



## Captain John Merrit "Wondy" Wondergem

November 13, 1922 - June 7, 2014

Captain John Merrit "Wondy" Wondergem, U.S. Navy (Ret) passed away at his residence on June 7, 2014 with Shirley, his loving wife of 67 years by his side. Wondy was born in Boston, Massachusetts on November 13, 1922 and lived in Metairie for the past 44 years. He was a leader in both the military and his personal life winning the respect and admiration of all who knew him.

Wondy began his long distinguished military career by enlisting in the United States Navy in 1942 and retired after 32 years of service. He was awarded the following certificates and medals: Joint Service Commendation; Pre-Pearl Harbor; American Theatre; Pacific Theatre; China Occupation; World War II Victory Medal; National Defense Service Medal; China Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. While as commander of Helicopter Squadron HS3 in the Atlantic Fleet, Commander Wondergem recovered Scott Carpenter in the "Sigma 7" space capsule of Project Mercury. He also was commander of Helicopter Squadron HS1 and Air Group 50 in Key West, FL. Wondy was the Navigator and then the Executive Officer of the Aircraft Carrier, USS Wasp. Captain Wondergem retired in 1974. His last duty assignment was Chief of Staff of the Eighth Naval District in Algiers. Throughout his life Wondy was a "ham" radio operator, call sign, K5KR, and an active member and past president of the Delta DX Association.

Wondy is survived by his beloved wife Ruth Shirley Watts Wondergem, whom he met in New Orleans while in flight training at Loyola; a son, Glen V. Wondergem of Folsom (Debbie); two daughters, Terry W. Willenbrock of

Richardson, TX (Eric) and Diane Callaway Taylor of Slidell, LA; nine grandchildren, John Wondergem (Julie), Austin Callaway (Sarah), Jason Willenbrock (Holly), Katie Callaway, Julie Willenbrock, Emily Taylor, David Porter (Sarah), Penni Sperier (Joey) and Keely Daigle (Steven); and 14 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his daughter, Sheryl W. Czepluch (Ralf); and his parents, Katherine Bollmann and John Leonard Wondergem. Wondy was a loving family man who cherished his family. He and Shirley took many trips to see the world and enjoyed life to the fullest. He established many wonderful friendships during his life's journey and will be sadly missed by his family and friends and especially his children and grandchildren whom he guided successfully in life. After all his achievements the greatest thing Wondy accomplished was accepting Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Captain Wondergem was laid to rest, next to his daughter, with military honors in the Garden of Memories Cemetery.

A Memorial Service will be held at L. A. Muhleisen and Son Funeral Home, 2607 Williams Blvd., Kenner on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. with a visitation from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. In lieu of the usual remembrances, please consider a donation to Northwood Church, 1500 Hwy 22, Mandeville, LA 70471 with the notation "Royal Kid's Camp Fund" on the memo line, in memory of Wondy. To

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 11. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

L.A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home  
2607 Williams Blvd  
Kenner, LA 70062  
(504) 466-8577  
info@muhleisen.com

## Memorial Service

JUN 11. 1:00 PM (CT)

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2607 Williams Blvd  
Kenner, LA 70062  
(504) 466-8577  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Captain John Merrit "Wondy" Wondergem*

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October 15, 2023 at 09:39 PM



“ *Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. I would like to share with you a promise from the bible in hopes that it will bring you some comfort in your time of grief. Revelation 21:4 tells us that soon Jehovah our God (Psalms 83:18) will wipe every tear from our eyes and death will be no more. Just as it says in the prayer that Jesus gave to us himself, Matthew 6:10, let your kingdom come let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We look forward to day when death is no more, we are reunited with our loved ones that have fallen asleep in death (Ecclesiastes 9:5) and God's Kingdom rules (Matthew 6:10) in a paradise on earth (Psalms 37:29), just as God has promised (Isaiah 55.11). If you would like to know more about what the bible really teaches about the resurrection hope (Acts 24:15), God's Kingdom rule (Daniel 2:444) and an earthly paradise (Psalms 37:11) , please visit [jw.org](http://jw.org).*

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Angel - June 24, 2014 at 11:12 PM



“ *Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me even though he dies, will come to life."  
May the God of all comfort support the family and friends during this time of grief. 2 Corinthians 1:3,4.*

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LT Dugue - June 24, 2014 at 06:36 AM

LB

“ Dear Shirley,  
I was very sorry to hear of the loss of your dear husband.  
My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family during this  
difficult time. God Bless you!  
With Sympathy  
Lillian Becker (Cousin)

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**Lillian Becker** - June 13, 2014 at 02:29 PM

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“ My name is David Muller aka W5NPV. I have not talked to Wondy in  
35 years. He was kind enough to teach my wife, Sue Muller, enough  
to pass her technician exam with the F.C.C. He taught his wife and  
Sue together. We used to laugh because when the ladies did not  
understand something, he would yell louder! Shortly after this I was  
transferred to Atlanta and we lost track of each other.  
We both have fond memories of Wondy. It was LAST week I was  
talking about Wondy to a friend in my radio club. I now live in  
Folsom and belong to the Southeast Louisiana Amateur Radio Club.  
(SELARC) My friend Bob Priez new Wondy very well! He also had  
fond memories of Wondy!  
We will all miss him. I am sorry to see him go.  
David Muller  
W5NPV

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**David Muller (W5NPV)** - June 11, 2014 at 03:48 PM

LO

“ Dear Glen, Debbie, and family: I am so sorry to learn of the death of your Dad. Though we have been friends for nearly 40 years, I never had the pleasure of meeting Capt. Wondy. Being from a military family myself, I salute Capt. Wondy for his service to our country ... "freedom isn't free". Please call on me if I can be of any help in the coming weeks and months. "Rest in peace good and faithful servant", Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon him! Love and Peace, Louis Ogle

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**Louis Ogle** - June 11, 2014 at 10:38 AM

HO

“ Praying for you all, a truly great man and a blessing! Love yall,  
Holly

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**Holly** - June 10, 2014 at 08:51 AM