

# ALLHANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY

SEPT 2018





# TOP NEWS

## PRESIDENT TRUMP SIGNS FISCAL 2019 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

From Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

President Donald J. Trump signed the \$717 billion Fiscal 2019 National Defense Authorization Act at a ceremony at Fort Drum, New York, Aug. 13.

The act - named for Arizona Sen. John S. McCain - authorizes a 2.6 percent military pay raise and increases the active duty forces by 15,600 service members.

is set at 335,400, the Marine Corps' at 186,100 and the Air Force's at 329,100.

On the acquisition side, the act funds 77 F-35 joint strike fighters at \$7.6 billion. It also funds F-35 spares, modifications and depot repair capability. The budget also fully funds development of the B-21 bomber.


to counter Islamic State of Iraq and Syria terrorists.

The budget accelerates research on hyperspace technology and defense against hyperspace missiles. It also funds development of artificial intelligence capabilities.

"In order to maintain America's military supremacy, we must always be on the cutting edge," the president said. "That is why we are also proudly reasserting America's legacy of leadership in space. Our foreign competitors and adversaries have already begun weaponizing space."

The president said adversaries seek to negate America's advantage in space, and they have made progress. "We'll be catching them very shortly," he added. "They want to jam transmissions, which threaten our battlefield operations and so many other things. We will be so far ahead of them in a very short period of time, your head will spin."

He said the Chinese military has launched a new military division to oversee its warfighting programs in space. "Just like the air, the land, the sea, space has become a warfighting domain," Trump said. "It is not enough to merely have an American presence in space; we must have American dominance in space, and that is why just a few days ago, the vice president outlined my administration's plan to create a sixth branch of the United States military called the United States Space Force."

The 2019 Authorization Act does not fund the military. Rather, it authorizes the policies under which funding will be set by the appropriations committees and then voted on by Congress. That bill is still under consideration. 



U.S. Army photo by Michael Strasser

"With this new authorization, we will increase the size and strength of our military by adding thousands of new recruits to active duty, Reserve and National Guard units, including 4,000 new active duty Soldiers," Trump told members of the Army's 10th Mountain Division and their families. "And we will replace aging tanks, aging planes and ships with the most advanced and lethal technology ever developed. And hopefully, we'll be so strong, we'll never have to use it, but if we ever did, nobody has a chance."

### Services' End Strength Set

The act sets active duty end strength for the Army at 487,500 in fiscal 2019, which begins Oct. 1, 2018. The Navy's end strength

The act authorizes \$24.1 billion for shipbuilding to fully fund 13 new battle force ships and accelerate funding for several future ships. This includes three Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and two Virginia-class submarines. There is also \$1.6 billion for three littoral combat ships.

In addition, the act authorizes 24 F/A-18 Super Hornets, 10 P-8A Poseidons, two KC-130J Hercules, 25 AH-1Z Cobras, seven MV-22/CMV-22B Ospreys and three MQ-4 Tritons.

### Afghanistan, Iraq

There is \$5.2 billion in the budget for the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund, and another \$850 million to train and equip Iraqi security forces

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**SECRETARY OF THE NAVY**  
The Honorable Richard V. Spencer

**CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS**  
Adm. John M. Richardson

**NAVY CHIEF OF INFORMATION, ACTING**  
Capt. Gregory L. Hicks

### DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

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**LEADING CHIEF PETTY OFFICER**  
MCC (SW/AW) Ryan Tabios

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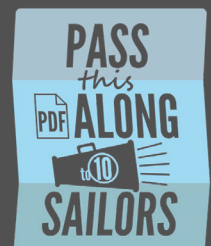
**DESIGN**  
MC3 Timothy Hale

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**ON FRONT COVER:** Photo illustration of a 1973 chief petty officer cap device in recognition of chief season. (U.S. Navy photo illustration by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Taylor Stinson/Released)

**ON BACK COVER:** Photo illustration of Senator John S. McCain III featuring a quote from the office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy stating, "Rest your oars, shipmate. We have the watch." (U.S. Navy photo illustration by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Taylor Stinson/Released)

OUR MISSION IS SHARING THE NAVY STORY



# TOP NEWS

## NAVY ANNOUNCES RATING MODERNIZATION PROGRESS UPDATE

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Navy released an update on the Sailor 2025 Rating Modernization's four lines of effort (LOE): Career Fields, Marketplace Force Management, Advancement, and Credentialing in NAVADMIN 196/18, Aug. 13.

The updates listed below provide a summary on the current status and way ahead of the four LOEs, but all personnel are strongly encouraged to read the NAVADMIN for greater detail on each topic.

### Career Fields

The alignment of Navy ratings into 23 career fields and 12 broad communities has provided a foundation for future development of more flexible and sustainable career paths for Sailors. In October 2017, and March and June of this year, three groups of over 850 Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) codes were successfully converted to a new construct. More information about the revised NEC construct and communities and career fields can be found at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/reference/nec/Pages/default.aspx>.

### Marketplace Force Management

Driven by the urgent requirement to update and modernize personnel systems, the Navy began to expand career fields, in order to transform enlisted force community and career management in the future.

A new "Navy Detailing Marketplace" is currently under development, through which the foundational elements of an automated personnel management system will tie Sailor enlistment directly to negotiations for a billet, which will then allow Sailors to reenlist or extend for that billet assignment. The marketplace will be a single system that uses the new

NEC construct to better represent Sailors' qualifications, experience, and performance in the form of a resume. The "Sailor Resume" function will be available in the future under "My Record" on MyNavy Portal (MNP). Starting in Fiscal Year 2019, Sailors will be able to view all advertised billets for which they are qualified and to then submit a resume that includes: ASVAB scores, security clearance status, worldwide deployability, qualifications, evaluations, NECs earned, education degrees and training certifications. Ultimately, the resume function will provide the ability to better match Sailors to billets.

### Advancement Process

Late in 2017, Navy senior enlisted leaders completed the first phase of the Advancement Exam Readiness Review (AERR) testing bank improvement plan by drafting advancement exam questions that match current and relevant rating-specific technical requirements with the hands-on, real-world knowledge and experience needed in the Fleet.

The establishment of the Professional Military Knowledge Eligibility Exam (PMK-EE) focuses the Navy Wide Advancement Exam (NWAE) on occupational knowledge and will serve as an eligibility requirement for advancement to paygrades E4/5/6/7. PMK-EE will be delivered electronically, and will be available via the MyNavyPortal (MNP) website beginning in October 2018.

The online Enlisted Advancement Worksheet (EAW), will automate the manual advancement processes and enable Sailors to review their worksheets before the exam and take charge of their advancement records. An EAW pilot, available through the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel



System (NSIPS), will be implemented with the Active Duty and Reserve spring 2019 advancement cycles.

The Senior Enlisted Advancement to Vacancy (A2V) pilot was announced in June and will fill senior chief petty officer and master chief petty officer priority billets using a spot advancement incentive, and will lead enlisted advancement modernization for exceptional Sailors in all paygrades with critical NECs in the future.


### Credentialing

Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) currently funds over 2,700 certificates/licenses with opportunities for Sailors in every rating. Navy COOL recently reduced the minimum service remaining on a Sailor's enlistment contract to earn credentials from 12 to six months, and expanded opportunity for Sailors to earn credentials mapped to an academic degree or technical education certificate. Additionally, there are more opportunities for Sailors to maximize their Navy training and qualifications toward attainment of U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) licenses, to include funding the Transportation Worker Identification Card. These opportunities are highlighted in a dedicated "USCG National Maritime

Center (NMC) Credentialing" tab for ratings with applicable USCG license alignment on the Navy COOL website.

Sailors will be able to convert their military training records, billet assignment history and other credentialing data to a compatible civilian resume by the end of fiscal year 2019. Using those standardized data, Sailors can easily research information on civilian and federal occupations mapped to their ratings at <https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn> or via the Navy COOL app available on the Google Play store or iTunes.

The goals for Rating Modernization are to provide greater choice and flexibility for our Sailors with respect to detailing and training, to provide greater flexibility for the Navy in assigning highly trained personnel, and to increase professional alignment with civilian employers.

Rating Modernization supports Sailor 2025 initiatives through the goals of redefining career fields, improving talent management and the detailing process, offering more career choices, and expanding professional development opportunities. These initiatives are intended to increase Fleet readiness, sustainability, and fit. 



# Forged By The Creed

## UNITY

Reminder of cooperation, maintaining harmony and continuity of purpose and action.

## FOULED ANCHOR

Symbolizes the trials and tribulations that every Chief Petty Officer must endure on a daily basis.

## SERVICE

Referring to our fellow man and our Navy.

## NAVIGATION

To help keep ourselves on a righteous course so that we may walk upright.

## CHAIN

Symbolic of flexibility and reminds us of the chain of life that we forge day by day, link by link and may it be forged with Honor, Morality and Virtue.

Established 1893

A U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer's rate emblem is symbolized by a fouled anchor with the letters "USN" centered on the anchor. Officially the letters stand for United States Navy.





# TOP NEWS

## FORGED BY THE CREED

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Timothy Hale

Being selected as a chief represents the most significant change in an enlisted Sailor's career. Less than 10 percent of all who enter the enlisted ranks will be selected. The level of responsibility they assume is a reflection of their leadership potential as well as technical prowess. Chiefs are not only considered the subject area experts in their rates, but also assume many collateral duties, such as training junior Sailors and even junior officers.

Simply stated, there are many good chiefs, senior chiefs and master

chiefs out in the fleet, men and women who were provided with great leadership as they came up through the ranks and are paying it forward to the next generations that will follow.


"The difference between E7 and a 'chief' is a person that is in charge and a person who is a leader," said Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Ja'lon Rhinehart, senior enlisted leader at the Defense Information School's Navy Detachment. "A person who is in charge has simply been appointed to a position and they rest upon those laurels. They

accept that 'I'm here, I do my job and you work for me because you don't have no choice.' A leader recognizes that it is the people who make the difference. They develop that personal relationship; they understand that individuals have put themselves to be subordinate to them. A leader works for his people, and their success is the people's success and their failure is a 100 percent the leaders."

A chief is a chief no matter what uniform he or she wears and that will never change. The Navy has experienced one constant through the

years: In the face of unrelenting change, sound and solid leadership skills, traditions and values remain the same. That's in large part thanks to chiefs.

Drawing on their past, they serve as technical experts and act as liaisons to commissioned officers. They possess the ability to establish and maintain the conditions that provide Sailors with opportunities for success.

The ability to bridge that gap and provide solutions to both officers and enlisted personnel ensures the old mantra, "ask the chief," shall remain a vital part of the Navy well into its future. 

## SIX THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT U.S. 2ND FLEET

From Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet Public Affairs

On Aug. 24, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson presided over the Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet (C2F) establishment ceremony aboard USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77) in Norfolk, Virginia. Vice Adm. Andrew "Woody" Lewis was confirmed by the Senate on June 28 to serve as the first commander of the newly established C2F, which will be headquartered in Norfolk.

When 2nd Fleet was disestablished nearly a decade ago, its focus was on training and certifying forces with a relatively benign security environment in the Atlantic and Europe. However, the security environment has grown more challenging and complex, particularly in the North Atlantic. We have established a new command in Norfolk that will operate differently from the 2nd Fleet that existed in 2011. The new C2F will honor our legacy, but the establishment signifies our dedication and renewed focus on naval operations on the East Coast and North Atlantic.

Below are six things that you should know about C2F:

**1. Why:** The dynamic nature of the security environment demands a dynamic response. The Navy is doing this in two ways. The first is by dynamically employing our forces - like USS Harry S. Truman Strike Group - where we are flexing our ability to be operationally unpredictable. The second is the way the Navy is organized to command that employment; this is why we are standing up C2F.

**2. What:** C2F has two missions: to train our forces for fleet operations and to execute fleet operations. Standing up C2F will increase our Navy's competitive mindset and our warfighting lethality. The command will focus on joint, integrated training and operations at the high-end of naval warfare.

**3. How:** C2F will exercise operational and administrative authorities over assigned ships, aircraft and landing forces on the East Coast and the North Atlantic. Additionally, it will plan and conduct maritime, joint and combined operations, and will train and recommend certification

of combat-ready naval forces for maritime employment and operations around the globe. C2F will fall under operational and administrative control of U.S. Fleet Forces (USFF) Command. The C2F commander will act as the operational and training fleet commander, which standardizes operational readiness of deployable forces to a single fleet standard.

**4. Where:** Initially, C2F assets will operate in the same operating area where USFF currently operates - but through war gaming and concept development, the Navy and the joint force will define how 2nd, 4th and 6th Fleets coordinate in both peace and wartimes.

**5. Who:** Our initial staff will form the basis of our future lethality... these individuals have proven their competency and have been chosen because of their warfighting ethos. We will grow as we reach full operational capacity. We will be lean, expeditionary and focused on fleet operations. C2F is made up of more than just the men and women who have orders to the staff

here in Norfolk. C2F also includes:

- Sailors up and down the East Coast, readying and our nation's ships, aircraft, and submarines for high-end warfare training and operations.
- Our Marine Corps brothers and sisters. C2F will work closely with II MEF in training and will operate forward with a full Navy and Marine Corps team.
- Military Sealift Command ships with civilian Merchant Mariners who on a daily basis providing critical on-time logistics, strategic sealift and specialized mission support throughout the Second Fleet area of operation 365 days a year.
- C2F will regularly work hand in hand with our allies and partners to ensure freedom endures in the Atlantic. We are stronger together.
- 6. When:** Now. The staff has begun to report to C2F, and is responsible for establishing the command structure and associated missions, functions and tasks. Currently, the staff is planning for joint high-end operational training in early 2019. 

# MONTHLY OBSERVANCE

## NAVY LEGEND — DAVID GLASGOW FARRAGUT

By Lt. j.g. Chloe Morgan, Naval History and Heritage Command Communication and Outreach



Adm. David Glasgow Farragut was a Hispanic Sailor who devoted a remarkable 59 years of his life to naval service, ultimately becoming the U.S. Navy's first admiral.

### The Early Years: A Tale of Two Fathers

Born at Campbell's Station, near Knoxville, Tennessee, on July 5, 1801, his birth name was James Glasgow Farragut.

Black and white painting depicting a young Farragut at age nine as a midshipman.

Farragut's father, Jordi Farragut Mesquida, was from Minorca, Spain, and was the captain of a Spanish merchant ship. His ship was operating around the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico when the United States declared its independence from Britain in 1776. After Spain announced its support of the United States, he changed his name to George and joined the South Carolina Navy as a lieutenant, serving the young nation proudly.

After losing his wife to yellow fever in 1808, George called on his friend and fellow naval officer, David Porter, to

help with family matters. Since he felt unable to care for a young child, George Farragut asked then Capt. Porter if he could take his son and raise him as his own. His friend agreed, and in 1809, James Farragut joined his new family.

Immediately, Porter introduced the eight-year-old Farragut to the Navy and he began spending time at sea with his newly adopted father. Receiving a naval appointment to midshipman one year later, at the very young age of nine, Farragut grew up quickly and rose up to the

responsibility. At this time, Farragut changed his name from James to David in order to show admiration and gratitude for his new family.

Farragut experienced life at sea off the coast of the United States aboard man-of-war ship Essex in 1811. During the War of 1812, Essex captured so many whaling vessels that Farragut was made the prize master of the Alexander Barclay. Farragut, at the incredibly young age of twelve, captained her safely to Valparaíso, foreshadowing his future naval legacy.

### Taking Command

Farragut's first command was the schooner Ferret in 1823 at the age of 22. However, it wasn't until the Civil War where he really began to show his legendary leadership.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Farragut was called upon to serve, but had to choose between his native state, Tennessee, and the federal government. In January 1862, after declaring his loyalty to the Union, was given command of the Western Blockading Squadron.

After Commodore Farragut's astonishing victory over the

Confederate Navy in New Orleans on April 28, 1862, the United States Navy honored him by creating the rank of rear admiral. It was on June 16, 1862, that David Farragut became Rear Adm. Farragut, becoming the first U.S. Navy Sailor to reach the rank of admiral. He went on to support the Union campaign at Vicksburg and was instrumental in the success of securing the Mississippi River fort, Port Hudson, from the Confederates.

In 1864, Adm. Farragut displayed his tenacity and toughness in battle by confronting the last Confederate stronghold of the Gulf of Mexico, Mobile Bay. As his armada arrived in the bay, they were met with mines anchored to the sea bottom (during that era, mines were referred to as torpedoes, which, given present-day language, has been known to cause some confusion). One of his ships, the *Tecumseh*, struck a mine and sunk immediately. The entire armada came to a harrowing halt.

Although some dispute his actual words, one thing is for sure, Farragut understood the importance of momentum in battle, and it's been said it was during this battle that he cried out the famous phrase "damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" Impassioned by his boldness, the armada continued through the mines and won a decisive victory. For his efforts, the Navy yet again created a new rank, vice admiral, to which he was appointed. His promotions were not finished, however, because shortly after the war, President Lincoln promoted Farragut to the newly created rank of full admiral.

### A Lasting Legacy

Adm. David Farragut died in 1870 and received a hero's farewell. President Ulysses S. Grant led 10,000 soldiers and Sailors through the streets of New York during his funeral procession. In 2013, Farragut's gravesite at Woodlawn


Cemetery in the Bronx was honored as a National Historic Landmark. A tall marble pillar marks the gravesite with symbols of his naval service.

In the years following his leadership, five U.S. Navy ships have been named in honor of Adm. Farragut.

- The first was Farragut (Torpedo Boat No. 11), launched July 16, 1898
- The second was Farragut (Destroyer No. 300), launched November 21, 1918
- The third Farragut (DD 348), launched March 15, 1934
- The fourth Farragut (DLG 6), launched July 18, 1958
- The fifth Farragut (DDG 99) launched July 9, 2005, and commissioned on June 10, 2006, and still serves her country with the motto, "Prepared for Battle."

Before his death, in January 1865, the "United States Magazine" said of Farragut:

*"...the public, who now see only high courage and indomitable vigor rewarded by great and brilliant victories, will recognize the completeness and harmony of a character that has so far appeared to them only in profile. The stainless honor, the straightforward frankness, the vivacity of manner and conversation, the gentleness, the flow of good humor, the cheerful, ever-buoyant spirit of the true man - these will be added to the complete education, the thorough seamanship, the devotion to duty, and lastly, the restless energy, the disdain of obstacles, the impatience of delay or hesitation, the disregard of danger, that stand forth in such prominence in the portrait, deeply engraven on the loyal American heart, of the great Admiral."*

Farragut's "ever-buoyant spirit" continues to live on in history books and in the Navy. His bold leadership style and infamous line, regardless of its factual accuracy, remains a battle cry for Sailors 152 years later. 



# SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

## THE STATISTICS

EVERY  
**65** MINUTES  
A VETERAN  
COMMITS SUICIDE  
#22VETERANS



VETERAN SUICIDE  
ACCOUNTS  
FOR **18%**  
OF ALL SUICIDE DEATHS  
IN THE COUNTRY



DEATHS IN THE NAVY IN  
**2017** REACHED  
ITS PEAK  
MAKING 2017 THE  
WORST YEAR SINCE 2012

## THE DEMOGRAPHICS

**4X**  
TO DIE  
BY SUICIDE



MEN BETWEEN  
**25-49** YEARS  
OLD  
IN **ACTIVE DUTY** HAVE  
HIGHER CHANCE OF **SUICIDE**

**3X**  
TO ATTEMPT  
SUICIDE



WOMEN BETWEEN  
**17-29** YEARS  
OLD  
IN **ACTIVE DUTY** HAVE  
HIGHER CHANCE OF **SUICIDE**

## THE AWARENESS



**I** DEATION  
**S** UBSTANCE ABUSE  
**P** URPOSELESSNESS  
**A** NXIETY  
**T** RAPPED  
**H** OPELESSNESS  
**W** ITHDRAWAL  
**A** NGER  
**R** ECKLESSNESS  
**M** OOD CHANGES

THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE  
INCREASED OR EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL USE  
SEEING NO REASON FOR LIVING, HAVING NO SENSE OF MEANING OR PURPOSE IN LIFE  
ANXIOUSNESS, AGITATION, NIGHTMARES, INABILITY TO SLEEP OR EXCESSIVE SLEEP  
FEELING AS THOUGH THERE IS NO WAY OUT OF CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES  
FEELING HOPELESS ABOUT ONESELF, OTHERS OR THE FUTURE  
ISOLATING FROM FRIENDS, FAMILY, USUAL ACTIVITIES, SOCIETY  
FEELINGS OF RAGE OR UNCONTROLLABLE ANGER, SEEKING REVENGE FOR PERCEIVED WRONGS  
ACTING WITHOUT REGARD FOR CONSEQUENCES, EXCESSIVELY RISKY BEHAVIOR  
DRAMATIC CHANGES IN MOOD, UNSTABLE MOOD

**8** OUT  
OF **10**  
PEOPLE CONSIDERING  
SUICIDE GIVE SOME SIGN  
OF THEIR **INTENTIONS**



**64%** OF  
PEOPLE  
VISIT THE **DOCTOR** IN THE  
**MONTH** BEFORE THEIR **ATTEMPT**  
**38%** IN THE **WEEK**  
BEFORE



SUICIDE  
RISK IS **37%**  
HIGHER IN THE FIRST  
YEAR AFTER DELIBERATE  
SELF-HARM

## THE TREATMENT

**Veterans  
Crisis Line**

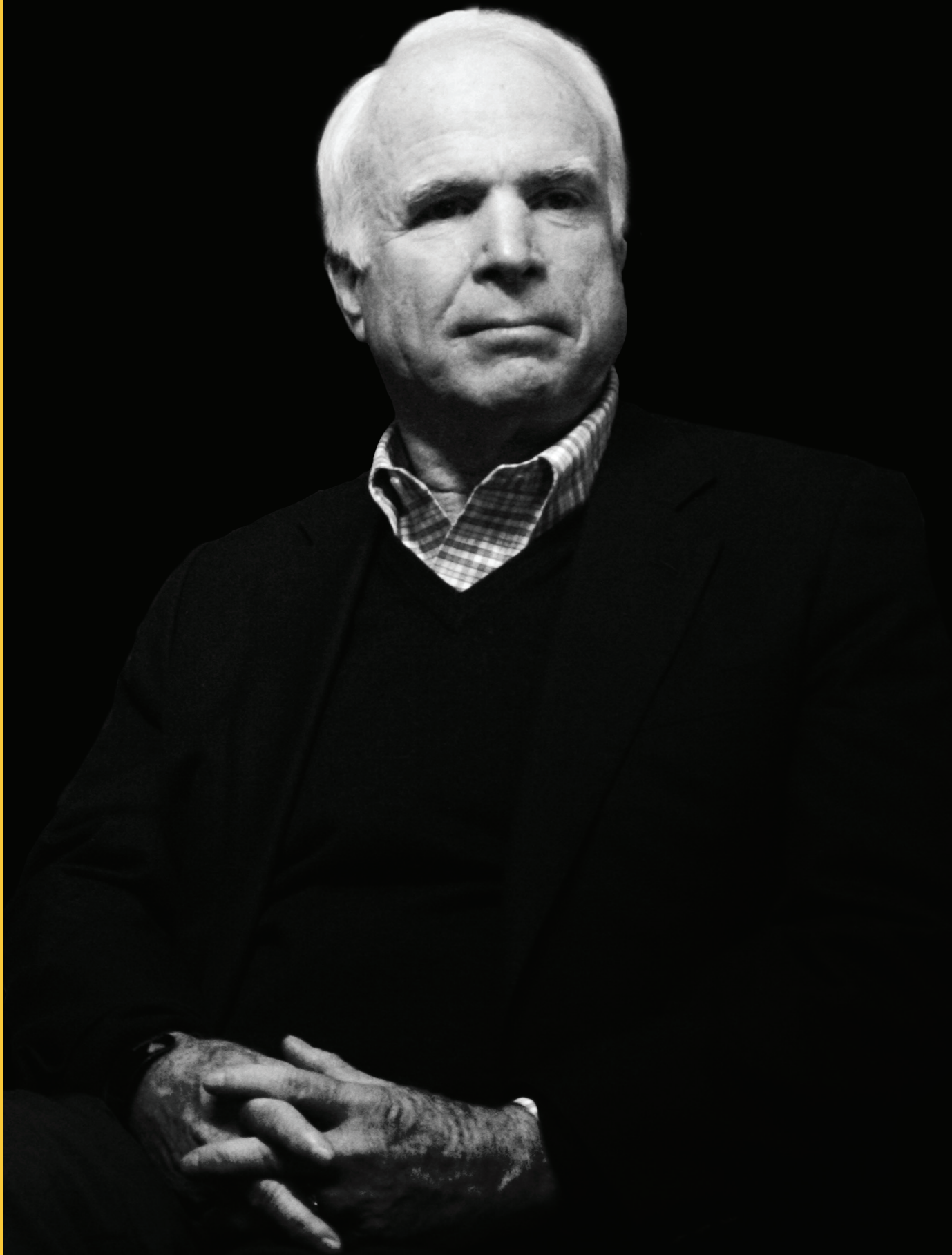


1-800-273-8255  
PRESS 1

HELP IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE  
THROUGH THE  
**MILITARY CRISIS LINE**  
CALL 1-800-273-TALK (PRESS 1)  
TEXT 838255  
VISIT [WWW.MILITARYCRISISLINE.NET](http://WWW.MILITARYCRISISLINE.NET)



- HELP THEM CONTACT A **MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL**
- IF YOU'RE IN A POSITION TO HELP, DON'T ASSUME YOUR PERSISTENCE IS **UNWANTED** OR **INTRUSIVE**
- FOLLOW-UP AND KEEP **CONNECTED** TO THE PERSON





# FAREWELL TO A LEGEND

## John S. McCain III Passes Away

By Elizabeth M. Collins, Defense Media Activity

Senator and retired Capt. John S. McCain III, former prisoner of war, passed away Aug. 25 at the age of 81. McCain had been battling an aggressive type of brain tumor known as a glioblastoma since at least the summer of 2017.

"Today, the Navy and Marine Corps team lost a friend and one of our own when Senator John McCain passed," said Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer.

**"I thought it was the most glamorous and exciting life anyone could choose."**

Born in the Panama Canal Zone, Aug. 29, 1936, the son and grandson of men who would become four star admirals, McCain's future seemed preordained. He resisted it, "from time to time," he said in an oral history for the Veterans History Project, "but I was pretty sure that's what was going to happen."

He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1958 – fifth from the bottom of his class – and headed for flight school, according to a Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) biography.

"I thought it was the most glamorous and exciting life anyone could choose," he said of his decision to become a pilot. "And my grandfather had been a Navy aviator."

As a new pilot, McCain was guilty of self-confessed "daredevil clowning." He had several misses and near misses, and once knocked out power lines in Spain. A "small international incident" resulted, according to his

memoir, "Faith of my Fathers."

But when war came, he was ready. McCain deployed to Vietnam in 1967 as an A-4 Skyhawk pilot with VA-46. There, in addition to his bombing runs, McCain was witness to one of the Navy's most devastating fires, which occurred aboard USS Forrestal (CVA 59), July 29, 1967, when a rocket misfired, then hit a fuel tank. This set off a chain of explosions that eventually resulted in the loss of 134 lives.

Then-Lt. Cmdr. McCain's plane was next to the initial explosion: "In a very short period of time, there was a huge conflagration. ... I shut down the engine on my airplane, felt the shock, saw the fire, jumped out by going down the refueling probe ... and rolled through the fire and went across the other side of the flight deck," he recalled. "I saw the pilot in the plane next to mine jump out of his airplane, only he didn't jump as far and when he rolled out, he was on fire. I started toward him and just as I did, the first bomb blew off and knocked me back."

Reluctant to cut his tour short, McCain volunteered to transfer to USS Oriskany (CV 34), which he said had the highest losses of any air wing in Vietnam. That October, he "pleaded with the squadron operations officer to put him on the roster for a large Alpha strike scheduled the next day. Four Navy squadrons participated in the raid [on a thermal power plant]. It was

McCain's twenty-third mission and his first attack on Hanoi," according to NHHC.

McCain and his fellow pilots took off on Oct. 26, 1967, and were picked up by North Vietnamese radar almost immediately. McCain soon had an SA-2 Guideline missile "the size of a telephone pole" on his tail.

As he released his own bomb, the missile "blew the right wing off my Skyhawk dive bomber," he told U.S. News & World Report in 1973.

"It went into an inverted, almost straight-down spin."

McCain bailed out upside down at a high speed. The force of the ejection broke his right leg, both arms, tore his helmet off and knocked him unconscious. He landed in a lake.

"I hit the water and sank to the bottom," McCain wrote in his U.S. News account. "I did not feel any pain at the time, and was able to rise to the surface. I took a breath of air and started sinking again. Of course,



U.S. Navy photo

I was wearing 50 pounds, at least, of equipment and gear. I went down and managed to kick up to the surface once more. I couldn't understand why I couldn't use my right leg or my arm. I was in a dazed condition. I went up to the top again and sank back down. This time I couldn't get back to the surface. I was wearing an inflatable life-preserver-type thing. ... I reached down with my mouth ... and inflated the preserver and finally floated to the top."

A mob of angry civilians attacked McCain, stripping and beating him. He was quickly transported to Hoa

filthy and prone to flooding, and McCain received only the most rudimentary of care. Doctors spent hours attempting to set his bones without giving him painkillers, for example. He eventually underwent a botched operation on his leg as well.

For the next five and a half years, McCain, who frequently suffered from dysentery, would be starved, beaten, tortured and put in solitary confinement where he spent two of his five and a half years in captivity.

"As far as this business of solitary confinement goes," he recalled, "the most important thing for survival is

"I had learned what we all learned over there: Every man has his breaking point. I had reached mine."

have more of a philosophical bent. I had read a lot of history. I spent days on end going back over those history books in my mind. ... I thought a lot about the meaning of life. It was easy to lapse into fantasies. I used to write books and plays in my mind," he continued, later adding that humor was essential to survival as well.

His captors, hoping to capitalize on the propaganda value of releasing the son of Admiral McCain, offered him the chance to go home early. His senior ranking officer recommended that he accept the offer because his injuries qualified McCain for early release.

"McCain refused because he worried about the propaganda value that North Vietnam might derive from the release," said NHHC historian John

Sherwood, Ph.D.

His refusal infuriated his jailor, who said, "Now, McCain, it will be very bad for you."

Finally, brutalized by four days of near constant torture, McCain reached the end of his rope. He signed a confession "about black crimes and other generalities. ... I felt just terrible about it. ... I had learned what we all learned over there: Every man has his breaking point. I had reached mine."

Horrified by what he had done, McCain was able to find new inner strength and continue resisting.

"When the pressure was on, you seemed to go one way or the other. Either it was easier for them to break you the next time, or it was harder. In other words, if you are going to make it, you get tougher as time goes by.



U.S. Navy photo

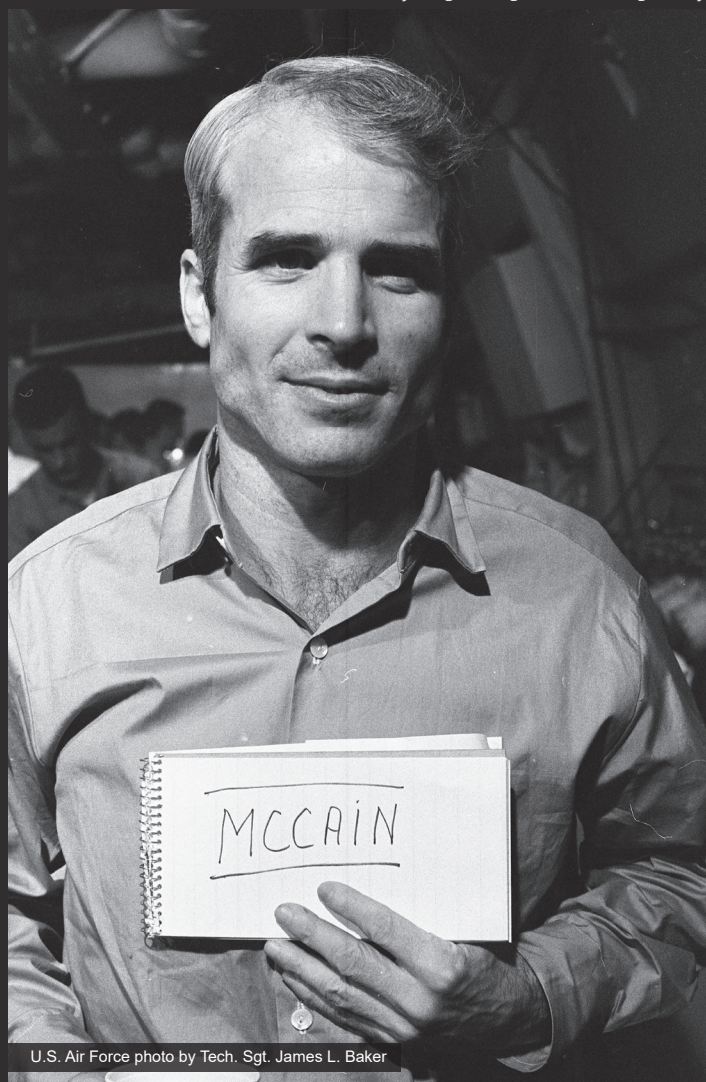


U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. James L. Baker

Lô Prison, better known as the Hanoi Hilton. His captors refused to take him to a hospital unless he divulged military secrets. McCain declined, so his injuries went untreated for days. It wasn't until the North Vietnamese realized his father was Admiral John S. McCain Jr., soon to be commander of U.S. Forces in the Pacific, that they relented. The hospital was primitive,

communication with someone, even if it's only a wave or a wink, a tap on the wall, or to have a guy put his thumb up. It makes all the difference.

"It's vital to keep your mind occupied, and we all worked on that. Some guys were interested in mathematics, so they worked out complex formulas in their heads. ... Others would build a whole house, from basement on up. I



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. James L. Baker



... You get to hate them so bad that it gives you strength."

That strength sustained him, and conditions gradually improved as the war dragged on. He was finally released in 1973 after the U.S. and North Vietnam signed peace agreements.

"To him, it's as if that time is a chapter of a book that has already been read, the pages turned, and now

country ... which truly brought him to understand the United States, and to love it with a ferocity that I have never experienced elsewhere."

McCain spent almost five months receiving medical treatment. He then attended the Naval War College, commanded VA-174 and served in the Navy's Office of Legislative Liaison in the Senate.

**"No one is born great. Instead, it is the assimilation of all of our experiences, and what we choose to do with those experiences that has the capacity to make us great."**

it is just another lesson imparted by life," McCain's son, Lt. John "Jack" McCain IV wrote in "The Sextant," NHHC's blog, in 2017. "He does not talk about it unless asked – not out of unwillingness, but rather a lack of fixation. He holds no malice about his captivity or even his torture. ... It was the separation from his

According to NHHC, he knew his injuries meant his chances of promotion to admiral were slim. He decided he could better serve his country in politics, and retired from the Navy as a captain in 1981, with numerous awards and decorations. They included the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with "V" device and two



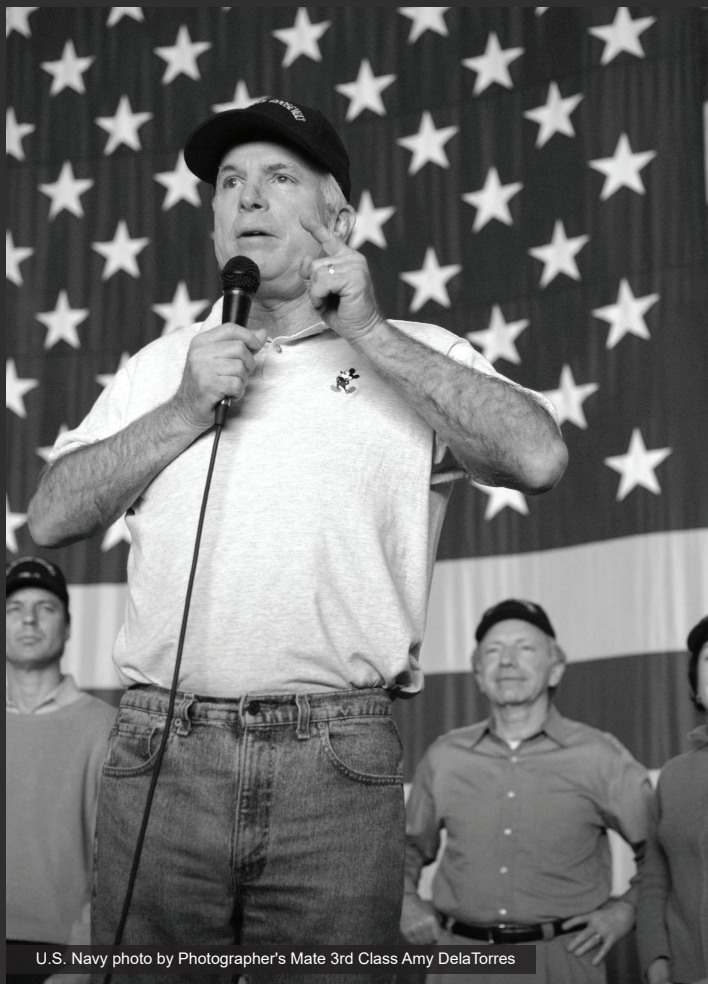
U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Erin A. Kirk

gold stars, the Legion of Merit with a "V" and gold star, the Purple Heart with star, a Distinguished Flying Cross, the Prisoner of War Medal and a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a "V" and a star.

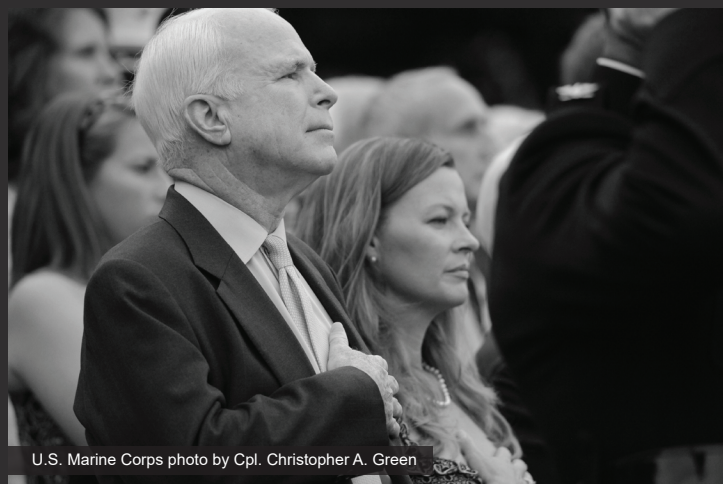
McCain was first elected to the House of Representatives for the state of Arizona in 1982, and to the Senate in 1986. He won the Republican Party's nomination for president in 2008, but lost the election to Barack Obama. He remained in the Senate and eventually became the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, a position he held until his death.

McCain, who once described himself as "very fortunate" and the "luckiest person," is survived by his second wife, Cindy, and 7 children, including two naval officers and a Marine.

"Since my father's diagnosis of glioblastoma, there has been a reflex to speak in terms of legacies," Jack McCain, wrote. "Legacies are important, remembering is important, but it is not forgetting the human that matters most. No one is born great. Instead, it is the assimilation of all of our experiences, and what we choose to do with those experiences that has the capacity to make us great." **AH**



U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Amy DelaTorres

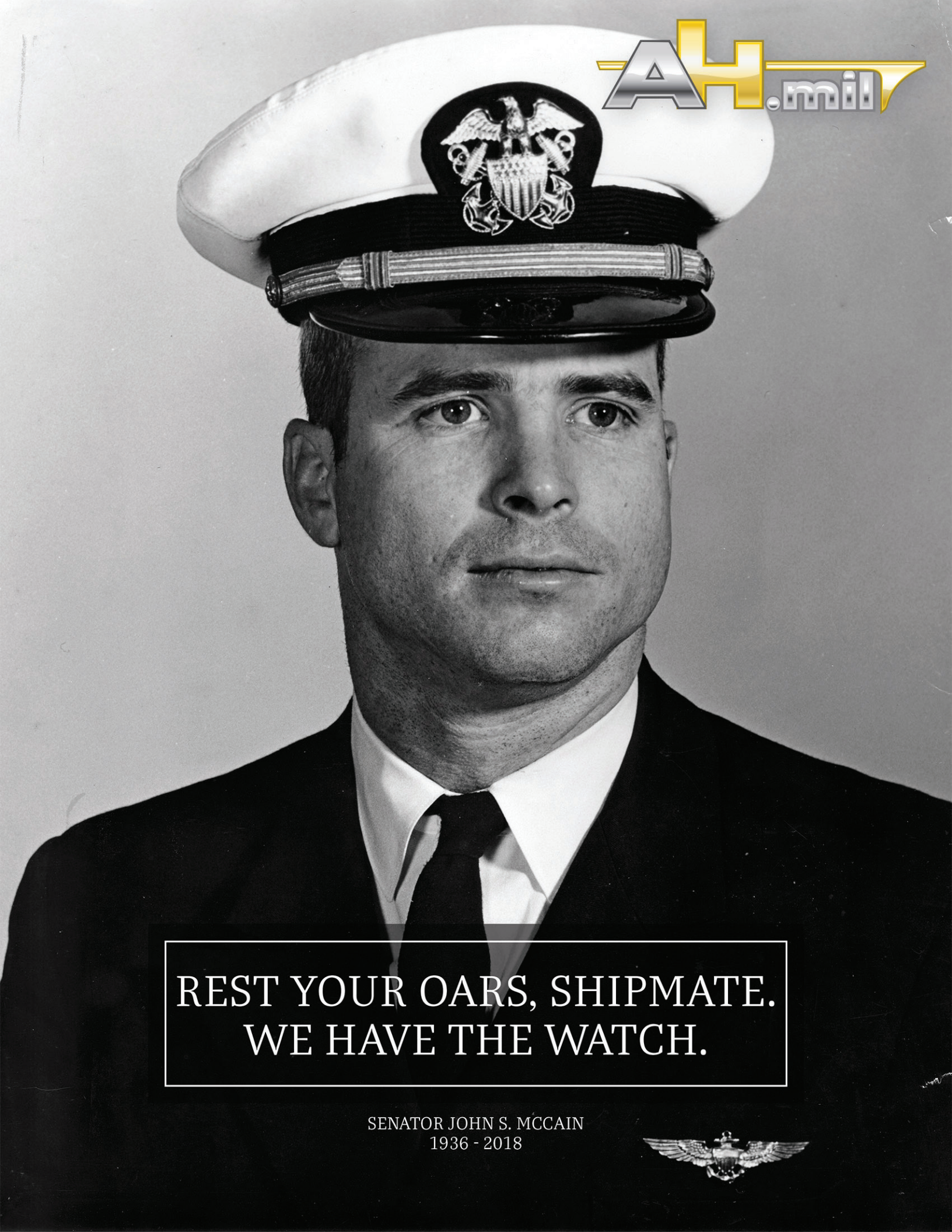


U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Christopher A. Green



DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Dustin Payne, U.S. Air Force





REST YOUR OARS, SHIPMATE.  
WE HAVE THE WATCH.

SENATOR JOHN S. MCCAIN  
1936 - 2018

