

# SEA STORIES

MY LIFE IN  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS



ADMIRAL  
WILLIAM H. McRAVEN  
*(U.S. Navy Retired)*



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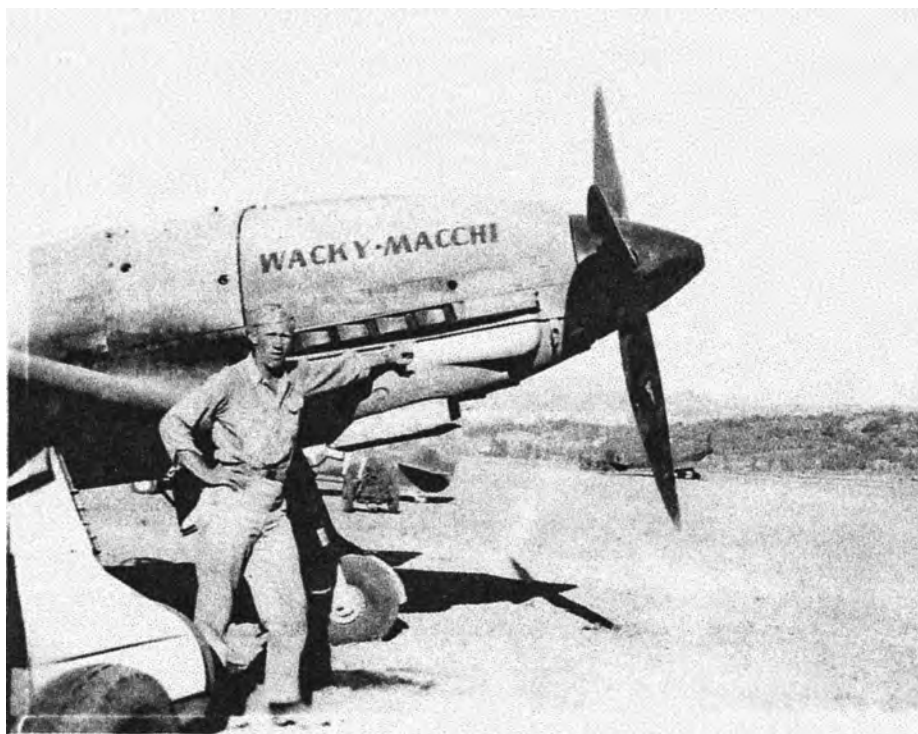
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Adventure was in my DNA. Dad with his Spitfire in North Africa; 1943.



My cousin Paul and me looking cool. Paul drove. Grapeland, Texas; 1963.



Football was a way of life in Texas. With my dad in San Antonio, Texas; 1966.



Anna and Claude McRaven. Two fabulous parents.



A Gravel Gertie  
ammunition storage  
facility. *Amarillo  
Globe-News*

Coach Jerry Turnbow  
as an assistant at  
Roosevelt High School  
San Antonio, Texas; 1972.







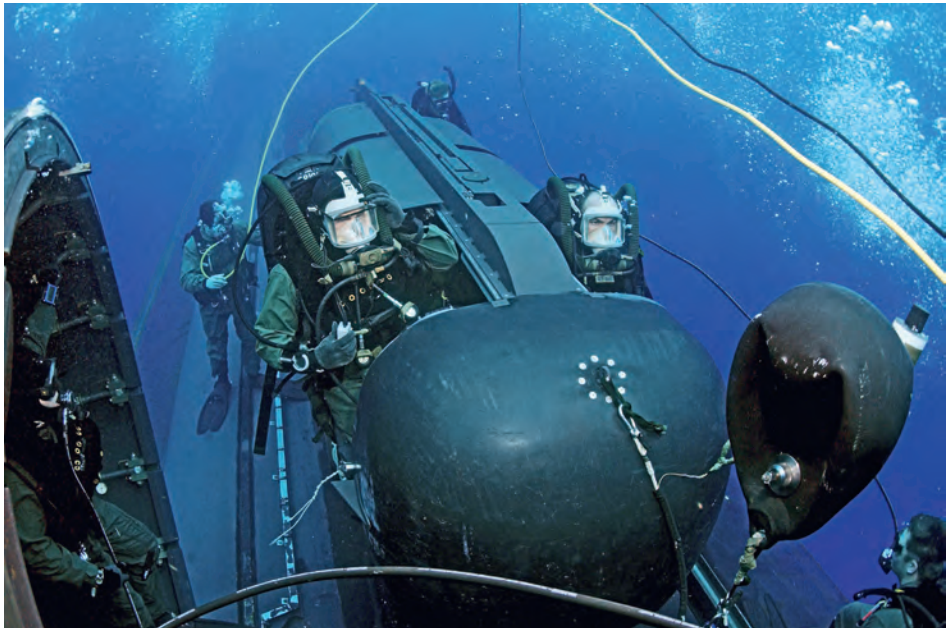
SEAL training with my swim buddy Marc Thomas. Coronado, California; 1977.



Class 95 upon SEAL graduation. I am at the far right with Lt(jg) Dan'l Steward. Coronado, California; February 1978.



Our wedding was the start  
of a 41-year love story.  
Dallas, Texas; May 6, 1978.



A SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV) landing on a submarine. *US Navy via Getty Images*



Hanging off the lock-out chamber of the USS *Grayback*. Philippines; 1979.



Iraqi tanker. RAED QUTEINA/AFP/Getty Images





Fast-roping onto a moving ship. *Stocktrek Images via Getty Images*



Lieutenant Colonel George Flinn and me on Faylaka Island, Kuwait; February 1991.



Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boats (RHIBs) in action. *U.S. Navy via Getty Images*



Saluting Admiral Eric Olson at my Change of Command from Naval Special Warfare Group ONE. Coronado, California; 2001. He saved my career.





Martin and Gracia Burnham were held captive by the terrorist group Abu Sayaf, Philippines; 2001. *AFP/Getty Images*



I had the honor of working in the Bush 43 White House after 9/11. Washington, DC; 2003.



Dr. Condoleezza Rice promoting me to Rear Admiral. With my daughter Kelly and Georgeann. The White House; June 2003.

The Ace of Spades, Saddam Hussein, after his capture by Army Special Operations forces. Baghdad, Iraq; December 2003. *U.S. Army via Getty Images*







MH-60 Black Hawks in action. *Justin Sullivan/Getty Images*



The lifeboat that held Captain Richard Phillips. Indian Ocean; April 2009.  
*Megan E. Sindelar/U.S. Navy via Getty Images*



Captain Richard Phillips after the SEAL rescue. *Darren McColleston/Getty Images*

Osama bin Laden.  
*Universal History Archive/  
Getty Images*







After a mission with Command Sergeant Major Chris Faris and several of my men. Afghanistan; 2009.



After a mission with Command Sergeant Major Chris Faris and several of our allies. Iraq; 2010.



Things didn't look so good at that moment. The White House; May 1, 2011. *Pete Souza/The White House/MCT via Getty Images*



Bill - The country owes you a great debt for your extraordinary service and  
super leadership. Thank you, on behalf of all Americans. (And next  
time, use the tape!)

*Barack Obama*

President Obama presenting me with a tape measure. The White House; May 4, 2011. *The White House*





Briefing President Obama in the Oval Office with Command Sergeant Major Chris Faris. May 4, 2011.



As the SOCOM Commander, I'm sharing a laugh with General Lloyd Austin and King Abdullah II of Jordan. Tampa, Florida; 2013.



My final salute. Tampa, Florida; August 2014.



I have been blessed.  
John, Kelly, me,  
Georgeann, and Bill.

After retirement I served  
as the Chancellor of the  
University of Texas System.  
January 2015. *Holly Reed*

