



INTERNATIONAL SHIPMASTERS' ASSOCIATION

DETROIT LODGE NO. 7

www.DetroitLodge7.org

October 7, 2012

TO: Members of Detroit Lodge No. 7

Enclosed is the new 2012 lodge roster. Please check your individual roster entry and let me know if any corrections are needed. As always, I thank Bill Graham for maintaining the data base for the roster in his computer.

The April 2012 newsletter from Mariners' Church featured photo pages on the Blessing of the Fleet in March and the lodge's memorial service for Capt. Don Erickson in April. Lodge Co-Chaplain Fr. Paul Innes officiated at both services. A more extensive photo page about the memorial service for Captain Erickson, along with more details about Captain Erickson's career, is found on the lodge's web site (www.detroitlodge7.org).

The lodge suffered greatly this past year as illness and death claimed five lodge members: Capt. Robert "Sandy" Sanderson died on November 22, 2011; Capt. Frank McBride died on March 9, 2012; Capt. Don Erickson died on March 26, 2012; Jerry Crowley died on July 21, 2012; and Capt. Faro Taormina died on August 13, 2012. The Shipmasters, and especially Detroit Lodge No. 7, lost a combined total of 161 years of ISMA membership: Don Erickson (60 years), Sandy Sanderson (36 years), Jerry Crowley (27 years), Faro Taormina (22 years) and Frank McBride (16 years). Capt. Don Erickson served for many years as Master aboard the former S/S William Clay Ford. He served as lodge President in 1963 and then as Grand Lodge President in 1970. Jerry Crowley was a noted marine artist and historian. He served as lodge President in 1994 and had served on the lodge's Board of Governors for the past 20 years. Capt. Sandy Sanderson was a long-time tugboat Captain, who remained loyal to Detroit Lodge No. 7 despite living in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. He often spoke to the lodge secretary about I.S.M.A. issues when passing the mailboat aboard the tugs Avenger IV or Anglian Lady. Capt. Frank McBride was a well-known expert in marine insurance and a member of Bayview Yacht Club where he served on the Port Huron to Mackinac race committee for 50 years. He was known for his generosity to the lodge. Two years ago he hosted, at his own expense, a luncheon for the lodge members at the Bayview Yacht Club. Capt. Faro Taormina was an accomplished commercial yacht Captain and a noted maritime authority, publishing the Master Yacht Collective, a five volume set of logbooks for professional captains. He was also instrumental in urging his wife Polly to design and sew the official multi-colored lodge pennant which is displayed at lodge dinner dances and conventions. The lodge was indeed fortunate to have such a strong cadre of professionals within our organization and we will miss them all.

Enclosed are memorial pages, one for each deceased member. The memorial pages contain additional information about the lives and careers of our departed members. I want to thank John Sarns for his help in creating these special memorial pages. Obituaries also appeared in local newspapers for Capt. Don Erickson ([Detroit Free Press](#) edition of April 4, 2012) and Jerry Crowley ([Grosse Pointe News](#) edition of August 9, 2012). I have enclosed copies of the obituaries.

The lodge also became aware of the passing of two former lodge members. Capt. Bruce Butler, a member from 1975-1984 and from 1994 to 1996, died on February 2, 2012. He formerly worked for Gaelic Tugboat Co., J.W. Westcott Co. and Windsor Detroit Barge Line. Capt. Joseph Carollo, a member from 1975-1987, died on August 22, 2012. He owned and operated U.S. Marine Salvage and Windsor Detroit Barge Line during his career. Finally, Lea Piggott, a longtime member of the former Ladies Auxiliary, passed away on March 18, 2012.

Lodge members were mentioned in several media outlets during the summer months. [Bloomberg.com](#) on April 4, 2012 posted a story about "Great Lakes Cargo Increase." Member Steve Olinek, Deputy Director of the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority, was quoted in the article. The [Windsor Star](#) edition of July 31, 2012 printed a feature story about the sinking of the M.V. Montrose under the Ambassador Bridge 50 years ago (1962). Members John Polacsek and Paul Jagenow were interviewed for the story. [Crain's Detroit Business](#) edition of August 19, 2012 had a feature story "Business rolls along" describing ongoing local commerce on the Detroit River. Lodge member Steve Carrothers was mentioned in the portion of the article describing Gaelic Tugboat Co./Diamond Jack River Cruises. Lodge members Jim Hogan, Sam Buchanan and Bill Redding were mentioned in the portion of the article describing J.W. Westcott Co. If anyone comes across other articles mentioning lodge members, be sure to let me know. I don't catch all of them.

The membership is encouraged to check the lodge's web site (www.detroitlodge7.org) on a regular basis. Our webmaster John Sarns does a great job keeping the information current and up-to-date.

The winter schedule for lodge membership meetings and the annual dues notice will be mailed out sometime in late November. As usual, lodge meetings will commence in December. Actual dates have not yet been set.

Fraternally yours,

Paul M. Jagenow

Secretary-Treasurer



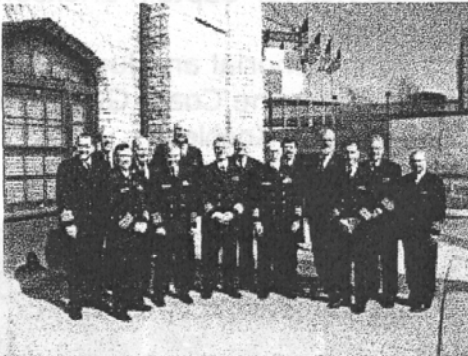
Mariners' Church Newsletter

170 East Jefferson Ave
Detroit MI 48226-4327
313-259-2206

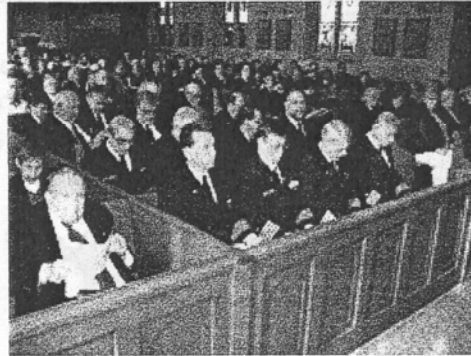
April 2012

48th Annual Blessing of the Fleet Mariners' Church of Detroit March 11, 2012

The annual Blessing of the Fleet service was conducted March 11, 2012 at 11am with many visitors and military personnel present. Many commercial, private and organization flags were blessed as part of the service. The Captain Lewis Ludington awards were presented during the service.



Honor Guard Outside Mariners'



The church was full awaiting the beginning of the service. Ivan Ludington Jr. was in attendance to present the Captain Lewis Ludington Awards



Captain Lewis Ludington Award recipients
Sam Buchanan and Jack Frost

In Memory of

Capt. Robert A. Sanderson

December 11, 1930 – November 22, 2011

Member of Detroit Lodge No. 7 - 36 Years

Initiated February 25, 1975

Pennant No. 10152



Lodge Member Robert Alan "Sandy" "Pop" Sanderson passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at the age of 80.

Sandy was the son of the late Tom and Sarah Sanderson. He is survived by his daughter, Justine McLeod, and his sister, Elaine Rajnovich (late John). Sandy was predeceased by four of his siblings: Ross (Jackie), Howard (Jo), Dawn Goike (late Joe) and Jack (Mary).

He will be sadly missed by his special friend, Kathleen Koster, as well as many nieces and nephews.

At Pop's request, no funeral service will be held. A gathering to celebrate his life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions to the Sault Area Hospital, Canadian Cancer Society or the Group Health Centre Trust Fund would be appreciated. Pop was well known for life on the tug boats as well as his many tales of his life on the seven seas. Over a career of 65 years, he worked his way up from deckhand to the position of Captain, where he was best known for his many years with Purvis Marine.

In Memory of

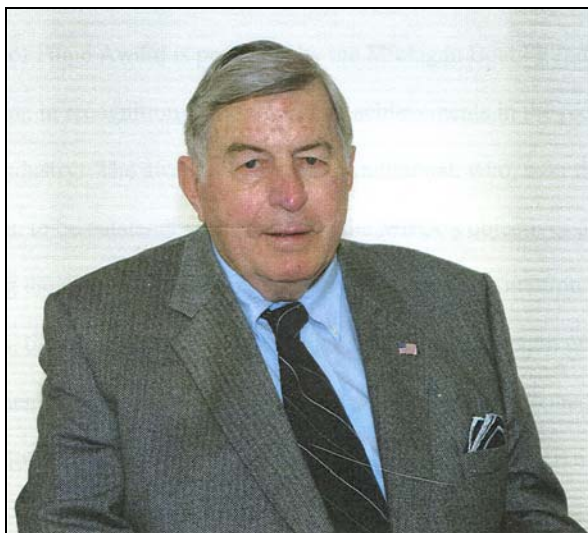
Capt. Frank Patrick McBride, Jr.

September 13, 1928 - March 9, 2012

Member of Detroit Lodge No. 7 - 17 Years

Initiated April 10, 1995

Pennant No. 11404



Lodge member Frank McBride, a life-long resident of Grosse Pointe, passed away on Friday, March 9, 2012 at the age of 83.

Frank was the President and CEO of Frank P. McBride, Jr., Inc. Insurance Agency, which he started after graduating from Grosse Pointe South High School and serving in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Captain McBride has been a member of Detroit Lodge No. 7 since 1995, and was also a member of the Propeller Club, Port of Detroit, where he served as President in 1995. He was past commodore of both the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and Mackinac Island Yacht Club. He was also a member of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial Association, Coral Ridge Yacht Club, and Bayview Yacht Club, where he served on the Bayview Port Huron to Mackinac race committee for 50 years. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the U.S. Power Squadron.

For over 45 years, Captain McBride served as boating and outdoor editor at WJR radio. He was known for his detailed coverage of the Port Huron to Mackinac sailboat race, often reported from the front porch of Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel.

From 1983 to 2000, Frank served on the Michigan Waterways Commission, including several years as Chairman. As a commissioner, he was responsible for the acquisition, construction and maintenance of recreational harbors, channels, docking and launching facilities and the administration of commercial docks in the Straits of Mackinac.

In 2008, Frank was inducted into the Michigan Boating Industries Association Hall of Fame. At the time, association member Peter Beauregard, wrote, "It is with great pleasure that we submit the name of Frank McBride to be honored and placed in the MBIA Hall of Fame. Frank's name is recognized throughout the state of Michigan for his commitment and love of the Great Lakes and boating in general."

Frank is survived by his wife, Jere, and many other loving family and friends.

Visitation will be on Wednesday, March 21 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at the Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack Avenue in Grosse Pointe.

Funeral Service will be on Thursday, March 22, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lake Shore Road in Grosse Pointe Farms. Instate at 9:30 am until Mass at 10:00 am.

The family has requested that memorial donations be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207; St. Paul Catholic School, 170 Grosse Pointe Blvd. Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236; or a charity of your choice.

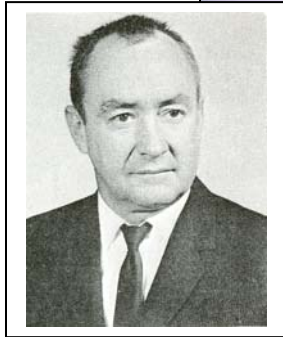


In Memory of

Captain Donald E. Erickson

August 7, 1927 – March 26, 2012

60 Year Member - International Shipmasters' Association



Capt. Don Erickson aboard his beloved *William Clay Ford* in 1976.

(photo by Bill Hoey)

Pennant No. 9570

Initiated on March 18, 1952 (Twin Ports Lodge No. 12)

Transferred to Detroit Lodge No. 7 on March 25, 1958

Lodge 1st Vice President – 1961 & 1962

Lodge President – 1963; Lodge Marshal – 1966

Lodge Sentinel – 1968; Grand Lodge President – 1970

Recipient of Lewis Ludington Award – 1994

Detroit Lodge No. 7 lost its senior member on Monday, March 26, 2012 when Captain Don Erickson passed away at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn at the age of 84.

Born in Superior, Wisconsin on August 7, 1927, Don began sailing at age 15 and joined the Navy a year later during World War II. While serving in the Pacific theater, he operated an assortment of landing craft, minesweepers and patrol boats and was awarded the Bronze Star. After the war, Don began working for the Ford Marine Division, eventually working his way up to become Captain of the M/V *Henry Ford II* in 1962. At the time, he was one of the youngest captains on the Great Lakes.

Although he sailed on most vessels in the Ford fleet, Don spent the bulk of his career aboard the *William Clay Ford*. After overseeing the final months of the vessel's construction at the Great Lakes Engineering Works in Ecorse, he was aboard as 2nd Mate when it was launched in May of 1953. 31 years later, he was aboard as Captain when the *William Clay Ford* laid up for the final time on December 14, 1984. In 1986, after spending 24 years as Captain, Don retired from the Ford Motor Company (Rouge Steel) fleet.

On April 3, 1991 the pilothouse of the *William Clay Ford* was moved by barge and placed on a specially built foundation at the Dossin Museum for display facing the Detroit River as a fully equipped pilot house. For many of the following years, Don would occasionally serve as a volunteer in the pilothouse at Dossin Museum and talk about his days aboard the *William Clay Ford*.

One of the most notable events of his career occurred on the evening of November 10, 1975, when the *Edmund Fitzgerald* disappeared on Lake Superior. After hearing reports of the *Fitzgerald's* disappearance, Capt. Erickson decided to leave safe anchorage in Whitefish Bay and head out on storm-ravaged Lake Superior to search for possible survivors. Because of the bravery and valor demonstrated that night by Captain Erickson and his crew, they were presented with many accolades including a plaque bestowed upon them by the Great Lakes Maritime Institute recognizing their role in the search for the *Edmund Fitzgerald*.

Many years would pass before Capt. Erickson was comfortable talking about the events of November 10, 1975. In October of 2011, he reluctantly agreed to speak about the *Fitzgerald* at a fundraiser for the Harsens Island Historical Society. Fortunately, the presentation has been captured on video.

In 1970, with Detroit Lodge No. 7 hosting the Grand Lodge Convention at the Detroit Hilton (Statler) Hotel, Capt. Erickson was elected to the office of Grand President. He held the office with great pride, and was equally proud of the I.S.M.A. and its accomplishments. Through the years, he remained a strong advocate of the organization. He was always attentive to the lodge ritual and following the proper rules of order. Thus, the lodge would often look for his guidance when procedural or constitutional questions arose.

Captain Erickson is survived by his wife, Joyce, and son Eric, who is also a member of Detroit Lodge No. 7.

Detroit Lodge No. 7 ISMA Remembers Captain Don Erickson



Detroit Lodge No. 7 ISMA's most senior member passed into the greater life March 26, 2012 age 84

He was the former Captain of the freighter The William Clay Ford

Detroit Lodge No. 7 ISMA held their spring meeting at Mariners' followed by the memorial service for Captain Erickson.

Following the memorial and lunch a presentation from the Coast Guard was made by CDR Gary Koehler.



Fr. Paul Innes Acting Rector of Mariners' and Co-Chaplain for Lodge #7 Detroit conducted a memorial at Mariners' Church of Detroit April 10, 2012 with many Lodge members, family and friends present. May rest eternal be granted to Captain Don and may light perpetual shine upon him.

Publication: The Detroit Free Press; Date: Apr 4, 2012; Section: Obituaries; Page: 8A

Donald Erickson: Mariner enjoyed life of adventure

By Joe Rossiter
Free Press Staff Writer

The freedom of the open waters and the everyday challenges that came with captaining Great Lakes freighters were among the reasons Donald Erickson chose a nautical career.

Of course, high adventure was part of the package, too, and Mr. Erickson, who sailed the Great Lakes for nearly 40 years as an employee of Ford, had his share of close encounters.

Mr. Erickson died March 26 of heart failure at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn. The Taylor resident was 84.

"My father was never one to be saddled to an office job," said his son Eric Erickson, who accompanied his dad on numerous maritime journeys and later spent 16 years aboard the J.W. Wescott, which delivers mail to the freighters on the Detroit River.

"He enjoyed the freedom and the variety that his job afforded him. Although we never got to see him a whole lot, we learned to cope with it."

Born Aug. 7, 1927, in Superior, Wis., Mr. Erickson began working in the merchant marine at age 15 and joined the Navy a year later during World War II.

While serving in the Pacific theater, he operated an assortment of landing craft, mine-sweepers and patrol boats and was awarded the Bronze Star.

After the war, Mr. Erickson began working for Ford and eventually became the youngest captain on the Great Lakes at the time.

Although he captained several freighters during his career, including the Henry Ford II, Mr. Erickson spent the bulk of his service aboard the William Clay Ford. A typical run involved sailing between Dear-

born and Superior, Wis., hauling iron ore, limestone and coal that were used to make automobiles. The round trip generally took four and a half days.

Eric Erickson recalled the time that his father was involved in one of the defining moments in Great Lakes maritime history — the day the Edmund Fitzgerald sank with 29 crewmen aboard during a fierce storm on Lake Superior.

While sailing Lake Superior on Nov. 10, 1975, conditions on the lake steadily worsened, and Mr. Erickson decided to anchor his ship in Whitefish Bay,

where the Fitzgerald was headed for refuge along with another Ford ship, the Arthur M. Anderson.

After the Coast Guard lost contact with the Fitzgerald, officials requested that the two ships search for any possible survivors, which they eventually did, without any luck.

"Of course, it was pretty rough," Erickson said, recalling his father's description of the conditions. "The waves were as much as 30 feet high with wind gusts up to 100 m.p.h.," he said. "They just did what they had to do and didn't think too much about it."

The crews and captains of the two freighters were awarded commendations for their bravery on that day.

Mr. Erickson retired in 1986.

Besides his son, survivors include his wife of 55 years, Carol (Joyce) Erickson, and a sister.

A private family memorial is planned for a later date. His body was cremated.

CONTACT JOE ROSSITER: 313-222-6594 OR
JROSSITER@FREEPRESS.COM



Donald Erickson

John Gerald "Jerry" Crowley - ISMA Pennant No. A-10662



Jerry at the 2004 Lodge Dinner Dance

Lodge member Jerry Crowley passed away on Saturday, July 21, 2012 at the age of 90.

Jerry had been a member of Detroit Lodge No. 7 for 27 years, and during that time had served the lodge in various capacities including lodge president in 1994. At the time of his death, Jerry was serving on the lodge board of governors. Over the years, Jerry and his wife Dotty were regular attendees at lodge dinner dances and joint meetings. Jerry was known for his marine artwork, and was a long-time member and director of the Great Lakes Maritime Institute.

He was born Sept. 3, 1921, to Edward and Mabel (nee Ready) Crowley and raised in Detroit. Following his graduation from Catholic Central High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served with the 879th Airborne Engineers in the Burma campaign during World War II.

Returning from the war, Jerry married his sweetheart, Dorothy Martin, and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Lawrence Technological University. He retired after 32 years with Chrysler Corporation and then was called back to work an additional two years as a consultant.

Raising his family in Grosse Pointe, Jerry took pride in his children's and grandchildren's accomplishments, and was often found lending a hand, or in the cheering section, at area schools, gyms, ice rinks and swimming pools. Family was at the heart of his activities and, coupled with his love of history, guided his genealogy research. Each of his children has a book of family history, a result of his countless hours spent in Detroit's Burton Historical collection and travels to Ireland and Scotland.

Jerry loved to travel and was an avid boater. Whether it was his first boat, a Chris-Craft Sea Skiff 12-footer he built himself, or the cabin cruiser still moored at the time of his death, he considered a day spent on the water with his family a great day.

During those travels and boat trips, Jerry, an artist with work displayed in 39 states, had a sketchbook close at hand. Much of his art centered around a maritime theme, with historically accurate details. Often, awakening with an inspiration, a new painting would begin with a bedside table sketch. Many of his paintings were displayed in a one-man art show at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle. He also was commissioned to do local paintings throughout the metro area.

In addition to ISMA, Jerry was a member of the American Society of Marine Artists, Scarab Club, Grosse Pointe Artists Association, Grosse Pointe Veterans Club, and the Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club. Jerry is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Dotty; children, Kathy Steele (Joe), Tom Crowley (Bernadette), Patty Marantette (Tom) and John Crowley (Kathy); grandchildren, Megan and Brian Steele, Rachel, John and Robert Crowley, Danielle, Debra, Kelly and Thomas Marantette and Michael, Anne and Jennifer Crowley.

A funeral Mass was celebrated July 25 at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Farms. Donations may be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott St., Detroit, MI 48207 or St. Paul Catholic School Scholarship Fund, 170 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or the charity of the donor's choice.



Jerry & Dotty at the February 2004 Lodge Dinner Dance

NEWS

OBITUARIES

John G. Crowley

John G. "Jerry" Crowley, 90, died Saturday, July 21, 2012.

He was born Sept. 3, 1921, to Edward and Mabel (nee Ready) Crowley and raised in Detroit. Following his graduation from Catholic Central High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served with the 879th Airborne Engineers in the Burma campaign during World War II.

Returning from the war, Mr. Crowley married his sweetheart, Dorothy Martin, and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Lawrence Technological University. He retired after 32 years with Chrysler Corporation and then was called back to work an additional two years as a consultant.

Raising his family in Grosse Pointe, Mr. Crowley took pride in his children's and grandchildren's accomplishments, and was often found lending a hand, or in the cheering section, at area schools, gyms, ice rinks and swimming pools. Family was at the heart of his activities and, coupled with his love of history, guided his genealogy research. Each of his children has a book of family history, a result of his countless hours spent in Detroit's Burton Historical collection and travels to Ireland and Scotland.



John G. Crowley

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Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle. He also was commissioned to do local paintings throughout the metro area.

Mr. Crowley was a member of the American Society of Marine Artists, Scarab Club, Grosse Pointe Artists Association, Grosse Pointe Veterans Club, Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club, and the International Shipmasters' Association. He was the past president of Detroit Lodge No. 7 of the International Shipmasters Association and a director of the marine advisory group for the Detroit Historical Society.

Mr. Crowley is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Dotty; children, Kathy Steele (Joe), Tom Crowley (Bernadette), Patty Marantette (Tom) and John Crowley (Kathy); grandchildren, Megan and Brian Steele, Rachel, John and Robert Crowley, Danielle, Debra, Kelly and Thomas Marantette and Michael, Anne and Jennifer Crowley.

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In Memory of

Capt. Faro Taormina

September 24, 1943 - August 13, 2012

Member of Detroit Lodge No. 7 - 22 Years

Initiated January 30, 1990

Pennant No. 11000



Lodge member Faro Taormina passed away on Monday, August 13, 2012 at the age of 68. A former resident of Fair Haven, Michigan, he had been living in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida since 1997. He joined Detroit Lodge No. 7 on January 30, 1990.

Following many years as a cabinetry artist and a real estate agent specializing in waterfront homes, Faro began his career in the marine industry with boat sales - at Triangle Boats in Detroit, then South River Marina (now Sundog) and Viking, Tiara and Ocean Yacht sales at Toledo Beach Marina.

After leaving yacht sales, Faro became a self employed yacht captain, working on vessels such as the M/Y *Topcoat*, a 75 foot Pacemaker, where he was captain for 7 years, followed by a 61' Hatteras named *Shade Mor*, and the Detroit Tigers yacht, the M/Y *Tigress*, a 65' Berger. He also worked as a relief captain aboard the *J.W. Westcott II* mailboat.

After moving to Florida, he helped deliver a 61' Tollycraft called *Non Cents* from Michigan to Siesta Key in Sarasota. He then used his cabinetry expertise to rebuild the galley, salon and guest cabins onboard a 70-foot Hatteras called *Game On...* a project that took nearly two years.

His yacht delivery work included everything from a 45' Viking Sportfish to a 1953 65' U.S. Army T-501 Research Vessel. He traveled in waters from Lake Michigan to the Abaco Islands, even to Nantucket Island.

In recent years, he sold nautical items on-line including dimensional art created from NOAA charts, as well as hand-stitched leather wheel covers for both power and sail vessels. He also authored, manufactured and sold "The Master Yacht Collective" - a five-book set of logbooks for professional captains. As a tribute to Faro, his widow Polly Ann plans to continue selling the logbooks.

After a 19-year long relationship, a trip to the Abaco Islands in 1995 began with Capt. Faro finally presenting Polly with the ring that led to wedding vows aboard the M/Y *Topcoat* on Sept. 22, 1996. Thus, they had 36 wonderful years together as both yacht crew and soul-mates.

Polly arranged a final ride for Faro aboard the same yacht on Anchor Bay on August 29, 2012, with a floral tribute in his honor. Friends and family shared stories of Faro's life and cruises over champagne toasts. A C-130 flew silently overhead at the first toss of flowers. *May he forever enjoy fair winds and following seas.*

In addition to his wife Polly Ann, Faro is survived by his son, David (Serafina) Taormina, and daughter Michele Hader, Grandchildren Danica, Autumn, Brooke, Sydnie & Deanna, and brother John Taormina. Faro is also survived by many loving nieces & nephews.

The family has requested that memorial donations be made to the American Heart Association.



Motor Yacht Topcoat