**Tom Rosholt -- U.S. Coast Guard**

Tom was born and raised in Rantoul, Illinois, graduated from RTWP High School in May, 1964 and entered the United States Coast Guard a month later. His youth was typical of anyone growing up in a small, rural, one-high school town next to a U.S. Air Force Base.

Tom’s youth was mixed with play, school, and sports. Spending money was earned delivering newspapers, mowing lawns in summer, and shoveling walks and driveways in winter.

Tom served with the U.S. Coast Guard during the Vietnam Era, from 1964 to 1968. His boot camp was three months at Cape May, NJ; then attended Radioman School for six months at Groton, CN. He served as a radioman at the Coast Guard Station Miami Bch, FL; aboard the CGC Hollyhock at Miami Bch, FL; and the CGC Citrus at Kodiak, AK.

The majority of Tom’s activities in the Coast Guard were varied, providing voice and CW communications between ships and shore for Search & Rescue missions, Maritime Law Enforcement, as well as routine Aids to Navigation activities aboard the Coast Guard Buoy Tenders, Hollyhock and Citrus.

Tom was involved in searches for overdue boats; rescue missions for pleasure boats out of fuel or having run aground; boats taking on water & sinking; a Cruise ship on fire; rescuing Cuban refugees; tracking gun smugglers; safety operations in preparation for threatening hurricanes; and extinguishment of a fire onboard a Japanese Vessel in the gulf of Alaska, for which Tom and his shipmates were awarded the USCG Unit Commendation Ribbon. Tom was discharged in June, 1968 as a Radioman 1st Class.

Following his military career, Tom launched a career in field service of office products for Magnavox Corp., Lanier Business Products, Savin Corp., and Ricoh Corp. Starting as an electronic technician in June 1968 and retiring as the Western Region Service Manager, in June 2006. The Office products included: dictation equipment, facsimiles, word processors, computers, and copiers.

Tom is retired, living in La Mirada, CA with his wife of 30 years, Avelina. They have four adult children and three grandchildren.