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Marie Tragedy Remembered on the 55th Anniversary of the Shipwreck

Santa Barbara, CA, June 2, 2015— The 55th anniversary of the *Marie* Tragedy is marked Sunday, June 7-21, 2015, by encouraging a minute-of-honor.

The general public is invited to join family, friends, and colleagues circling the globe in observing a Minute of Honor at the 55th Anniversary of the Marie Tragedy Event to honor the seven men who left Santa Barbara Harbor on June 7, 1960. A film clip is available for viewing to assist those that wish to participate. The film clip is of the first ever commemoration event where family, friends, colleagues, and the community gathered at the 50th Anniversary. Initiating the ceremony is Dr. Sutter Fox, (Captain, US Coast Guard, Retired), followed by a prayer by Dr. Doug Kroll, (USNR Chaplain, CDR, Retired), as the video clip shows the wreath-laying boat ride activity all from the first ever commemoration in 2010.

The Santa Barbara community, a significant hub for Cold War technology research and development, was rocked by the *Marie* tragedy in 1960 as several of the men lost at sea were born and raised in Goleta and Santa Barbara. They had engineering and/or military service careers and families deeply interwoven into the community. Few civilians serving government contracts in the course of their work give the ultimate sacrifice.

One of those lost at sea, Dr. Niel F. Beardsley, was a Manhattan Project scientist and pioneer of infrared detection 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.

The *Marie* tragedy is a story worthy of remembering. November 2010, the *Marie* Tragedy was recognized as a Cold War timeline event by the Cold War Museum. June 2010 a first gathering of family and friends commemorated the 50th anniversary and included ceremonies, a museum exhibit at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, and a wreath laying boat ride to the waters off Santa Cruz Island where hundreds of dolphins and three whales circled the boat and inspired all. May 2010 a short documentary debuted on-line marking the voyage where the Raytheon-related project-team went to sea and returned safely entitled, MARIE REMEMBERED: Seven Men Lost At Sea Expanding The Frontiers of Infrared. June 2005 a memorial at the end of the Santa Barbara Harbor breakwater, was dedicated - spearheaded by Mjuiba Cabugos and Bud Bottom's to honor all loved ones lost at sea to include the *Marie*. In 1984, authors Eugene D. Wheeler and Robert E. Kallman, wrote, "One of the strangest boating accidents of the 1960s was the disappearance of the *Marie*,..." in Shipwrecks, Smugglers and Maritime Mysteries. In 1982 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*. And July 1963, a U.S. District Court judge in Los Angeles, was forced to make a ruling as to who would shoulder the liability, which was based on limited information.

The minute-of-honor, June 7-21, marks the day the seven men were scene and the day the last of four bodies were recovered from sea.

For more information please visit www.MARIEevent.com.

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