

### **Jerome Anthony Rapp Jr.**



RAPP, Jr. JEROME ANTHONY, CAPT. USN (Ret.) On March 10, 2004 another veteran from the "Greatest Generation" passed away at his home in Rancho Bernardo at the age of 83 of natural causes, surrounded by his wife and their children. Jerry Rapp was born in 1920 in Cape Girardeau, Mo. During his second year at Southeast Missouri State College he enrolled as a Naval aviation cadet with the approach of war. Upon commissioning he joined Torpedo Squadron 10 aboard the USS Enterprise where he participated in the Battles of Santa Cruz and Guadalcanal. In 1944, Jerry later joined Torpedo Squadron 7 aboard the USS Hancock taking part in the Second Battle of the Philippine Seas. After the war deciding to make a career out of the Navy Jerry further distinguished himself as Commanding Officer Attack Squadron 65, USS Essex; Executive Officer, USS Ranger; Commanding Officer Cubi Point, P.I.; Chief of Staff ComFairWesPac, Atsugi, Japan; retiring after 32 years of service as Commander Pacific Missile Range, Pt. Mugu, Ca. Moving to Rancho Bernardo, Jerry enjoyed his retirement pursuing the interests he loved including hunting and fishing plus serving his community volunteering his time to "Meals on Wheels" and tutoring foreign students in learning English. Jerry is survived by his wife of 56 years, the former Elizabeth Reed of Jackson, Mo; sons Jay Rapp of Brownsville, Tx., Allen Rapp of San Clemente, Ca.; daughter Catherine and son-in-law John Culbertson of Ventura, Ca., and granddaughter Jerrica Rapp of College Station, Tx. A memorial service will be held March 24th at St. Michael 's Church, 15546 Pomerado Road, Poway, Ca. at 11:00 a.m. with a reception following. In lieu of flowers donations in his name would be appreciated to either the San Diego Aerospace Museum, 2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park, San Diego, Ca. 92101 or, the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum, 1355 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, Ca. 92101.