

OBITUARY FOR JOHN ROLAND REGENER, JR., AIA, CSI, CCS, CCCA

By Connie Regener

John was born in Wilmington, Delaware but moved to the San Francisco Bay Area when he was 3 years old. He was educated in public schools there, where he drilled with a Drum and Bugle Corps. He played the lead in his senior play in high school. One summer in high school he enjoyed the position of harbormaster at a Young Life camp in Malibu, British Columbia, Canada.

During his college years, he earned his Water Safety credential with the Red Cross and was a lifeguard and swim teacher. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture (B. Arch.) from the University of California, Berkeley. While in college he spent his summers in Officer Candidate School on the East Coast. While there, he sang in all 3 choirs—Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish—joking that it got him excused from a work detail. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he earned the rank of full lieutenant during the Viet Nam Conflict. He attended Naval Justice School and was assigned to Cargo and Munitions ships. He and Connie held their engagement party at the Officer's Club on Treasure Island. John served in the Naval Reserve for several years after returning to the mainland. One of his assignments was to refurbish the U.S.S. Enterprise when it was in port in Honolulu while Connie served as the Luau Officer.

Later in his career, he became interested in specifications and became a spec writer and contract administrator. He held several positions in CSI including the Orange County Chapter President, and was the recipient of several awards. He revised an edition of the book *Construction Specification Writing* which is used as the standard text in colleges today. He also did some forensic architecture consulting, requiring expert testimony in court.

John felt that architecture was the best profession in the world. He loved the fact that his training developed both sides of his brain—the masculine and the feminine—as there was both a science factor and a design factor that worked together to form the finished product. He felt that color was a language all its own. He loved to visit places that were special to architects, such as Taliesin, Taliesin West, and Arco Santi.

John liked to put people at ease with his humor. He told the story that one time he got a phone call from the local police asking if they could land their helicopter on a building he had designed. He told them that they could land it, but it would fall through the roof and wouldn't be able to take off.

John gave generously of his time, teaching courses on spec writing for his colleagues through CSI and other organizations. He mentored a student through architectural school at his alma mater, Berkeley. He taught a specifications course at Saddleback Junior College. One of his favorite activities was the Orange County Spec Writer's seminar luncheons which he arranged from time to time on a casual basis. This gave the product reps an audience and the spec writers some good continuing education.

John was a family man, married to Connie for 43 years. They have one son, Mark, who also attended CSI conventions and local meetings. One of Mark's science projects centered on the properties of concrete when it is dried in different conditions. Connie and Mark live together in Ontario, California. John lived the American dream, having graduated from college and achieving professional status, although his parents never graduated from high school. (Same for Connie).

John died of natural causes in Upland, California on May 31, 2017. He was 70 years old. A memorial service with full military honors is planned for mid-July at Riverside National Cemetery, with a reception following.