

Marie Commemoration on the 50th Anniversary of the Shipwreck
Reception and Exhibit at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum

Santa Barbara, CA, May 3, 2010—The first-ever *Marie* Commemoration, June 4 - 6, 2010, includes public and private events, to honor the seven men who left Santa Barbara Harbor at sunrise aboard the *Marie* vessel Tuesday, June 7, 1960 on a secret mission to test cutting-edge infrared equipment underwater for a Raytheon-related project and never returned.

Friday, June 4, families and close friends of the men lost at sea will meet for the first time at a private reception.

Saturday, June 5, a memorial ceremony and reception at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person (\$50 after 5/15/10; \$60 after 5/25/10) and may be purchased on-line at www.MARIEevent.com.

Sunday, June 6, a sunrise wreath laying ceremony at sea for the families and close friends.

Monday, June 7 – Monday, June 21 a multi-media exhibit, *MARIE REMEMBERED: Seven Men Lost at Sea Expanding the Frontiers of Infrared*, will be on display at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum.

The commemoration and exhibit were organized and researched by Teresa Newton-Terres, daughter of Jim Terres, one of the engineers lost at sea. Newton-Terres' extensive archival research brings to light a story buried for fifty years in recently declassified documents scattered throughout archives across the U.S. According to Newton-Terres, "This is a story that begs for acknowledgement and an honorable and honest telling of events for loved ones and the community to come full circle to finally learn what happened on June 7, 1960."

The Santa Barbara community, a significant hub for Cold War technology research and development, was rocked by the *Marie* tragedy as four of the men lost at sea were born and raised in Goleta and Santa Barbara. They all had engineering and/or military service careers and families deeply interwoven into the community. One of those lost at sea, Dr. Niel F. Beardsley, was a Manhattan Project scientist and pioneer of infrared using red cell physics technology. As is true of many Cold War era scientists, Dr. Beardsley would likely be well-known, if not for the secrecy his work demanded.

With the passage of time it is now possible to piece together context for the top secret infrared technology that was tested by the engineers lost at sea, its importance to national defense, and its legacy in many technologies in use. As the *Marie* project is an ongoing and evolving one, community members and specialists are invited to add their pieces to help put the full story of the *Marie* tragedy into place.

The *Marie* tragedy was recognized as one of the one hundred most newsworthy stories of the 20th century in *Santa Barbara News-Press' HEADLINERS: A History of SB From the Pages of its newspapers 1855-1982*.

"When a friend sent me two news clippings in 2005 and 2006 that referenced the *Marie*, with questionable details and little beyond the story mysteries, I knew it was time to reveal what happened because the men, their families, and the community deserve it," said Newton-Terres. The *Marie* project grew from the Old Town Goleta Culture Project founded by Fermina Murray and Laura Funkhouser (1998) and launched in Funkhouser's apartment where Newton-Terres' father grew up.

Newton-Terres' extensive research was conducted at the National Archives in Washington D.C., and military and Coast Guard archives in California, Maryland, and Washington D.C. She has also sought to breathe life into the details by interviewing family, friends, and colleagues who have a first-person knowledge, all in an attempt to surface the story.

The exhibit is hosted by the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. The commemoration is supported in part by Santa Barbara community and family members. For more information please visit www.MARIEevent.com.