

Captain John Alden Webster Jr., USN (Ret.), died Monday, March 29, 2004, at the USC/Norris Cancer Hospital in Los Angeles. He was 69. Born in Norfolk, Va., he graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in Maryland, received a congressional appointment to the United States Naval Academy and graduated in 1956. He received a master's degree in operations research, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, in 1968.

He served aboard USS MADDOX (DD 731), USS TUSK (SS 426), USS ETHAN ALLEN (SSBN 608, Commissioning Crew), USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571), USS NATHAN HALE (SSBN 623) and **USS SEAWOLF (SSN 575). His tour as commanding officer of SEAWOLF was the highlight of his naval career. Under his leadership, on several occasions, SEAWOLF received the Squadron "E" for Excellence. In 1975, John was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest presidential honor bestowed in peacetime, for submarine operations.** After retiring from the Navy in 1978, John continued his engineering career with Bechtel Corporation and later with Impell Corporation. In 1990, after earning his professional engineer license, he formed his own company, O & M Management Services Inc. As a private consultant, he developed emergency procedures for the power industry, serving Mare Island Naval Shipyard and San Francisco Bay Area hospitals.

John's passion for life was shared with family and many others. He and his wine-making friends won numerous gold medals in wine competitions, and he was an active participant in computer and investment groups. With boundless energy and enthusiasm, he developed the first private hydroelectric power plant in Napa County; successfully converted a gas engine vehicle to one powered by alcohol and water; and created the first neighborhood high speed Internet access network. He took great joy in making the world a better place. Active and fit throughout life, he loved skiing, golf, biking and surfing.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 41 years, Joan Murray Webster, formerly of St. Charles, Ill.; three children, John Alden Webster III, Coralee Diane Webster and Julia Webster Richardson; four grandchildren; his parents, Capt. John A. Webster, USN (Ret.), USNA '31, and Virginia Lee Tyler of Chevy Chase, Md.; sister Elizabeth Webster Stanford; and brother Stephen T. Webster, USNA '58.

Memorial services, with military honors, will be conducted May 11, 2004, at the United States Naval Academy Chapel, with inurnment at the USNA Columbarium. A second memorial service will be conducted Sunday, June 13, 2004, in Napa. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in John's name to: USC/Norris Cancer Center, The Tree of Life, 1441 Eastlake Ave., Room 8302, Los Angeles, CA 90089-9181.