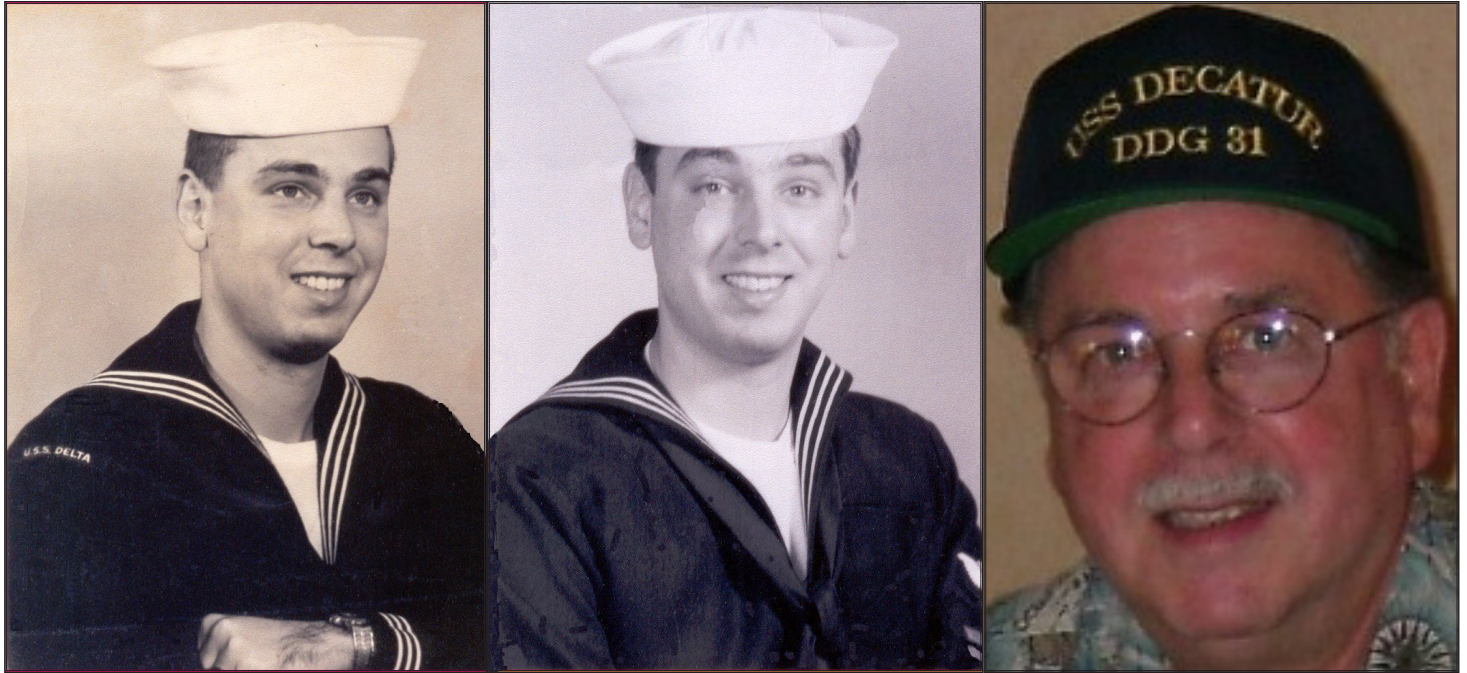


Remembering Mark Serafine



1964

1967

2008

Albert M. Serafine, age 65, passed away January 26, 2010, in San Antonio, Texas.

He was a graduate of Central Catholic High School. Albert was a lifelong amateur radio operator. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy from 1964 to 1968 and was active in the USS Decatur Association.

He was preceded in death by his father, Dr. J.A. Serafine.

He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Patricia; sons, Mark Wesley Serafine and wife Christy, Joseph Serafine, and Frank Serafine; mother, Jeanne Serafine; brothers, Art Serafine and wife Dana, Patrick Serafine and wife Lil; sister, Kathleen Warren and husband Rob; three grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

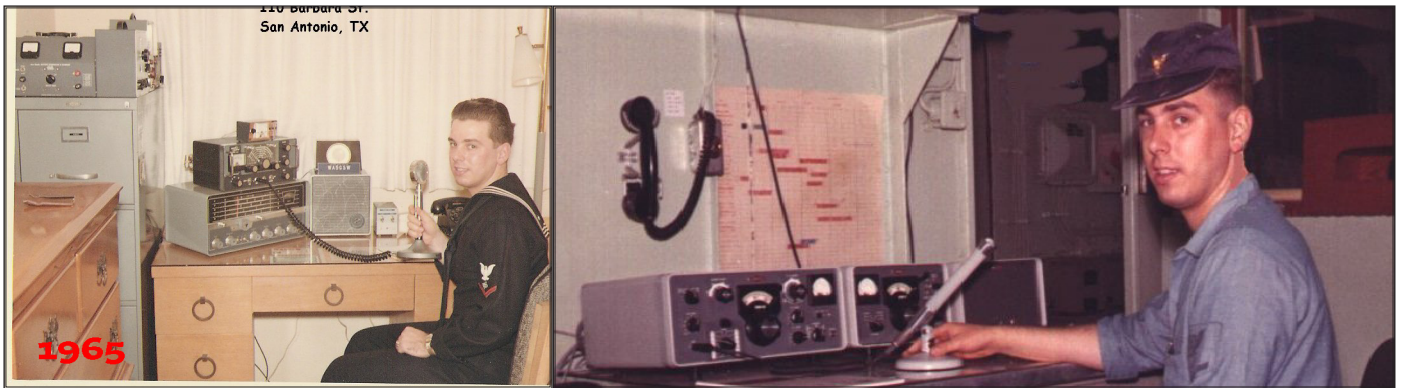
From Jim Stewart:

I was contacted by Mark to see if I would be interested in joining the USS Decatur Association several years ago. I wound up meeting him at a Subway in San Antonio. That was the first time I ever met him since I did not know him while we both served on 31. I chalked that up to the fact that he as a Deck Ape (Radioman) and I was a Snipe (Boiler Tech).

In any event, we had a nice chat and I joined up that same day as I recall. The thing that struck me about Mark's kindness and generosity was the "welcome gift" he gave me at that Subway meeting. It was his original sound powered phone that he used in the Radio Shack aboard 31. I think that when he and Jerry Hiln and a couple of other ex-Decaturites had that last visit aboard 31 prior to the Sink-Ex, they were allowed to take whatever they could carry off the ship and Mark pulled his phone off the bulkhead. Giving it to me was pretty cool. On a par with Jerry Hiln's gift to me at one of our Reunions: the original key to my Oil Shack!!

I keep Mark's phone on my desk in my office as a reminder of Decatur and all of the great people I have been blessed to re-acquaint with.

Remembering Mark Serafine *(Continued)*



From Jerry Hihn:

Seeing Mark for the first time at LAX when we went to see the Decatur one last time.. Seeing Mark in the radio shack on board and got the phone off the wall for him.. OMG was he a happy camper. We had a great visit with mark when we were in San Antonio.. He gave us the grand tour and that night fixed a fine italian meal for us at their home.. We got to see most of his Star Trek collection. He was a Trekie for sure.

From Tony West:

I met Mark in 1966. We both became Decatur (DDG-31) plank-owners in 1967. We worked in close proximity to each other, he being an electronics technician and I was a radarman. Mark was one of my “go-to” guys in the USS Decatur Association. He understood the nuances of the Navy and was a great researcher and resource for Navy information and lore. I could count on him to perform any task and would e-mail him often for advice. Our 2008 reunion was slated for a Baltimore cruise but that fell through. I immediately called Mark for a fall back position and he, without hesitation, volunteered himself and Pat to host in Corpus Christi, TX. It was a great reunion and as usual, Mark and Pat went far beyond the call of duty to make it a success. I miss Mark and it gives me great joy to see Pat and their fine son, Frank, at our reunions each year. I tear up when Frank sings about his Dad because memories flood back and the words are so meaningful. He meant so much to so many. He’ll always be remembered...

