

In Memoriam

Twenty-seven years ago, on November 15, 1983, Captain George Tsantes, Jr., chief of the naval section of the United States Military Advisory Group, and his chauffeur Nikos Veloutsos, were assassinated in Athens. U.S. Embassy Athens honors their memories on this sad anniversary.

Captain George Tsantes



CDR George Tsantes Jr
Photo thanks to Ron Reeves.

Captain George Tsantes, Jr., United States Navy, was assassinated in Athens, Greece, twenty-seven years ago, on November 15, 1983, when he was gunned down while being driven to his office where he was serving as chief of the naval section of the United States Military Advisory Group. His chauffeur Nikos Veloutsos was also killed in the attack. He was one of five U.S. Embassy personnel killed by the Greek domestic terrorist organization Revolutionary Organization 17 November between 1975 and 1991.

Appointed to the Naval Academy from the State of New Jersey, Captain Tsantes was of Greek descent and had been serving in Greece for about seven months.

Prior to his appointment to the Academy, he had attended the Drexel Institute of Technology for three years, and he was graduated in 1955 as number twenty in his Class.

After sea duty he undertook nuclear power studies and served as engineering officer aboard nuclear-powered surface vessels, including duty as chief engineer in Enterprise, and he had also served a previous tour in Athens. Other sea duty had included command of the destroyer William M. Wood and the destroyer tender Piedmont. He had earned a master's degree in physics, and was a member of the Naval Academy Alumni Association.

Nikos Veloutsos



Nikos Veloutsos

Nikos Veloutsos served as a driver for the U.S. Embassy for over 25 years. When he was killed in the terrorist attack on November 15, 1983, he was already past his planned retirement date in September, but he had extended his service until a replacement was found.

He left behind a wife and daughter.