

CAP'T GARY M VOORHEIS, US NAVY, RET.

AWARDS and MEDALS RECEIVED

- 1993 Legion Of Merit Award
- 1991 Bronze Star Medal
- 1991 Legion Of Merit Award
- 1989 Joint Meritorious Unit Award
- 1985 Navy Unit Commendation
- 1983 Meritorious Service Award
- 1974 Southeast Asian Service Medal
- 1973 Sea Service Deployment Medal
- 1970 Navy Commendation Medal
- 1965 National Defense Medal
- 1963 Expert Pistol Medal



Captain Gary Voorheis 1991
USS Virginia
Change of Command Ceremony

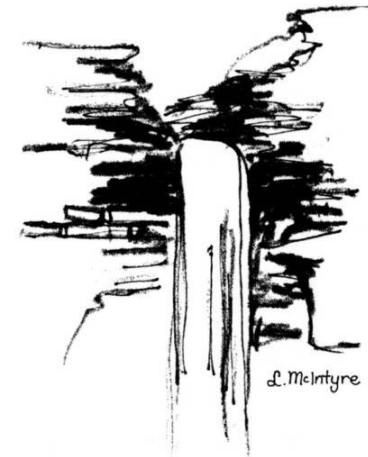


Captain Gary Voorheis and his son Ensign Jonathan Voorheis in 1996 at his swearing in ceremony. Ensign Voorheis has recently become the second Captain Voorheis in the family

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

2018

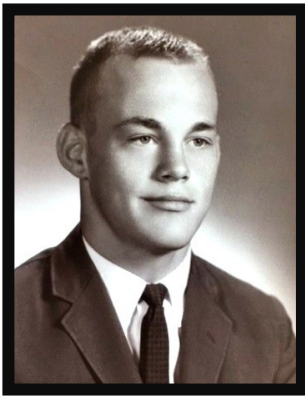
GARY M VOORHEIS
GRADUATE OF THE CLASS OF 1963



Watkins Glen High School
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

JUNE 23 2018

93RD ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET



CAPTAIN GARY M VOORHEIS, US NAVY, RET.

DISTINGUISHED IN THE FIELDS OF MILITARY SERVICE AND
NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

Watkins Glen High School Distinguished Alumni Award

Biography

Our 2018 Distinguished Alumnus, and 1963 graduate of Watkins High, has indeed distinguished himself in his 26 years of service to his country. His 1967 graduation from the United States Naval Academy launched an exceptional military career for Gary Martin Voorheis.

1968 saw Gary promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade, followed in 1969 by promotion to Lieutenant. Selection for post graduate school then led to a Master's Degree in Physical Oceanography. By this time the Navy was building a new class of nuclear cruisers, and nuclear trained officers were in high demand.

After interviewing with Admiral Hyman Rickover, considered the "Father of the Nuclear Navy", Lieutenant Voorheis began a year of vigorous nuclear training.

From 1975-1978, while USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, the second nuclear-powered aircraft carrier of the Nimitz class, was under construction, Lieutenant Voorheis was assigned to its' pre-commissioning crew, which grew in two years from 20 men to 5000. Responsible for overseeing the assembly and testing of the ship's main engines, Lieutenant Voorheis was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in 1976. He also served as one of 16 members of the Atlantic Fleet Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board, conducting readiness and safety inspections of all nuclear powered subs and surface ships in the Atlantic and in Europe. Promoted to Commander in 1979, Gary was assigned Chief Engineer of the USS Enterprise, the world's first nuclear powered aircraft carrier, receiving his first Meritorious Service Award at the conclusion of his tour.

His first command was the USS Conolly, after which he served as Senior Member of the Nuclear Propulsion Mobile Training Team, and at this time was promoted to Captain. Previous assignments having prepared him well, he now assumed command of the USS Virginia, a nuclear powered guided missile cruiser with a 600 man crew. When the Virginia deployed as part of Operation Desert Storm, Captain Voorheis was assigned as commander of a task group consisting of the Virginia, two nuclear powered submarines and a destroyer. After 40 months in command of the Virginia, Captain Voorheis was awarded the Legion of Merit for his command tour and the Bronze Star for Desert Storm. After completion of his final tour with the US Navy as Senior Member of the Atlantic Fleet Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board, Captain Voorheis received his second Legion of Merit Award at his retirement in 1993.

These awards recognized Captain Voorheis as an exceptionally skilled tactician and leader, displaying extraordinary competence, perception & resourcefulness. Further, these awards repeatedly recognized his outstanding leadership skills, uncompromising dedication, sound judgement and inspiring devotion to duty.

In his Naval career, Captain Voorheis served on seven ships with seven extended deployments, leading to many periods of long absences from family. Gary credits Peggy Love Voorheis, his high school sweetheart, mother of their 2 children and his wife of 51 years, with providing the enduring support that enabled his challenging and successful career.

In civilian life, with his background and expertise, Gary further served his country by assisting for nine years in the closing and decommissioning of Rocky Flats, the DOE nuclear weapons production site in Colorado. Thanks to the work of Gary and others, Rocky Flats is now a safe wildlife preserve. Success at Rocky Flats led to Gary's position of assisting the United Kingdom in closing many aging nuclear power plants over an eight year period. In 2013, after successfully assisting in training the British to continue on their own, it was time for Gary and Peggy to return to their home near Boulder, CO, where they are happily retired.