

In memory of a Good Friend

Warren L. Phillips

July 21, 1923-April 25, 2016

Warren was from Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a BS in Mechanical Engineering in 1944. He was in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946. After WWII he continued his education to an MS in Aeronautical Engineering.

He was then hired by Hughes Aircraft Company where his main project was the TOW missile system. He later became Group Head of that project.

Ken and I first met Pat and Warren Phillips in 1961 when "*Mrs. Phillips called to come by and view my paintings.*" This led to a friendship of now 55 years. Pat helped with events in my Playa del Rey art studio and brought me many portrait commissions.

We visited their home in Playa del Rey often for bridge playing. Warren was away so much on the TOW project that Pat was sometimes called 'widow' Phillips. Yet the couple had many friends and activities. Warren was an avid sailor. They owned, with some others, one of the first sailboats in Marina del Rey, the Thunderbird. Next was the Adalante. They also belonged to a gourmet club and were friends with Jerry Buss, of basketball fame. As a result they became avid L.A. Lakers fans.

Warren was a great story teller. He told us about an event early in the TOW project.

It was in Alamogordo, NM very early in the morning, and a beautiful clear day for the test. The first firing of the missal was perfect with a long shot. Four or five engineers were there. To test the distance of the shot from various locations they spaced apart and began pacing to the missal landing site and back in measured steps .On the way back Warren suddenly leaped high in the air. Another engineer, noting this, inquired. "Why did you leap up like that? You were supposed to be taking measured steps to get an accurate distance. "Warren said "There was a rattlesnake curled up in front of me and I had to jump over it."

Warren is survived by his wife, Pat, his son, Steve, and his daughter, Sue.

JoAnn & Ken Cowans.

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