

## Harry O. Wiedmaier



Wiedmaier, Harry O. 81 07/11/1927 03/23/2009 Harry O. Wiedmaier was born in Portland on July 11, 1927. Harry graduated from Salem High School in 1945 and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served in the Philippines until being discharged on Aug. 4, 1946. He then entered Oregon State College under the GI Bill and became a midshipman in the NROTC program. Upon graduation from Oregon State with a bachelor's degree in business on June 5, 1950, he married Sara Mae Addis on June 12, 1950, and reported aboard the USS Mansfield (DD 728) in Sasebo, Japan, on July 10, 1950. After two Korean War deployments, to include the Inchon landing, he was transferred to the USS Tillamook (ATA 192) at Adak, Alaska, until he was released from active duty in October 1952. Harry worked for Westinghouse in Portland briefly until he went to work for Jantzen on Jan. 6, 1955, retiring in 1983 as the director of purchasing. During this 28-year period, he remained in the Naval Reserve. He had three major commands, two of them in the submarine force and one in the naval control of shipping force. He also retired from the Navy in 1983 after 38 years of service. After retirement, Harry loved to travel with his wife, Sara Mae, making many trips throughout the world including sailing adventures to

Alaska, Holland and the Mediterranean. Besides traveling, Harry belonged to a number of organizations including Reserve Officers Association, Oregon State Alumni, Kappa Sigma fraternity, Rotary, Oregon Military Museum and most notably the Save the PT Boat, Inc. After being a plank owner of this group, he acted as vice president and president until his passing. This group of dedicated sailors and vets overcame many great obstacles and totally restored the 78 foot PT 658 to become the only fully operational PT boat left in the world. The PT 658 is a World War II craft which had deteriorated for decades until this group spent the better part of 20 years to bring the PT boat to its current glory. You can see and hear the current crew of sailors navigate the waters of the Pacific Northwest in their living naval museum piece powered by three V-12 Packards. Harry is survived by his wife, four children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. There will be a military funeral and a memorial celebration of Harry's life on Thursday, April 23, 2009, at 1000 hours on the Navy Operational Support Center muster deck at Swan Island. Please RSVP to Sara Mae Wiedmaier, so that your name will be available to the gate watch for admittance. In lieu of gifts or flowers, please make donations to the Save the PT Boat, Inc. at [www.savetheptboatinc.com](http://www.savetheptboatinc.com).

