



Captain Michael D. Quigley, U.S. Navy

Vietnam

Captain Quigley, a longtime resident of Mill Creek, graduated from the University of Mississippi and was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Navy in 1967. His first assignment was as the Machinery Division Officer (M-Div) on the USS Ault (DD-698). He joined the ship during its deployment off the coast of Vietnam as an element of the US 7th Fleet. The USS Ault spent nearly two months off the coast of South Vietnam in support of Naval Gunfire Support Operations on the "Gunline." On several occasions the USS Ault had to anchor in the shallow waters of the Mekong Delta to hold position while providing round-the-clock fire support. The USS Ault also engaged in Operation Sea Dragon off the coast of North Vietnam, operations against enemy logistic ships and coastal defense sites, where it came under fire multiple times.

Following language training in Vietnamese at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California he was assigned to Naval Advisor Group, Vietnam where he served as an onboard advisor on multiple ships of the South Vietnamese Navy. Operating in the shallow rivers of South Vietnam these ships came under constant enemy fire. The Republic of Vietnam awarded LT Quigley the Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal for "Deeds of valor and acts of courage or heroism while fighting the enemy" as well as the Staff Service 1st Class Medal.

Captain Quigley's many years of sea duty included multiple Department Head tours in Engineering and Operations on the USS Blue (DD-744), USS La Moure County (LST-1194) and the USS Sellers (DDG-11). He was the Executive Officer (XO) of the USS Barnstable County (LST-1197) and had two Commanding Officer tours, the first on the USS Anchorage (LSD-36) then on the USS El Paso (LKA-117). Under his leadership of the USS Anchorage the ship earned the Battle "E", Engineering "E", two Assault Boat Ops "E's", two Damage Control "E's" and two Electronic Warfare "E's". The crowning achievement of this exemplary command tour was the winning of the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy and a personal letter from then 85 year old Admiral Arleigh Burke who wrote

“The tremendous accomplishment of your ship was made possible by your officers and crew under the superb leadership of her Captain. The Navy can be proud of having officers with the ability you have demonstrated in producing such a record.”



Captain Michael D. Quigley passed away in December of 2017 from complications as a result of his exposure to Agent Orange during his service with the South Vietnamese Navy on the rivers of South Vietnam.