

Sager, John Parke

Section J, Block 151, Lot 6

Born: June 28, 1912

Died: August 19, 1997

Enlisted:

Branch: US Navy

Rank: Rear Admiral



Obit: Mr. Sager had active duty as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army (Ordinance) for three months before entering naval service in Aviation Cadet Class 84-C. He completed flight training at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, FL in December 1936, and was designated a naval aviator and commissioned ensign in the US Naval Reserve to date from September 1935.

Assigned in January 1937 to Patrol Squadron Five at the Fleet Air Base in Coco Sola, Canal Zone, he assisted in maintenance of squadron aircraft, while serving as assistant engineering officer and assistant gunnery officer. Detached in December 1939, he reported in April 1940 to the Naval Mich., where for four months he was a flight instructor and assemble and repair officer. In September 1940, he reported as officer in charge of flight test aero engine laboratory at the naval aircraft factory in Philadelphia, Pa., and there conducted and reported on night test projects and the maintenance of spare equipment. He did the first high altitude (over 40,000 feet) service testing of naval aircraft using an oxygen mask and equipment designed and built by himself. He survived a crash off Guantanamo Bay, Cuba when both engines of his PBV patrol plane cut out.

From October 1943 until June 1945, he served as material and war plans officer on the staff of Commander Aircraft. Seventh Fleet. He was awarded the legion of Merit: "For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as material and war plans Officer on the Staff Commander, Seventh Fleet, during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Southwest Pacific area, from November 1943 to May 1945. Anticipating and providing for the material needs of the aircraft units of Aircraft. Seventh Fleet. Commander Sager skillfully planned the development of air bases and the material support of these units, thereby contributing greatly for the eminent success of operations in the area..."

He was also awarded the Air Medal and cited: "For meritorious achievement in aerial flight as pilot of a plane, in action against enemy Japanese forces from Jan. 3-30, 1945. Participating in five flights in an active combat area, Commander Sager contributed materially to the success of his squadron in this area. His skill, courage and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States naval service."

He had been designated an aero-nautical engineering duty officer and was named dean of the AEDO's. In July 1945, he reported for a tour of duty in the Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy

Department, Washington DC. There he was head of the installations and accessories branch, power plant division for three years. From September 1948 to July 1950, he served in the assembly of repair department of the Naval Air Station in Alameda, CA, after which he served for three years as Bureau of Aeronautics Technical Liaison Officer in the Office of the Bureau of Aeronautics General Representative, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

He returned to Philadelphia in July 1953 to serve until September 1954 as executive officer, later commanding officer of the Naval Air Experimental Station, then reported as Bureau of Aeronautics Representative, St. Louis; Bendix, Davenport, Iowa; and Air Force Plane Representative for McDonnell Aircraft. From July 1957 until 1959, he was assistant chief of staff for material to Commander Fleet Air, Western Pacific and Commander Fleet Air, Japan.

Upon his return to the United States, he reported to the Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, where he was director of the Aircraft Division until December 1959. When the bureau was combined with the Bureau of Ordnance and re-designated as the Bureau of Naval Weapons, he became director of Logistics Programs, serving in that capacity from December 1959 until July 1961. The same month he reported to Commander Naval Air Force, US Pacific Fleet, for duty as Assistance Force Material Officer in Coronado, CA.

Selected for Rear Admiral in 1964, he became assistant chief of the Bureau of Naval Weapons for production and quality control in August and a year later Assistant Chief for Fleet Readiness and Training. When Bureau of Naval Weapons became Air Systems Command, he became Assistant Commander for Material Acquisition. He moved up to vice commander in April 1967.

In addition to the Legion of Merit with Combat "V", and the Air Medal, Rear Admiral Sager has the American Defense Services Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Silver Star (five engagements), the World War II Victory Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.



Park Sager, son of William Sager, former resident of Burl Lake, who has been stationed at Cosla in the Panama Canal Zone, has been transferred to the States to Norfolk, Va., and later to San Diego, Calif.

Petoskey Evening News
May 17, 1938

—Word has been received here of the birth of a daughter on Thursday evening to Lieut. and Mrs. J. Parke Sager, of Philadelphia, Pa., at Taylor Memorial Hospital, Ridley Park. Mrs. Sager was formerly Miss Esther Christopher of this city.

Petoskey Evening News
March 6, 1942

—Mrs. C. W. Christopher, who has been visiting her son-in-law and daughter, Lieut. and Mrs. Parke Sager and daughter, at Philadelphia, returned home last evening with Mr. Christopher, who has been in Detroit and Lansing on business.

Petoskey Evening News
April 15, 1942

—Mrs. J. Parke Sager and daughter, Jane, came recently from Philadelphia to visit Mrs. Sager's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Christopher. Lieut. Sager will arrive the last of the week to spend a week here with his family.

Petoskey Evening News
July 6, 1942

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Connell entertained with a beach party on Monday evening in honor of Lieut. and Mrs. Parke Sager. Guests included Mr. and Mrs. George Henika, of Walloon Lake, Stanley Ware, of Ann Arbor, Miss Isabell Henika, of Petoskey, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Parks, of Indian River and W. K. Sager.

Petoskey Evening News
July 16, 1942

Lieut. and Mrs. Parke Sager and daughter Jane, of Landstown, Philadelphia, who are at Walloon Lake, are also visiting relatives here.

Petoskey Evening News
July 16, 1942

—Lieut. J. Parke Sager will return to Philadelphia on Sunday following a several days stay with Mrs. Sager and daughter who are guests of Mrs. Sager's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Christopher.

Petoskey Evening News
July 18, 1942

W. K. Sager received word that his son, Parke, has been promoted from Lieutenant Sr. grade to Lt. Commander, U. S. Navy Air Corps.

Petoskey Evening News
May 12, 1943

W.K. Sager received word that his son Parke, has been promoted from Lieutenant Sr. grade to Lieutenant Commander U. S. Navy Air Corp.

Emmet County Graphic
May 13, 1943

—Lieut. Comm. J. Parke Sager arrived Sunday morning from Philadelphia to join Mrs. Sager and daughter Jane, who are visiting Mrs. Sager's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Christopher.

Petoskey Evening News
July 19, 1943

Lt. Comm. J. Parke Sager arrived Sunday morning from Philadelphia. He will join his wife and daughter, Jane, who have been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Christopher in Petoskey. They will spend a week at the Christopher cottage at Walloon Lake and also visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Sager, of Burt Lake. Lt. Comm. Sager has a 10-day leave.

Petoskey Evening News
July 21, 1943

Lt. Comm. and Mrs. Parke Sager and daughter Jane, were dinner guests on Sunday of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Sager.

Petoskey Evening News
July 21, 1943

Lt. Comm. J. Parke Sager arrived Sunday morning from Philadelphia. He will join his wife and daughter, Jane, who have been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Christopher in Petoskey. They will spend a week at the Christopher cottage at Walloon Lake and also visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Sager, of Burt Lake. Lt. Comm. Sager has a 10-day leave.

Petoskey Evening News
July 21, 1943

Lieut. Comm. J. Parke Sager arrived recently from Philadelphia to join Mrs. Sager and daughter, Jane, who are visiting at the home of Mrs. Sager's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Christopher.

Northern Michigan Review
July 22, 1943

—Lieut. Com. Parke Sager, U.S. Navy and Flight Officer Lee E. North, U. S. Army Air Corps, were guests at Wednesday's Rotary club luncheon at the Elks. They spoke briefly on aviation.

Petoskey Evening News
July 29, 1943

—Lieut. Commander J. Parke Sager returned to Philadelphia on Sunday, having spent two weeks here with his wife and daughter.

Petoskey Evening News
August 2, 1943

Lieut. Commander J. Parke Sager returned Sunday to Philadelphia after spending two weeks here with his wife and daughter.

Northern Michigan Review
August 5, 1943

—Lt. Comm. and Mrs. J. Parke Sager and daughter, Jane, arrived last evening from Philadelphia. Lt. Comm. Sager will leave Sunday for San Francisco, Calif., enroute for duty in the South Pacific. Mrs. Sager and daughter are remaining with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Christopher.

Petoskey Evening News
October 21, 1943

—Lieut. Comdr. and Mrs. J. Parke Sager announce the birth of a son, Christopher Parke, at Lockwood General Hospital this morning. Lieut. Comdr. Sager is in the South Pacific area.

Petoskey Evening News
May 17, 1944

SAGER—Lt. Com. and Mrs. J. P. (Esther Christopher), on Wednesday, May 17, at Lockwood General Hospital. Named Christopher Parke.

Northern Michigan Review
May 18, 1944

Parke Sager Full Cmdr.

Lt. Cmdr. J. Parke Sager, U. S. N., Staff Commander Aircraft, Seventh Fleet, c/o Fleet Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif., has been promoted to the rank of commander according to word received today by his family. Mrs. Sager, the former Miss Esther Christopher, and children reside at 1220 E. Mitchell St. here.

Commander Sager received his commission as lieutenant commander in the Navy in April, 1943, and left for sea duty last October.

He is the son of William Sager and the late Mrs. Sager of Burt Lake and formerly resided in Petoskey.

Petoskey Evening News
July 5, 1944

—Mrs. J. Parke Sager and two children recently moved from 1220 East Mitchell street to the home of Mrs. Hoyt Nihart, 109 Division street.

Petoskey Evening News
January 5, 1945

—Commander J. Parke Sager, who has been in the South Pacific for the past 18 months, arrived here Tuesday for a 30-day leave with his wife and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Christopher, 105 Division street. Commander Sager will report to Washington, D. C., at the conclusion of his leave.

Petoskey Evening News
June 14, 1945

Commander Parke J. Sager and family of Walloon Lake and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Sager of Ohio were guests of their father and wife, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Sager last Saturday.

Emmet County Graphic
June 28, 1945

Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Sager entertained Mr. Sager's sons and daughters-in-law, Commander and Mrs. J. Parke Sager of Walloon Lake and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Sager of Ohio at dinner last Friday evening.

Petoskey Evening News
June 29, 1945

Commdr. Sager Wins Honors

Commdr. J. Parke Sager, USN, was recently awarded the Legion of Merit for outstanding services to the government of the United States for the period from November 1913 to May 1945.

Part of his citation read, "While serving as material and war plans officer he displayed outstanding administrative ability, intelligence and professional skill in planning the development of air bases and material support. As a result of his farsighted planning, indefatigable industry and prodigious personal effort, the material needs were anticipated and provided for in a highly efficient manner. His services contributed greatly to the eminent success of

operations in the Southwest Pacific area and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the navy of the United States."

The air medal was awarded Commdr. Sager for the period from January 3, 1945, to January 30, 1945. Part of the citation reads, "For participation in five flights in active combat area where enemy anti-aircraft fire was expected to be effective and where enemy aircraft patrols usually occur."

Other decorations awarded Commdr. Sager during his 11 years in the service are the Philippine liberation ribbon with one star, American defense theater with one star, Southwest Pacific ribbon with three stars.

Commdr. Sager left Friday following a 30-day leave spent with his wife, the former Esther Christopher, and children at the Christopher cottage at Walloon Lake.

Petoskey Evening News
July 14, 1945

Comdr. Parke Sager Returns Following Leave

Commdr. J. Parke Sager, USN, was recently awarded the Legion of Merit and the Air Medal.

Commdr. Sager, in the service eleven years, received the Legion of Merit for outstanding services to the government of the United States in the Southwest Pacific.

He was awarded the Air Medal for the period from January 3, 1945 to January 30, 1945 "For participation in five flights in active combat area."

Commdr. Sager left recently after spending a 30-day leave with his wife, the former Esther Christopher, and family at their cottage at Walloon Lake.

Northern Michigan Review
July 26, 1945

Commander J. Parke Sager gave the Sager home an aerial salute Friday evening and again Sunday noon enroute to spend the weekend with his family on Walloon Lake.

Emmet County Graphic
August 9, 1945

—Comdr. J. Parke Sager and Lt. Merton Carter arrived late Friday by plane from Washington, D.C., to visit their respective families over the week end.

Petoskey Evening News
September 22, 1945

Comdr. J. Parke Sager and Lt. Merton Carter, of Washington, D. C., arrived by plane last Friday to spend the week-end with relatives and friends.

Northern Michigan Review
September 27, 1945

—Cmdr. J. Parke Sager, who spent the week-end in Petoskey, has returned to Washington, D. C. He was accompanied by Mrs. Sager and children, who will make their home in Washington. Mrs. Sager has made her home in Petoskey for the past two years with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Christopher, 105 Division street, while Cmdr. Sager was in the South Pacific.

Petoskey Evening News
October 8, 1945

—Commander J. Parke Sager, USN, and family, of Washington, D. C., arrived today to spend the summer at the Christopher cottage on Walloon Lake. Commander Sager will return to Washington Sunday.

Petoskey Evening News
June 28, 1946

—Commander J. Parke Sager, USN, returned to his home in Washington, D. C., Sunday, after spending his vacation at the Christopher cottage on Walloon Lake. His family will remain at the lake for a time.

Petoskey Evening News
July 27, 1946

Commander J. Parke Sager, USN, has returned to Washington, D. C., after spending his vacation with Mrs. Sager and family at the cottage of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Christopher at Walloon Lake.

Northern Michigan Review
August 1, 1946

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — Navy Cdr. J. Parke Sager, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Sager of Burt Lake, and husband of Mrs. Esther C. Sager of Petoskey, was detached from the U. S. Naval Air Material Center here. He was ordered to duty as Bureau of Aeronautics Representative, St. Louis, Mo.

Cdr. Sager, who graduated from the University of Michigan before entering the Navy in 1935, was recently selected for promotion to captain.

Petoskey News Review
October 25, 1954

Capt. J. Parke Sager and Mrs. Sager (the former Esther Christopher) and three children, Jane, Christopher and Suzanne, who have been at their Walloon Lake cottage, are enroute to Japan where Capt. Sager, U.S.N. has been assigned to the Naval Base at Atsugi as assistant chief of staff.

Emmet County Graphic
August 1, 1957

6-64

File under Sager
Petoskey

CAPTAIN JOHN P. SAGER
UNITED STATES NAVY

John Parke Sager was born in Petoskey, Michigan, on June 28, 1912, son of William K. and the late Jane Parke Sager. He was graduated from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Michigan, with the degrees of Bachelor of Science (1934) and Master of Science (1935) in Engineering and had active duty as a Second Lieutenant in the U. S. Army (Ordnance) for three months before entering the Naval Service in Aviation Cadet Class 84-C. He completed flight training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, in December 1936, and was designated a Naval Aviator and commissioned Ensign in the U. S. Naval Reserve, to date from September 1935. Through subsequent advancement and his transfer to the U. S. Navy, he attained the rank of Captain, USN, to date from July 1, 1955.

Assigned in January 1937 to the Fleet Air Base, Coco Solo, Canal Zone, he assisted in maintenance of Squadron aircraft while serving as Assistant Engineering Officer and Assistant Gunnery Officer there. Detached in December 1939, he reported in April 1940 to the Naval Reserve Air Base, Grosse Ile, Michigan, where for four months he was a flight instructor and A. and R. Officer. In September 1940 he reported to the Naval Aircraft Factory, Philadelphia, as Officer in Charge of Flight Test Aero Engineering Laboratory, and there conducted and reported on Flight Test Projects and the maintenance of spare equipment.

From October until June 1945 he served as Material and War Plans Officer on the Staff of Commander Air Force, SEVENTH Fleet, and served as such until May 1945. He was awarded the Legion of Merit: "For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Material and War Plans Officer on the Staff of Commander Aircraft, SEVENTH Fleet, during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Southwest Pacific Area, from November 1943, to May 1945. Anticipating and providing for the material needs of the aircraft units of Aircraft, SEVENTH Fleet, Commander Sager skillfully planned the development of air bases and the material support of these units, thereby contributing greatly to the eminent success of operations in this area..."

He was also awarded the Air Medal and cited: "For meritorious achievement in aerial flight as Pilot of a Plane, in action against enemy Japanese forces, from January 3 to 30, 1945. Participating in five flights in an active combat area, Commander Sager contributed materially to the success of his squadron in this area. His skill, courage and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

May 27, 1946

CAPTAIN JOHN P. SAGER

Page 2

In July 1945 he reported for a tour of duty in the Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. There he was Head of the Installations and Accessories Branch, Power Plane Division for three years. From September 1948 to July 1950 he served in the A&R Department of the Naval Air Station, Alameda, California, after which he served for three years as Bureau of Aeronautics Technical Liaison Officer in the Office of the Bureau of Aeronautics General Representative, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

He returned to Philadelphia in July 1953 to serve until September 1954 as Executive Officer, later Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Material Center, then reported as Bureau of Aeronautics Representative, St. Louis, with additional duty for Emerson Electric, St. Louis; Bendix, Davenport, Iowa; and Air Force Plane Representative for McDonnell Aircraft. From July 1957 until August 1959 he was Assistant Chief of Staff for Material to Commander Fleet Air Western Pacific and Commander Fleet Air, Japan.

Upon his return to the United States, he reported to the Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, where he was Director of the Aircraft Division until December 1959. When that Bureau was combined with the Bureau of Ordnance and redesignated the Bureau of Naval Weapons, he became Director of Logistic Programs, serving in that capacity from December 1959 until July 1961. The same month he reported to Commander Naval Air Force, Pacific, for duty as Assistant Force Material Officer, and on April 30, 1964, he was ordered detached for duty in the Office of Naval Material, Navy Department.

In addition to the Legion of Merit, with Combat "V," and the Air Medal, Captain Sager has the American Defense Service Medal; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with silver star (five engagements); the World War II Victory Medal; the National Defense Service Medal; and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

Married to the former Esther Bracish Christopher of Petoskey, Michigan, he has three children: Jane Bradish Sager, Christopher Parke Sager and Suzanne Dryer Sager. His official residence is 105 Division Street, Petoskey, Michigan.

Navy Office of Information
Internal Relations Division (OI-430)
27 May 1964

May 27, 1946

A NATIVE OF BURT LAKE

Rear Admiral John P. Sager, Naval Air Pioneer, Retires

WASHINGTON, D.C.--A colorful Navy career which spanned more than 34 years ended this month as Rear Admiral John P. Sager, Special Assistant to the Commander, Naval Air Systems Command, retired from active duty. He was a pioneer Naval pilot and high altitude equipment designer.

Admiral Sager was born at Burt Lake, near Petoskey, on June 28, 1912, son of the late William K. and Jane Parke Sager. He was graduated from the University of Michigan with the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1934 and a year later earned his Master of Science in engineering. He served for three months as an Army Second Lieutenant before becoming a Naval Aviation Cadet. He completed flight training at Pensacola, Florida, in December of 1936, was commissioned an ensign in the Naval Reserve and designated a Naval Aviator.

His first duty was in the canal zone in 1937.

In September 1940 he reported to the Naval Aircraft Factory, Philadelphia, as Officer in Charge of Flight Test Aero Engine Laboratory, and there conducted and reported on Flight Test Projects and the maintenance of spare equipment. He did the first high altitude (over

40,000 feet) service testing of Naval Aircraft using an oxygen mask and equipment designed and built by himself.

From October 1943 until June 1945 he served as Material and War Plans Officer on the staff of the command aircraft of the Seventh Fleet and was awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct during operations against Japan.

He was cited for anticipating and providing for the material needs of the aircraft with the

Seventh Fleet and for "skillfully" planning the development of air bases and the material support of these units.

He has had many key positions in the intervening years at many different naval bases and in Washington. Some of these included assistant chief of the Bureau of Naval Weapons for Production and Quality Control, assistant chief of the Bureau of Naval Weapons for Fleet Readiness and Training, assistant commander for material acquisition, vice-commander of the Naval Air Systems Command Headquarters.

In addition to the Legion of Merit, with Combat "V", and the Air Medal, Rear Admiral Sager has the American Defense Service Medal; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Silver Star (five engagements); the World War II Victory Medal; the National Defense Service Medal and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

Admiral Sager is married to the former Esther Bradish Christopher of Petoskey, and is the father of three children, Jane, Christopher, and Suzanne. The Sagers now make their home at 9920 Carter Road, Bethesda, Maryland.



Rear Admiral John P. Sager

Petoskey News Review
November 6, 1969

Retired Rear Admiral recalls Pearl Harbor

By NEIL STILWELL
News-Review staff writer

Retired Rear Adm. J. Parke Sager remembers eating breakfast with his wife in their Philadelphia, Pa., apartment when he heard the news come over a radio station Dec. 7, 1941.

He was surprised Pearl Harbor had been attacked.

He wasn't surprised America was at war.

On that day, Sager was a U.S. Navy lieutenant (junior grade), a test pilot who flew the bugs out of just about everything.

He said that military officers back then weren't surprised the country

had been thrown into World War II, but they didn't expect it would start in the Pacific, with the Japanese attacking, or at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

"What we all thought about then was there was no notice," he said. "Normally, you decide to go to war

against someone and you go to war. But there was no public notice.

"The general comments were that it was an undeclared attack, like terrorism in this country now. It was pretty evident we'd be in the war, but not necessarily against Japan."

Sager was a naval test pilot for much of the war, flying aircraft such as the Corsair and Wildcat fighters

and Avenger torpedo planes — the war machines American pilots would depend on.

The only information over the radio on Dec. 7, 1941 was America had been attacked by Japanese. Sager said he got on the phone to friends in Washington, D.C., to learn if he'd be leaving immediately.

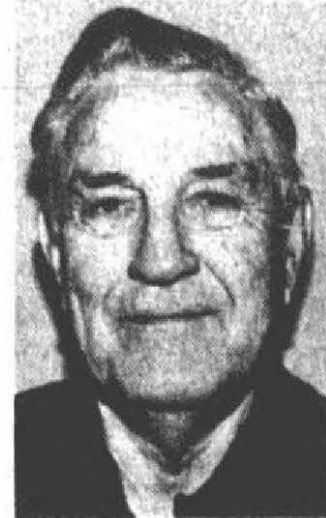
His course, though, was to stay at the testing base, where testing programs geared up and accelerated for the war production.

Perhaps his most notable single contribution to the war effort was the part he played in discovering, as a test pilot, a glitch in the American aircraft engines which prevented planes from flying as high as the Japanese planes — which shared those same engines before the war erupted.

When a plane can fly higher, it can attack out of the sun, remaining invisible to its prey.

Once the engine problem was figured out (it turned out to be rather simple to fix), engines across the Pacific were refitted within a few weeks and could compete against the enemy.

In 1943, Sager was sent to the Pacific Theater and served as a materials staff officer, on land and ships, attached to the Aircraft 7th Fleet. He fulfilled that capacity until



Parke Sager

just before the war ended.

Pearl Harbor is a lesson Americans must remember, he said. Just because America won that war doesn't mean the country should ever let its guard down, he said.

One of the 2,117 Navy personnel who died at Pearl Harbor was a good friend of Sager's, killed by friendly fire, apparently mistaken for a Japanese attacker as he tried to land his plane.

"I would do the same thing all over," Sager said. "I was very glad to be in the Navy. I'm very proud of the Navy."

Petoskey News Review
December 6, 1991

Rear Adm. J. Parke Sager, U.S.N. (Ret.), 85, of Petoskey, died Aug. 19, 1997.

Funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22, at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Petoskey. The Rev. John G. Myers of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church will officiate. Interment will be in Greenwood Cemetery in Petoskey.

He was born June 28, 1912, in Burt Lake, the son of William K. Sager and Jane (Parke) Sager. He grew up in Burt Lake and Petoskey and attended school in Petoskey. He graduated in 1934 with a bachelor of science degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He also received a master of science degree in engineering in 1935 from the University of Michigan. He had active duty as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army (Ordinance) for three months before entering naval service in Aviation Cadet Class 84-C. He completed flight training at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla., in December 1936, and was designated a naval aviator and commissioned ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve to date from September 1935.

Assigned in January 1937 to Patrol Squadron Five at the Fleet Air Base in Coco Sola, Canal Zone, he assisted in maintenance of squadron aircraft, while serving as assistant engineering officer and assistant gunnery officer. Detached in December 1939, he reported in April 1940 to the Naval Reserve Air Base in Grosse Ile, Mich., where for four months he was a flight instructor and assemble and



J. Parke Sager

repair officer. In September 1940, he reported as officer in charge of flight test aero engine laboratory, at the naval aircraft factory in Philadelphia, Pa., and there conducted and reported on flight test projects and the maintenance of spare equipment. He did the first high altitude (over 40,000 feet) service testing of naval aircraft using an oxygen mask and equipment designed and built by himself.

He survived a crash off Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, when both engines of his PBY patrol plane cut out.

In 1940, he married Esther Bradish Christopher in Michigan.

From October 1943 until June 1945, he served as material and war plans officer on the staff of Commander Aircraft, Seventh Fleet. He was awarded the Legion of Merit: "For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as material and war plans officer on the Staff Commander, Seventh Fleet, during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Southwest Pacific area, from November 1943 to May 1945. Anticipating and providing for the material needs of the aircraft units of Aircraft, Seventh Fleet, Commander Sager skillfully planned the development of air bases and the material support of these units, thereby contributing greatly for the eminent success of operations in the area. ..."

He was also awarded the Air Medal and cited: "For meritorious achievement in aerial flight as pilot of a plane, in action against enemy Japanese forces from Jan. 3-30, 1945. Participating in five flights in an active combat area, Commander Sager contributed materially to the success of his squadron in this area. His skill, courage and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States naval service."

Petoskey News Review
August 20, 1997

<p>He had been designated an aeronautical engineering duty officer and was named dean of the AEDO's. In July 1945, he reported for a tour of duty in the Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, Washington, D.C. There he was head of the installations and accessories branch, power plant division for three years. From September 1948 to July 1950, he served in the assembly of repair department of the Naval Air Station in Alameda, Calif., after which he served for three years as Bureau of Aeronautics Technical Liaison Officer in the Office of the Bureau of Aeronautics General Representative, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.</p> <p>He returned to Philadelphia in July 1953 to serve until September 1954 as executive officer, later commanding officer of the Naval Air Experimental Station, then reported as Bureau of Aeronautics Representative, St. Louis, with additional duty for Emerson Electric, St. Louis; Bendix, Davenport, Iowa; and Air Force Plane Representative for McDonnell Aircraft. From July 1957 until 1959, he was assistant chief of staff for material to Commander Fleet Air, Western Pacific and Commander Fleet Air, Japan.</p> <p>Upon his return to the United States, he reported to the Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, where he was director of the Aircraft Division until December 1959. When the bureau was combined with the Bureau of Ordnance and redesignated as the Bureau of Naval Weapons, he became director of Logistics Programs, serving in that capacity from December 1959 until July 1961. The same month he reported to Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, for duty as Assistance Force Material Officer in Coronado, Calif.</p> <p>Selected for Rear Admiral in 1964, he became assistant chief of the Bureau of Naval Weapons for production and quality control in August</p>	<p>and a year later Assistant Chief for Fleet Readiness and Training. When BureauWeaps (Bureau of Naval Weapons) became Air Systems Command, he became Assistant Commander for Material Acquisition. He moved up to vice commander in April 1967.</p> <p>In addition to the Legion of Merit, with Combat "V," and the Air Medal, Rear Admiral Sager has the American Defense Services Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Silver Star (five engagements), the World War II Victory Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.</p> <p>Parke was well known around the University of Michigan campus as his dog, Major, followed him, even attending classes with him. One story Parke told was that when a professor got too long winded, Major would yawn and get up, indicating to all that class should be over.</p> <p>While living in different locations around the country, the Sager family spent many summers at Walloon Lake, Parke used to fly up, buzz the cottage to signal his arrival in the area and the family would drive to Pellston to pick him up.</p> <p>Parke's father ran a number of summer hotels in the Petoskey and Burt Lake area, including the Forest Beach Hotel in Harbor Springs.</p> <p>He enjoyed tennis, reading and woodworking.</p> <p>He was a member of Kiwanis.</p> <p>Survivors include his wife, Jean Hanley Sager of Petoskey; and children Jane Sager Mangini of Petoskey; Christopher Parke Sager of Oakton, Va., and Suzanne Dryer S. Conover of Sarasota, Fla.</p> <p>Memorial contributions may be made to charity of choice.</p> <p>Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, at Stone Funeral Home in Petoskey.</p>
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Petoskey News Review
August 20, 1997



John Parke Sager

FOR THE RECORD

This space is reserved each day for corrections or clarifications of news stories. Should you see an error, please contact Kendall Stanley, managing editor, or Ken Winter, editor and general manager, at the News-Review, (616) 347-2544.

An obituary in Wednesday's edition for Ret. U.S. Navy Rear Adm. J. Parke Sager, 85, should have included the following survivors:

He is also survived by a step-

daughter, Jeanie Kilgour and her husband, Murray, of Charlevoix, a son-in-law, Phillip Conover, of Sarasota, Fla., and grandsons Jonathan Sager and Brian Sager of Oakton, Va.

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