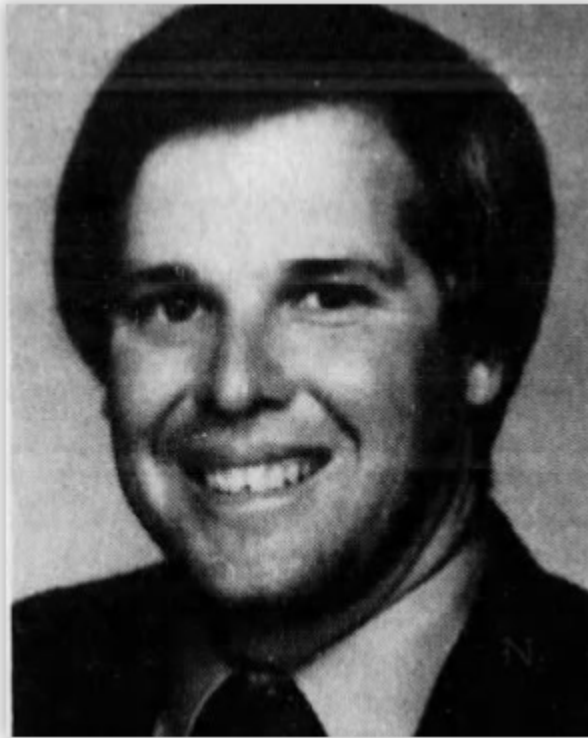


Ronnie Pace



## Search called off for man lost at sea

HATTIESBURG (AP) — U.S. Coast Guard officials said Monday that they have suspended the search for a 31-year-old Hattiesburg man lost at sea since Sunday.

Ronnie Pace, owner of a roofing and sheet metal company, was reported missing at 2:23 p.m. Sunday from a diving and fishing expedition near the Chandeleur Islands in Breton Sound in the Gulf of Mexico, according to Coast Guard spokesman Gene Maestas in New Orleans.

"We received a call from the pleasure craft Melony which was located near an oil rig near the Chandeleur Islands in Breton Sound reporting that a diver was missing. A 31-year-old man was spearfishing with two buddies who reported the man had speared a 300-pound grouper but his arm was tangled in the spearline," Maestas said. "The wounded fish and the diver disappeared in deep water."