

# SILVER CIRCLE MEMBERS PASS ON RUFUS PEDERSON RAY JACOBS

By David Hakim

**Rufus J Pederson Jr.**, a much-respected and long-time member of the San Francisco Bay Area television and film community, passed away quietly at his home on the morning of Friday, February 1, 2008. Rufus had been in treatment for esophageal cancer for the past year. He was 77 years old.



Rufus, remembered by many as a mischievous teller of humorous stories, was a very accomplished television director. Having enjoyed a career of more than 50 years, Rufus directed various kinds of program segments, including news, sports, variety, and documentary programs. A few of the many titles on his credit list are *Good Morning America*, *Dr. Edell's Medical Journal*, *AM San Francisco*, *Channel Seven News*, and *Forty Magic Years*, a two-hour live celebration of 40 years of broadcasting from KGO-TV.

Rufus was one of the founding members of the San Francisco Coordinating Committee, a local executive body of the Directors Guild of America formed in 1978 to coordinate Guild activities in the Bay Area. For many years, Rufus served as an SFCC officer, and was a guiding force through many of its activities. In 2001, Rufus received a plaque in recognition of "his dedicated commitment, outstanding service, and years of tireless contribution" to the Guild and its membership. In 2007, Rufus received the Larry Sturhahn Memorial Award for "his selfless commitment to the SFCC, his unflagging leadership, his devotion to the DGA and its members, and for his magnificent sense of humor" – presented by current SFCC Chair **Paul Martin** and all the previous Chairs. Rufus was surprised and delighted to find that the plaque bore a jumping bass, a nod to his love of fishing.

A native of Oklahoma, Rufus spent his teenage years in Richland, Washington. In 1952, shortly after graduating from Washington State University with a Bachelors Degree in Drama, Rufus was drafted into the Army and received his first television experience. At the Signal Corps training camp in San Luis Obispo, California, he directed and occasionally performed on the first Armed Forces TV station. From there he was transferred to Washington, DC, where he served in "the code room" at the Pentagon.

In 1955 Rufus began his television career in earnest, first as a stage manager and director at

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By Associated Press

**Raymond Jacobs**, a former Bay Area television newsman believed to be the last living Marine photographed during the flag-raising on Iwo Jima during World War II, has died. He was 82.

Mr. Jacobs died Jan. 29 of natural causes at a hospital in Redding, according to his daughter, **Nancy Jacobs**.

He was born in 1926 in Bridgeport, Conn. He retired in 1992 from KTVU-TV in Oakland, where he worked 34 years as a reporter, anchor and news director.

Mr. Jacobs spent his later years working to prove that he was the radio operator photographed gazing up at the American flag as it was being raised by other Marines over Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945.

Newspaper accounts from the time show he was on the mountain during the initial raising of a smaller American flag, though he had returned to his unit by the time the famous AP photograph taken by **Joe Rosenthal** of a flag-raising re-enactment later the same day.

The radioman's face isn't fully visible in the first photograph published by **Lou Lowery**, a photographer for *Leatherneck* magazine, leading some veterans to question Mr. Jacobs' claim. But other negatives from the same roll of film show that it is in fact Mr. Jacobs, said retired **Col. Walt Ford**, editor of *Leatherneck*.

"It's clearly a front-on face shot of Ray Jacobs," Ford said.

**Annette Amerman**, a historian with the Marine Corps history division, said in an e-mail statement that "there are many that believe" Mr. Jacobs was the radioman. "However, there are no official records produced at the time that can prove or refute Mr. Jacobs' location."

The man with a radio on his back had usually been identified as **Pfc. Gene Marshall**, a radio operator with the 5th Marine Division who died in 1987. The other men involved in the raising all have died. Mr. Jacobs was honorably discharged in 1946.

Ray was inducted into the NATAS Silver Circle in the class of 1988.

