

## **SENIOR CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHERS MATE JOSEPH E. KIRSCHBAUM**

Joe was born in 1937 in Chicago, Illinois. After graduating from St. Leo high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy on 31 October 1955.

After recruit training at Great Lakes, Joe attended Airman Class "P" training at Norman Oklahoma. Where he first encountered Navy photographers at the rate shops training phase. He decided then to pursue his naval career in photography.

After attending Photographer's Mate "A" school at Pensacola, Joe was ordered to Naval Station Kwajalein in The Pacific's Marshall Islands. Exposure to all aspects of Naval photography at this small 4 man lab afforded a well rounded experience in his rating, but Joe decided that his future would be in motion pictures. After Kwajalein, he attended Motion Picture Camera "C" School in Pensacola as PH3. His next duty station at Great lakes as a PH2 offered little opportunity to practice "Mopic" shooting. After his first enlistment, Joe attended Loyola University in Chicago, but decided to re-enlist and was assigned PH "B" School at Pensacola and then on to the Fleet Air Photo lab at NAS North Island where he was promoted to PH1 in 1960. During his stint in the lab's Motion Picture Department, Joe was sent TAD several times to Pacific Fleet Combat Camera Group for motion picture assignments including using the Navy's new Arriflex cameras to film President John Kennedy's visit to the fleet in 1963, the first Pacific fleet launch of the ASROC torpedo, and experimental rocket launches from the USS Helena; both of the latter assignments were filmed with Mitchell High Speed Cameras.

After attending The Rochester Institute Of Technology for Photographic Science, Joe operated a quality control laboratory at North Island servicing the entire Fleet Air Photo Lab and chemically adjusting the motion picture process at FAPL and determining exact film speeds to serve the needs of the Combat Camera Group cameramen. Joe and PHC Jack Lahr contributed their film expertise toward the development of the Navy's PLAT system used on carriers. In October of 1962 Joe received TAD orders to the Naval Photo Interpretation Center at Suitland, Maryland where photo support was provided to the White House during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

On his way back to San Diego Joe met his future bride, Gail Merritt, of Chicago.

Joe was selected to attend the Navy Cinematography course at the University of Southern California in 1963 and 1964. Subsequently, as part of his duties with Atlantic Fleet Mobile Photo groups in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, Joe was deployed to the Dominican Republic in 1965 to film the Marines and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne troops as a member of DoD Combat Camera Team Bravo. The suppression of that revolution by US troops allowed that country to hold free elections and become a stable nation. Joe also filmed the sinking of the cruise ship, Viking Princess and Canadian Navy operations aboard the HMCS Bonaventure. He was promoted to CPO, and assigned as Chief of the Motion Picture Processing Division at The Naval photographic Center in Washington, DC, where the film lab operated around the clock producing about two million feet a week with a mixed military civilian crew. One major mission was to convert millions of feet of old nitrate base film to safety base film for preservation purposes. During his last year at NPC, Joe edited films for CHINFO and The White House.

Joe was promoted to Senior Chief in 1971 and ordered to the Atlantic fleet Combat Camera detachment at Newport, Rhode Island. Joe assumed the duties as Officer-In-Charge of that detachment in 1973 and was directed to disestablish the unit. His final duty before retirement in 1975 was at the Pacific Missile Center at Point Mugu, CA where he served as Leading Chief of the Photo Lab and Small Arms Marksmanship Instructor.

In 1978, Joe was employed by the Aerospace Audiovisual Service at Norton AFB, CA. Within a year he became a film editor where he cut films for all services for five years. Joe was promoted to Film/TV Producer and finally to Chief of DoD Contract Motion Media Production at the Defense Visual Information Center. After retirement from US Civil Service, Joe spent two years with the contractor at DVIC as an archivist, selecting and entering DoD generated footage into the DVIC motion media archives.

Joe is a Life member of NANP