

MOBILE BAY AREA VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Commander Pete Riehm, USN (Ret)



The 2020 Veteran of the Year is Pete Riehm. Born to German immigrants, Pete grew up in Texas as a first generation American. Working his way through college, he enlisted in the U. S. Naval Reserve. After graduating from the University of Houston, Pete was commissioned into the United States Navy through Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. He served aboard the USS *Dahlgren* DDG43, the USS *Flatley* FFG21, and the USS *Iwo Jima* LHD7. Staff

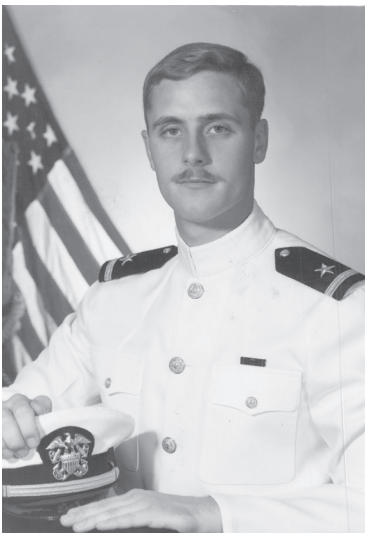
assignments included NATO Command South in Naples, Italy and the Sixth Fleet in Gaeta, Italy during multiple deployments to the Mediterranean and Middle East. He participated in The Cold War, DESERT STORM in Saudi Arabia, and conflicts in Haiti, Bosnia and Kosovo. He retired at rank of Commander in 2005. His last assignment was Commanding Officer, Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Mobile.

Remaining in Mobile after retirement from the U. S. Navy, Commander Riehm has devoted an impressive amount of energy in the service of the area's veteran community. Between 2008 and 2011, Pete was the Chief Planner and Coordinator for Honor Flight South Alabama. As the head of that organization, Pete planned nine flights to Washington, DC, where almost a thousand World War II veterans were able to visit their World War II Memorial. Each Honor Flight from Mobile to Washington DC cost close to \$100,000, and with Pete's fundraising abilities, along with his other team members, they raised almost a million dollars for Honor Flight.

As a member of the Navy Homeport Committee, handling port operations, he invites and hosts visiting Navy and Coast Guard ships. Recently he brought the USS *Fort McHenry* and the USS *Farragut* to the Port of Mobile. In this same capacity he also works with a project to support Navy ship crewmen who come to man and equip the ships being built by AUSTAL, serving and assisting hundreds of sailors on temporary duty in Mobile.



Pete Riehm was instrumental in the construction of the Korean War Memorial at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park. He is a member of the South Alabama Veterans Council, and has served as a director of the South Alabama Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. Every year Pete organizes and leads the Memorial Day commemorations at the National Cemetery in Mobile and the State Veterans Cemetery at Spanish Fort. Since 2009, he has been an officer of the Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission, serving as Vice President, Parade Activities for ten years, and currently as Treasurer.



A Commercial Real Estate broker with NAI Mobile, he specializes in industrial properties, including office, land, multi-family, and hospitality properties. He averages over \$10 million in sales and leases annually

Always looking for new challenges he was seen in the 2016 movie *USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage* in the role of Admiral Neyland. Pete started broadcasting Common Sense Radio weekly in 2011 and syndicating his Common Sense column weekly since 2015.