

UCF's Veterans Legacy Program



VA



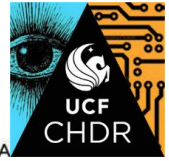
U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration



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UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Department
of History



William John Rosania

1954 – 2008

Chief Gunner's Mate: US Navy

Persian Gulf, Afghanistan

*Please note that news articles published online often exist behind paywalls and require a subscription to access digitally. We have provided links, but have not reproduced them here. Similarly, many families have created remembrance pages. Again, we have provided links, but have not reproduced any images without express written permission from the family.

“U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-2016,” database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed July 18, 2023), entry for William Rosania, Somerville, NJ: 1971.

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1269614168:1265>

A page from the 1971 yearbook for Somerville High School in Somerville, New Jersey, which includes a team photograph of the school’s junior varsity football team, of which Rosania was a part.

“U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-2016,” database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed July 18, 2023), entry for William Rosania, Somerville, NJ: 1971.

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1269614719:1265>

Class photographs from the 1971 Somerville High School yearbook. Rosania is pictured with other classmates.

“U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-2016,” database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed July 18, 2023), entry for William Rosania, Somerville, NJ: 1972.

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/614349528:1265>

1972 Somerville High School yearbook photograph for William John Rosania. The photograph also includes a caption that lists Rosania’s extracurricular activities, address, and future ambition.

“Military Notes,” *Courier-News* (Bridgewater), December 19, 1983, 9 (accessed July 18, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/230131680/?terms=William%20J.%20Rosania&match=1>

A brief note in a local New Jersey newspaper announcing that Rosania, as part of his military service, participated in humanitarian search operations for Korean Airline Flight 007. In September 1983, this commercial flight was shot down by the Soviet Union after it had accidentally veered off its planned flight path and into Soviet Airspace.

“Military Notes,” *Courier-News* (Bridgewater), September 26, 1984, 12 (accessed July 18, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/222712889/?terms=William%20J.%20Rosania&match=1>

A short note in the Bridgewater, New Jersey *Courier-News* announcing Rosania’s promotion to the rank of Gunner’s Mate Missile First Class while serving aboard the USS *Sterette* in 1984.

“U.S., Navy and Marines Awards and Decorations, 1942-1994,” database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed July 18, 2023), entry for William Rosania, United States Navy, 1985.

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1163198:61823>

A citation record for a Meritorious Achievement Medal awarded to William J. Rosania on June 20, 1985.

“U.S., Navy Cruise Books, 1918-2009,” database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed July 18, 2023), entry for William Rosania, USS *Anchorage LSD-36*: 1989.

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/105926:2348>

The above link navigates to a photograph of William Rosania and several other crewmembers aboard the USS *Anchorage* in 1989.

“U.S., Navy Cruise Books, 1918-2009,” database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed July 18, 2023), entry for William Rosania, USS *Anchorage LSD-36*: 1991.

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/104794:2348>

A photograph of Rosania and several other crew members aboard the USS *Anchorage* in 1991.

“Local Military Personnel Recognized for Achievements,” *Courier-News* (Bridgewater), March 20, 1997, 90 (accessed July 18, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/222725638/?terms=William%20J.%20Rosania&match=1>

A military note from 1997 announcing that Rosania was halfway through a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific Ocean aboard the USS *Antietam*.

“William J. Rosania, Sept. 29, 1954 – Feb. 25, 2008,” *Courier-News* (Bridgewater), March 7, 2008, 14 (accessed July 18, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/225229688/?terms=William%20J.%20Rosania&match=1>

This source is an obituary from a New Jersey newspaper. It mentions Rosania’s military service in the United States Navy, including the ships he sailed on, and lists his surviving family members. The article identifies Rosania as a resident of San Diego, California, but that he would receive military honors at Florida National Cemetery.

“Obituaries, Services, Memorials,” *Orlando Sentinel* March 23, 2008, B6 (accessed July 18, 2023).

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/269868591/?terms=William%20J.%20Rosania&match=1>

An obituary for William J. Rosania, which includes a photograph of Rosania in his military uniform. The article mentions that Rosania had previously resided in Orlando, Florida. It also lists his surviving family members, and outlines his military service and awards earned during that service.

“U.S., Veterans’ Gravesites, ca. 1775-2019,” database, *Fold3* (fold3.com: accessed July 18, 2023), entry for William John Rosania.

<https://www.fold3.com/record/715705384/rosania-william-john-us-veterans-gravesites-ca1775-2019>

Above is a link to the United States Veterans’ Gravesite record for William John Rosania, archived in the online database *Fold3*. This source includes information like Rosania’s birthdate and death date, burial location, military rank, and conflict period.

“William John Rosania,” *FindAGrave*, March 19, 2010 (accessed July 18, 2023).

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/49921718/william-john-rosania>

William John Rosania’s page on findagrave.com includes information on his birth and death dates, and burial location. It also includes a brief paragraph detailing Rosania’s life and service in the United States Navy, as well as a photograph of his national cemetery marker at Florida National Cemetery.



William Rosania's Niche Marker in Florida National Cemetery

UCF Veterans Legacy Program, *Niche Marker for William Rosania*, photograph, 2023, Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.