


# Mark Wiggins

*EBVN Member*




**MARK WIGGINS**

*WHY DOES THE EB VETERANS NETWORK MATTER TO YOU?*

I ENLISTED TO CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF MY FAMILY'S SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY. HAVING SEEN THE EFFECTS OF PTSD IN FAMILY MEMBERS, I HELP IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE.

I REACH OUT TO A FEW OF MY OLD FRIENDS EVERY MONTH, CHECKING IN TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE OKAY. ANY VETERAN SUICIDE IS UNACCEPTABLE, AND THE EBVN ENDEAVORS TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING CLIMB OUT OF THEIR PITS OF DESPAIR. HELPING MY FELLOW VETERANS IN ANY WAY I CAN GIVES ME GREAT SATISFACTION.



## **Who is Mark A. Wiggins?**

Mark A. Wiggins, a 24-year Navy veteran, is currently located in New London as an Engineering Specialist in Department 428, Fiber and Underwater Electromagnetic (UEM) Systems Group, working on Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) for the Virginia Class, Moored Training Ship and Ohio Replacement/Columbia programs. Mark is also the current President for the Electric Boat Management Association (EBMA).

During his Navy career, Mark served onboard nine different submarines, including but not limited to, USS Honolulu (SSN 718; Plankowner), USS Louisville (SSN 724), USS Puffer (SSN 652), USS Richard B. Russel (SSN 687), USS Finback (SSN 670), USS Columbus (SSN 762), USS Olympia (SSN 717), and USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23; Plankowner). He also served at COMSUBDEVGRU-ONE DETACHMENT SIERRA and at NAVSUBSCOL GROTON, CT as an instructor for the SSN Navigation Pipeline. During Mark's time in the Navy he was deployed 16 times – 13 WESTPAC deployments, three Northern runs out of the East Coast, as well as numerous three-month deployments in direct support of national defense.

After retirement, Mark worked two years for SEACORP in Newport, RI as a Senior Test Engineer for the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC), testing and certifying the communications equipment for the first Virginia Class submarines and then the SSGN program. Mark joined Electric Boat in 2008 and over the last 12+ years has worked for D441 Combat & Weapons Systems Test, D495 Fleet Support Engineering, rotation in D424 Audit & Assessment, and is currently in D428 Electrical Systems.

During his free time, in addition to his long-time support of the EBMA, Mark trains for Ironman, competing in nine full Ironman and 12 half Ironman events since 2010. You can find him either swimming, biking, running or weight training for his next event. Mark is currently training for his first double Ironman event in June 2022.

### **Why do you like working at Electric Boat?**

It takes a lot of dedicated people to use what the company has learned from the past in the present to manufacture the best, highest-quality submarines in the world, and to then take the lessons learned and design the next generation of submarines to be even better. Our purpose says it all: We deliver the advantage that protects our Sailors, our Families, and our Freedom. I am proud to be a member of the team that is currently building and also forging the future of submarines to keep our country, our sailors, and my family safe.

### **Why does the EB Veterans Network (EBVN) matter to you?**

My family defended this country in every war since WWI. My grandfather fought in WWI where he was wounded in one of the battles in the Argonne forest. My father and uncle both fought in the Pacific Theatre during WWII where my father received five purple hearts during his four years of fighting. My stepfather was a Korean War Vet and I've had many cousins fight during Vietnam. My older step-brother was serving onboard the USS Constellation during the Iranian Hostage Crisis.

I enlisted to continue the tradition of my family's service to our country. Having seen the effects of PTSD in family members, I help in any way possible—from serving Thanksgiving meals to shut-in veterans or our newest sailors at Subscool during the annual Thanksgiving meal served at the Groton Submarine Veterans Hall, to rallies with my fellow Silent Service Motorcycle Club members in support of Veterans Organizations to include VA, VFW and AMVETS organizations. I reach out to a few of my old friends every month, checking in to make sure they are okay. Any veteran suicide is unacceptable, and the EBVN endeavors to help those who are suffering climb out of their pits of despair. Helping my fellow veterans any way I can gives me great satisfaction.