



**Wilks Eugene Hale, Jr.  
ET1(SS) USN Retired  
Blue**

**Oct 76 – Jul 79  
Eternal Patrol  
Janua y 15, 2021**

**Service Dates:  
May 63 – Oct 90**

From Facebook:

My husband, Wilks Eugene Hale, Jr, served aboard the USS Henry L Stimson (SSBN 655 BLUE), from 10/76 - 7/79.

Apparently, it was his favorite boat since he bought a cap a couple of years ago to commemorate it.

I regret to inform you that ET1 Hale passed away January 15, 2021.



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# IN LOVING MEMORY

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WILKS EUGENE HALE, JR.

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AUGUST 25, 1943 – JANUARY 15, 2021

FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH.  
AND THIS IS NOT YOUR OWN DOING;  
IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD, NOT A RESULT OF WORKS,  
SO THAT NO ONE MAY BOAST.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

WILKS EUGENE HALE, JR (better known as Bill and Skipper) went home to be with his gracious Lord January 15, 2021.

Bill was born in Dayton, Ohio August 25, 1943. His parents moved to Miami, Florida when Bill was just 3 months old. Even though he was raised in Florida, Jo never let him get away with calling himself a cracker. It became a common joke between them and he would make a point of telling anyone he met that Jo wouldn't let him claim that privileged status because he wasn't born here.

After making a perfect score on the entrance exam, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1963. He served in payroll and finance. He was sent to Vietnam and served in the same capacity there. He was honourably discharged from the Air Force in 1967. In 1973, Bill decided to re-enter military service, choosing this time to join the U.S. Navy. He was very interested in electronics, so he chose to train to become a submarine sailor. He easily qualified, ranking fourth in his submarine school classes. He served on a submarine for a few years as a Ship's Inertial Navigation Systems (SINS) technician. He then transferred to a Submarine Tender Ship where he served for a few years. His last transfer was to the Naval Ordnance Test Unit in Cape Canaveral where he served until his retirement in 1990.

After his retirement from the Navy, Bill moved to Lehigh Acres immediately to care for his ailing mother until she passed in 1991. He decided then to make Lehigh Acres his permanent home. After taking a much-needed break from employment, Bill applied for an electronics technician position with Lee County Department of Transportation: Tolls Division. He was hired in May of 1996 and retired in March of 2016.

In August of 1992, Bill became reacquainted with an old friend named Jo Ann. When he would tell the story, he always said it with such pride like this: " She hunted me down like a dog." This meeting, they both realized eventually, was planned by God because it started Bill on his journey to having a powerful encounter with Jesus and his life was forever changed. They married in 1997 and would have been married 24 years May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Bill was preceded in death by his father, Wilks Eugene Hale, Sr and his mother, Patricia Hale.

He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann. They are members of Providence and have been attending since the church was planted in Lehigh in 2010.

He is also survived by two sons, Wilks Edward (Ed) and wife, Nahal Hale of Brooklyn, NY and John Francis and wife, Tiffany Hale and two granddaughters, Allie and Alyssa of Fulshear, TX.

# MEMORIAL CELEBRATION

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## WELCOME/PRAYER

*REX DURHAM*

"AMAZING GRACE"

## MEMORIES OF A BROTHER-IN-CHRIST

*KELLY HILL*

*JERRY DEOLEO*

"HOW GREAT THOU ART"

## MEMORIES OF A BROTHER-IN-CHRIST

*JOSH SHERRELL*

## MEMORIES OF A SON

*ED HALE*

"IN CHRIST ALONE"

## MESSAGE FROM THE WORD

*REX DURHAM*

FLAG PRESENTATION

## CLOSING PRAYER

*REX DURHAM*



# DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL ORDNANCE TEST UNIT  
CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA 32920-1623

1650  
SPP00

06 DEC 1991

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Ordnance Test Unit  
To: Electronics Technician First Class Wilks E. Hale, Jr., USN,  
[REDACTED]

Subj: APPRECIATION FOR NAVAL SERVICE

1. On the occasion of your retirement from the United States Navy after having served more than twenty years of active service, it is appropriate to review your military record.

2. You first enlisted into the United States Air Force in May 1963 in which you served one tour of duty in Vietnam from March 1966 to February 1967. You subsequently enlisted in the Navy in October 1973 in which you continued to advance to Electronics Technician First Class. Your history of military service has been most impressive. You served in the following assignments:

MAY 63 - JUN 63 Basic Training, Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX  
JUN 63 - OCT 63 Disbursement/Payroll Specialist School, Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX  
OCT 63 - JAN 66 Headquarters, Strategic Air Command (SAC), Offutt AFB, Omaha, NB  
FEB 66 - APR 66 Tan Son Nhut Airbase, Saigon, Vietnam  
APR 66 - FEB 67 Ben Thuy Airbase, Can Tho, Vietnam  
OCT 73 - APR 75 Naval Guided Missiles School, Damneck, VA  
APR 75 - OCT 76 USS John C. Calhoun (SSBN 630)(Gold)  
OCT 76 - JUL 79 USS Henry L. Stimson (SSBN 655)(Blue)  
AUG 79 - AUG 82 Naval Ordnance Test Unit, Cape Canaveral, FL  
AUG 82 - APR 84 USS Daniel Boone (SSBN 629)(Blue)  
JUL 84 - MAR 85 USS Stonewall Jackson (SSBN 634)(Gold)  
APR 85 - AUG 85 Commander, Submarine Group SIX, Charleston, SC  
AUG 85 - SEP 87 USS Simon Lake (AS 33), Pascagoula, MS/Holyloch, Scotland  
SEP 87 - OCT 90 Naval Ordnance Test Unit, Cape Canaveral, FL

3. Your outstanding performance and devotion to duty have been the subject of official recognition. Your awards and decorations include: Navy Unit Commendation (two awards), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Battle "E", Good Conduct Award (five awards), Vietnam Service Medal with second bronze star, National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Ribbon (two awards), SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia with one bronze star and two silver stars, and Submarine Insignia.

4. A review of your dedicated service to the Navy and to the country portrays your unrelenting support of the Navy's goals and ideals. It gives me great pleasure to express the Navy's appreciation for your many years of faithful and honorable service. On behalf of the President, Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations, and the officers and men of Naval Ordnance Test Unit, I wish you Godspeed and continued success in future endeavors.

John L. Byron