

Phillip W. 'Phil' Johnston
STS2(SS) Gold Crew 1967-1971
August 5, 1941 - April 24, 2018

STS2(SS) Phillip W. 'Phil' Johnston, Gold Crew 67-71, departed on Eternal Patrol on May 22, 2018. He has been added to the website Eternal Patrol page and a memorial page added for him. The sailing list has been updated to indicate he is now on Eternal Patrol. I have placed a message of condolence on the Funeral Home website on behalf of the Stimson Association. His name will be placed in the Eternal Patrol section of the next newsletter.

Phil was a Life Member of the Henry L. Stimson Association, a Life Member of USSVI Minn-St Paul Base, and a member of the Holland Club.

PHILLIP W. JOHNSTON

Phillip William Johnston was born, October 8, 1946 to Lewis E. Johnston and Harriet A. (Steen) Johnston in Grafton, ND. He passed away May 22, 2018 after a long battle with lung cancer at the age of 71. Phillip went to school in Forest River until 1962 when Midway opened; he graduated from Midway High School in 1964 and joined the Navy in 1966. Phillip qualified in Submarines while aboard the USS Henry L. Stimson, SSB(N) 655 with the Gold Crew and served with this crew until his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy in 1970. He was a life member of the American Legion, The United States Submarine Veterans Association, and a Patron Member of the National Rifle Association. Phillip married Cindy Nelson—the love of his life—on June 15th, 1968. Phillip and Cindy finished their education at the University of North Dakota together and moved out to the farm near Forest River shortly after their graduation, in 1972. Both were always proud to say “Go Sioux!”

Phillip served on the Midway School Board for 5 years and on the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association for 9 years. He farmed near Forest River and became a nationally recognized writer and author. He truly loved hunting and fishing and when it was too windy to fish on the Lake of the Woods, he and Cindy struggled with golf later in life. Phillip always said that golf was the most exciting game that he'd ever played because he never knew where or how far the ball would go if he hit it at all.

Phillip is survived by his wife and best friend Cindy, son Army Lieutenant Colonel Paul D. Johnston, Retired, and daughter Dr. Victoria J. Gelling (Jason) and four grandchildren: William and Madeline Gelling, and Marah and Liam Johnston.

Phillip wants to thank everyone who worked so hard to keep him alive. The care and love that he felt in the Altru Cancer Center every visit made it feel like coming home. Thank all of you so very much.

Visitation will be from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon followed by military honors at 12:00 noon on Friday, May 25, 2018 at Amundson Funeral Home of Grand Forks. Burial will be in the Forest River Cemetery.


<http://www.tributes.com/obituary/show/Phillip-W.-Johnston-106118825>

I knew that Phil had something to do with the beginnings of the Association and I asked some of those who were around when this all started to give me some info. Here's what I was able to piece together. I received several inputs and tried to include anything pertinent. Any inaccuracies to this story are completely mine.

In the mid to late 1990s there was a discussion of having a reunion of the Stimson Gold crews who had served with Bob Weeks. Bob wanted a group of Gold Commissioning Crew to get together with

his primary contacts being Ray Kreul, Earl Forbes, and Jake Morris. Earl and Ray, being "forward" crew brought in Phil and Chuck Hladik, among others. Phil and Jeff Bricmont took the lead and organized a reunion for Mandan, North Dakota. The original position was this group would be limited to Gold Crew, patrols 2-10 (1966-1971), those that served with. Ray and Rita Kreul volunteered to organize the next reunion two years later in Groton. When the SubBase forced Ray to open the reunion to all crew members for Groton 1, we decided the next one should be open to all Stimson crews, and formed the nucleus of the Stimson Association. Phil never accepted the open Association. He did Chair the Kansas City reunion but never accepted the fact that all crew members were included.

Phillip W. Johnston B60 78 75 ~~STS SSN~~ STS5



WIFE'S NAME _____
 CHILDREN'S NAMES: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

HOME STATE / TOWN North Dakota, Forest River
 (STATE) (TOWN)

PREVIOUS DUTY STATIONS USS America-CV666

SPECIAL INTERESTS _____
 SERVICE NUMBER B60 78 75 ADD 2-66
 REPORTING DATE 2-10-70 TOTAL ACTIVE SERVICE 1.8yrs
 CREW ASSIGNMENT Gold
 WIFE'S LOCAL ADDRESS _____
 8 Oct 46
 GRAFTON, North DAKOTA



Phillip W. Johnston, STS2(SS)



USSVI Life Member



Holland Club



Submarine Qualified
50 years ago

US Navy Service Information

Years Served	Joined in 1966 left in 1970
Highest Rank - Rate	E5 - STS2(SS)
Other Military Service	Branch: ? Highest Rank:
Service Number	B60-78-75
USN Retired	No
Naval Service Highlights	
Ships Served On	SS-340, SSBN-655

Membership in the USSVI

Member Info	Joined USSVI on: 1/1/1994
Primary Base	Minn-St Paul
Member Type	Holland Club Life Member since 2/28/1996
Title or Office	
Comments	
SS Qualified	in 1968 on the USS Henry L Stimson (SSBN-655)
Dual Membership	USS ROBALO

Membership in Minn-St Paul Base Information

Base Info	Joined Base on: 3/1/1994
USSVI Info	Joined USSVI on: 1/1/1994 Holland Club Life Member since 2/28/1996
Title or Office	
Comments	
SS Qualified	in 1968 on the USS Henry L Stimson (SSBN-655)
Other Assn's	USSVI, USSVI-MINN-ST PAUL, USSVI-USS ROBALO
Active Duty Status	

Hull#	Ship's Name	Rate/Rank	Years
SS-340 🇺🇸	Entemedor	STS2(SS)	
SSBN-655 🇺🇸	Henry L Stimson	STS2(SS)	1968-68

Nickname	Association Name	Joined
USSVI-MINN-ST PAUL 🇺🇸	USSVI Base - Minn-St Paul	1994
USSVI-USS ROBALO 🇺🇸	USSVI Base - USS Robalo	1994