

NORTHWOOD, Edward John ("Johnny") [UNTD YORK '43] (1922 - 2009) Age: 87



E.J. Northwood 3/30/22-10/26/09 The family of E. John Northwood is deeply saddened to announce that John Northwood passed away in Tiburon, California on October 26, 2009; a happy and proud man at age 87. John was born on March 30, 1922 and raised in Toronto, Canada. He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1944 with a B.S. degree in Engineering Physics. Upon graduation, he married Carol Ferris, who would turn out to be his life-long partner of 65 years. He then joined the Navy and was assigned on loan to the British Navy where he received special training in use of Radar. He spent the remainder of the war as a radar officer on escort vessels for convoys in the North Atlantic. After leaving the Navy in 1946 he worked as a research geophysicist, working on the use of electromagnetic waves in mining exploration. Later that year he joined Shell Oil and worked for several years as an interpretive seismologist and geophysical supervisor. He worked in the Gulf of Mexico and took foreign assignments in the Netherlands, Venezuela and Calgary. In 1953, he joined the Chevron Corporation for whom he worked for twenty-eight years. In 1956, he became Chief Geophysicist of the Trinidad, West Indies operations for six years. It was here he began his love of the ocean and sailing that he shared passionately with his family. In succession, he was Chief Geophysicist of: Chevron West in the U.S.; CG of Texas and then from 1969-75 he was CG of the International Subsidiaries, supervising operations and interpretations in forty-three countries around the world. He wrote a number of papers on refraction, marine navigation and data enhancement. In 1968 while still working for Chevron, the family moved to Tiburon. In 1976, he became the Exploration Manager for Africa for Chevron. During this period, Chevron discovered 400 million barrels of oil in the Sudan. One of his proudest achievements was in 1977 when he was elected President of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), an international professional society of 18,000 members. As President, he traveled extensively as spokesman and representative of his profession. John retired from Chevron in 1982 after a 30-year career. He then joined Transcontinental Energy out of Shreveport, Louisiana as their exploration manager. After 2-3 years there he returned to his home in Tiburon and began a successful consulting business until finally retiring at the age of 84. He is survived by: his beloved wife Carol, his children John Jr., Anita, and Scott, his grandchildren Justin, Erika, Francis, and great-grandchild Malaya. John was a dedicated scientist and a generous family man. For many of his senior years he volunteered as a docent for the California Academy of Sciences. He also volunteered his services as a judge in science fairs. He served on the board of the Romberg Tiburon Center for two years and was then elected chair. He served on the race council for the San Francisco Yacht Club and was a large supporter of both the San Francisco and Marin Symphonies. His accomplishments over a long life only begin to describe what a remarkable person he was, and his life serves as a beacon to all those who knew him. He will be missed.

Published in Marin Independent Journal on Nov. 13, 2009

It was in the dead of winter, mid-Feb 1943 that UNTD Founder then-LCDR Jack Baker, arrived on the U of T campus to set up their UNTD contingent. Within 2 weeks, 60 students were enrolled, most as

transferees from the COTC. Most if not all of them proceeded to summer training in 1943. Amongst them was "Johnny" Northwood, then in 3rd year Engineering. After the required 2 week stint, some went on active duty on convoys between St John's and New York City, before returning to U of T in the fall. Northwood graduated in 1944 and was inducted into the RCNVR as a SLT, where he put in a year on active convoy duty. He was married in July, 1945 and demobilized in 1946.

His post-war civilian career in Geophysics was as substantial as it was adventurous, as summarized in an industry biography from the late '90s; [http://wiki.seg.org/wiki/E.\\_John\\_Northwood](http://wiki.seg.org/wiki/E._John_Northwood)

I continue to tip my hat and marvel at what these UNTD pioneers managed to accomplish, academically, militarily and professionally.

Bill C