

USS DENVER (LPD 9)





**Decommissioning
Ceremony**

1000

14 August 2014

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

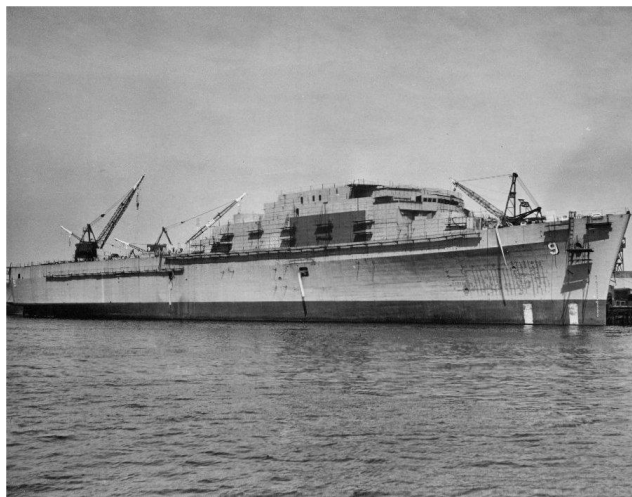


**USS DENVER (LPD
COMMANDING**

CAPT H. W. CARR	OCT 68-FEB 70
CAPT J. L. KAUTH	FEB 70-JUN 72
CAPT R. E. BODAMER	JUN 72-MAY 73
CAPT L. R. EFFERT	MAY 73-JAN 74
CAPT H. T. JENKINS	JAN 74-SEP 76
CAPT D. S. JONES	SEP 76-FEB 78

**9)
OFFICERS**

CAPT R. E. KLEE	FEB 78-DEC 79
CAPT V. E. COOKE	DEC 79-MAR 81
CAPT R. W. PREACHER	MAR 81-DEC 82
CAPT D. F. GREENHOE	DEC 82-OCT 84
CAPT A. P. JOHNSON	OCT 84-OCT 86
CAPT T. W. R. FLADD	OCT 86-JAN 89
CAPT N. E. PARKHURST	JAN 89-APR 90
CAPT J. A. HOUGH	APR 90-JUL 92
CAPT C. W. BURCK	JUL 92-MAY 93
CAPT A. J. GILBERTY	MAY 93-MAY 95
CAPT W. F. HOPPER	MAY 95-MAR 97
CAPT D. K. DUPOUY	MAR 97-SEP 98
CAPT C. F. WEBBER	SEP 98-JUL 00
CAPT B. F. JOHANSEN	JUL 00-MAY 02
CAPT S. G. SQUIRES	MAY 02-DEC 03
CAPT T. A. ZECCHIN	DEC 03-MAY 05
CAPT W. L. CONE	MAY 05-OCT 06
CAPT J. M. CLARKSON	OCT 06-APR 08
CAPT D. C. MIKESKA	APR 08-JUL 08
CAPT K. D. WHALEN	JUL 08-JAN 09
CAPT G. J. FENTON	JAN 09-JUN 10
CAPT M. MISFUD	JUN 10-OCT 11
CAPT M. A. WETTLAUFER	OCT 11-NOV 12
CAPT K. P. LENOX	NOV 12-OCT 13
CAPT M. P. DONNELLY	OCT 13-AUG 14



Picture of USS DENVER (LPD 9) under construction 1965



Musical Selections

Pacific Fleet Band

Official Party Arrival

National Anthem
of the
United States of America

Invocation

Lieutenant Robert S. Spivey, CHC

Opening Remarks
Captain Michael P. Donnelly

Guest Speaker
Rear Admiral Hugh D. Wetherald
Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group SEVEN

Remarks by Commanding Officer
Captain Michael P. Donnelly

Reading of Decommissioning Directive
Captain Michael P. Donnelly

Decommissioning

Retire the Colors

Benediction
Lieutenant Robert S. Spivey, CHC

Official Party Departs



Rear Admiral Hugh D. Wetherald
Commander, Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet

Rear Adm. Wetherald was born in Seattle. He is a graduate of the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and received his commission from the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at Washington in 1984.

Rear Adm. Wetherald assumed his current duties as Commander Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet, Expeditionary Strike Group Seven and Task Force 76 on Sept. 11 2013. He is responsible for the expeditionary and amphibious operations throughout U.S. SEVENTH Fleet area of operations, ranging from humanitarian and disaster relief missions to full combat operations.

Wetherald's sea duty assignments include combat information center officer and anti-submarine warfare officer in USS Cushing (DD 985), combat systems officer in USS Paul F. Foster (DD 964), operations officer in USS Lake Champlain (CG 57) and executive officer in USS Shiloh (CG 67). Wetherald took command of USS Lassen (DDG 82) in 2002, deploying to the Western Pacific as the alternate air defense commander in the USS Carl Vinson Strike Group. He also served as the commanding officer in USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) where he deployed to the Arabian Gulf as the air defense commander in the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group. During both command tours, Wetherald's ships were awarded the Battle "E" for operational excellence.

Ashore, he has served in the Bureau of Naval Personnel as the department head detailee and sea coordinator, on the Navy Staff as a requirements officer in the Theater Air Warfare Branch in the Surface Warfare Directorate (N86) and in the Program Development Division (N80) as the head, Surface Warfare Branch and as the ship construction appropriation manager. He also served as the military assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary

of Defense (Advanced Systems and Concepts), as branch head, Programming and Development Branch, Program Development Division (N80) on the OPNAV Staff and most recently as deputy chief of staff for Plans, Policies, and Requirements (N5/N8), U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Rear Adm. Wetherald studied at the Naval Postgraduate School where he received a Master of Science degree in Systems Engineering (Anti-Submarine Warfare) and is a 2005 graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces where he received a Master's degree in National Resource Strategy.

Personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (three awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (three Awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal, various campaign and service medals and seven Battle "E" awards for shipboard excellence.

The Decommissioning Ceremony

Each unit in the navy holds two unique ceremonies during the course of its existence. The commissioning ceremony bears the promise for a bright future, and existence, and the decommissioning ceremony, signifying the end of an era, honors all men and women who have given their time, their energy, and for some their lives, to fulfill and surpass the aspirations of those who stood in the commissioning ceremony. The ceremony is not prescribed specifically by Naval regulations, but instead an honored product of Naval tradition. Custom has established that this ceremony be formal and impressive - a solemn occasion on which we pause to reflect upon the rich heritage of this ship and the United States Navy.



The Commissioning Pennant

The origin of the pennant is said to date to the 17th Century, when the Dutch were fighting the English. Dutch Admiral Tromp hoisted a broom at his masthead to indicate his intention to sweep the English from the sea. In reply, the English admiral hoisted up a horsewhip to indicate his intention to chastise the Dutch. The British carried out the boast and ever since, the narrow or coach whip pennant (symbolizing the original horsewhip) has been the distinctive mark of a ship of war and has been adopted by all nations.

ET3 MILLER	MM3 MILLER	MM3 MOORE
IT3 MORRIS	IC3 NECLOS	MM3 NORRIS
MM3 NWACHUKWU	MM3 ORLINO	CS3 PENN
DC3 PETERSON	HT3 PINKSTON	SH3 POSSE
MM3 PRIELA	MM3 RIORDAN	CTT3 RODRIGUEZ

LS3 RODRIGUEZ	PS3 ROLLINS	BM3 ROMO
EM2 SEVI	BM3 SIDEL	LS3 SILVA
GM3 SMITH	SH3 SMITH	MM3 SOHOCKI
LS3 SPRATT	YN3 TACKETT	MM3 TADEO
ET3 THOMAS	LS3 THREATS	IT3 TYDINGCO
HM3 VANG	MM3 VILLARUZ	MM3 WALCOTT
YN3 WALLACE	MM3 WALLEN	IT3 WENZLICK
OS3 YURSCKO	SN AGBALE	OSSN AMASON
SN AN	SN BAIR	SN BARRY
SN BRANDON	MMFN BRYCE	EMFN CLAY
EMFN CUSI	MMFN DAVID	DCFN DEAKLE
QMSN EDRINGTON	SHSN FRIDAY	SN GOROSPE
SN GREENE	SN GRIMM	SN IZQUIERDOALVARAI
OSSN JACKSON	SN JONES	BMSN KELLY
MMFN KEMBOI	BMSN KOWALSKI	MMFN KRAMER
LSSN KRITSUN	BMSN LARENASFEIJOO	EMFN LEE
EMFN LEGASPI	OSSN LIKES	MMFN LINGARD
ENFA LE	CSSN LUTTRELL	SN LYON
SN MAASER	EMFN MATTHEWS	BMSN MCCLOUD
MMFN MIRANDA	MMFN NAPOLITANO	EMFN O'BRIEN
MMFN OCAMPO	CSSN PAALISBO	ENFN PROCTOR
MMFN PRZYUSKI	SHSN RICHERT	MMFN RIOS
MMFN SCHUMACHER	DCFN SCHWARTZ	OSSN SHERMAN
OSSN SMITH	BMSN STEARNS	SN STRACK
BMSN SUMIDA	MMFN TEMPLE	BMSN TOVIAN
SN TRAURIG	ABHAN ULLOAFERNANDEZ	SN URRUTIA
SN WALKER	EMFN WHITE	SN WILLIAMS
LSSN WU	MMFN YERDON	BMSN ZEIGLER
SN ZIMMERMAN	DCFA ALCALA	SA BASBAS
MMFA GUARDADO	SA HOFFMAN	MMFA HUEGEL
MMFA INTERRANTE	DCFA POE	ABHAA RANGEL
MMFA REIGLE	SA ROSSITER	SA SAMUEL
ENFA SCHWEITZER	SA SWIRE	MMFR ANDERSON
MMFR ATKINS	SR BARBER	MMFR BROWN
MMFA BUCHANAN	SR BURNETT	MMFR CAMPBELL
ABFAR CAPLINGER	MMFA CARBAHAL	MMFR DABREO
MMFR EYTCHISON	CSSR FAYTON	MMFR FUENTES
MMFR GRAY	MMFR KOVACHICH	ENFR MCCLAIN
MMFR MELAH	EMFR MOISES	ABFAR PENA
MMFR SALES	SR SIMMS	SR SMITH
MMFR TERRELL	SR TRAN	ENFR VALENCIA
SR WHITWORTH	SR WILTY	MMFR WOLFORD

Update as of 3 July 2014

Captain Michael P. Donnelly

Commanding Officer

USS DENVER (LPD 9)

Captain Michael "Buzz" Donnelly is a native of Kent Island, Maryland. In 1989 he graduated with a bachelor of mechanical engineering degree from Villanova University and was commissioned via the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC). He holds a master of arts in national security studies and strategic affairs from the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

A naval flight officer, Donnelly deployed with both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets, including tours flying the F-14 with Fighter Squadron THREE THREE (VF-33) "Starfighters" in USS AMERICA (CV 66), VF-103 "Sluggers" in USS SARATOGA (CV 60), and VF-31 "Tomcatters" in USS LINCOLN (CVN 72). Flying the F/A-18F, he served as Executive and then Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron ONE FIVE FOUR (VFA-154) "Black Knights" in USS STENNIS (CVN 74). He served as executive officer in USS NIMITZ (CVN 68).

Ashore, Donnelly served as an F-14 instructor with VF-101 "Grim Reapers" and as Executive Officer of VFA-122 "Flying Eagles." Additionally, he served on the International Military Staff at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium and as Naval Aviation's F/A-18 Requirements Officer on the OPNAV Staff (N88) at the Pentagon.

Captain Donnelly has over 3,000 flight hours and over 990 carrier landings in the F-14A, B and D, and F/A-18F. His decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medals, Strike Flight Medals, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Captain Donnelly is married to the former Caroline McMillin of Fredricksburg, Virginia. They have four daughters: Elisabeth, Sarah, Mary Logan, and Margaret.



Lieutenant Commander James R. Bird

Executive Officer
USS DENVER (LPD 9)

LCDR James R Bird graduated from SUNY Maritime College in 1999 with A Bachelors of Engineering in Electrical Engineering, and a 3rd Mate's license. Following his commissioning and SWOS division officer course, he reported onboard USS KEARSARGE (LHD-3), and served in Deck and Operations departments.

He then entered the nuclear power training pipeline, graduating top in his class before reporting to USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71) in 2003. He served in Reactor department and was onboard during the opening phases of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. Following this tour, LCDR Bird reported to Nuclear Power Training Unit, Ballston Spa, NY, where he served as a Shift engineer, tasked with training the Navy's next generation of nuclear operators.

Following SWOS Department Head School, LCDR Bird reported to USS ESSEX (LHD-2) in 2009, where he served as Combat Systems Maintenance Officer. He chose to remain in Sasebo following this tour, and served as the Material and Logistics officer for COMPHIBRON ELEVEN.

LCDR Bird then completed his Masters at the Naval War College, where he participated in the Gravely Advanced Research Group. He then served as a Personnel Exchange Program Officer, working for Commander, Australian Amphibious Task Group in Sydney, Australia, as their Maritime Operations Officer.

LCDR Bird reported onboard USS DENVER in June, 2013

Crew of USS DENVER (LPD 9)

QM1 ADKINSON	BM1 ALWINE	HM1 ALEXANDER
IC1 AUKSHUN	MM1 BADER	PS1 BAH
QM1 BAKER	CS1 BARBER	HT1 BARKLEY
MM1 BOLLING	CS1 BRANCH	SH1 CABANAYAN
ET1 CAYABYAB	OS1 COOK	SH1 CRONLEY
SH1 DIAZANGULO	OS1 DIXON	MM1 DOOLITTLE
IT1 FAMISON	CTT1 FANT	DC1 GREGROW
IT1 HULVERSON	LS1 JOHNSON	NC1 JONES
MM1 KODAMA	HT1 MALONE	CS1 MARTE
ABH1 MEDINA	IT1 MURPHY	YN1 NAYLOR
MM1 PALMER	EN1 SIM	IT1 SONG
IT1 THOMPSON	MA1 VANDYKE	MM1 WILLISON
GM2 ALLEN	IT2 ARBOLEDA	EM2 ARTMAN
MR2 BARR	DC2 BARRIE	BM2 BISHOP
OS2 BOEVERS	CS2 BOWEN	BM2 BRUCKELMYER
OS2 BURTON	ABH2 CAMPOS	BM2 CHAVEZ
MM2 CORRE	BM2 CRAIG	HM2 EASTWOOD
EM2 EMMONS	ET2 ESPEJO	BM2 FARMER
MM2 GALLEGOVARGAS	DC2 GARNER	MM2 GOLDEN
ET2 GOULET	DC2 GUERRASANTOS	MM2 HILL
MM2 HILTON	FC2 HUKILL	BM2 ISAACSON
MM2 JUANILLO	MM2 KEEN	GM2 LECHLEITNER
HM2 MCKINNEY	IT2 MOORE	CTT2 MURPHY
IT2 NEELY	MM2 NICKS	OS2 PACE

MM2 RATHBONE	MM2 ROBLES	OS2 SCOTTOLAVINO
HM2 SENSENIG	AS2 SMITH	MM2 TUGGLE
FC2 VAUGHN	CS2 VENTIGAN	MM2 VESS
MM2 VOEUTH	AS2 WAHBA	MM2 WILLIAMS
MM2 WINNINGHAM	GM2 WRIGHT	LS2 XIONG
IT2 ZERILLI	GM3 ABERNATHY	ABF3 AKPABIE
OS3 ALDRIDGE	SH3 BANAYAD	ABF3 BLOCK
SH3 BOOTH	DC3 BRANDOLING	FC3 BRIGHT
IC3 BRITT	OS3 BROCKI	BM3 BROOKS
HT3 CALLAHAN	CS3 CAMARINAS	QM3 CARDENAS
BM3 COLEMAN	CS3 COOK	MM3 CORRAL
ABH3 COSBY	MM3 DAVIS	MM3 DAVID
MM3 DEDIOS	MM3 DELACRUZ	LS3 DORAN
GM3 DRINGUS	OS3 ELLIOTT	MM3 FARQUHAR
MM3 FLAGG	OS3 FLORES	QM3 GERVAIS
OS3 GIBBS	MR3 GILDER	HM3 GRAHAM
CS3 GUEVARRA	ABH3 HALL	IT3 HAMEL
MM3 HAYS	MM3 HEGAMIN	YN3 HENRY
MM3 HO	ABF3 HOLDER	EM3 HOLT
QM3 HOUSTON	MM3 HULGIN	LS3 ILLI
EM3 ISSA	MM3 JACKSON	FC3 JIMENEZ
FC3 JORDAN	EN3 JORDAN	OS3 JURADO
OS3 KELLY	BM3 KRUGER	OS3 LARENTZ
GM3 LE	ET3 LEWIS	MM3 LONG
QM3 MALONE	CS3 MANUEL	MM3 MIDDLEBROOKS

Officers of USS DENVER (LPD 9)

LCDR MILLER	LCDR MONTOYA	LT BURKE
LT FENTON	LT GLEGHORN	LT LETOI
LT LEWIS	LT LOPEZ	LT OFORI
LT PECK	LT SPIVEY	LTJG ANDERSON
LTJG BASWELL	LTJG COX	LTJG ERWIN
LTJG OBAMOS	LTJG MATUTE	LTJG PARKER
LTJG PETERSON	LTJG ULLRICH	ENS CHRISTOD
ENS DAVID EIERDAM	ENS FINNERAN	ENS WHITINGTON
CWO3 HOLLIE	CWO2 PIPPEN	



Chiefs of USS DENVER (LPD 9)

MMCM GEORGE	EMCM SCHULTZ	CSCM TUBERA
LSCS CALLANTA	PSCS CASTANEDA	DCCS GONZALEZ
ETCS HUMPHREY	MMCS PHELPS	OSCS RAWLES
QMCS WATKINS	ABFC AGYEMANG	ITC BEIDLEMAN
MMC BOONE	MRC CARUTHERS	BMC CLAY
DCC FERRER	MAC GACUYA	SHC HARDEMAN
HMC HUTTO	MMC JUMPER	MMC MANIEGO
MMC OGBOGHODO	OSC SMOLLER	EMC WELCH
ABHC WELCH		



CMDCM (SW/IDW) Edwin D. Purdy
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
USS DENVER (LPD 9)

The son of a Submarine Nuclear Machinist Mate Master Chief who served with Admiral Hyman Rickover under the Atoms for Peace Program, Command Master Chief Purdy was born in Honolulu, Hawaii and joined the Navy in 1987 where he received Basic Training at Orlando, Florida and attended NTTC Pensacola, Florida for CTR A and C school. Master Chief Purdy received his first set of orders to DIRSUP Rota, Spain.

During his tour in Rota, he served on several Surface and Subsurface combatants as a collection operator and Mediterranean Area Analyst, completing his tour TAD to USS SARATOGA (CV 60) in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Master Chief Purdy received orders to serve at the Cryptologic Support Group U.S. Southern Command, Panama from 1992 through 1996, as part of the tactical support counter narcotics team at Howard Air Force base. Then reported to Naval Security Group Activity (NSGA) Georgia, in 1996 where he was selected to Chief Petty Officer in 1999 with follow on orders to USS THORN (DD 988). After completing a successful tour aboard USS THORN (DD 988), Command Master Chief Purdy was sent to Navy Information Operation Command (NIOC) Texas and later transferred to the Planning Tasking Center Atlantic as the AOIC of a small detachment of NIOC Suitland, in Norfolk, VA.

In 2006, Command Master Chief Purdy volunteered for a tour in Afghanistan, as the NCOIC of CJTF76 Collection Management team and three subordinate units, being responsible for the tasking and planning of many Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance operations in support of several successful combat missions.

Command Master Purdy led NIOC Norfolk's Information Operation Planning Department as the DLCPO - subsequently promoted to Master Chief in 2007.

In July of 2008, Master Chief Purdy reported to NIOC Yokosuka as the Senior Enlisted Leader, also attending the Naval Intelligence Business Executive Course at Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA prior to his selection as Command Master Chief.

CMDCM Purdy reported to USS DENVER (LPD 9) in July 2011, where he continues to have the honor and privilege to serve the Sailors onboard USS DENVER (LPD 9) - "the oldest Gator in the Swamp".

USS DENVER (LPD 9) History

USS DENVER (LPD 9) began her existence on February 1964 when her keel was laid in Seattle, Washington, by Lockheed Shipbuilding and Construction Company. She is the third ship of the fleet to bear her name.

She was launched on 23 January 1965 and was commissioned on 26 October 1968, being christened by her sponsor, Mrs. John Love, wife of the governor of Colorado.

In 1970, DENVER played a key role in the SS *Columbia Eagle* incident. When the SS *Columbia Eagle* was commandeered by two mutinous crew members on 14 March 1970, DENVER was immediately dispatched to intercept and recapture *Columbia Eagle*. Two CH-53 helicopters were landed on DENVER from bases in Vietnam to assist in visual surveillance. She acted as communications relay station between the *Columbia Eagle* and various interested commands and surface observation platform for movements of *Columbia Eagle*.

In April 1975, DENVER participated in Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of Saigon, Vietnam. In company with 48 ships of SEVENTH Fleet, she processed 7,500 Vietnamese refugees through the well deck via landing craft. After processing they were shuttled to waiting Military Sealift Command ships. The hours became incredibly long as Marine helicopters came aboard with load after load of refugees, yet the crew of DENVER continued the job, feeding and tending to thousands of evacuees.

DENVER took part in Western Pacific deployment 84 participating in several operations including Operation BEACH GAURD, Operation COBRA GOLD, and Operation VALIENT USHER. On her return trip in December 1984, DENVER participated in a tiger cruise. It was during this time that she collided with USS NEW ORLEANS in a refueling exercise, NEW ORLEANS who had her elevator out and smashed into the DENVER several times.

DENVER acted as the primary control ship for all amphibious ships in support of Operation Desert Storm. On February 24, 1991, DENVER tactically off-loaded Marine and Navy units off the coast of Al Mishab, Saudi Arabia.

On 13 July 2000, the ship was participating in a refueling exercise near the end of a deployment. DENVER, off the coast of Oahu, collided with its refueling vessel, USNS YUKON. DENVER's bow was seriously damaged. She remained in port at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii undergoing repairs for two weeks.

Beginning on 17 August 2009, DENVER started rendering humanitarian assistance to Taiwan due to the destruction caused by Typhoon Morakot. She was tasked independently to render aid, along with two embarked squadrons, HM-14 and HSC-25. They were supporting efforts by airlifting food, medical supplies, and providing heavy lift support for earth moving equipment to assist with recovery efforts. Due to the sensitive nature surrounding Taiwan, especially with the One China policy, the Department of

Defense did not publicly announce relief efforts. The crew planned to be in the vicinity of Taiwan until 22 August 2009 to render aid to the people of Taiwan. DENVER had just completed TALISMAN SABER 2009 and was on her way to her homeport when she received tasking of this humanitarian mission.

In September 2009, she was sent to Sumatra, Indonesia to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in the recovery efforts following a devastating earthquake. Using Marine air assets, she delivered more than 360,000 pounds of food, water and emergency shelter supplies from disaster relief non-government organizations (NGO) to remote regions inaccessible by land.

During her Spring Patrol 2014, DENVER participated in exercise COBRA GOLD, a cooperative joint-theater operation with the Royal Thai Navy, Republic of Korea Navy, and U.S. Marine Corps. From March 27 to April 7, she played a role in Exercise SSANG YONG, an annual exercise with the Republic of Korea Navy off the coast of South Korea. Involving approximately 7,500 Marines, 2,000 U.S. Navy Sailors, 3,500 Republic of Korea Marine Corps, 1,000 Republic of Korea Navy Sailors, and 130 Australian soldiers, it was largest scale combined amphibious exercise in its history.

DENVER officially inactivates 30 September 2014 after nearly 46 years of service.

