



Captain John "Jack" Wesley Bookhultz

August 22, 1940 - July 27, 2022

Captain John ("Jack") Wesley Bookhultz, USN, Retired, died July 27, 2022, at his home in The Villages, FL. Born on August 22, 1940, to Lewis and May Bookhultz in Southern Maryland, he graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and attended Oglethorpe University and University of Florida before enlisting in the Navy Flight Program in 1962.

In 1964, Jack earned his pilot wings and a commission at NA New Iberia, LA. That same year he also met and fell in love with Gay Gran of Baton Rouge. They married soon after meeting and began a life of adventure that took them around the world. Jack always said their dynamic relationship was the key to his success in life and in his career.

Jack thrived in the Navy. In his 29 years of active duty he served as a Ship's Navigator, flight instructor two different times, and safety officer to his squadron in Japan. He was commanding officer of the E-2 Hawkeye squadron on the USS John F Kennedy and later the Atlantic VAW Wing Commander at NAS Norfolk. Along the way, Jack accumulated 6000+ hours of accident-free flight hours and well over 600 carrier landings as a VAW pilot aboard 6 different aircraft carriers. His non-flight posts included, in the White House office of Vice President George Bush coordinating Navy assets for use in anti-drug interdiction efforts at all US borders, Director of Plans for Navy Space Systems at the Pentagon, and administrative review judge for the Secretary of

the Navy.

Jack took advantage of educational opportunities offered, completing Navy Legal School, earning a degree in international relations at the Navy Postgraduate School, completing the geopolitical affairs senior course at the US Naval War College, and attending the Navy's aircraft accident investigation school. He also conducted several JAG investigations and aircraft accident inquiries. Awards include: Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Meritorious Medals, Navy Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citations, Navy Unit Commendations, Meritorious Unit Commendations and other campaign ribbons and awards.

Jack's many deployments took him to all 7 seas, often with Gay traveling to greet him in ports across the globe. When not deployed, he and his family moved frequently. They lived in The Philippines, Japan, Mississippi, California, Rhode Island, and Virginia often reuniting with other Navy neighbors from a previous tour of duty. Jack retired in 1991 and after living in both Satellite Beach, FL and Haymarket, VA, and moved in 2003 to Grottoes, VA in the Shenandoah Valley. Gay passed unexpectedly soon after that move, but Jack was able to find happiness and community there, holding offices in the local chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA), the Weyers Cave Ruritan Club, and attending Mount Horab Presbyterian Church, where he sang in the choir and served as an elder. While living in the Valley, he was often accompanied by his close longtime friend, Sally Fulton of Augusta County, a retired educator from Blue Ridge Community College.

Jack's wanderlust never subsided, and he continued to travel with friends and family to England, Scotland, Ireland, Poland, Greece, Italy, The Baltics, Finland, and South Africa.

Jack is survived by his children: Grant Bookhultz and Shannon Lehman

(Glenn), his grandchildren: John and Jessica (“Kate”) Lehman, and his siblings, Major Lewis Edwin Bookhultz, US Army, Retired (Joy), and Judy Roberts (Joe).

A memorial service will be held at the Oxford Assembly of God on Saturday, Sept 24, 2022, at 11 am. Interment with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery will be at a later date. Donations to DAV Charitable Service Trust in lieu of flowers would be preferred.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Lady Lake, Florida.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

(877) 907-8585

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **24**. 11:00 AM.

Oxford Assembly of God

Tribute Wall

JC

“ I lived about 5 miles from the beautiful white mansion that he lived in.

One day my wife and I were driving past his house, we saw a cockerel spaniel laying in the middle of the road (on a sharp turn). Not wanting it to get hit by a car, we pulled over and he came right up to me (hot and thirsty).

We took him to our house and put down water for him.

I went back out to the Mt. Maridian area that we found him in.

There are 2 sisters that live there (across the road from Jacks house) they told me that it could be his dog.

I left a note on the door with my phone number on it.

A few hours later our phone rang, it was Jack.

He had been so worried about his Chester!

We talked for several minutes and I told him that I was going to bring Chester home.

They were both excited to see each other.

I stayed and talked with Jack for about an hour.

The next day I got a phone call from Jack, he wanted to know my address...I gave it to him and asked why he wanted it...he said that he wanted to send us a gift...I told him that would not be necessary. I stopped by many times to check on him and spend some time with him talking.

I was saddened when he told me that he was moving to Florida.

I have called his number many times before I finally had a man answer that was not Jack.

Here it is June 13th 2025 and I am saddened to find his obituary.

Jack was a very kind and generous man who spoke often about his wife, his military service, his family and time spent as a member of “Bush’s “ cabinet.

We also spoke about how the world was changing and of Trump running for the presidency.

I miss him but I know that he’s in heaven now!

I was so honored to have met and spoke with him.

Rest in peace and thank you for your service.

James and Patricia Campbell of Grottoes, Va.

James R Campbell - June 13, 2025 at 08:03 AM

EO

“ *My name is Elish (O’Kane) and I first met Jack and his late wife Gay when they were house swapping with friends of mine in Derry, Northern Ireland. I was asked to call in, say hello to them and be sure they were ok. So I called in, said hello and as they say, the rest is history. We talked, we talked some more, we drank some wine, we drank some more wine and embarked on a friendship that has lasted in excess of 25 years. In that time I have visited with both Jack and Gay in Haymarket prior to Gay’s death and subsequently in Grottes with Jack. Together we had many adventures, many happy, fun times and created many wonderful memories. I met strangers all those years ago, made friends, found a wonderful, loyal, loving couple whose friendship I will forever treasure and who’s memory I will forever keep close to my heart. May both Jack and Gay rest in peace.*

Elish O’Kane - September 22, 2022 at 06:37 PM

GB

“ *2 files added to the album Jack*



Grant Bookhultz - August 28, 2022 at 04:38 PM