

John D. Weir Jr., Engineer, Inventor

By Collin Nash

STAFF WRITER

John D. (Jack) Weir Jr., a mechanical engineer and inventor from Lloyd Harbor, died Friday at Huntington Hospital after a four-year bout with cancer. He was 70.

Mr. Weir invented submarine and aircraft navigation components and held several patents. He was a former department head of navigational systems at Sperry Corp., now Unisys Corp., and had worked for the Lake Success military contractor for 36 years. Mr. Weir retired in 1986.

Among his family and friends, he was equally giving, said his son, John, of Lloyd Harbor.

"He was always there when you needed him. Neighbors would always call on him to fix things. Stoves. Refrigerators. Lawnmowers. You name it. He wouldn't hesitate to give a hand," his son said.

And John Weir recalled how as a boy, he was often allowed by his father to pilot the family's 17-foot sailboat during races in Huntington Bay. It was his way of bonding while "exposing me to sailing," his son said.

Mr. Weir, a native of the Bronx, graduated from Andrew Jackson High school in Queens in 1940. He had been the tri-state freestyle swimming champion, and later, at Columbia University, was captain of the swim team.

His engineering studies at Columbia were interrupted by World War II. After graduating from an officers training program at Annapolis, Mr. Weir was commissioned as an ensign in the Navy and served on destroyers in the North Atlantic.

After his discharge in November, 1945, he returned to Columbia, where he earned an undergraduate engineering degree in 1946 and a master's in 1949.

In addition to his son, Mr. Weir is survived by his wife of 50 years, Elsie; his daughter, Elaine Weir Sherman of Scarsdale; and four grandchildren.

A private cremation was held Saturday; a memorial service is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the United Methodist Church in Huntington. The family said that donations to Huntington Hospital in Mr. Weir's memory would be appreciated.

Obituary for John D Weir Jr



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