

POST WORLD WAR II VETERAN TONY IAVAGNILIO

By Richard Long

At the age of 18, Tony Iavagnilio enlisted in the US Navy because he was "pissed" that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. He was sure he needed to serve. He attended Great Lakes Naval Training center. After basic he was educated as a radar specialist, still at Great Lakes. His first regular assignment was aboard the USS Algol, AKA 54.

By late summer, 1949, the Algol was back in full commission and operating out of Little Creek, VA under the command of Amphibious Forces, Atlantic Fleet. In August of that year, it sailed, along with elements of the 7th Marine Division, out of Morehead City NC headed for the Mediterranean Sea. It spent approximately the next 6 months at sea visiting numerous ports in the Mediterranean. The attack cargo ship conducted various operations along side the American naval forces that were stationed there full time. Together they played "war games" with the Russian Navy, our allies at that time, with the purpose of preparedness and stability in the area. After all, the war had just ended.

One of Tony's fondest memories of that time was getting to meet a few family members while in port in Italy—five days spent with relatives he had never met.

Tony, thank you for your service.



Tony Iavagnilio