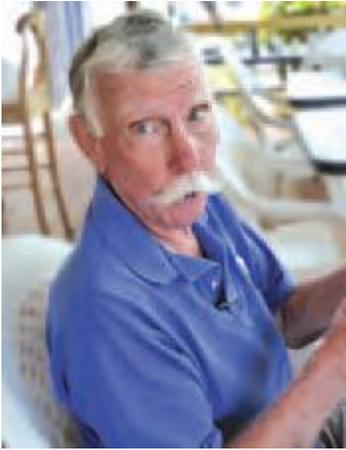


## Martin Peak Merrick



Lieutenant Commander Martin P. Merrick, USN (Ret.), of Christiansted, Saint Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, passed away on 21 December 2015.

Marty originally hailed from Naperville, IL, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Peck Merrick Jr. He entered the Naval Academy with the Class of 1960 and brought with him an extensive musical background. While at the Academy, either vocalizing or instrumentalizing, it was in Marty's line and he was in it.

Upon graduation, he entered Navy Air and served in a number of capacities and duty stations over a 23-year career.

After retiring from the Navy in 1983, Marty moved to St. Croix to work as a civilian pilot in the Navy Sonobuoy Test Program in the Virgin Islands. Within a week, he had auditioned for and was cast in a David Richards-directed show at the old Airport Inn. He was part of a small group that created Caribbean Community Theatre in 1985, and for the first ten years, he was vice president of operations. Marty also worked with almost every theatrical venue on the island, as well as Pistarckle Theater on St. Thomas, serving in every position from gofer to producer/director.

Utilizing his weather knowledge from the Navy, he began working as a local television weatherman. Until the last, he kept up his daily weather forecasts posted online at 'Marty's USVI Weather' (by Marvelous Marty Merrick) – bookmarked and frequently consulted by the local weather cognoscenti.

He was honored to serve as grand marshal of St. Croix's 2015 St. Patrick's Day Parade. He was an enthusiastic and esteemed member of the Territorial Committee of the Virgin Islands Republican Party. He will be sorely missed by his community.

He is survived by a sister, Cindy Lou LaPorte; and two nephews, William Scott Collins and Theodore Peck Collins.

*W.E. Lewis, Class secretary*