

Remembering Seymour Dombroff



Former U.S.S. Decatur (DD-936) Commanding Officer, Seymour (Sey) Dombroff, answered his last hail on November 15, 2012, in Fairfax, Virginia.

Born in New York City in 1918, Sey graduated from Brooklyn College and was obtaining his masters degree in bacteriology at the University of Oregon when the United States entered WW II. He graduated from Midshipman school aboard USS Prairie State in 1942 and was commissioned an ensign in the Navy. He saw service in the Pacific during WW II and Korea. A life-long “black-shoe” Destroyer sailor, he served as XO of USS O’Bannon during the Korean War, and commanded USS Miller, USS McGinty and USS Decatur in the 50’s. He also commanded Destroyer Division 322 and Destroyer Squadron 36. Shore assignments included tours at The Pentagon, Norfolk and Key West.

He retired to the Melbourne, FL area in 1972 and moved to the Virginian in Fairfax in 2007.

Married to Estelle Margolis (who survives him) in 1943, they had two children, Jeff Dombroff (of Warrenton, VA) and Wendy Sternberg (of Bala Cynwyd, PA). He is also survived by daughter-in-law, Susan Dombroff and son-in-law, Michael Sternberg, five grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren along with countless friends. Captain Dombroff was interred in Arlington National Cemetery on December 13, 2012.

Captain Dombroff’s illustrious 30 year Naval career

- May 1942 – Commissioned Ensign via V-7 Program (USS Prairie State)
- August 1942-May 1945 Assigned USS Heywood (APA-12)
- September 1945 – HQ, 3rd Naval District
- 1947 – Fleet Training Group, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
- 1948 – Communications Officer, USS Little Rock (CL-92)
- 1948-1949 – Brooklyn Navy Yard
- 1950 – 1952 – Executive Officer USS O’Bannon (DD-450)
- 1953 – 1954 – Commanding Officer, USS McGinty (DE-365)
- 1954 – 1957 - Associate PNS, Columbia University
- 1957-1958 – Commanding Officer, USS Miller (DD-535)
- 1958-1959- Commanding Officer, USS Decatur (DD-936)
- 1959-1962 – Operations Officer, Key West Test and Evaluation Detachment
- 1962-1963 – Commander, Destroyer Division 322
- 1963-1964 – Head, Readiness Department, ASW Force, Atlantic
- 1964-1965 – Commander, Destroyer Squadron 36
- 1966-1969 – Staff, ASW Operations, OPNAV
- 1969 – 1972 – Commanding Officer, Fleet Sonar School, Key West
- April, 1972 – Retired



DD-936 plaque hung proudly near his desk for many years

This was his 1959-1960 Mediterranean Cruise Book

Donated by Jeff Dombroff

