



## Joseph C. Lewis

March 1, 1932 - December 8, 2017

Joseph C. Lewis, Captain, USN, Ret.  
1932-2017

Joseph C. Lewis, a long-time resident of Napa, California passed away peacefully on December 8, 2017 at his beloved Queen of the Valley Hospital after a short battle with cancer.

Joe was born in Brooklyn, New York on March 4, 1932. He graduated from State University of New York, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree. Following college, he entered United States Navy recruit training at Bainbridge Island, Maryland and then attended the Naval Officer Candidate School at Newport, Rhode Island and received his commission in March 1955.

Joe had a long and very successful career as a Naval officer during his 32 years, including challenging assignments in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Newport, Rhode Island; and Karamursel, Turkey. Following his assignment in Turkey, he studied Arabic at U.S. Army Language School, Monterey, CA and later worked as a foreign language analyst at Naval Security Group Activity, Fort Meade, Maryland.

Other assignments took him to Nicosia, Cyprus; Ottawa, Canada; the Naval Communications Station, Guam; Da Nang, Vietnam; and to Skaggs Island,

California where he was promoted to the rank of Captain. He also served four tours in Washington D.C. in various capacities, and was subsequently assigned to London where he served in a number of positions, including Director, Naval Security Group Europe, after which he retired in 1986.

Following his retirement, he returned to California and began a new career in winery tasting rooms that included Hans Kornell Champagne Cellar and Deerpark Winery. He also served as General Manager at Balzac Communications, was active in local theatre, and performed volunteer work for the Napa Valley Symphony. Never one to sit still for long, Joe found his way to the Queen of the Valley Hospital, where he remained a volunteer for 16 years until his illness.

Joe is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Carolynn, two daughters, Kimberly and Kathleen of Santa Barbara, CA, as well as 2 grandchildren, Christopher and Amber, 2 great-grandchildren, Liam and Vivienne, and his sister Maureen Alhouse of Colorado Springs, CO.

A private family service will be held at a later date, followed by burial at sea.

Joe's family would especially like to thank the doctors, nurses, and other staff at Queen of the Valley Hospital and Hospice by the Bay for the exceptional care and support given to Joe and his family during this difficult time.

Donations can be made in Joe's name to Queen of the Valley Foundation ([www.queensfoundation.org](http://www.queensfoundation.org) or (707) 257-4044) and Hospice by the Bay ([www.hospicebythebay.com](http://www.hospicebythebay.com) or (707) 935-7504).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph C. Lewis*

September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *Joseph C. Lewis*

September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM



“ *Capt Lewis and his wife went sailing with us while we were stationed at SecGru Headquarters. He was one of the nicest and most caring naval officer I ever encountered. What a wonderful life.*

*CTRCS Nancy and CWO2 Ed Owens*

**Kitster Owens** - May 04, 2021 at 03:09 PM



“ *I met Joe in 1996 when I purchased a second home near Angwin and stopped by Deer Park Winery many times to have Joe educate me on wine. He was so generous and a delightful conversationalist that I never forgot him, and wondered often of his whereabouts. It was not unusual for Joe and I to be the only ones in the tasting room, and for Joe to open up several zinfandel vintages. On other occasions he let me help punch down fermenting wines, and introduced me to others in the industry. When Deer Park was sold a couple years later we lost touch. A neighbor alerted me to his passing. I didn't know him well, but he made a large impact on me and clearly on many others. My condolences to his family.*

**Tim** - January 14, 2018 at 09:43 PM

JR

“ Prayers and condolences to the family on the loss of your loved one. R.I.P., ShipMate.



John L. Hester, USN Retired - January 13, 2018 at 09:50 PM

Karen Pluta

“ My heart breaks at the loss of the most wonderful man I've ever known. He was not only a mentor and father figure to me during my time in the Navy, he was a damn fine person all around. One of my favorite stories about him was when he and I were the only two to show up at the CNSG office in DC during a snow storm. He proclaimed, "I guess it's just you and me, the rest of them are a bunch of pansy asses." He was so genuine and kind and he honored me by allowing me to ring the bell at his retirement ceremony, a day I won't ever forget. My thoughts are with you, Carolyn. Fair winds and following seas, Captain Lewis.

Karen Pluta - January 10, 2018 at 05:25 PM

DI

“ My sincere condolences to Carolyn and the Lewis family. Just heard of Captain Lewis' passing and wanted you all to know how much he was loved. I served with him in London in the early 80's and had the utmost respect for him and his beautiful family. I have only great memories with him and many photos of our time together. I will keep your family in my thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Deb (Vigil) Idleman79.

Deb Idleman - January 10, 2018 at 04:02 PM

WN

“ Dear family,  
There were so many places where we would see Joe's always smiling face but none more appreciated than seeing him and receiving his encouraging words to me after my stroke while I was a patient at the Queen. He was loved more than anyone I've ever known. RIP Sir! Warren and Maritza Nelson

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**Warren Nelson** - December 21, 2017 at 06:15 AM

JK

“ Joe was a very classy, dignified and extremely handsome man who was full of love, passion and energy in every thing he did. He reminded me of the actual energizer bunny! I was fortunate enough to have spent a few good times with him but not nearly enough. He was truly a one of a kind guy that will never be forgotten. I knew he was special but had no idea until reading his obit how damn special he was. The world lost a Great man! My love and prayers go out to The Lewis Family as they too are very special people. God be with you in this very difficult time. Best Regards, Jeff Kutzer

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**Jeff Kutzer** - December 16, 2017 at 12:44 PM

KW

“ I will always remember Joe as a man of heart, spirit, and enthusiasm. I was once fortunate enough to be cast in a Dreamweavers production in which Joe played the part of 'GOD'. Well, Joe, being Joe, did not hold back one iota and the production was hugely successful. And, oh my, those sparkling blue eyes!  
In Sympathy,  
Karlyn Williams  
Napa, CA

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**Karlyn Williams** - December 16, 2017 at 12:31 AM

SL

“ Joe had a big voice and a big heart. I worked with him for several years in theater with Dream Weavers. He always remembered our partnership in On Golden Pond. it was a high moment in my career to work with him in that show. He was committed to excellence in every roll he played. My heart aches knowing he is no longer with is.  
Susan Lane

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**Susan Lane** - December 15, 2017 at 08:16 PM

DR

“ I count myself as very lucky to have known Joe. I first met him when he was directing One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest at Dreamweavers back in 1993. I felt so special that he cast me in the show and he is one of the best directors I've had the fortune to act for. Joe and I did a lot of shows together and it was always a pleasure and great fun to be in a show with Joe. I will always treasure my memories of our theatrical association. My warmest regards and sympathy to Carolynn, Kimberly, Kathleen, Maureen and the grand and great-grand kids. I know he will be greatly missed. –Daryl Roberts

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**Daryl Roberts** - December 15, 2017 at 07:50 PM

BB

“ My memories of Joe are always as the most gregarious, amusing, hardworking volunteer at Queen of the Valley Hospital. He never, never stood still. There was always someone he could help or a task to be done. It was a bright light when Joe came into a room. Thanks for the memories, Joe. So glad you have peace now, even though you are sorely missed each day.  
Deepest sympathy to your beautiful family,  
Brooke Bledsoe  
Volunteer at Queen of the Valley Hospital

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**Brooke Bledsoe** - December 15, 2017 at 06:08 PM

BO

“Carolynn,  
*My thoughts are with you and your daughters and families over the loss of Joe.  
He truly was a fine American and we are all blessed to have known him.*  
Bill O'Byrne

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**Bill O'Byrne** - December 15, 2017 at 01:52 PM

CD

“*I have had the honor of volunteering with Joe on the board of the Napa Valley Club HOA, and shared some fun and quality time on the tennis court with him. Joe was an extraordinary neighbor, an excellent fellow board member, and a very gracious tennis player. Laura and I are sorry to be so far away – we are in Europe- but would like to extend to Carolyn, Kimberly and Kathleen our deepest condolences.*

*Last time we saw Joe it was at the Queen of the Valley Hospital where he was particularly gracious in assisting Laura's brother Stephen who was undergoing chemo. Joe made a point in stopping by every time Stephen had a session, and was present when Stephen finished his program. The thunder of Joe's voice, the roar of his sports car, and the cheerfulness that was always with him are gifts to everyone's memories. Joe will be missed, but always present in our thoughts: he was a special person.*

*Cristiano D'Adamo*

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**Cristiano D'Adamo** - December 15, 2017 at 10:17 AM

CH

*For dear Joe's family,*

*Very belated condolences. I only tonight learned of this huge loss for you and the whole community. The Valley Players performed a play at the Lincoln Theatre and dedicated it to Joe. There was a lovely tribute board with pictures of him from different shows in the lobby.*

*I first met and saw Joe perform at Dreamweavers, many years ago. He was a guy one always felt better after talking to, just a wonderful special person. Reading his obituary just now wowed me! What a remarkable career and such a traveler, too.*

*The last two Julys, we both modeled clothing from the Discovery Shop for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life. I told him that I was honored to FINALLY share a stage with him.*

*RIP, Joe, you surely will be always remembered and loved.  
Cheryl Fiedler  
and thank you for everyone you helped over the years.*

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**Cheryl** - February 03, 2018 at 02:45 AM



Michael  
Murray

“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Joe through his daughter Kathleen and I always remember him as a very happy and joyful person. Rest in Peace Joe*

*My thoughts and prayers to your family. Michael Murray*

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**Michael Murray** - December 14, 2017 at 07:41 PM

LA

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Liz Alessio** - December 13, 2017 at 07:30 PM