

Russ Egnor

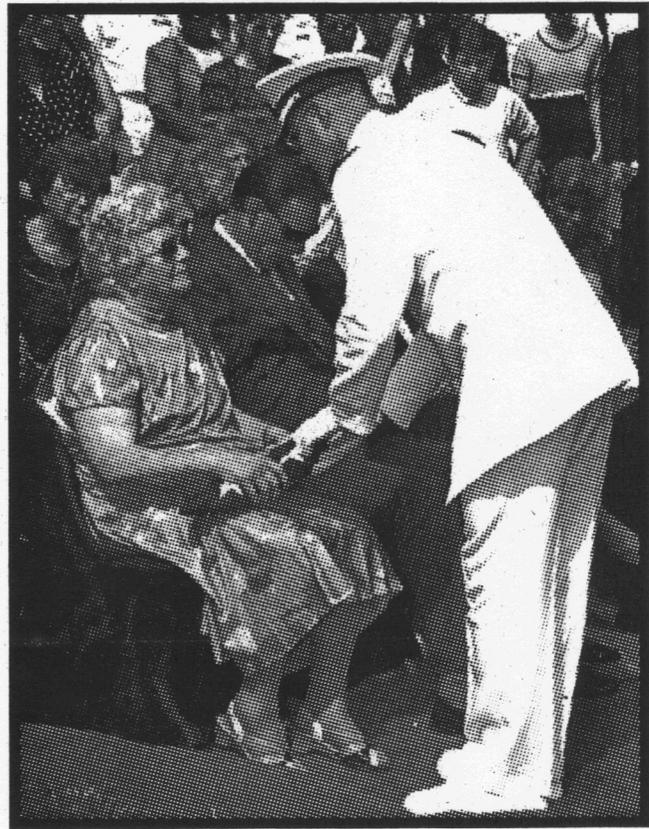
1937-1997

Wings of Gold Summer 97

Russ Egnor was a U.S. Navy man, blue and gold, all the way. To fellow Navy men and women he encountered in the course of a typical working day, his inevitable salutation was, "What have you done, for the Navy today?" The voice was deep and fearfully strong but the twinkle in his blue eyes was bright with amusement.

Russ left a huge void when he died on June 17th at age 60 following a short, tough battle with leukemia. An ANA member, he played a key role in helping Wings of Gold magazine obtain outstanding photography for publication.

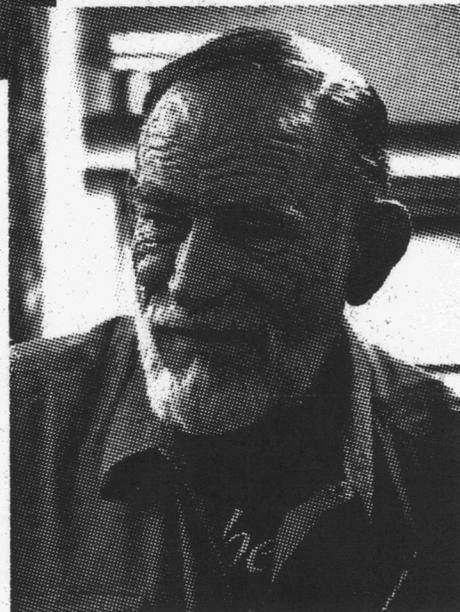
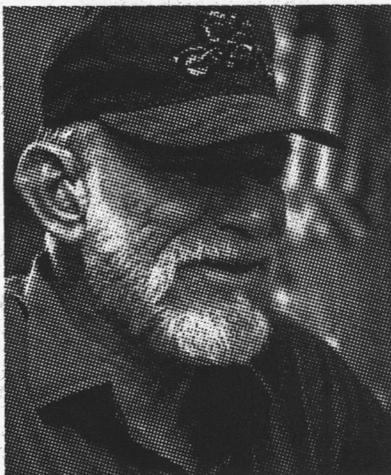
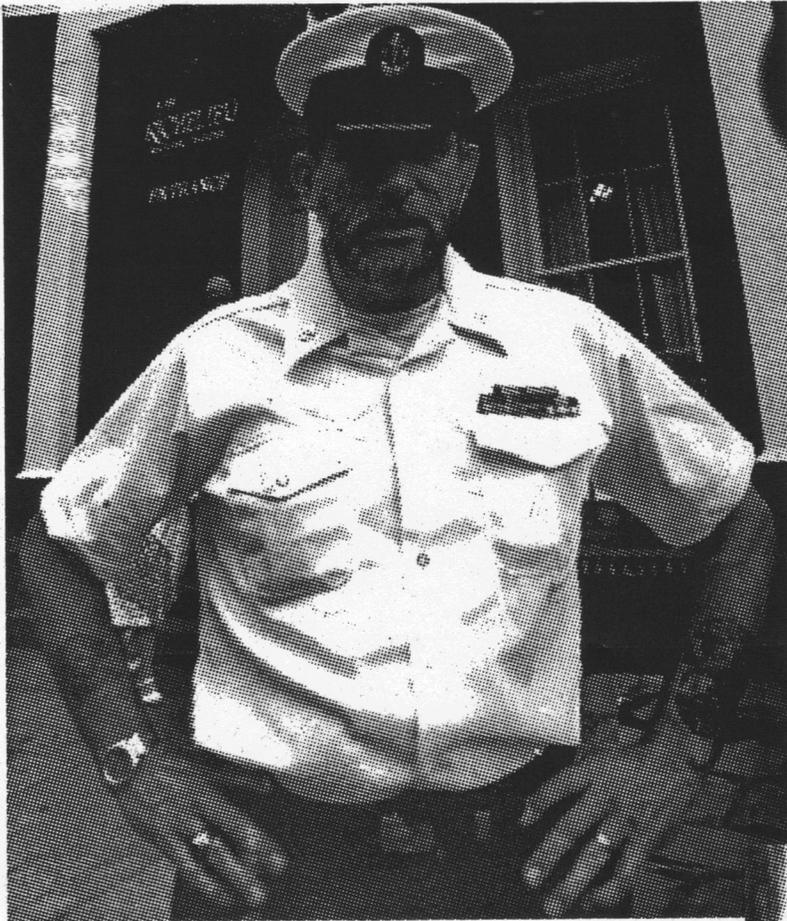
Russ joined the Navy at 17, served on active duty for 15 years, and, following 17 more years as a Reservist, retired from the Navy as a Senior Chief Journalist. He participated in the first world cruise by surface nuclear ships: USS Enterprise, USS Bainbridge and USS Long Beach; photographed and wrote about Navy life in Southeast Asia during Vietnam combat; and recorded events from Seoul and



Panmunjom, Korea, during negotiations for the release of the USS Pueblo and its crew from North Korea to name a few.

As a Navy civilian in the nation's capital, he was PAO for Military Sealift Command, head of the Still Media Division of the Naval Photographic Center and for the last 11 years, Director of the Still Photo Branch in the Navy Office of Information. It was in this capac-

ity that Russ spearheaded the transition of the Navy's photo program into the era of digital imagery. This resulted in rapid worldwide photographic coverage of operations in places like Haiti, Bosnia, the Persian Gulf, Africa and during the recovery operations of TWA flight 800. The National Press Photographer's Association recently recognized his contributions to military photojournalism around the world with a National Citation of Excellence.



Russ was a vibrant and authoritative presence at the judging of Wings of Gold/Naval Aviation News bimonthly photo contest winners. He encouraged photographers throughout the fleet to participate and was responsible for acquiring great photos for these magazines.

At Russ's funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery, the Fort Myer chapel was filled to capacity with shipmates throughout the Navy world.

Russ' colleague and friend, CAPT Joseph Mancias, Jr., USNR (Ret.), gave the eulogy and kept his remarks in the free and easy mood specifically requested by Russ, who had said,

"...make light of the situation no matter who gathers to see me off. I don't want people to feel sad...so tell them stories about our Navy Adventure that will ease the strain..."