



Jay K. Rockwell

March 22, 2013

Jay K. Rockwell of 310 York Avenue, Towanda, passed from this life at home on March 22, 2013, after a battle with cancer.

He was a graduate of Towanda High School, Class of 1977. Jay played football for THS, was a class officer, and an outspoken advocate for his fellow classmates and friends. Soon after graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served eleven years. When the USS Missouri was recommissioned Jay was chosen to serve as a crew member on its inaugural voyage around the world, ending up at the 100th anniversary of the Australian Navy.

He served two deployments aboard the USS Missouri which covered the periods of Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

During the Desert Storm campaign he was the leading Petty Officer in charge of the Combat Information Center aboard ship and was awarded the U.S. Naval Achievement Medal for service set forth "For professional achievement in the superior performance of duties while serving as Leading Petty Officer of Operations Intelligence Division and Naval Gunfire Support Team Supervisor on USS Missouri (BB63) from May, 1986 to May, 1991 Petty Officer Rockwell performed his duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner. He developed comprehensive training plans and organized watchbills that contributed to the successful completion of two Harpoon Trainers and two Cruise Missile Tactical Qualifications. In addition, during Operation Desert Storm, he directed over 145 helicopter evolutions and 35 flight operations involving personnel, cargo and mail transfers without mishap. His diligent

efforts and resourcefulness inspired all who observed him and contributed to the accomplishment of USS Missouri's mission. Petty Officer Rockwell's professionalism and devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Following his discharge from the Navy he became an employee of Ward Industries, Inc. of Blossburg and worked for them for ten years in their steel mill in Blossburg PA. After the time of a large lay-off he decided on a career change and went to truck driving school. For nearly the past four years he has been a water tank driver for the gas industry's trucking firms, until a lay-off last fall.

In addition to his many friends he is survived by his mother, Jo Rockwell; his brothers, Dale of Salt Lake City (Denise); Dan Rockwell of Carbondale (JoAnn); David Rockwell of PA; and his sisters, Susan Rockwell of Goshen, N.Y. and Gerri Lynne Wagner (Joey) of Nichols, N.Y.; and his nephew, Bradley Rockwell of Pittsburgh, PA.

He was predeceased by his father, Gerald Rockwell of Lacey Wash.; his paternal grandparents, Carl and Doris Rockwell of West Burlington, and maternal grandparents J. Lynn and Clara Pantier of Montandon, PA.

Jay's favorite hobbies were hunting, fishing, and supporting the Pittsburgh Steelers. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Military honors will be accorded at Beirne Webster VFW Post No. 1568, Bridge Street Hill Road, Towanda, PA. on Sunday, March 24, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. The family will receive friends from 2 to 5 p.m. at the VFW.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Beirne Webster VFW Post No. 1568, 3271 Bridge Street Hill Road, Towanda, PA. 18848 in Jay K. Rockwell's memory. Memories and condolences may be expressed and shared by visiting www.bowenfuneralhomes.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Jay K. Rockwell

October 22, 2023 at 08:10 PM



“ Jay K. Rockwell

October 08, 2023 at 10:34 PM



“ Jay K. Rockwell

October 06, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ Jay K. Rockwell

October 06, 2023 at 03:29 AM



“ Jay K. Rockwell

October 05, 2023 at 02:02 PM



“ I served with Jay on the USS Haleakala. He was a great shipmate and good friend. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. My prayers go out to his family. We have some pictures on the Haleakala Facebook site.



Mike Kane - September 25, 2015 at 03:57 PM

CR

“*Serving with Jay onboard USS Missouri was one of my great pleasures. As his peer, his LPO and then his division Chief, Jay was one of the many great OSs that I have had the pleasure to serve with. Through all the evolutions and workups, Jay was there when we needed him. Through all the Mid-watches, the transits to foreign ports, thru all the GQs, he was there and ready to roll...Rock, it was my honor to have served with you...you will always be in the thoughts and prayers of those who loved you and who served with you.*

As President Kennedy once said "I can imagine no more rewarding a career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.'" It was a GREAT deal of Pride and Satisfaction that you were a member of OI Division on the best Battleship in the Navy.

"Fair Winds and Following Seas" to you shipmate...will see you in the great beyond...

Clif Bergeron, OSC (SW), USN Retired - March 27, 2013 at 10:22 AM

BQ

“*Ms. Rockwell, Dave, Dan, Sue, Lynn, and Dale, So sorry to have received the news of Jay. I used to run into him quite often when I would get back to Towanda. What a wonderful person with an outstanding sense of humor and personality. I will surely miss him and I am a better person to know Jay and all of you.*

Love,

Brian Quiggle & the Quiggle family



Brian Quiggle - March 25, 2013 at 10:43 AM

DR

“ *Rest in Heavenly Peace Jay! Fly High!*



Dee Reeves - March 24, 2013 at 10:22 PM

JD

“ *Joseph Daly lit a candle in memory of Jay K. Rockwell*



joseph daly - March 24, 2013 at 05:22 PM

SM

“ *My sympathies go out to you all. I remember Jay had a ready smile and a great sense of humor. Sherry Scott McKee*

Sherry McKee - March 23, 2013 at 06:15 PM