

IANNACONE WAY

Street Naming Ceremony

Friday, June 14, 2002

NAVAIR Lakehurst

Lakehurst, NJ

Retired Chief Petty Officer John Iannaccone, 91, is being honored today with a street being named after him at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst (NAVAIR Lakehurst), New Jersey.

Retiring from active duty in the Navy in 1948, after a twenty year career (most of it at Lakehurst), he served another 23 years as a civil servant at Lakehurst before retiring once again.

Anyone who has seen television productions regarding the Hindenburg crash of May 6, 1937 at the base will remember Iannaccone's eyewitness accounts as a member of the mooring mast crew preparing to land the ship. As most people at the scene were running from underneath the enormous airship, as it began its fiery 30 second decent into history, Iannaccone observed what was happening from the mooring mast and began rescuing survivors.

Since his last retirement from the government in 1974, Iannaccone began a third career, which continues today, as the base's resident expert in lighter-than-air operations and its early history. A keen witness, he often recounts what he observed to researchers and media representatives with knowledge of the lighter-than-air ships only someone with his two careers could amass.

In his volunteer capacity, Iannaccone has been interviewed for numerous productions on the History Channel, Discovery Channel, Travel Channel, Learning Channel, C-SPAN, CNN and the major networks. He provided accurate and vivid accounts for programs such as Modern Marvels, National Geographic, Great Disasters and numerous other programs. He also volunteers his time with the Lakehurst Historical Society Museum to answer questions from young students doing research papers.

