



James William Hammel

CDR James William Hammel (February 7, 1925 to September 16, 2020) was born and raised in Iron Mountain, MI. He and his Dad were listening to a Green Bay Packers game December 7, 1941 when Pearl Harbor was attacked. As a result, he moved to Chicago and enrolled in Hospital Corps night school. From there he entered the Navy, serving during World War II as a Pharmacist mate/Corpsman on Landing Ship Tank (LST) 399 until age 21. He attended Northern Illinois College of Optometry on the G.I. Bill and graduated February 5, 1949. He then started a private optometry practice in Crystal Falls, MI. Dr.

Hammel later joined the Air Force and was stationed at Whellus Air Force Base in Libya for two years. He then transferred back to the Navy, where he served nearly 30 years as an optometrist. During his duty at Oakland Naval Hospital he met his second wife, Lt Donna Davis (also listed here). He retired from the Navy as a Commander in 1981. Jim later joined the ophthalmology office of Dr. Clifford Terry in Fullerton, CA. He retired again when his wife was recalled during the Persian Gulf War in 1991. He had six sons (Damien, Grant, Bill, Chris, Dan, and Jim). He was an avid Packers and Cubs fan. Jim was a funny, intelligent, loving, and deeply moral man. Truly one of the “Greatest Generation”.

