

MILHOMME, Léandre Laurent Joseph (Benny) [UNTD MONTCALM 1954] (1936 - 2017) Age: 80

Léandre Milhomme August 13, 1936 to April 26, 2017 Mr. Léandre "Benny" Laurent Joseph Milhomme, of Brossard, Qc, passed away at the Charles LeMoyne Hospital, on April 26, 2017 at the age of 80. Léandre was born to parents René and Germaine (Cloutier) in Ancienne Lorette, Qc. After earning his private pilot license at 17, Léandre joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1954 as a pilot. He flew off the HMCS Bonaventure, and flew both fixed and rotary wing aircraft with the Canadian Armed Forces. He retired after 32 years of active service.

Léandre married the love of his life, Hilda Dale, in 1957 and the couple had four children. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 22nd, 2017; four short days before his passing.

Léandre is survived by his wife Hilda, his four children, thirteen grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and his four remaining sisters.

A celebration of his life with a reception to follow will be held at the Centre Communautaire La Résurrection, 7685, boul. Milan in Brossard, on the 15th of May 2017 at 1300 hrs.

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Benny's beginnings at MONTCALM are a little murky. He may have come through the door via the UNTD Program, but by virtue of his existing civilian pilot's license, he was quickly sworn in as a MID(R), sen. 2 Sep '54, O-51576, with the intent that he would get his Naval Air Wings and become part of MONTCALM's existing and very robust Naval Air Reserve SQUADRON VC-923. At that time there were 4 other MID(R), 1 A/SLT and 1 LT(P) attached to that Squadron. From Sep 13 to Oct 25, 1954, Benny was at CORNWALLIS on an Officers' Divisional Course. Of the 26 on Course, he was 1 of only 2 MID, the other one being Reg Force and all of the others were Commissioned SLTs.

There do exist 2 incredibly entertaining Salty Dips, directly involving Benny, which paint a picture of life as a Carrier Pilot in the glory days of Cdn Naval Air. As at least 1 of them may be formally published, we'll have to leave it in abeyance for now. The other is a genuine very high-profile skylark also involving others on our Nominal List. It concerns the 1962 removal of the famous Bunker Hill Cannon from the Van Doos museum at the Citadel in Quebec City, to a temporary location at the Milhomme family farm in Ancienne Lorette. It was ultimately returned, much to the embarrassment and anger of 2 future CDSs who were on scene. We'll look into getting that story made available.

Bill C.

The details of his service career is well documented below from Nauticapedia.ca

He was appointed as a Naval Cadet (UNTD) RCN(R) 1954. In 1954 he served in HMCS Montcalm for UNTD. He was appointed as a Midshipman RCN(R) (With seniority dated 01/09/1954). He served in RCAF Moose Jaw for Flying Training 1955. He was Awarded Wings 01/10/1955. He was appointed as an A/Sub-Lieutenant (P) RCN(R) 01/10/1955. He served in HMCS Montcalm for VC-923 (Reserve) Squadron 1955. He served in HMCS Shearwater for VT-40 Squadron for Avenger Conversion 1956. (He was released.) (Short Service Appointment) 10/07/1956. He was appointed as a Sub-Lieutenant (P) (SSA) RCN (With seniority dated 07/10/1955). He served in HMCS Shearwater for Duty With VU-32 Squadron 1956. He was appointed as a Lieutenant (P) (SSA) RCN (With seniority dated 07/10/1957). He served in HMCS Shearwater for VS-881 Squadron 1959. He served in HMCS Shearwater and HMCS Bonaventure for VS-880 Squadron 1959. He served in HMCS Shearwater for Naval Aircrew Training School 1962. He served in HMCS Stadacona for Junior Officer Technical and Leadership Course 1964. He served in HMCS Victoriaville for Watchkeeping 1964, (Selected for permanent commission). He served in HMCS Terra Nova 1965. He served in the College Militaire Royal de St. Jean as Squadron Officer 1965. He was appointed as a Lieutenant RCN (With seniority dated 01/07/1967). He served in HMCS Shearwater and HMCS Bonaventure for VU-32 Squadron 1967. He was appointed as a MAJ (PLT) (With seniority dated 01/01/1969). He served in CFB Ottawa for Recruiting Unit as Commanding Officer 1969. He served in CFB Toronto for Canadian Forces Command and Staff College 1972. He served in CFB Valcartier for VC-923 Squadron 1973. He served in CFB Portage La Prairie for Rotary Wing Training 1973. He served in CFB Gagetown for 403 Squadron for CH-135 Conversion 1974. He served in NDMC for Medical Treatment 1976. He served in CFB St. Hubert for #10 Training Air Group HQ 1976. He served in CFB St. Jean for Canadian Forces Management School 1978. (He was retired 13/08/1986.)

<http://www.nauticapedia.ca/dbase/Query/Biolist3.php?&name=Milhomme,%20Leandre%20Laurent&id=16975>