



Thurston Perry Smith, Jr.

Born.....22 Jul 1948, Durham, NC

Parents Thurston (TP) & Betsy Smith

Siblings Betsy Ann McCorkle

Education Louisburg College

Boot Camp NTC Great Lakes

RatingSeaman

Spouse.....Jo Ann Turner Smith

Thurston, nicknamed “Cheeta,” walked when he was seven months old. Afterwards, it was hard keeping up with him. Cheeta grew up in Hillsborough, NC where he played in the band, ran track and played golf. He was a fun loving person and especially enjoyed Rusty his collie, and “hanging out” with his many friends. He and Jo Ann were married in 1968, and he also enlisted in the Navy Reserves to serve aboard USS BRISTOL (DD 857), the last built SUMNER Class Destroyer. SN Smith reported on board USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) 26 Apr 1969, when the ship was at Yokosuka, Japan. SN Smith was asleep in 1st Division when the collision occurred.