

## Jonathan S. John

Born: June 6, 1933  
Chicago

Died: Aug 29, 2015  
Quincy, IL

Svc # 458 20 29

Period of Service: Korea  
Navy  
Sources: Cemetery, family  
through Carol O'Neill

Entered service November 2, 1953, and served until September 23, 1957 when he was given an honorable discharge, having served 3 years, 10 months and 23 days. He was on sea duty for one year, 11 months, and 28 days, aboard the *USS Hopewell*, which suffered a plane crashing into it amidships during an amphibious exercise which killed five seamen and started gasoline fires.

After operating off the California coast for several months on antisubmarine training, *Hopewell* sailed again for the Far East 27, October, 1953 and again took part in training exercises off Formosa, returning to San Diego 23 May, 1954. As she began her fourth cruise, a new crisis between Communist China and Formosa developed, and in February, 1955, *Hopewell* assisted in the evacuation of the Tachen Islands. Following this Cold War operation, the destroyer took part in fleet exercises in the Western Pacific, returning to San Diego May 22, 1955.

The veteran ship spent the remainder of 1955 on exercises off the coast. It was on November 11<sup>th</sup> that year that the plane crashed into it causing extensive damage that had to be repaired back in San Diego. *Hopewell* returned to active operations again on March 24, 1956, sailing for the Far East where she resumed her regular pattern of cruises to Japan, Formosa, and Okinawa, interspersed with training and readiness exercises off the West Coast of the US. She operated with Korean and Nationalist Chinese ships on maneuvers in 1958 and 1959, remaining an integral part of the American fleet in the Pacific. It was returned to San Diego in 1959 for extensive refitting and training.

Jonathan John, known as John John, was a long time employee of 27 years at the WGN studios in Chicago. He loved the Island and bought a home here in 1969 where he lived many years until illness forced him to move off-island. He survived many hardships besides surviving the service accident, including prostate cancer, brain tumor, broken hip and retinal surgeries. He was felled by Legionnaires disease contracted in a veterans' home in Quincy, IL in 2015 and buried on the Island with his wife Mary (Bucemi) who had died in 1993. They had had three children, Dino, Doreen, and Jodi. He is survived by his children, six grandchildren, two great grandchildren, his brother, Fred S. John, and his sister Mary O'Neill.