



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Walla Walla District

News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

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Walla Walla District employee killed in tractor accident

Walla Walla, Wash. – A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee was killed in a farm tractor accident on June 30, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials have announced.

Steven Edward Torretta, 58, regional information officer and chief of information management for Walla Walla District, died at his family farm on Spring Creek Road east of Walla Walla, Wash.

Torretta was born in Walla Walla Dec. 26, 1948, to Albert and Dorothy (Meiners) Torretta. Albert was a longtime electrician in Walla Walla and Dorothy was a registered nurse and homemaker who raised six children.

Torretta attended St. Patrick's Elementary School in Walla Walla and he graduated from DeSales High School, also in Walla Walla, in 1967. He then moved to San Francisco to study at University of San Francisco. He took an extended break from his studies and worked at Pacific Gas and Electric. Between jobs he explored Europe, where he developed a lifelong love of traveling and Mediterranean culture.

Torretta was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in forested watershed management from the University of Arizona in 1977.

Torretta worked for several federal government agencies including U.S. Forest Service in Alaska and Mount St. Helens, Wash., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Portland, and the Department of the Navy in Naples, Italy.

Torretta moved back to the family farm in 2005 to begin his work with Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The information management office is responsible for technology support services including managing, planning and budgeting of records and correspondence, forms, publications, and services such as printing and duplicating, library, mail, audiovisual and graphics, and electronic publishing. Information technology includes all voice and data communications and computer services including programming, computer-aided design, geographic information systems, computer help, and equipment maintenance.

Torretta received numerous commendations for outstanding performance during his federal career.

Torretta is survived by his wife of 32 years, Jennifer Shields; children Angela, of Redding, Calif., and Brian, of Seattle, Wash.; and parents Albert and Dorothy Torretta, of Walla Walla, Wash. Also surviving are brothers, Pat, of Spokane; John, of Edmonds; and Mark, of Renton; and sister Mariann, of Spokane, all in Washington State, as well as many extended family members and friends. Steve Torretta was preceded in death by his sister Paula.

Services are today at St. Patrick Church in Walla Walla.

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