

Jex, Donald

Donald Robert Jex, Capt.USN ret., 78, of Middletown, died at his home Monday, Dec. 23, 2002. Born in Port Huron on June 9, 1924, he was the son of the late Greta Lucille (Roberts) Jex. He was the husband of Bess (Yeanopoulos) Jex, who survives him. Captain Jex graduated from Port Huron High School in 1942 and from the United States Naval Academy in 1946. He was a Newport, R.I. resident for several years, having served as executive officer of the destroyer Barry (DD-933), on the staff of the commander destroyer force, the Atlantic Fleet, commanding officer of the destroyer escort Dealey (DE-1006), student and subsequent member of the staff at the Naval War College and was awarded a master of arts degree in international affairs from the George Washington University. He was commanding officer of the frigate Willis A. Lee (DL-4) prior to his duty as the head of Policy Control Branch, Bureau of Naval Personnel, in Washington, D.C. He was commanding officer of the USS Hermitage (LSD-34). Capt. Jex received orders to Korea as chief of staff and aide to Commander Naval Forces, Korea in Seoul, Korea. He then went back to the United States as commander of Destroyer Squadron 22. He served on the staff of the supreme allied commander, Atlantic, and then ordered as executive officer-senior aide to the supreme allied commander, Atlantic-commander in chief, Atlantic-commander in chief Atlantic Fleet. After retiring from the United States Navy, he worked briefly as a stock broker in Virginia Beach, Va.; then came back to the Newport area in 1994. He enjoyed his home and working around it. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Bess; a niece; two nephews; three great-nieces; and great-great-nieces. His funeral will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2002, in Memorial Funeral Home, 375 Broadway, Newport, R.I. Burial will be in Newport Memorial Park in Middletown.