



Rear Admiral Mark Guadagnini

United States Navy Retired

Rear Admiral (Ret.) Mark Daniel Guadagnini, "Guad"; Naval Aviator, leader, beloved husband, father, and "Guad Dad" died on June 11, 2022, at the age of 64.

A native of Long Beach, California, Mark graduated from Wilson High School and completed one year at Long Beach City College before earning admission to the U.S. Naval Academy. He graduated with distinction from the Academy in 1980, earning a Bachelor of Science in Economics and was instrumental in establishing volleyball as a varsity sport at the Academy. After a brief tour with the Navy Fighter Weapons School, he entered flight training, earning his wings in 1982.

Operationally, he served as a division officer in Attack Squadron VA-65, on the staff of Carrier Air Wing 8 as head landing signal officer and strike operations officer, as head of the safety and maintenance departments in VA-65, and as operations officer for Carrier Strike Group 8. He commanded Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 15 from 1997 to 1998 and Carrier Air Wing 17 from 2004 to 2005. During these operational tours he operated from the decks of 12 different aircraft carriers, participating in combat Operations Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, Deliberate Force, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

Shore duty assignments include three years as test pilot and instructor at the Naval Test Pilot School, Legislative Fellowship in the United States Senate, as aide and flag lieutenant in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, and on the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet staff in Hawaii. He also worked as liaison between the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the U.S. Congress and served as Division Director for Aviation Officer Distribution in the Navy Personnel Command.

As a flag officer, Mark commanded Carrier Strike Group NINE, served as the Chief of Naval Air Training, Head of Human Resources for the Naval Aviation Enterprise, and Deputy Commander for Fleet Management and Director, Maritime Headquarters for U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

Mark flew over 4,700 flight hours in 52 different aircraft. He flew 95 combat missions throughout his career and received numerous personal and unit awards. The memory of his outstanding leadership and dedication to his sailors will live forever.

Following his successful Navy career, Mark transition to the energy sector with Shell, where his responsibilities ranged from managing a supply chain that spanned 12,000 miles of the Arctic coast to overseeing the health and safety of over 80,000 employees/contractors.

Guad is survived by his wife, Donna; his children, Christine, Casey (Matt), Mark (Joy), Michael (Ashley); his grandchildren, Gavin, Eliana, Ethan, Brooke, Desmond, & Nash; his father Frank and mother Rosemarie; his siblings Frank and Cristi; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

An interment will be held at Arlington National Cemetery in 2023.