

Danton B. Sailor
1922-1999
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, EMERITUS
B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of Illinois
California State University, Fullerton: 1962 To 1990
Birth: October 22, 1922; Death: January 24, 1999

Our colleague Dan Sailor arrived at CSUF early in the University's career, 1962, and was a very active member of the Department of History as well as campus-wide. He taught European Intellectual History including the Reformation.

He received all his degrees from the University of Illinois in the midst of which he enlisted in the Navy during WW II with hopes of becoming a navy pilot. Unfortunately, due to physical problems he never made it to flying school and received a medical discharge.

Dan was enthusiastically interested in politics and, with his delightful wife, Dodie, worked hard for the Democratic Party locally, state-wide, on and off campus. In fact, he served on the County Democratic Central Committee. This interest dramatically came to the fore on one particular occasion: March 3, 1970, (a date most of you will remember), when the campus was invaded by the local constabulary primed for a major confrontation with students and faculty demonstrating against the Vietnam War. To prevent any violence Dan, in a very courageous move, approached the officers in charge and was able to contribute to a more calming influence to the affair. This was typical Dan, as Larry de Graaf mentioned to me recently.

Among his many interests Dan loved tennis and played in a foursome on a regular basis with other members of the university. He never lost his interest in flying. Toward that end he, along with his colleagues Carmon Hardy and Sy Scheinberg, formed the Clio Flying Club. Each even had a cap with a plane logo on it. The hope (translates to fantasy) was that we would all take flying lessons, maybe even get a plane! It got a little bit bizarre. Dodie commented recently, "It's a good thing I didn't know what they had in mind!"

Dan's most enduring, life-long love was sailing; (how appropriate). One of his boats was named "Sailor's Delight." He and Dodie and their sons, Kevin, Tim, and Dory participated in racing competitions up and down the coast and between here and Catalina. His third boat, the "Navago," was for cruising. And cruise they did, all over

the Pacific and beyond. One of the more exciting events was sailing through the Panama Canal.

Dan was a ham radio enthusiast and had a set installed in his car. He was thus able to stay in touch with friends and family while one or another was on a cruise. His love of sailing even prompted him to establish a Student Sailing Club on campus.

Dan and Dodie became involved early with the World Organization for the Education of Young Children, connected to UNICEF. This is a reflection of Dan's concern for people, the environment, and the state of the country. Dan was one of the most considerate and compassionate people I have ever known. As Dodie reminded me, he would not walk across the grass in the quad, but took the long way round to wherever he was headed. At his surprise retirement party he refused to park in the driveway of the home where we were meeting, a place which was especially left open for him, because, he said, someone else might need the space.

He was also a great conversationalist and raconteur, and you could never leave his company without a smile on your face. That smile would broaden as you enjoyed the New Yorker cartoons he often displayed outside his office.

Submitted by
Seymour Scheinberg
Professor of History Emeritus
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