

From: Gosnell, Jim <jim.gosnell@viasat.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 3, 2022 10:33 AM

Subject: Skip Anderson Update

I Saw Heaven Today

Dear Family, Friends, and Classmates,

Great visit with Skip on Saturday, he is alert and enjoying his life with his family and friends. Still smiling and sharing in the stories with his usual good humor and observations! When, you approach the house, you are reminded of his service and loyalty to our country by the Commander D.M. Anderson Jr, USN parking spot! Skip served his country for 24 years from the U.S. Naval Academy Prep School (NAPS), through the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1980, through flight school, fighter squadrons, carrier deployments, staff positions and retired with CDR Pete Andreasen onboard the USS Missouri in 1999. A veteran, a patriot, a great example of self-sacrifice for his family and friends.



Susan, Kate, her husband John flew in from Colorado for the holiday weekend, and the trusty watchdog Cash were all there and taking fantastic care of Skip. We laughed and shared stories of pups, the usual medical updates, the growing expectation of the engagement of Nick and Kelsey, 4th of July barbeque plans and how blessed Skip, Susan and family have been for so many years. Skip is looking forward to seeing Pete and Stef Andreasen soon.

A photo of the boys shaking hands, keeping the links in the chain strong, and celebrating the joys of friendship in Skip's beautiful backyard!



Cash with his F-14 Bandana is ready for the 4th of July:



When I looked into Skips Eyes, I saw heaven today. A man a peace with his maker, who has fulfilled his destiny. Skip has successfully achieved the challenge:

Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you have been called, and make a good profession of faith in the sight of many witnesses.

When I closed my eyes to leave, I could see the Renegade Red Chariot getting polished and ready to bring another warrior home. I listened quietly and heard the angels in heaven singing in the choir and preparing for the arrival of another great Christian Skip, who has served his God and Country in an admiral way, a priceless example of how to live a life of dignity, accomplishment, loving what is most significant, finding the best in everything and letting the rest go.

When I think of Skip and how he has navigated this life and world, which as we all know is full of challenges, twists, and turns, sometimes we are on the right path and sometimes we are on the wrong path...we stop, we pray, we navigate back to the straight and narrow path that leads to the life we all aspire to live, and become the very best person we all want to be to care for those we love, I stand in awe of the man Skip is, what he has achieved, and the grace with which he is accepting the final chapter of his life on earth. Truly a remarkable man who has been able to achieve what Rudyard Kipling wrote about in his poem IF, and has always stood the watch, standing in the gap, and never backing down from doing the right thing.

BY RUDYARD KIPLING

(‘Brother Square-Toes’—Rewards and Fairies)

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don’t deal in lies,
Or being hated, don’t give way to hating,
And yet don’t look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you’ve spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build ’em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!
n/a

Source: *A Choice of Kipling's Verse* (1943)

As we celebrate the 4th of July and the birth of America with our families and friends, take a moment this weekend to appreciate all those who have served this great country, are still serving and those who paid the ultimate price for the freedoms and life we are so privileged to live. Yes, we have a lot of challenges, but this is still the greatest country in the world with the greatest people when we stand side by side in the gap together as one united force for good!

God Bless Skip, Susan, and Family, God Bless You and God Bless America!

Sincerely,

Jim

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