



Ret. CPO Clarence Charles "Chuck" Wheeler

December 4, 1919 - April 22, 2015

U.S.N. Ret. CPO Clarence Charles "Chuck" Wheeler, age, 95, a native of Redondo Beach, CA a resident of Baldwin County since 1981 and a current resident of Foley, passed away Wednesday, April 22, 2015. Mr. Wheeler was a WWII Veteran and retired from the United States Navy as a Chief Petty Officer after serving over 30 years. He taught in the Montgomery Public School System and at Pensacola Junior College. He enjoyed fishing, loved music and dancing and he was a long time volunteer at the Naval Air Museum, Pensacola, Florida . He is survived by his wife, Barbara S. Wheeler of Foley, AL; daughter, Carol Beth (Yamas Hiro) Wheeler of Malibu, CA; three sons, David Leo (Lorraine) Wheeler of Dammeron Valley, Utah, Thomas Eric (Renee') Wheeler of Sand Point, Idaho, John Paul (Debbie) Wheeler of Visalia, CA; step daughter, Alison Haas of Daphne, AL, nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Funeral services will be held Monday, April 27, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at Mack Funeral Home. A visitation will be held Sunday, April 26, 2015 from 6-8 PM at Mack Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Navy League Midway Dinner, P. O. Box 331944, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233 or Naval Air Museum, 1750 Radford Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32508 or USS Enterprise CV-6 Assoc., 5011 Round Table Drive, San Antonio, TX 78218-2711. Funeral arrangements are by Mack Funeral Home & Crematory, Hwy 59 Robertsedale, AL 36567.

Events

APR Visitation 06:00PM - 08:00PM

26

Mack Funeral Home

22154 State Highway 59 N., Robertsdale, AL, US, 36567

APR Funeral

27

Mack Funeral Home

22154 State Highway 59 N., Robertsdale, AL, US, 36567

Comments



“ I only met CPO Wheeler once about 6 or 7 years ago when he was the volunteer docent at the Naval Air Museum. He was quite a character at one time asking a lady to speak up as he “couldn’t hear worth a plug nickel”. He was a wonderful tour guide and shared his experiences on the USS Enterprise and told us the story about Lt Jack Taylor who flew onto the Enterprise from the Essex. He later started a rental car agency and called it Enterprise Rentacar. I tell friends often about how much I enjoyed Chuck and his personality.

brad marcum - November 02, 2017 at 09:55 AM



“ My name is Edmund Prichard, people call me Ted. I am father to Chuck's grandson, Riley Prichard. A few years back, I wrote a letter to my aging mother. In the letter, I reflected on career and life and particularly about the adult men who had significant influence in many aspects of my progress. The subjects were my own father, men for whom I'd worked and admired and of course, Chief Wheeler. The following is the last paragraph of that letter.

".....That brings me to Chuck Wheeler. Chuck is the most recent mentor (for me) in this long line. Though Chuck may be the least formally educated man in the bunch, he is most certainly the wisest. He is not a studied man in any area of academics, I'm pretty sure he's never read the 'classics' but I am absolutely sure that his reasoning is solid and that he has never taken his beliefs lightly. If I take away nothing else from knowing Chuck Wheeler, it's that being man enough to simply know what you believe and allow everyone else to know where you stand is as manly as one can become in this life. I will always be grateful for knowing him and I will emulate in my own life these things which I admire about him most."

Edmund B. Prichard
California

Edmund Prichard - April 27, 2015 at 06:49 PM



“ My uncle Chuck was a great storyteller. One day he told me a story about my late mother that was near to his heart, telling me of her compassion and heartbreak as they witnessed a home being destroyed by fire. It made me cry. He also made me laugh at his stories about his days in the Navy. Wish we hadn't lived so far apart. I treasure the memories of his last visit to San Diego. Go with God and give 'em hell Uncle!

Judy Hixson - April 27, 2015 at 12:46 PM



“ 9 files added to the album LifeTributes



Owen Miller - April 26, 2015 at 09:47 PM



“ Rest in PEACE Shipmate. You have certainly earned it.
Phil McCollum

Phil McCollum - April 25, 2015 at 03:06 PM



“ 2 files added to the album LifeTributes



Owen Miller - April 24, 2015 at 08:02 PM



“ Chuck was a great role model for everyone from youngsters to adults to active duty Chiefs whom he mentored. His heart and soul will forever be within the National Naval Aviation Museum. Chuck is a part of the brick and mortar there. The history he taught, the life lessons he shared, and the examples he set will live long after him.

My enduring image of him took place inside the Bueler Library during a Naval Aviation Symposium. I'll always remember him with a finger stuck in the chest of an IJN panelist saying matter of factly, "I just want you to know I helped load the bombs that sank your carriers". Caught a bit off guard, the Japanese aviator bowed and replied, "Many brave men, both sides". I'll never forget that. will always be

Fair winds and following seas, my friend! You'll be missed!

Owen

Owen Miller - April 26, 2015 at 03:50 PM



“ Chuck Wheeler is the embodiment of why the National Naval Aviation Museum was built. Those storied veterans who participated in some of our Nation's most important military engagements, and who provided us some 70 years later, the ability to be still be free is why this institution was and is, the memorial to all those that lived it.

I had the great pleasure of many a conversation, of many a laugh, and thoroughly enjoyed his many writings that told the story of a different aspect of the war. Chuck knew the Battle of Midway backwards and forwards, he was there, he knew the sights, the sounds and the smell of battle. He remembered where he was on the ship, what he had for dinner (cold coffee & a rude sandwich name), what happened and how it happened.

Often he would describe events that were not in the history books, showcasing his personal life, the lives of others, as well people and places long ago forgotten, but not to him.

Due to longevity he was touted by the famous, became a guest speaker for military events all over the world, and many a four star Admiral would stand in line, just to shake his hand. They shook the hand of a warrior, they shook the hand of someone who answered the call for his nation during some of its most difficult times, and they shook the hand of a man who like so many others simply were doing their duty when our country called out.

Chuck Wheelers spirit, and his presence will be felt for a very, very long time.

"Fair winds and following seas"

Buddy Macon
Deputy Director
National Naval Aviation Museum

buddy macn - April 24, 2015 at 04:08 PM



“ 30 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mack Funeral Home - April 23, 2015 at 01:53 PM