

Herman (Herm) B. Zelles

Passed away peacefully at his home in Tiburon (Paradise Cay) on November 16, 2001 at the age of 70. Born and raised in San Francisco, he graduated from Lowell High and U.C. Berkeley and earned an MBA from Golden Gate University. After high school, Herm served in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of the Korean Conflict.

Herm worked in San Francisco for 35 years as a public finance consultant working for Stone and Youngberg, American Appraisal, and Bank of America. He served with great enthusiasm and dedication for over 20 years with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in San Francisco and Marin, and was active in recruiting and assisting young people interested in careers with the U.S. Coast Guard.

A member of Flotilla 12, Herm joined the Auxiliary in July of 1979. At the Flotilla level, he was extremely active in public education and operations. An accomplished sailor, he taught most of the Sailing Fundamentals course to Marin County students for more than a decade. Herm owned the only operational facility in the flotilla, and it served as the platform for aid to navigation verification for the many private aids in and around Sausalito, Richardson Bay, and Tiburon. He received the Flotilla 12 Member of the Year award many years running, as evidenced by his name on the perpetual trophy at Station Golden Gate. The day before he passed away, he spent the day watchstanding at the station.

Herm served as a flotilla, division, and district elected officer with distinction and was a member of the National Investment Committee. But his greatest contribution was to the Coast Guard Academy's "Academy Introduction Mission" ("AIM"). At the District level, he was the District Staff Officer for Career Counseling ("DSO-CC"), screening and coordinating nominations to the program throughout the 10 divisions in 3 western states. This involved an interview process which sent hundreds of young people to the Academy for a week long experience between their junior and senior years of high school. Many of these "AIMsters" end up enrolling in the Academy. Local Larkspur resident Chris Tribolet participated in the program, graduated from the Academy with distinction, and is now LTJG Tribolet serving in the Marine Safety Office Investigations Department, San Francisco Bay (Alameda).

Herm was an accomplished sailor, having traversed the San Francisco Bay and international waters for over 50 years. He was active in the community, including volunteer work at the bay Model in Sausalito and Paradise Cay community projects including the dredging projects and construction of the new Tiburon Yacht Clubhouse.

He was a devoted husband of 45 years to wife Margery, father to Teresa L. Roberts and Linda A. York, grandfather to Rachel and Erin Roberts and Zachary York; brother to Gloria Mendelsohn, uncle to several nieces and nephews, and dear friend to many.