

Russell D. Egnor

A Tribute

Russell D. Egnor Chief of U.S. Navy News Photography

Russell Darrell Egnor, 60, served as the Director of the U.S. Navy's News Photo Division and was a retired Naval Reserve Senior Chief Journalist.

Mr. Egnor dedicated 43 years to telling the story of Navy operations around the world through pictures and words, as head of the division in the Navy Office of Information (CHINFO) that kept the public informed about the men and women in the U.S. Navy and their naval operations through photography.

A resident of Manassas, VA, Mr. Egnor was born in Glen White, WV. He grew up in Detroit, MI, and in 1954 enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17 and served in a variety of Navy assignments ashore and afloat in combat and in peace.

From 1963 to 1966, Mr. Egnor worked in the News and News Photo Divisions in CHINFO at the Pentagon, one of the only enlisted journalists on the Navy News Desk. During this assignment, Mr. Egnor deployed with the first world cruise by three nuclear-powered surface ships—USS Enterprise, USS Bainbridge and USS Long Beach—to report on the historic naval operation.

In 1967, Mr. Egnor was selected for advanced training at the Syracuse University School of Journalism. He subsequently served as a photojournalist in the Pacific Fleet Combat Camera Group, Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, CA, and later deployed to the Combat Camera Group Detachment Saigon, Republic of Vietnam. Mr. Egnor traveled extensively throughout Vietnam, shooting pictures and



preparing material on Navy life and combat operations for national release. He also spent six weeks in Korea, at Seoul and Panmunjom, covering negotiations for the release of USS Pueblo and its crew.

Following a brief return to the United States in 1968, he returned to Detachment Alpha for another tour, traveling throughout Thailand, Republic of the Philippines,

Okinawa and Vietnam. For a five-month period, he was the only photojournalist in Vietnam with Combat Camera Group. His work appeared in civilian and military publications around the world.

Upon release from active Navy service in 1969, then Journalist First Class Egnor joined the Naval Reserve and served in Public Affairs Units drilling in Norfolk, Little

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Creek and Oceana, VA. He began his Navy civilian career during the same period with the Military Sealift Command (MSC) in Washington, DC, eventually being promoted as the command's Public Affairs Officer. In 1982, Mr. Egnor became head of the Still Media Division of the Naval Photographic Center—now the Navy Media Center—in Washington, DC. In 1986, Mr. Egnor became the head of the Still Photo Branch in the Media Operations Department of CHINFO.

While in the reserves, Mr. Egnor was promoted to Chief Journalist and later Senior Chief Journalist. He frequently deployed with active duty ships to produce photo articles for use by the civilian media. His last reserve assignment was as the Command Senior Chief for Naval Reserve Public Affairs Center 106 in Norfolk, VA. After more than 34 years active and reserve naval service, he joined the retired reserve in 1989.

In recent years, he spearheaded the transition of the Navy's photo program into the era of digital imagery. His early vision to embrace digital photography to document and report on Navy news around the world resulted in wide photo coverage of Navy operations in hot spots such as Haiti, Bosnia and the Persian Gulf, and humanitarian missions in Africa and the recovery of TWA Flight 800.

Because of his extensive knowledge of photojournalism, photographers and journalists throughout the world consistently sought Mr. Egnor's technical advice and professional insight, and, in return, received constant encouragement to forward their photography to

update the Navy's historical record of Navy operations. His military awards include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, and Navy Good Conduct medal with three stars for subsequent awards, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Expedition Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

