

JIM CAPOSSELA Veteran of World War II

Born November 22nd, 1925 in Rochelle, New York, Jim attended St. Joseph's Elementary School and graduated in June, 1942. After his military service he went on to Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio and received his BS degree in Business Administration in March, 1950.

Jim's father, James served in the U.S. Army during World War I and was a Top Sergeant in France. His brother also served with the U.S. Navy during World War II. Jim married the former JoAnn Shuster on June 19th, 1948. They have 4 sons, 11 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Jim joined the U.S. Navy on April 24, 1944 and was discharged on June 6th, 1946. He attended 'boot camp' at Sampson Naval Training Center in Sampson, New York. From there he went to radio school in Bedford Springs, PA. Upon graduation he was assigned to the Camp Bradford amphibious base at Norfolk, VA.

Shortly thereafter he was transferred to the Amphibious Naval Base, Fort Pierce, Florida where he endured rigorous training with the UDT teams and a group named "Roger's Rangers". Transferred again, Jim was sent to the Naval Base, San Diego, California where he was assigned to the AKA33, an amphibious cargo assault ship.

The AKA33 was active throughout the Pacific theater during 1945 to include Pearl Harbor, Guam, the Japans, China and the Philippines.

After active duty and receiving his college degree, Jim worked in various jobs until he found his "place in the sun". He landed a position with the Rawlings Sporting Goods Company. It was everything a "Sports Nut" would love. Not only was he servicing

area high schools and colleges, but he had full access to the locker rooms of the NY Giants, NY Mets, NY Jets and the NJ Jets rubbing elbows with noteables such as Mickey Mantle, Vince Lombardi, and many others, too many to mention. He made on field presentations of the Rawlings Gold Glove Trophy to recipients such as Craig Nettles, Dave Winfield, Don Mattingly and others. 28 years made for some incredible memories and stories.

Jim's awards through military service included the China Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, WW II Victory Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal and Philippines Liberation Medal.

