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# SIGHTINGS

Volume 15, Issue 3

September 2009

## San Diego in February says Nice weather and warm friends

What's the weather in your part of the country in early February? Is it rain, snow and cold? Is it just snow and cold? How about heavy rain every day? Are you where it is just sunny and cold? What's the weather in Southern California at that time? Is it *Sunny and Mild*?

But, who cares about the weather? We are going to revisit the palatial Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel on San Diego Bay for Reunion XIII. Jim Finkelstein made direct contact with "Papa" Doug Manchester, hotel owner and close friend/former employer of Pete Litrenta.

Shortly afterwards, the hotel came back to us with a rate of \$159 plus tax for *February 12-14*. Remarkably, this is the same rate we had almost six years ago. They also said the rate would hold for those adding extra days on either end.

What's more, all rooms will be Premium Bay view. And, we are going to spend a few days with our USNPAAA friends at receptions, dinners and trips to local sites, such as the USS Midway.

Individual reunion costs haven't been established, but we would expect them to be about the same as they were at the previous San Diego reunion.

We won't be able to visit with Pete Litrenta, one of the main organizers of the last San Diego reunion, whose passing was observed with a large memorial service on USS Midway.

And, of course we tremendously miss all of those other friends and shipmates we have mentioned in this and other recent *Sightings* issues.

We had about 100 people at the last San Diego Reunion, and if we want to enjoy the beautiful sunshine and warmth of our longtime friends and new active duty shipmates you must come.

Mailings with detailed information will be sent out to all members soon. And, more information will be in the next newsletter.

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### USNPAAA won't be the same Without Captain Tom Coldwell

CAPT Tom Coldwell was born in 1935 in Danville, Illinois. He joined the Navy in 1957, and retired in July 1984. He and his wife, Mary Ann, spent most of his retired life in the Washington area, but moved to Cary, NC in 2006. Moving south didn't end



his active role in things Navy, it just put more of it on the phone and the Internet. He passed away on August 4, after a long bout with cancer.

*Continued on page 3*

## View from the Bridge

The news since our May Sightings has been good and not so good. On the positive side – as reported in this issue – we’ve decided on the dates (Feb 12-14) and venue for Reunion XIII in San Diego. I’m delighted that we will again meet at the beautiful Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel.

In a sense, Reunion XIII will be like going back in time since not only the venue will be the same but so will the cost. The hotel has graciously agreed to the same room rate as the last time we were there, and all rooms will be Premium Bay View, normally a \$25 per night upgrade.

The reunion registration fee hasn’t been set, but we expect it will not exceed the \$195 for the Reunion IX. That, and other information, will be included in a mailing to all members in the near future. I look forward to seeing you there.

We were deeply saddened to learn that Captain Tom Coldwell died on August 4, from an illness he had been fighting for more than a year. Since our Association was founded in 1994, Tom had been its one and only Membership Chairman. But, his overall contributions went far beyond that. He was really the heart of the Association.

In recognition of his unparalleled contributions to the Association, your Board of Directors voted on July 30 to rename the Significant Achievement Award the “*Captain Thomas Coldwell Award for Significant Achievement.*”

Dick Thompson kindly agreed to succeed Tom as Membership Chairman.

Finally, for your attention are two other important developments: (1) In July, Mike Doubleday relieved Jeff Zakem as Association Treasurer. Jeff graciously served for five years as Treasurer and was a great steward of our resources. (2) Our last *Sightings* of 2009 will be an internet-only version, which we’re calling I-Sightings. Like many organizations, we’re looking for ways to conserve funds, which this will help do.

***I look forward to seeing many of you at Tom Coldwell’s funeral service at the Fort Myer Chapel at 1 p.m. on Monday, November 23.***

***-Jim Noone***

## July Board meeting report Financial and other items

The latest board meeting was held on July 15. A quorum of members reviewed Finance and Audit Committee recommendations made at the April meeting. The following actions were reported:

It was decided that funds spent for the next 18 months would be withdrawn from the Association’s money market account as needed and that they would not exceed the \$5,625 recommended budget for those months. The Association’s assets total \$101,859.62 with a \$90,000 endowment fund invested at a 2.5% rate in a Navy Federal Credit Union CD, and \$11,521 in a Credit Union Money Market account.

A recommendation that an endowment fund drive be conducted to increase the endowment to at least \$100,000 was placed on hold pending efforts to change the IRS status of the Association to a 501(c)(19) category, which would allow contributions to be tax-deductible. Members should have received a survey in August requesting information to be used if a status change is requested.

It was generally agreed that this board was firmly committed to establishing a policy that reunions be self-sufficient and that a single manager be designated for each reunion. But, it was agreed that it was too early to select that manager and also determine reunion costs for San Diego.

In response to the Finance committee recommendation to cut costs on ***Sightings*** it was pointed out that the 18-month budget planned for only four printed issues of *Sightings* and that total was \$2,400 or \$600 per issue. In further discussion of the proposed 18-month budget, it was pointed out that the \$650 reunion mailing costs will be recouped by reunion income, and that a \$350 miscellaneous item was placed in the budget to replace the previous president’s discretionary fund of \$1,000.

President Noone thanked Jeff Zakem for his outstanding and dedicated service as association treasurer for the past five years, and the board was unanimously approved Mike Doubleday as Treasurer.

The final item of business was the appointment of Dick Thompson to relieve Tom Coldwell of his many volunteer duties on behalf of the Association.

## Tom Coldwell “was known for his compassion for others”

Elsewhere in *Sightings*, there will be an article that Tom wrote and asked us to publish for all to read.

Entering the Public Affairs field in 1965, Coldwell spent two years at the Ninth Naval District from 1965 to 1967. He then was assigned to COMPHIBGRU Three-CTF 76, in Vietnam in 1967-68. From there he spent a year in Graduate School at the University of Wisconsin.

He served at NAVPAO West from 1970 to 1973, and then was assigned to Commander Seventh Fleet for two years. He came to CHINFO in 1975 and worked in a variety jobs in offices including the Public Information Division, the PAO Detailer and Assistant CHINFO for Operations. He moved to the Navy Recruiting Command in 1981 and then retired from active duty in November 1983.

He then went over to help RADM Thompson and others establish the Navy Memorial.



*As pictured above, CAPT Coldwell received the USNPAAA “Significant Achievement Award” in 2005 from Jim Finkelstein, for “Tireless Service” to the Association.*

To summarize the award, it stated that he “has been and continues to be the glue holding this Association together.” It went on to say that, “As the association’s anchor to the windward, he willingly takes on myriad tasks never seeking the recognition he deserves.”

It highlighted the fact that, “His wise and valuable counsel has guided five presidents (now seven) and numerous board members in building and sustaining an active organization of nearly 500 members.”

Referring to his communication skills, the award stated that through his perseverance and technical acumen, “he has developed a communications

system to provide the association’s widely scattered members opportunities for easy contact that sustains our camaraderie.”

Former President Brent Baker added some comments about Tom. “He was known for his compassion for others, and carried a personal history book of facts about the USNPAAA in his head.” He recalls during his tenure as President he asked him if he officially wanted to be back on the board. He replied, “No, been there done that!” But he quickly added, “But you can bet I’ll be on every Board conference call as membership chair and I will be there when you need me.” And, Baker adds, “He was always there for us.”

The letter displayed below was sent to CAPT Tom on July 31, 2009 - four days before he left us.

*How many people receive an award that is subsequently named for them?*

**Dear Tom,**

As you well know, the U. S. Navy Public Affairs Association has a Significant Achievement Award for its members who have distinguished themselves in Navy public affairs and service to the Association. You, of course, received the award in 2005, deservedly so.

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that in a special meeting yesterday, the Association Board of Directors voted unanimously and enthusiastically to change the name of this award to the “*Captain Thomas Coldwell Award for Significant Achievement.*”

This action was taken as a measure of our esteem for you, and a lasting tribute for the countless contributions you have made to our Association since it was started 15 years ago.

During that time you have been Membership Chairman, meticulous keeper of the data base, editor of the Membership Directory, communicator-in-chief, good humored doer of behind-the-scenes deeds too numerous to mention, and answer man to questions no one else could answer. In short, you have been the heart of our Association.

It is therefore fitting that the highest levels of service to our public affairs community and Association, which you have exemplified, will be henceforth recognized by what will no doubt become known as the “*Tom Coldwell Award.*”

Please know that you have the fond admiration and gratitude of our Board and entire membership, and most particularly of our past and current presidents.

**Very respectfully,  
Jim Noone**





## Recent Sightings

### Miracles Made Possible

Association member **CDR William Tucker** has lived an incredible life, getting miracles on command for him, his family, friends and strangers. Real miracles. The miracle of getting a million dollars. The miracle of a cure for someone with incurable cancer. The miracle of getting a home for a person with no money, and on and on.

Tucker shares this story of miracles happening in his book "Miracles Made Possible." "Anybody can get all of the miracles they want, just for the asking and believing," he says.

"But, they have to go to God in the specific manner God prescribes in The Bible and Torah and Quran in order for their wish to be fulfilled." In the book he explains that God isn't playing any games. "It's just that God requires our complete faith in order to provide us with our heart's desires." In his book, he also tells the readers how to go about doing it right!

His daughter caught Guillain-Berre' syndrome 20 years ago and was totally paralyzed, and, he says there is no known cure for it! He says, "Thankfully, my daughter was completely cured (rare) by the Grace of God." You can read all about it in his 2004 book, "Miracles Made Possible" available at [www.miraclesbook.com](http://www.miraclesbook.com)

### Memorial Day with Storck

Area residents took time to remember fallen soldiers and to honor their families, as Association member **CDR Ted Storck** gave the Memorial Day address in Morris, Minnesota.

He stressed that the day should not only be about honoring the fallen but about remembering their legacy.

"We here in Morris also need to recognize their service, respect their devotion to duty and mirror their devotion by doing whatever it takes to ensure the purpose for which they fought will forever be remembered."

"With that, my hope is that we all leave here today with a renewed sense of patriotism and hope, because hope embodies what has made our nation great. Those

who serve now and have served in the Armed Forces are not less committed to protect our nation than were the men who signed the Declaration of Independence. "Today our armed forces maintain the commitment and honor that was declared over two centuries ago when America first fought for freedom."

Storck said that it is our obligation to teach our youth that nothing comes without costs, and that sacrifices are meaningless without remembrance. Storck called upon his fellow veterans and friends to, "remember our fallen comrades not only today, but long after we leave here." In closing, he said, "May God bless them, may God bless you who care enough to be here and may God bless America."

### Serve in Vietnam, Have Cancer?

*By Tom Coldwell*

Did you serve in Vietnam and now have cancer? Depending on the type of cancer, you may be eligible for disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Thanks to information and encouragement from two USNPAAA members and long time friends of mine, I have discovered that, like them, I am eligible for and am now receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The VA has rated our disabilities at 100% because our prostate cancers were presumptively caused by exposure to the defoliating herbicide Agent Orange during any period ashore in Vietnam. Each of us is receiving a hefty check each month and it is tax-free. This is good news, against the backdrop of having cancer, which we would rather not have.

Currently the VA lists the following diseases as "presumptively attributable" to Agent Orange: *acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, porphyria cutanea tarda, chloracne, prostate cancer, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, respiratory cancers, Hodgkin's disease (lung, bronchus, larynx and trachea), multiple myeloma, soft-tissue sarcoma, acute non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Type II diabetes mellitus*. Big words, bad stuff!

The presumptive policy simplifies the process of receiving compensation for these diseases since VA foregoes the normal requirements of proving that an illness began or was worsened during military service. For a report on Agent Orange, its history and its perils, <http://www.utvet.com/agentorange.html>.

Any USNPAAA member - or any veteran - who served in Vietnam and is now suffering from one of these cancers should seriously consider applying for VA compensation. Full instructions for applying, including an online application form, are located at <https://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp> .

The application form and process may be daunting at first, but the potential benefit is well worth the effort in terms of tax-free cash now and later enabling one's surviving spouse to be eligible for Dependents Indemnity Compensation on top of other death benefits.

As a personal note, I am extremely grateful USNPAAA friends who assisted me before and after I filed a claim. Who knows, maybe this article could "pay it forward" to some other member who had not yet discovered his/her eligibility for VA disability compensation. More information may be found at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide/aono1.htm> .

**Editor's Note:** Tom contacted me in June and asked me to publish this article in the next issue of *Sightings*. Again, Tom showed his concern for his fellow ship-mates and friends.

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Lifetime member, **LT Jerry Bastarache**, a Falls Church, resident passed away on July 10.

Jerry's public affairs career began in 1963 when he served with the U.S. Navy as assistant public affairs officer for Commander 7th Fleet, aboard the USS Providence. He later served in the Navy's Office of Information in New York City before concluding his naval service as media officer with the navy command information bureau established immediately following the sinking of the submarine USS Scorpion in 1968.

Jerry served with distinction as the affiliate and associate representative on the National Press Club's Board of Governors. President Donna Leinwand said, "We at the Club will miss him terribly."

He was long-standing member of the D.C. chapter of the Radio Television News Directors Association (RTNDA). He is survived by his wife, Rosalie, daughter, Suzanne and son, Robert. He was buried at the National Memorial Park Cemetery.

**JOCM David F. Machtel, Jr.**, passed on April 30, after 76 years of productive living. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend and mentor. David proudly served his country in the USAF and USN Reserves and retired as a MCPO after 29 years of service.

He was a news anchor at WJIM/T 6 in Lansing, and was press secretary for the Republican Party for many years. He also served as the executive director of the Floral Trade Council.

David was also a trustee on the Board of Directors of Lansing Community College, and a member of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association. He was also involved with The Michigan Historical Society, the Old Timer's Baseball Association and the Fleet Reserve Association.

His wife, Nina and daughters, Dyanne, Denise, Dawn, and Deanna survive him. All who knew him will miss David's positive attitude and sense of humor

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**CAPT John Cartwright** lost his battle with cancer on June 7. He was born in Tonkawa, OK on February 20, 1931. He was commissioned an Ensign in 1953, after he completed the NROTC program at DePauw University.

His first assignment was onboard the destroyer USS TINGEY (DD539) where he rose to Operations Officer. The TINGEY had three tours of duty with the Seventh Fleet, participating in shore bombardment missions during the Korean War and patrol duty in the Formosa (Taiwan) straits.

He was released from active duty in June, 1956, and served as a Naval Reservist in Detroit, before joining Reserve Public Affairs Company 9-2, Chicago.

He became a PAO in 1967, and served as Administrative Officer with NRPAC 9-2. For the next 17 years he served as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of Fleet Home Town News Center 113; Office of Information Det 613; Office of Information Det 813; Navy Office of Information Midwest 113; and Office of Information Det 713. No other public affairs officer had ever commanded five separate units.

His wife, Carolyn Peck Cartwright of Lake Forest, IL, and his two daughters, Alison Cartwright Sesko of Woodinville, WA, and Hollis Cartwright Blume of Lake Bluff, IL, survive him.



**CAPT Robert Jones** passed away on August 5, in Savannah, Ga. A WWII veteran, Jones served on or commanded five amphibious ships in the Pacific. He took command of one ship after its Commander was injured in a Kamikaze suicide attack.

In the early stages of Vietnam, Jones was 7th Fleet PAO. Later during the war, he served as Deputy and then Acting Director of Defense Information, and as Director of Defense Public Affairs Plans and Programs. He also served as Chief of Public Information for NATO's Southern Europe Command.

He had numerous medals, including the Legion of Merit for service in the Defense Department, and the SECNAV Meritorious Public Service Award for his part in building the U. S. Navy Memorial. His work is highlighted by RADM Bill Thompson: "We were contemporaries on active duty and I knew him to be one of our 'front runners.' He later worked with me as my Deputy at the Navy Memorial Foundation, building the memorial and heritage center. Bob had a computerized memory and was our reliable corporate memory guy. He was also a good friend."

Jones was born in Kansas City and received a journalism degree from the University of Missouri, and an MS in Public Relations from Boston University. He also attended the Naval War College and the Harvard University Graduate School. He was a USNPAAA Board member.

His wife Ellen, his son Robert, his daughter Kathryn, and seven grandchildren survive him. ***Interment with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, following a funeral service at the Fort Myer Chapel at 11 a.m. on December 2.***

*Note: the original article mistakenly said Dec 4.*

**CAPT Walter Thomas**, of Springfield, Va, a former Assistant Chief of Information died of cancer at Walter Reed Hospital on August 12.

He entered the Navy as a flying midshipman in 1946. He had various assignments including two tours of duty in Vietnam, before retiring in 1981. A naval aviator, he flew over 6,000 hours in 15 different types of aircraft. Among his medals are three Air Medals, the Legion of Merit, and the Defense and Navy Meritorious Service medals. He was the author of two books and numerous articles on military subjects, many of which appeared in U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, the Naval War College Review and Navy Times. He later published the entire collection under the title, "The Compleat Pentagon Capers."

He is survived by his wife, Grace (6360 English Ivy Way, Springfield, VA 22152), and sons, Robert and Rick. ***A Chapel Service with full military honors will be at Ft. Myer Old Post Chapel Friday at 11 a.m., December 4, with burial following at Arlington National Cemetery.***

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Roberta Hartmann sent a note concerning her husband, **CAPT Robert Hartmann**, who died on April 11, 2008 at the age of 92. It wasn't reported in *Sightings* last year, and she wanted to make sure that everyone knew that her beloved husband of 65 years had passed away.

She says, that he loved his service in the Navy. During WWII, he worked as public information officer in the Pacific. After the war, he served as a prizewinning Los Angeles Times correspondent and Washington Bureau chief for 25 years. Maybe his best-known role was as confidant and senior aide to President Gerald Ford. He was chief of staff for Vice President Ford before becoming Counselor to the President, serving as a board member.

The media highlight of his association with Ford was the speech he wrote for him when he assumed the presidency from Nixon. The quote being: "My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over. Our constitution works. Our great Republic is a government of law and not of men."

He retired as a Naval Reserve Captain in 1977. His dear wife, Roberta, lives at 5001 Baltimore Ave. Bethesda, MD 20816.



# Admiral Thompson reports on CHINFO Change of Office

On a sunny Friday in mid-August, Dorothy and I attended the Change of Office ceremony for the departure of RADM Frank Thorp and piping aboard RADM (Select) Denny Moynihan as the Navy's newest Chief of Information.

*As the anointed "Godfather," I have taken it as a responsibility to communicate the event from my perspective, which is based on my observing the development of the community since I retired 34 years ago.*

It is always an inspiration to me to see Navy personnel geared up in the crisp Service Dress White uniform. The day was a treat for Dorothy and me from the time we arrived at the Washington Navy Yard, directed to the parking lot, escorted to our seats in the historic Sail Loft, home of the U. S. Navy Band, until our departure two hours later.

The first guest speaker was the *Under Secretary of the Navy Robert Work*, a career Marine Corps Officer, a recognized military strategist, and outstanding speaker with good humor and he even exhibited a knowledge of the public affairs business. He was there for Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus who was in the war zone in the Middle East visiting Navy and Marine Corps stations and ships.

*The Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Gary Roughead*, was the second guest speaker, and he captivated the full house audience with his knowledge of Public Affairs and its problems. He explained the importance of communicating with the American and international publics as well as keeping our Navy personnel informed about our operations and how they contribute to the accomplishment of our missions.

Frank Thorp MC'ed the event and it was evident that being articulate is an attribute of a good leader, which he is. *He and Denny handled themselves well and we are assured of good capable leadership during the twelfth 1650 admiral's tenure as CHINFO.*

It was a well planned and executed program, a proper farewell to Frank Thorp who had an exemplary two years as the Chief of Navy Information. He stepped up our community development considerably and used the existing Rhumb Lines (founded by Steve Pietropaoli) vehicle to great advantage by being current on all matters Navy. Guidelines to the Navy's position on current issues were online ASAP so everyone was speaking with one voice.



*RADM Dennis Moynihan (r) relieves RADM Frank Thorp (l) at the CHINFO Change of Office ceremony on August 7. Undersecretary Robert Work (r) and CNO ADM Gary Roughead spoke at the event.*

That is how Steve envisioned Rhumb Lines when he introduced it. *Frank was devoted to his people and it showed in his relationship with them. They had a mutual trust and confidence level.* However, the most significant evidence of Navy confidence in our communication efforts was the presence of the three and two star members of the Navy Staff. They were there in large numbers. That was a testament to the work done by Frank Thorp and the job he did throughout his career, but also to the importance they put on communications in today's Navy.

It was said by several speakers that the Navy not only has the best public affairs program in the armed forces, but the entire government and it is superior to the corporate world. I've been intimating that comparison, at least at the first level, for years but now I can confidently shout it from atop the Washington Monument,

When I retired in the same building in February 1975, we had a full house with Secretary Bill Middendorf as a speaker, along with Vice Admiral Bill Mack, Superintendent of the Naval Academy and former Secretary Paul Ignatius and his wife Nan in the audience. *We have come a long way, Baby!*

I bring this to your attention so that you can take pride in having established the platforms of the past that have contributed to the success our community is now enjoying. *Our community comprises a hell of a band of brothers and sisters!*

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