

NO PHOTO    Kern, George T

San Diego, CA

George T. Kern, local artist, Chief Architect for the County of San Diego for 16 years and veteran of WWII battles in the western Pacific, died Saturday September 8th.

After 20 years as a consulting architect with the Oakland firm of Fingado and Kern, Mr. Kern relocated to join the County of San Diego as Chief Architect and Director of the Architectural Division in 1967 at a time of rapid expansion of county facilities. Many landmark projects were completed by the county under his supervision, including the East County Regional Center, South County Regional Center, Vista Regional Center, Heritage Park in Old Town and the relocation of the historic Witch Creek Schoolhouse to Julian to serve as a branch library. His professional affiliations included the San Diego Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Kiwanis Club of Kearny Mesa, which he served as President.

Following retirement in 1984, he combined his interests in travel and art, rediscovering the joy of painting of watercolors on location. His travels produced many watercolors of architecture and landscapes in a distinctive style, which led to teaching workshops and awards in many juried exhibitions. A member of both the Artist's Guild and Art 12 group, he also served as President of the S.D. Watercolor Society. Born in Woodland, CA in 1921, Mr. Kern was raised in Oakland and received both his BA and MA in Architecture from UC Berkeley.

In June 1943, he was called to active duty and attended Naval Gunfire Liaison School at Naval Amphibious Base, Camp Matthews and other locations in San Diego. Mr. Kern was assigned as an observer to the 593rd JASCO, which in turn was attached to the 96th Division for the liberation of Leyte Island, Philippines in October 1944. After the conquest of Leyte, he fulfilled a similar role in the invasions of Luzon, P.I. in January 1945 and Okinawa, R.I. in April 1945, after which he was promoted to Lieutenant and awarded the Bronze Star by the Navy.

Survivors include Beverly, his wife of 60 years, of San Diego; son Jeffrey and spouse Teresa of Benicia; daughter Alison Shedd and spouse Daniel of Chico; daughter Jacquelyn and spouse Igor of San Anselmo; son Philip and spouse Sandra of San Diego, and eight grandchildren. A celebration of life is planned on September 16th, to be followed by inurnment at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery.