

# Sherman Naymark

1920 - 2016



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Sherman Naymark

May 12, 1920 - June 18, 2016

Resident of Saratoga

Sherman ("Sherm") Naymark, a retired Captain in the U.S. Navy, former head of Quadrex Corporation in Campbell, California, and longtime leader in the Jewish community, passed away peacefully on Saturday, surrounded by his loving family. Mr. Naymark was 96 years old.

Sherm was born in Duluth, Minnesota in 1920, the third of five children of Lena and David Naymark, and grew up in the midst of the Great Depression. His parents were Jewish immigrants from Poland, struggling to get by. At a young age, Sherm and his brother sold newspapers on the

corner while his older sisters helped with their father's fledgling business. Mr. Naymark graduated from Central High School in 1937 at the top of his class and was awarded an appointment to the Naval Academy in Annapolis.

Less than four years later, Mr. Naymark's senior class was rushed into active duty just before WWII broke out in the Pacific. His ship, the *Saratoga*, was the first U.S. carrier to reach Pearl Harbor, days after the bombing. Mr. Naymark rapidly moved up in rank during the war.

Although his ship engaged in ferocious battles against the Japanese navy and air force, Mr. Naymark never forgot about the basic humanity of all people, and saw the opposing sailors and soldiers as intrinsically decent human beings who were motivated by the same human emotions, hopes and dreams as he was.

In 1942, Sherm married Josephine ("Jo") Merelman of Washington, D.C., whom he had met at a Naval Academy dance. After the war, they moved to Boston where Mr. Naymark was assigned to Naval shipbuilding and also completed graduate studies in nuclear engineering at MIT. Soon after, their son Ronald was born, and two years later, their daughter Janet followed. Mr. Naymark, along with a handful of scientists and engineers, including one of his junior officers named Jimmy Carter, was tapped by the Navy to join the early nuclear sub program. Mr. Naymark designed the engine for the *USS Nautilus*, the first nuclear submarine. He and Jo became life-long friends of Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter and attended President Carter's inauguration.

In 1954, following his years of active duty as a Naval Officer, Mr. Naymark decided to turn his talents toward the peaceful uses of atomic energy. He worked for General Electric in Schenectady, New York and then San Jose, managing their nuclear power plant design program. In 1969, he and his son Ron formed Quadrex Corporation and set up offices locally and in Europe and Asia. One of his most daring and forward-thinking efforts involved working with the Chinese government to help them begin a commercial nuclear energy program that would produce power for China

and allow them to sell some of that power to Hong Kong. Throughout his career, Mr. Naymark advocated for the peaceful use of atomic energy, giving lectures and presenting papers at many international forums. The Naymarks joined Temple Emanu-El in San Jose and immediately became active in Jewish community efforts aimed at social justice and improving the lives of Jews and non-Jews alike. Mr. Naymark became President of Temple Emanu-El in 1963 and established a campership program for low-income children. He also worked to support groups such as the National Conference of Christians and Jews (now the National Conference for Community and Justice) as well as Reform Jewish efforts and religious pluralism in Israel and around the world. Sherm and Jo raised their children in San Jose and enjoyed 38 happy years of marriage. Following his beloved Jo's death in 1978 after a battle with cancer, Mr. Naymark met and married the second love of his life, Bettey Jones Naymark. Raised in San Jose, Bettey is a life-long member of Temple Emanu-El as well as an accomplished pastel artist. Bettey and Sherm traveled extensively to many parts of the world, collecting artwork which graced their beautiful home in Los Gatos. Together they funded a program at the Naval Academy that sends midshipmen to live abroad with a family while studying for part of a year, as a way of helping them develop better understanding and empathy for other cultures.

While Sherman and Bettey each have grown children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, their attitude has always been to open their arms and embrace all family members as "ours." Bettey and Sherman were married for almost 32 wonderful years of happiness and devotion to their larger family. Mr. Naymark will be cherished by his family as a devoted and caring husband, father, uncle, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and will be remembered by many as one of the kindest and most generous-spirited persons they have known.

Mr. Naymark is survived by his wife Bettey, sister Natalyn, son Ron, and daughter-in-law Janice, daughter Jan and her spouse Holly, son-in-law Peter, grandchildren Matthew (Raquel), Kay, Russell (Erin), Andrew, and

Joanna, and great-grandchildren Miles, Reese, Margaux, Lila and Lucas, Betty's children Leslie (Jay), Marcy (Bud), and Michael (Joanna), former daughter-in-law Andrea, and grandchildren Nicholas (Nefer), Tyler, and Ryan (Tracey), and many nieces, nephews and other family. In addition to his first wife Jo, Sherm was predeceased by his sisters Brenda and Pearl and brother Leonard.

Private services for immediate family are planned. A community-wide celebration of life will be scheduled. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America or Temple Emanu-El in San Jose, or to the [charity of your choice](#).

[View the online memorial for Sherman Naymark](#)

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).



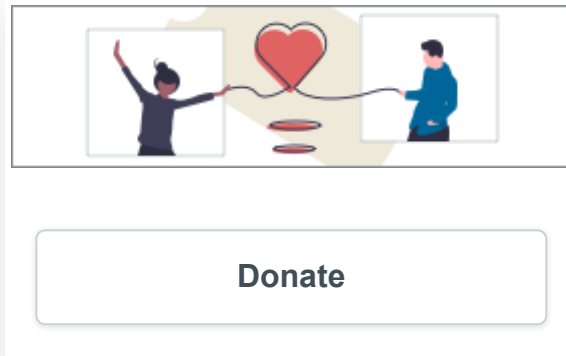
Published in San Jose Mercury News/San Mateo County Times on Jun. 21, 2016.

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### 2 entries

July 1, 2016

It was a privilege to work for Sherm. He was a warrior, a scholar, and a gentleman: "a man for all seasons."

**Harold Durlinsky**

June 26, 2016

What a lovely man was Sherman Naymark. He was so good to my former husband Henry and me. I look forward to telling you in person in July.

Love, Joan Bose

**Joan Bose**

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