



John J. Hunt

July 4, 2010

HUNT, JOHN J., sailor, shipmaster, friend, beloved husband and father passed away peacefully on July 4th, 2010 in Sun City Center, Florida. A true American hero, he was born in Cleveland, Ohio on May 1st, 1929 to mother Marie and father Ralph. John graduated from Bowen Navigation School in 1952. He served proudly in the US Army during World War II. After which, he began a career in the American Merchant Marines, following the issuance of his US Coast Guard papers in 1954. He advanced as a ship's officer from Third Mate through the ranks attaining the rank of Ship's Master in 1978. As Ship's Master, he sailed with a number of companies including Maritime Overseas, American Heavy Lift, and Glen Eagle Management. He was an honorary member of the Panama Canal Pilot Association and card carrying member of the Maritime Association of the Vietnam War Era Merchant Marines. John was instrumental in establishing American Heavy Lift, who he sailed for from 1985 through 1987. Following his service with AHL; his services were requested as Master with Glen Eagle Management in late 1987 in order to lead a convoy of ships into the Kuwait Gulf. On October 16th of 1987, a silkworm missile fired by an Iranian soldier pierced the wheelhouse of the USNS Sea Isle City. This incident was the fuel that started Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Shattering glass blinded Captain Hunt and forced him into early retirement from active seafaring. John retired in November of 1988 and while his sight never returned to normal he led a full life in the Brandon, Florida area. He is survived by his loving wife Jeanie, his

daughter Carla, stepson, Kirt, stepdaughter Sheri, and three grandchildren. The family will receive friends for visitation, Sat., July 10 beginning at 10am at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 County Rd. 39 S., Plant City, 33567. Services will follow at 11am with Father Michael O'Neill officiating. Interment in Hopewell Memorial Gardens. Expressions of condolence may be made at www.hopewellfuneral.com

Tribute Wall

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“ Fair winds and following seas to Master Mariner John Hunt and my condolences to the family. On 16 Oct. '87 I was a young sailor aboard USS OLDENDORF (DD-972) in the Persian Gulf when the wheel house of John's vessel "Sea Isle City" was struck by an Iranian Silkworm missile that shattered the glass that permanently blinded Mr. Hunt. In direct retaliation and as a measured response, President Reagan ordered two offshore Iranian oil platforms 'Resalat & Reshadat' to be destroyed. On 19 Oct. '87 payback came in Operation "Nimble Archer". Our sister ship USS JOHN YOUNG (DD-973) was one of three ships that did the deed. In this photo you can see the Young as she pummels the platforms with 5" shells. Afterward, navy frogmen planted charges at the base of the destroyed platforms and sank them.



Mark Ferri - February 02, 2023 at 12:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Album



Hopewell Funeral Home - January 17, 2011 at 08:32 AM



“ Jeanie, Sheri & Kirt, We're so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Please call us if you need anything at all. Mark, Heather & Tori Souther##imported-begin##Mark, Heather & Tori Souther##imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:32 AM



“ Jeanie, I just learned of John's passing and I am deeply saddened by your loss of this wonderful man and husband. I will always be deeply grateful for all you and he did for Julie and for my family. Howard was lucky to have him as a friend, and Julie was fortunate to have you as Godparents. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Liane Hull Janovsky##imported-begin##Liane Janovsky##imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:32 AM



“ You were a wonderful man and I was blessed that you were chosen to be my godfather. I love you.##imported-begin##Julie Boudreaux##imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:32 AM



“ Our prayers and heart go out to u Jeanie and his family. John was a mans man, everyone that knew him liked him. He was a friend to me when i worked at Stoney's and he will be missed. May God comfort you and fill you will wonderful memories. love, Nancy and Roy Harper##imported-begin##Mr. &Mrs Roy Harper & family##imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:32 AM



“ good by capt. hunt. we were so proud to have you in our family. you were the big brother I never had. you were always there to help us figure things out. you will be so missed. with love and respect. jo ann & tully##imported-begin##jo ann hiller& tully wells##imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:32 AM



“ Carla, I have worked with you for many years and you have told me the story of how your Dad was injured from a silk worm missile. I new from how you explained the story that you were very proud of your Father. He was truly an American hero. I know you and your family will miss him but in time you will just remember the good times you had with him. Love, Suzette##imported-begin##Suzette Knight##imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:32 AM



“ Carla you are a most loving daughter and my deepest heartfelt sympathies are with you, Joey and your family. Love to you all.##imported-begin##Nicki##imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:32 AM



“ JOHN I WILL NEVER FORGET THE MANY CONVERSATIONS WE HAD IN NAPLES AND THE KINDNESS YOU HAD FOR OTHERS. BOB BARROWS##imported-begin##BOB BARROWS SR.##imported-end##

January 17, 2011 at 08:32 AM



“ *Jeanie, Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss..our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.##imported-begin##John & Linda Hester##imported-end##*

January 17, 2011 at 08:32 AM



“ *Jeanie, My heart is heavy for your loss. John was a fascinating and intriguing man. I always enjoyed our "visits". He will be missed by all, but by none more than you. Love ya Girl! Rita##imported-begin##Rita Fowler##imported-end##*

January 17, 2011 at 08:32 AM



“ *A colleague and friend, Captain John Hunt will always be one of my lifelong heroes. His bravery and calm resolve following the Sea Isle City incident in 1987 was an inspiration to all involved. Listening to his low, soothing authoritative voice was always a pleasure. His passing on July 4th is especially fitting for this true American hero. My sincere condolences to Jeannie and all of his family. John Lovell Former President, Gleneagle Ship Management.##imported-begin##John Lovell##imported-end##*

January 17, 2011 at 08:32 AM



“ *Jeanne and Family Our deepest sympathy to you John was such a wonderful giving and kind person and will truly be missed by us. We have so many wonderful memories Naples will never be the same without him. Love Anne and Bob Naples and Mt.Desert maine##imported-begin##ANNE /BOB BARROWS##imported-end##*

January 17, 2011 at 08:32 AM