THE SILENT WARRIOR

A Navy Hero and Friend

I knew "Red" Shirley, as a friend, a great fighting warrior, a special human being with a deep sense of responsiblity. He loved his family and reached out to all of us who were new to this game of War. He was a teacher, a leader. I was proud to be his wingman and be numbered among his friends. We looked the "tiger in the eye together," this man and I. He brought me home many times and when my plane was torn by shell and fire, he saw me down and safe aboard a Sub before he left for home.

I shall never forget you, "Red" Shirley. I am proud to have served as your Wingman and fellow officer, as part of Air Group 27 aboard the USS Independence.

LtJG George Van Hagen

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