



# Captain George M. Elliott

JUL 29, 1937 - OCT 17, 2014



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## **Captain George M. Elliott**

JUL 29, 1937 - OCT 17, 2014

**C**aptain George M. Elliott, age 77, of Lewes, DE passed away on Friday, October 17, 2014 at his residence, after a humble and dignified journey with cancer. He was born on July 29, 1937 in Gumboro, DE, son of the late Josh Elliott and Mary Florence (Brittingham) Elliott.

In 1939 the family moved to Laurel, DE where George attended Laurel Public Schools, graduating in June of 1955 from Laurel High School. Upon graduation, he entered the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. He graduated in June of 1959 from the Academy as a commissioned Ensign.

George's first assignment was on the USS Meredith (DD890) in Norfolk, VA, where he served as the Chief Engineering Officer until May of 1962. George was then transferred to Charleston, SC, where he served as the Executive Officer on the minesweeper USS Alacrity (MSO 520) In June of 1963 George was promoted to Lieutenant.

In August of 1964, George was assigned to the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, where he graduated in May of 1966 and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. George then served from August of 1966 until April of 1968 as Commanding Officer of the ocean salvage tug USS Nipmuc (ATF 157), whose home port was Newport, RI. During this time, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Following this duty station, George was ordered to serve his country in the Republic of Vietnam as the Commander of Coastal Division Eleven, which was based in An Thoi.

In August of 1969, George reported as a student to the U.S. Naval War College in the Naval Command and Staff course. After completing these studies in June of 1970, he was ordered to the USS Orleck (DD886) in San Diego, CA as Executive Officer. In February of 1971, George was given command of the destroyer USS Epperson (DD719) at Pearl Harbor. It was during this tenure that he was promoted to the rank of Commander. Following this tour of duty, he returned to the



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Naval War College in Newport, RI. Here he continued his studies in Naval Warfare and also enrolled in additional courses offered by George Washington University, which led to the conferring of the Master of Science in International Affairs in May of 1974.

In July of 1974 George began a thirty month tour of duty at Norfolk, VA on the staff of Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (NATO) as Current Operations Officer. This was followed by an appointment as Commander Carrier Group Eight staff as Plans Officer. The staff was housed on the USS America (CVS 66) based in Norfolk, VA.

In August of 1979 George reported to the U.S. State Department for studies with the Executive Seminar in National and International Affairs. In August of 1980 he began a tour of duty at the Pentagon as part of the naval staff in the Strategic Plans and Policy Division. George served as Near East desk officer for 18 months. He would then assume the duties of Executive Secretary to the Chief of Naval Operations for JCS Matters.

In December of 1982 George took command of the USS Samuel Gompers (AD37) and deployed to Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. The Samuel Gompers was a repair ship with a crew of 1300 sailors, approximately 300 of whom were female. This was the first major US naval vessel with a co-ed crew.

George retired from active duty on September 1, 1985. It was then that George and his wife, Trenny, moved "back home" to Lewes in Sussex County, DE where he resided until his passing.

Though George retired from active military duty, he did not stop serving his community. George worked nine years with Windsor's Greenhouses, he was a member of the Lewes-Rehoboth Rotary Club since 1987. George served as President of the Rotary Club from 1994 to 1995. He was President of the Lewes Historical Society from 1996 to 2003 and Director of the Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation. George had a personal commitment to the lightship's restoration. George was honored to be inducted into the Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame in 2011.

George was known for his very dry sense of humor, something his friends and family surely will miss. He was an avid gardener and enjoyed playing golf whenever the opportunity would present itself.



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In addition to his parents George was preceded in death by his wife, Trennick Marvil Elliott in 2006. He is survived by his daughter, Kristin E. Baker and her husband Weber of Farmers Branch, TX; two granddaughters, Bethany Brooke Elliott of Farmers Branch, TX and Erin Elizabeth Elliott of Ft. Worth, TX; one sister, Rachel Waller, and her husband Ronnie of Laurel, DE and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, November 1, 2014 at 10 AM at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 211 Mulberry Street, Lewes, DE 19958. Interment at St George's was held on October 23.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations may be made to the Lewes Historical Society, 110 Shipcarpenter Street, Lewes, DE 19958, the Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation, P. O. Box 413, Lewes, DE 19958, or, a charity of your choice.

Please sign George's online guestbook at this site.

PDF Printable Version



## Tribute Wall

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GC

**George Cree** lit a candle in honor of Captain.



July 16 at 12:48 PM

DT

**David Tyrrell** posted:

I am finding this some time after Captain Elliott's passing but wanted to take this opportunity to pay my respects. Captain Elliott was my commanding officer on the USS Epperson for both mine and the Eppersons last war cruise, 11/72 to 4/73. I am proud to have served in his command. He was as good a Skipper a sailor could have had.

September 11 at 2:06 PM

DG

**Daniel Glessner** posted:

I also served under Captain Elliott on the Gompers. Great Captain. Once I was called to his stateroom to set his safe. I had a very bad experience with the previous captain and was trying my best to finish the task and get out. He stopped and talked with me. A couple weeks later I met him in a passageway. He called me by name and had some more small talk. After four years active and twenty in the reserve he remains my most admired Naval Officer. Very respectfully, Daniel Glessner

July 3 at 5:04 PM

TS

**Thomas Savarino** posted:

It was such an honor to serve under such a great captain, Like Captain George M. Elliott. Rest with God. See you someday in Davy Jones locker.

August 8 at 8:00 PM

CP

**Carole Pearce** posted:

So sorry to hear that George passed away. He and Treney were good friends of my husband, Jerry and I. Since my husband died I have been out of the loop. My sincere sympathy to Chris and family. Blessings, Carole

December 17 at 8:00 PM



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DL

**Darl Lunde** posted:

Awesome Captain...RIP!

November 28 at 8:00 PM

CT

**Corinne Thieleman** posted:

I served under Captain Elliot in 1983-84 on the USS Samuel Gompers. I went to Captain's Mast three times during that time. By the time I managed not to get kicked out he knew me by name and would greet me whenever he saw me, "Good morning/afternoon/evening Seaman Thieleman." I loved that he did that! Rest in peace, Captain Elliot Sir.

November 3 at 8:00 PM

CF

**Charles Frankhauser** posted:

I was a classmate of George at U.S. Naval Academy, 14th Company.

November 3 at 8:00 PM

CR

**Captain & Mrs Robert F. Dipalma Usn (Ret)** posted:

George, aka the "SHOE", will always be in our prayers and memories. We regret not knowing your health was failing but we will always remember you for the special person you are and will always be! God bless you until we meet again.Ralph

November 2 at 8:00 PM

BG

**Bm2 Keith Garcia** posted:

Thank you Captain Elliott. I will always remember that fishing trip in Diego Garcia. A good man and a great person.

November 1 at 8:00 PM

RL

**Rick Linderme** posted:

I was proud to serve under Captain Elliott aboard The USS Samuel Gompers AD-37... I would have followed him through the gates of Hell... Captain may you always have a steady deck beneath your feet with fair winds and following seas...

November 1 at 8:00 PM



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TP

**Tom Payeur** posted:

My first Commanding Officer and excellent role model. Will always remember Captain Elliot as a leader who wasn't afraid to put on his coveralls and help us all fix things. Fair winds and following seas, shipmate.

November 1 at 8:00 PM

CM

**Capt John Mascali** posted:

George, You are gone but not forgotten. We played baseball and golf together, and argued and laughed about politics many times. I will always remember you as a true and loyal friend and wish you a "fair wind and following sea".

November 1 at 8:00 PM

TM

**Timothy Martinson** posted:

I was a pleasure to serve under your command. I met you when I was mess attending in the Wardroom. You gave me a big smile at my frocking and said I looked great then shared your disappointment in me when I was demoted again. RIP Captain Elliot

October 31 at 8:00 PM

DK

**David Kraeger** posted:

Capt Elliott and family. Thank you for your service. Fair winds and following seas.

October 31 at 8:00 PM

KE

**Karen Emerson** posted:

RIP Captain Elliott. I'll always remember you from my days on the USS Samuel Gompers. AD-37

October 30 at 8:00 PM

DC

**Debbie Cochran** posted:

Debbie Cochran has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

October 30 at 8:00 PM



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DC

**David P. Coughlin** posted:

Caption Elliott was my Commanding Officer when I was on board the USS Samuel Gompers. He was a good man and a great Commanding Officer. what I remember about him was he was very easy to talk to and a down to earth person. Fair winds and calm sea's Capatin.

October 30 at 8:00 PM

CC

**Christopher Curtis** posted:

An honor to have served under his command at USS Samuel Gompers, condolences to his family

October 30 at 8:00 PM

JB

**Jonna Janecek Barker** posted:

my heart goes out to the family. I was lucky to serve with Captain Elliot while onboard USS Samuel Gompers, he was one of the best CO's I worked for during my 20 years of service.

October 30 at 8:00 PM

MS

**Ms2 Kathryn Shaffer** posted:

Thank you Capt for being our Captain on the USS Samuel Gompers and getting us home safely. I appreciate all the hard work associated with that. You were the best CO ever. I will always look up to you. RIP Captain Elliott

October 30 at 8:00 PM

DB

**Daniel Behrens** posted:

It was an honor to serve under the command of Capt. Elliott. He was instrumental on changing my path in the Navy, where I retired as a Chief Petty Officer. Fair Winds and Following Seas, Sir.

October 30 at 8:00 PM

CY

**Clint And Judy Young** posted:

If you looked up the term "good person" George's picture should be next to it.A long time friend who will be missed but not forgotten.

October 28 at 8:00 PM



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**Williams Family** posted:

Condolences to the Elliot family. May Jehovah the "God of Comfort" bring you comfort and peace at this difficult time (2 Corinthians 1:3 & 4). Your family are in our prayers.

October 27 at 8:00 PM



**Bob And Florence Wootten** posted:

A good friend whose wisdom and wit will be sorely missed.

October 27 at 8:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Captain by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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