

## **CDR Oscar C. Shealy, Jr., SC, USN (Ret.)**

Dec. 11, 1925 - July 23, 2016

Oscar Cleveland Shealy, Jr. (“Junie” to his Southern relations) was born in Leesville, SC. He was the fifth of six children born to Oscar C. Shealy, Sr. and Luda Kinard Derrick, and grew up on the family farm. When he was born, Calvin Coolidge was President, Al Jolson was performing on Broadway, and the baseball world was dominated by Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Ty Cobb. Oscar was a career Navy man, a man devoted to his family, and a man who lived his life modestly and humbly.

As teachers, his parents instilled an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and a love of learning in all their children. “I think I read every book in the library when I was in high school,” Oscar said. He also found time to play football and baseball while in high school. He graduated in 1943, already enlisted in the Navy. He was sent to New York City to train as a reserve midshipman, and spent his free time seeing every musical production on Broadway. “I saw them all,” he proudly exclaimed. “I saw ‘Bloomer Girl,’ ‘Carousel;’ I saw Rex Harrison in ‘Julius Caesar,’ ‘Kismet.’ I couldn’t sing, but I loved music.” He also saw both Louis Armstrong and Edith Piaf perform.

Oscar continued an extensive education while in the Navy, including four years at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, graduating in 1949. In 1963 he attended the first computer class the Navy ever offered at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, Ca. After he retired from the Navy in 1973, he earned a Masters Degree in Art History from San Diego State University. He taught throughout his naval career and into his later life, and never stopped learning.

His first appointment in the Navy was as assistant navigator on the cruiser USS Salem (1949-51). During this time, while home-ported in Boston, he met his wife Anne at a party in her apartment. “She had jet black hair and the bluest eyes, and my, she was just so pretty.” He left for sea duty shortly after, so their courtship was conducted through letters. They married on Dec. 29, 1951; Anne predeceased him 62 years later in Oct. 2013.

During the Korean War, Oscar served as Executive Officer of the minesweeper USS Osprey. He subsequently served numerous tours of duty on a variety of ships, before moving to the Supply Corps in 1965. He was the Commanding Officer of the Data Processing Section for the Pacific (DPSePAC), headquartered at North Island, when he retired with the rank of Commander in 1973.

After settling his family in town in 1969, Oscar took full advantage of every activity the climate of Coronado offered. He golfed regularly at the North Island course, fished off the jetty, and rode his bike around town numerous times a day. He could often be found in front of Bay Books enjoying a coffee and completing the New York Times crossword puzzle (a practice he continued until his last day), and was a well-known patron of most of Coronado’s restaurants.

Oscar’s memory was a veritable library of its own. He recalled each moment of his life with color and detail, much to the enjoyment of his grandchildren. “I had a wonderful wife and we

had perfect kids; I've lived a full life. I have no complaints, none at all. I've been blessed, and I know it."

Oscar lived a rich full life, surrounded by family and friends who loved and respected him. He is survived by his three children: Deborah (Craig) Warriner; Robert Shealy; and Sarah (Don) Stump; his four grandchildren: Colin and Lindsey Warriner; and Andrew and Hannah Stump. He is also survived by his sister, Ernestine Sharpe of Leesville, SC, and numerous nieces and nephews. His and Anne's ashes will be interred in the Memorial Garden at Christ Church in Coronado at a private family ceremony.