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## **FREAK ACCIDENT KILLS RENOWNED 40-YEAR ENLISTED MAN THE RECENTLY RETIRED SAILOR DIED AFTER A WIND GUST KNOCKED HIM OFF A TRUCK.**

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**Source:** By Jack Dorsey, Staff writer

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Master Chief Petty Officer **Bobby L. Scott**, who retired last month as the Navy's senior enlisted man with 40 years of service, died Tuesday of massive head injuries after a freak accident Monday.

The accident happened about 11 a.m. just after Scott, 58, and his wife, Katie, left the HQ Warehouse store on South Military Highway, police said. The couple had bought a 4-by-8-foot piece of three-quarter-inch plywood.

While his wife drove, Scott rode in the back on his 1986 Toyota truck, sitting on top of the wood and holding on to the roll bar, police said. As the truck approached Battlefield Boulevard, a gust of wind apparently scooped up the wood, knocking it and Scott from the truck and onto the pavement.

Scott, of the 1100 block of Stoneybrook Landing in the Greenbrier section, was flown to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital by the Sentara Nightingale helicopter. He suffered massive head injuries and was pronounced dead about 11 a.m. Tuesday, officials said.

Scott was honored in a retirement ceremony in April during which he was awarded the Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service." The award, the fifth-highest military decoration, is rarely given to enlisted personnel.

Although his retirement ceremony was held in April, Scott had

accumulated a large amount of leave time and did not officially retire until Sept. 1, the Navy said. Known throughout the Atlantic Fleet for his polish as well as his saltiness, Scott had been a tutor and mentor to thousands of young bluejackets - as well as officers - who sought a life at sea. His retirement ceremony drew nearly as many senior officers as enlisted members. He spent 30 of his 40 years in the Navy at sea, serving aboard eight ships.

He served in the Korean and Vietnam wars and also participated in Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf as command master chief of the cruiser Thomas S. Gates.

His retirement ended an era that may never be repeated. With the military shrinking, no one in the enlisted ranks will be allowed to stay longer than 30 years.

Scott was 18 when he enlisted in 1952 after high school in Union City, Tenn. He survived three wars, including being boat captain with the Riverine Forces in Vietnam, and he survived the near sinking of a mine sweeper that was caught in a typhoon in the 1960s.

Scott said that he never liked shore duty and that if there had been anything he could have changed about his career, it would have been to spend his entire 40 years of naval service at sea.

At his retirement ceremony, he said:

``As I swallow the anchor today and go ashore for the last time and fade into the civilian community, I feel good about the Navy, I feel good about the future, this ship and all ships in the U.S. Navy. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the U.S. Navy."''

The funeral will be at 10 a.m. Friday in Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base Chapel. Friends may join the family from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday in Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home, Bayside Chapel.

**Description of illustration(s):**

Staff photo by PAUL AIKEN

Master Chief Petty Officer Bobby L. Scott had retired last month after 40 years of Navy service.

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