



ELIAS ALPHONSE PARENT JR. '54

Commander Elias A. Parent Jr., SC, USN (Ret.), passed quietly in San Diego, CA, on 16 October 2009. He was 78 years old.

Nicknamed "Leo" at an early age, he was born and raised in Lewiston, ME, by his French speaking parents, Elias Sr. and Evelyn. He learned English in elementary school and always excelled academically, while peddling lobster and helping construct

his family home as a youth. After high school, he attended the University of Maine on a football and academic scholarship and ultimately was accepted as a Midshipman at the Naval Academy, where he graduated with honors, near the top of his class in 1954.

Upon beginning his naval career, he went on to study at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA, where he received a doctorate in mathematical statistics. His self confidence and strong determination, combined with his educational excellence, created a perfect fit with high military service, it's ideals and adventure.

His exciting, impressive Navy career spanned 20 years and included a tour of duty in Vietnam under Admiral Zumwalt, where he assisted in constructing the U.S. Navy's exit plan for the war. He later proudly accepted an assignment as supply officer on RANGER (CVA-61).

After retiring from the Navy in 1974, he followed his first love as an educator, ultimately as a popular professor at Georgetown University in the School of Business, also acting as a mentor for various students. In 2000, he retired to the sunny San Diego area.

Leo's daily routine included completing the *New York Times* crossword puzzle (with a pen, of course). He occasionally utilized his mathematical skills to beat the odds at the gambling tables in Las Vegas and enjoyed testing his knowledge of several languages whenever possible. Leo's personality never allowed for doubt and he conveyed a wit that could only be described as sharp and arid.

Dr. Parent is survived by his wife of 55 years, Alethea; son, David; many nieces and nephews; and his beloved cat, Anna.

The Parent Family

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY "SHIPMATE"
page 176