother John and sister-in-law Laurey. To help him decompress, Laurey took Michael to Disneyland, where he rode the teacups with her young son, John II. “His super-intelligence awed me,” Laurey says, “but he didn’t use it as a weapon in any way, he just treated me like an everyday person. He always made me feel comfortable around him. He was real.”

Michael then joined the rest of his family in Corpus Christi, Texas, and his father retired there in 1971. That meant the older and younger siblings grew up almost “like two separate families,” Tom says. “The first group grew up all over the country as Dad was transferred from one duty station to another; the second group grew up in Corpus Christi.” But Michael was beloved by the whole family for being easygoing and a peacemaker – someone who could be counted on to resolve squabbles and bring everyone together.

“Michael was reliable, helpful, steady, and his demeanor was always positive,” Joe says. “He was the glue.”

A LIFE OF LOVE AND SERVICE

Motivated to finish his education, Michael enrolled in Texas A&I University to earn a degree in mathematics. There he met the love of his life, Norma Jean Molina, the eldest in a family of eight who was also studying math. Norma Jean says she was drawn to Michael because of his fierce intelligence paired with a calm and gentle presence – “He reminded me of Spock from Star Trek,” she says with a wry smile. The couple married on January 24, 1972, and he was commissioned as an officer in the Navy a year later.

Mirroring his upbringing, Michael and Norma Jean lived in various duty stations as his career progressed, including tours in Italy and the United Kingdom. Their only child, Victoria Marie, was born in Georgia in 1978 when Michael was an instructor at the Navy Supply Corps School, which was located in Athens at the time. He later attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterrey, California, where he earned a Master’s degree in Management in 1981.

Though Michael was frequently out to sea during the early part of their marriage, he was always a dedicated family man. Victoria has fond memories of him waking up early on weekends during the 1980s so they could watch Saturday morning cartoons, which he would punctuate with his spot-on impression of Donald Duck or a spirited rendition of the “Rubber Duckie” song from Sesame Street. And Michael and Norma Jean would go dancing whenever they could – from country square dances to ballroom galas to a simple slow dance after dinner in their living room.

Michael retired from the SES in 2009, which is when he became, in his own words, “a full-time golfer.” He frequently played his favorite course at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia, and he participated in various regional leagues and tournaments. Michael encouraged his brother John to take up the sport, and the duo twice won the ANCC Member-Guest Tournament. Together with Alan R. McCosh, Captain, SC, USN (Ret.),

Michael also co-led the Pinehurst International Golf Outing, or PIGOOut, an annual trip that allowed a group of golfers from all over the world to play together on top-tier courses in Ireland, Scotland, the Dominican Republic, and more.

When he was not golfing, Michael was cheering on the Washington Nationals (often via text chats with Pete), serving amiably on his condo board, or traveling the world with Norma Jean.

According to Pete, Michael will be remembered for being “wise, patient, and meticulous in seeking truth; he was an invaluable friend to many in the decisions that formed his and others’ lives ... personally and professionally.”

Michael is preceded in death by his parents and his brother John. He is survived by his loving wife Norma Jean and daughter Victoria (Aalok Mehta); his aunt Joan Cornelison; and his siblings Joseph Jaggard (Kristin), Mary Green (Ron), Mark Jaggard (Anna Adame), Tom Jaggard (Yvonne), Anne Major; and sister-in-law Laurey Jaggard.

A memorial service will be held Monday, June 9, 2025, at 1 pm at Jefferson Funeral Chapel. A graveside service with military honors will be held Tuesday June 10, 2025, at Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to one of Michael’s preferred charities: the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program (<https://11thcavnam.com/scholarship/TitlePage.htm>), the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (<https://www.nmcrs.org>), and Science News, the magazine of the nonprofit Society for Science (<https://www.sciencenews.org>)

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Drive
Arlington, VA 22211

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 9. 1:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Dr
Alexandria, VA 22315-5516
(703) 971-7400

Graveside Service

JUN 10. 9:00 AM (ET)

Arlington National Cemetery
1 Memorial Drive
Arlington, VA 22211

Tribute Wall



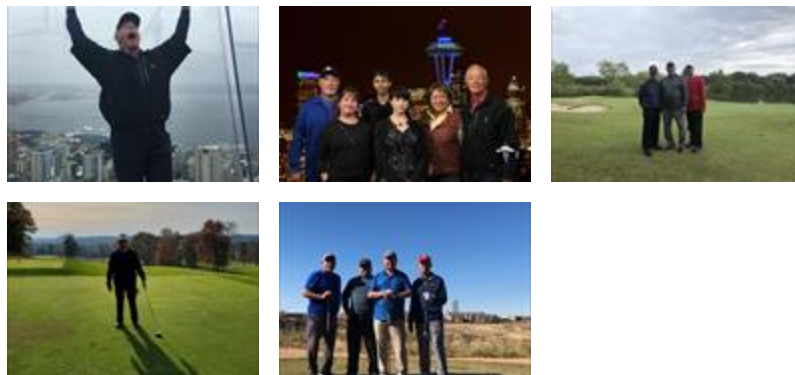
“ Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Captain Michael F. Jaggard SC, USN (RET)



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - June 09, 2025 at 11:11 AM

RE

“ 11 files added to the tribute wall



Richard D Esparza - May 23, 2025 at 03:32 PM

JH

“ Norma Jean and Victoria, I am so sorry that life will be forever changed by Michael’s passing. But so blessed and fortunate are those that got to know him. You both, most of all. He was a treasure as a brother in law, and i knew him for most of my life. He took to being another brother with such ease. He was kind, generous, silly, and somehow completely logical, all at the same time! He has given us many memories, so truly blessed that he was a part of our family. He will be Always remembered and always loved. May God bring him home in peace.

Julia Holder - April 16, 2025 at 11:50 AM

BK

“ Norma Jean, please accept the condolences of the veterans of the 11th Armored Cavalry: the veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. Michael was one of us, one of our own. Your husband, long before his Naval career, will be remembered as an honorable trooper of the Legendary Blackhorse Regiment whose very presence brought comfort and support to his fellow troopers. In a very short time, he attained the rank of Sergeant and so will be included on the Honor Role of our combat veterans. His service in Vietnam and valor was guided with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. As grateful Americans we should all pause and salute a man who was willing to put his life on the line for his country and fellow man. As our burial liturgy states: “ ... his life has not ended, merely changed ...” and as we were together then in Vietnam, we will be together again in the life hereafter, warmly embraced in the arms of our Heavenly Father. Chaplain Bill, 11th ACVVC (Vietnam 71-72)

Blandin Karabinos - April 08, 2025 at 09:45 AM

MJ

“ Mike was a former boss, colleague and friend. His passion for golf was only surpassed by his love of family and friends. For many years Mike, his brother (John Jaggard) and nephew attended a Williamsburg, VA golf outing I helped to coordinate, affectionately called WILLGO. During those WILLGO trips I was blessed to play many a round with Mike and the entire Jaggard family. I learned quickly golf was not just a sport for Mike; it was a lifestyle. His passion for the game never dimmed, last November at Pinehurst I saw Mike early in the morning and remarking it's another great day for golf, his quick response, “it sure is.” Fairwell shipmate, somewhere up above I know your finding fairways and greens!

-Mel Jones

Mel Jones - April 07, 2025 at 07:07 PM

MS

“ Norma, there are many, many people who, like me, are so much better for having known, been around and worked with Mike. But you are the most fortunate. You were loved by and loved him for over fifty years. What a blessing.

I only got to know Mike late in my career. Sooner would have been so much better for me. He lived the values we all should aspire to... honesty, hard work, loyalty and honor. He was quiet, unassuming and thoughtful. A good guy. A wise and fun person, one you trusted. In a word.... a treasure.

I truly wish you all the peace and comfort you so richly deserve, now and in the days ahead.

*Mike Sullivan
Rear Admiral, USN (ret)*

Mike Sullivan - March 30, 2025 at 02:46 PM

EH

“ Norma, I am sorry to hear of Mike's passing. My memories of Mike and the Jaggard's when they were in Almonesson is a fond childhood memory. Walking to Deptford Twp High with Joe, John, Mike and Mary and everyone else along the way. Joe, John and Mike were really in to 45 records and all the latest music from American Bandstand. Great days and times gone by, Mike RIP. Ed Haas

Ed Haas - March 30, 2025 at 12:36 AM

SM

“ Mike and I were in the same company at OCS and Navy Supply Corps School. I have photos in our daughter's house 1,000 miles from here or I would share them, of Mike buffing the deck during field day in King Hall (OCS) in January 1973. I remember Bob Monks and I helping Mike and Norma move in to their apartment in Athens. Mike and I both served in submarines and tenders, and we stayed in touch while we both were on active duty. Our daughters were middle school friends in Norfolk, so we saw each other when dropping kids off at one another's house. What I remember most about Mike is his calm demeanor--I think his Army service (which he was very proud of) made him never sweat the small stuff. I looked up to Mike and Bob (prior Navy enlisted) for their experience and guidance. Mike, we played golf a couple of times in Athens, but I am sorry we never had the opportunity to spend time together after we retired. I will miss you, shipmate. To Norma and Victoria, Barb and I send our prayers.
Steve

Steve Maas - March 28, 2025 at 07:02 PM

ME

“ Norma, I am so sorry to learn of Mike’s passing. So many fond memories of Athens, when Victoria arrived, and the winter in VA Beach when we slid into your driveway during a monumental snowstorm and were snowed in for days. I’m so very sorry for your loss. Mary Easton

Mary Easton - March 27, 2025 at 08:52 PM

RD

“ Truly one of the good guys in a world where supposedly good guys don’t survive. Mike did. Indeed, he excelled! His intelligence and demeanor were rock steady the first day I met him in Supply Corps School where he was my primary instructor and leader to my final days in the Navy 25byears later when he ran the Navy’s contracting operation. Thanks for your mentorship and leadership throughout Mike. Fair winds and following seas Shipmate!

Rick Dowling - March 27, 2025 at 03:35 PM

J(

“ Mike was my instructor for submarine supply at Supply Corps School and I was happy to see him again, supporting me as a submarine Suppo, while he served on EMORY S LAND. I didn’t have the good fortune of serving with him after that but I always remembered him.

Jack Higgins CDR SC USN (Ret) - March 27, 2025 at 01:28 PM

KM

“ A fond memory I will always have is Uncle Mike getting all his neices and nephews to laugh. When he, Aunt Norma and Victoria would come to visit Corpus Christi, he would share his animated voices, energy, and overall silliness. Uncle Mike became synonymous with laughter. He even carried this into the next generation for his great neices and nephews. Performing the "Beep Beep" song with Aunt Norma, a memory my eldest, Eleanor keeps fondly with her. We will always think of him and know the importance of joy and how it can leave a postive, lasting imprint.

Kristen Matta - March 26, 2025 at 11:36 PM

RM

“ I will always remember Mike's intelligence and insight. He was devoted to my sister and will be deeply missed. I can see him now smiling down at us from the heavenly greens. Good bye Michael.

Roy

Roy M - March 26, 2025 at 06:48 PM

CI

“ We had the best time when ever Uncle Joe was stationed in Philadelphia. They stayed at Grandma Jaggard house just 2 doors down from us. Their time in NJ will always be the sweetest of memories. As adults we did get to visit Mike and Norma in England, a trip I will never forget. We also visited sever times over the year. They were there for my Mother also. Particularly the day my Dad passed. Thanks Mike for be my friend. Will miss him. Love Linda

ciac727@comcast.net - March 26, 2025 at 05:04 PM

VM

“ 8 files added to the album *Memories of Michael*



vm.jaggard - March 26, 2025 at 12:54 PM