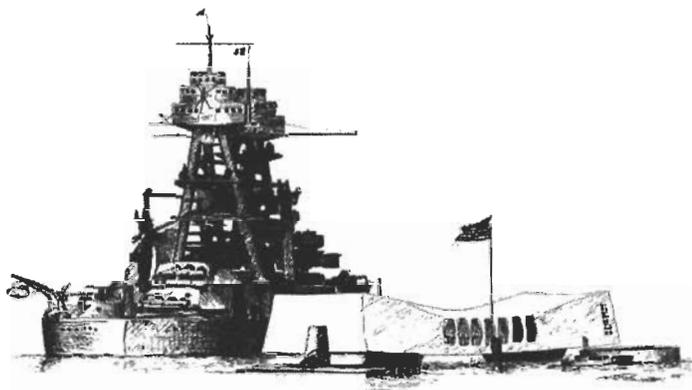


PRESS RELEASE

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POC: Lt. Barbara Mertz

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Navy confirms missing Sailor's identity

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII – The Navy today officially identified the Sailor who was last seen Saturday in the waters off Spitting Rock near Haunama Bay, Hawaii, as Operations Specialist Third Class Zachary Ryan Johnson.

The 21-year-old native of Windsor, Colo. is assigned to the Pearl Harbor–based guided missile cruiser, USS Lake Erie (CG 70). Johnson joined the Navy in March 2004 and reported to Lake Erie in December of that year.

“The crew of the USS Lake Erie greatly appreciates the efforts of the local Fire and Rescue personnel, the U.S. Coast Guard, Navy Squadrons and others involved in their attempts to find and bring back our shipmate,” said Capt. Joseph A. Horn, Jr. commanding officer, USS Lake Erie. “We remain hopeful for a positive outcome and we ask you keep our shipmate and his family in your prayers.”

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