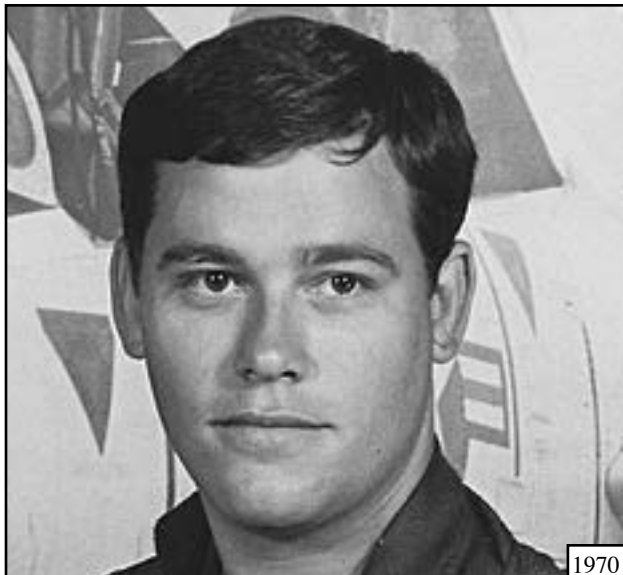




Ralph Suggs, RADM, USN (Ret.)
 “Benny”

Hometown: Wilmington, NC

High School and College Career:
 New Hanover High, NC State University

Dates on Active Duty: September 23, 1969 - 1 February 2000

Date of Designation: 14 May 1971

Total Flight Hours: 4023

Carrier/Ship Landings: 782

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3750 Prop: 273

VA/VF: 3300 VT: 270

Combat tours:

Operation Deliberate Force

Operation Uphold Democracy

Operation Southern Watch

Commands:

VA-55

USS *San Diego*

USS *America*

CARGRU Six

Battle Force, Fifth Fleet

Awards:

Defense Distinguished Service Medal

Legion of Merit (5)

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal

Navy Commendation Medal (2)

Numerous Additional Unit and Campaign Ribbons



Duty Assignment Chronology

09/69-02/70	AOCS, Aviation Officer Candidate Graduated #2 of 44 Candidates, 1 of 6 Selected for Jets
03/70-05/71	VT-7, VT-9, VT-4, VT-21, Flight Student
06/71-06/73	COMNAVAIRLANT Staff Personnel Officer
07/73-08/73	Jet Refresher Training, VT-22
09/73-08/74	VA-42, A-6 RAG CAT I
09/74-09/77	VA-75, 2 USS <i>Saratoga</i> Deployments First Lt., Line Div. Officer, Squadron LSO
10/77-06/79	VA-42, Instructor, CQ Phase Head
07/79-09/79	VF-101, VA-174, F-4, A-7 RAG Student
10/79-01/81	CVW-6 Senior CAG LSO, USS <i>Independence</i> Deployment
01/81-06/81	Armed Forces Staff College, Student
07-81-11/81	VA-42 CAT II Refresher Training
11/81-06/84	VA-35, 2 USS <i>Nimitz</i> Deployments, Operations Officer, Maintenance Officer
07/84-07/86	USCINCLANT, SACLANT, Flag Secretary
08/86-10/86	VA-42, CAT II
10/86-09/79	VA-55 X0, CO, USS <i>Coral Sea</i> , Deployment
09/89-09/91	CINCUSNAVEUR, EA to DCINC
10/91-05/92	US Naval War College, Pre-Surface Command Training
05/92-08/93	USS <i>San Diego</i> , CO. 2 Deployments
09/93-11/93	VF-101, F-14 CAT III
11/93-11/95	USS <i>America</i> , CO, Deployment
12/95-05/96	NAVAL WAR COLLEGE, CNO FELLOW, SSG
06/96-06/97	CLF, N3, N5
06/97-10/98	COMCARGRU SIX, USS <i>Stennis</i> Around the World Deployment
10/98-2/20	USSOCOM, DINC
02/20	Retired

Summary of Significant Career Events

There were many, but the most significant and rewarding was my CO tour of USS *America*. Shortly after assuming command, we experienced a boiler explosion and America was not mission capable. While there were no fatalities, the explosion did do major damage and required extensive repairs. After a four month availability at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, the ship was underway and set records for combat performance during Operation Deliberate Force in Bosnia. Subsequently, USS *America* was awarded with the "Battle E" as the best east coast aircraft carrier and the Battenberg Cup Trophy - the best ship in the entire Atlantic Fleet!

Summary of Post Military Work

- (1) 2000 - 2010, Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Senior Leadership Group
- (2) 2010 - 2023, Associate Vice Chancellor, NC State University
- (3) 2024 - 2025, The Nautical Group, Senior Vice President

Personal

- (1) 2007 - Distinguished Alumnus of The Year, NC State University
- (2) 2017 - Inducted into the Order Of the Long Leaf Pine, Highest Honor Given to a North Carolina Citizen for a Lifetime of Distinguished Service to the State and Country
- (3) 2022 - Awarded the title of NC State Alumni Association Executive Director Emeritus

Associations/Membership/Boards:

- (1) Association of Naval Aviation
- (2) Tailhook Association
- (3) Intruder Association
- (3) Navy League
- (4) American Legion
- (5) NC State General Hugh Shelton Leadership Center, Board of Advisors
- (6) NC State College of Veterinary Medicine, Board of Directors
- (7) Carolina Exotic Car Club, Board of Directors