



San Diego Chapter 1 Member Biography

1st Lt. James D Reily

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Jim was shot down on May 10, 1944 on a raid of a German Airfield in southern Austria, captured and sent to German prison camp, Stalag Luft III. He was subsequently moved to Stalag XIII and Stalag VII. Jim was liberated by the 14th Armored Division

assigned to General Patton and the 3rd Army, April 29, 1945. He returned to US in 1945 and entered flight school.

Jim completed fighter pilot training in late 1946, qualifying in P-51's and P-47's. He was then posted to Guam, flying P-47's. He returned to the US in 1948 where he served as an instructor in multiple types of aircraft (P-51, P-47, P-80, T-33, A-26, B-25, C-47) for the USAF HQ squadron based at Bolling Field in the Washington D.C. area. He separated from Service in early 1950.

Jim drove a truck for the Philadelphia Inquirer when he was first separated from the service. Subsequently, he joined the Bell Telephone Company as an installer. He progressed through the ranks of the company ultimately leading

the IT mechanization efforts for AT&T working out of the Bell Labs location in northern New Jersey. He retired after serving for 36 years.

Jim met Clare Long in Philadelphia while he was on leave from flight training. They married in 1946. Clare passed in 2010 after 64 years of marriage.

Clare & Jim raised four sons, two served in the federal government. Jim Jr. retired as a Navy Captain in 1996 having served as the MIDWAY Supply Officer 1989-1991. Brian served as CIO of the Office of Naval Research before retiring in 2012. Jim Sr. has seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Jim enjoyed volunteering on MIDWAY where he manned the WW2 table on a regular basis.