



## Gregg Lee Snaza

October 26, 2015

Command Master Chief Gregg Lee Snaza, 50, passed away on Monday, October 26, 2015 at his home in Portsmouth.

Gregg was born in South Dakota. He is survived by his loving wife Cheri Snaza; two daughters, Nicole and Yeoman First Class Kaila Snaza; and, his adorable grandson Parker Lee. He also leaves behind his father Julian Snaza of Mankato, MN and mother Margaret Snaza of St. Peter, MN; three sisters, Kelli Bohm and Shannon Snaza, both of Mankato, MN and Erin Joice of Baldwin, FL; and, a brother Nathan Snaza of Richmond, VA. He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Gregg proudly served the United States Navy for over 32 years. His early sea tours included USS Wisconsin (BB 64), USS Josephus Daniels (CG 27), USS George Washington (CVN 73), and USS Kearsarge (LHD 3). His early shore assignments included Navy Broadcasting Service, Detachment Argentina, Newfoundland, Canada; Navy Public Affairs Support Element East; Submarine Force Atlantic; and U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

He served as Command Master Chief of USS Ross (DDG 71), Naval Station Norfolk, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), and the Navy Exchange Service Command. At the time of his death, he was the Regional Command Master Chief for Commander Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, headquartered in

Norfolk.

When Gregg was not working and taking care of Sailors, you could find him entertaining friends and family with dinners and fine wine from his impressive collection.

He was a highly decorated and respected sailor, a great Chief who loved his Navy and country and was loved by so many. Gregg will always be remembered for the great leader he was and for the legacy he leaves behind.

While the Navy may have been his first love, his greatest love was his family. He was immensely proud of his daughters and adored his grandson Parker. Cheri, whom he met in Korea in 1997 and married in 2002 was the absolute love of his life.

A memorial service will be held at Naval Station Norfolk, 9475 Bacon Ave., Bldg. C-9, Tuesday, November 3 at 10 a.m. A reception and celebration of his life will immediately follow at Vista Point Conference Center. In lieu of flowers, family and friends can honor his legacy with a donation in his name to the Navy Chief Petty Officer Scholarship Fund at <http://www.cposf.org/> In accordance with his wishes, he will be buried at sea.

# Previous Events

## Memorial service

NOV 3. 10:00 AM (ET)

Naval Station Norfolk  
9475 Bacon Ave.  
Building C-9  
Norfolk, VA

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ *Sending our deepest sympathy to the Snaza during this difficult time.  
My husband and I know Margaret and how proud she is of her son, Gregg.  
May your memories be of happy times and may your faith give you hope for eternal life.  
You are in our thoughts and prayers.  
David & Nancy Hiniker  
Kasota, MN*

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**David and Nancy Hiniker** - November 05, 2015 at 01:29 PM

JG

“ *You were and always will be one of my life's greatest friends, Gregg. Throughout the years, as we "grew up" together, you showed me time and time again what it means to be a Chief. I will think of you and miss you every day. There is a sign in my office that I made based on something I learned from you, and it always makes me smile:*

*"Sailors belong on ships,  
Ships belong at sea.  
Land is a navigational hazard  
And liberty interferes with training."*

*Fair winds and following seas, mate.*

*ATCS(AW/SW) Jay Gillon, USN (RET)*

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**Jay Gillon** - November 04, 2015 at 12:41 PM

CJ

“ Dear Cheri and Family,

*I am so sorry for your loss and my thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family.*

*I was honored to serve with Gregg onboard the USS Kearsage LHD 3. He helped initiate me as a Chief! He was a strong leader in our mess and someone who I always looked up too. He was dedicated to our Navy and his Sailors. Gregg was always willing to take the time to teach and pass on his experiences.*

*Fair Winds and Following Seas Brother...*

*Respectfully,*

*Corey J. Joles  
MAC(SW) (Ret)  
Chesapeake, VA*

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**Corey J. Joles** - November 03, 2015 at 12:49 PM

RY

“ *Fair Winds and Following Seas Shipmate. It was an honor to have served with you on USS Dwight D. Eisenhower through two arduous deployments and am glad to have had the time under your leadership.*

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**Ryan** - November 03, 2015 at 10:11 AM

MG

“ I was extremely saddened to hear about Gregg's passing. I served with Gregg at Naval Station Norfolk from 2009-2011. We had some good times! My fondest memory was when I played Santa Claus for the Command Christmas Party and I roared in to Vista Point Center with Gregg on the back of his beloved Harley! Some things we never forget!

Anyone who ever worked with him, was transitioned to CPO with him or was under his care as a leader always came away a better person. Oh yes, he could be hard, but he was always fair. He always spoke the truth, had an immense thirst for life (and good wine) and did his very best for his crew. He was truly a 'Sailor's Sailor'!

I will continue to remember him, Cheri and the girls, and the rest of his loving family in my prayers. I pray for the repose of his soul that he is with Our Lord Jesus, in heaven, this day!

Respectfully,

Michael Gaspar  
CPO USN(ret.)  
Palm Harbor, FL

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Michael Gaspar - November 02, 2015 at 08:06 PM

MM

“ J.M.J. I was saddened to hear of the passing of +Gregg. May he rest in peace. I will offer the Holy Mass for his Soul's happy repose. May Jesus and Mary bless the Snaza Family and all those who mourn the passing of +Gregg from this earth.

In J.M.J., Monsignor Charles M. Mangan



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Monsignor Charles M. Mangan - November 02, 2015 at 02:06 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gregg Lee Snaza.*



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November 02, 2015 at 01:54 PM



“ *I first met Gregg as my room-mate at The Defense Information School at Fort Benjamin Harrison in 1983 or 84. He was a competitive young man from the git-go! Unusually, he employed a wit honed beyond his young age. We stayed in touch and I was surprised when he left the Navy to take a sabbatical- but was able to help him return to the Service as by then I was the JO detailer. No better man could have been recruited back into the service as a Chief Petty Officer! Gregg went the distance- and really brought home the prize. As the last Sailor promoted to JOCM, as a CMC and as a person driven by a set of unusually refined values. His entire community was very proud of him. And I for one will never forget this exceptional character. All my love and sympathies to his lovely family. VR/Dave Lovato, JOCM(SW), USN (Ret'd)*

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**Dave Lovato** - November 02, 2015 at 12:42 PM



“ *Cheri and those who cherished Gregg, Tom & I treasured those dinners and wines and hold them near and dear in our hearts. Our friendship will live on forever. Knowing Gregg has made us better people! We love you Cheri and will keep you in our prayers. With all our love, Tom & Lesia Howard*

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**Tom and Lesia Howard** - November 02, 2015 at 08:59 AM

JB

“ Gregg was a great leader, patriot and most of a friend who will be missed by many more Sailors than we can count. He made a difference. I'll miss you Shipmate.  
*Jim Brantley, JOC (Ret)*

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**Jim Brantley** - November 02, 2015 at 07:32 AM

KH

“ I knew Gregg casually through the greater Hampton Roads Chief's mess, having met him during the 2007 CPO Season. He was much respected across the area and influenced the careers of so many, to include several of my personal friends. From one Navy family to another, we send our deepest condolences to Cheri and his beautiful family.

*Kate Handley, PSC (Retired), USN*

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**Kathleen Handley** - November 02, 2015 at 07:16 AM

MD

“ Dear Snaza Family,  
Gregg was a great friend and classmate of my brother, Bill, at Sacred Heart School and Roncalli High School. I reconnected with Gregg a few years ago through Facebook, and was delighted to see that the little kid I had known grew up to be such a fine man. I will keep you in my prayers.  
*Mary Jo Mangan Dundas*



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**Mary Jo Mangan Dundas** - November 01, 2015 at 07:23 PM

JB

“ *Master Chief Snaza, Cheri and family,  
My sincere condolences to the entire Snaza family. Gregg thank you  
for your leadership and guidance as the USS ROSS (DDG-71)  
Onbudsman years ago. Cheri you were Gregg's rock and jewel.  
Thank you also for sharing your wealth of knowledge with me. May  
God embrace your family with strength and love during this difficult  
time. 🙏  
chips1312@cox.net*

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**Jacqueline Blake** - November 01, 2015 at 10:23 AM

JJ

“ *Although I did not personally know Gregg, as a 23-year Navy retiree  
I see from his obituary that we shared a few things in common. I  
was on the "Joey D" from July 1977 - July 1978, and was also a  
Command Master Chief (E9). This is just a note to thank him and  
his family for their service to our country, and burial at sea is a  
wonderful tribute to the Navy he loved so dearly. May he rest in  
peace. John O. Parmele, Jr., PNCM, USN  
(Retired - 1984). johnparmele@yahoo.com*

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**John O. Parmele, Jr.** - November 01, 2015 at 07:02 AM

BR

“ *Cheri and family, Mugs and Shorty and family,  
Across the many miles between us, my heart is heavy and aches  
with deepest sadness for everyone who was touched by our dearest  
Gregg. It has been years since I've seen Gregg, but we touched  
base now and then via email as if there were no distance between  
us. He took pictures at our wedding in 1983 and he will never ever  
be forgotten. I've spent hours on the internet reading about Gregg  
and his life and his family and career, trying to make some sense of  
it all. In conclusion, my only comfort comes from scripture; "To be  
absent from the body is to be present with the Lord".  
With tears, emptiness, grief, sadness, and joyful fond memories, I  
send my condolences, hugs, and sincere heartfelt love to you all.  
God Bless your cloudy days with memories of Gregg, "a faithful  
servant to God and our Country".  
Sincerely,  
Brenda Hamak Diede  
ddbunch@nrctv.com*

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**Brenda** - October 31, 2015 at 09:22 PM

LH

“ *My sincere condolences to the family.  
SHCS RET (SW/AW) Holder*

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**LEARIE HOLDER** - October 30, 2015 at 05:34 AM