

## REMEMBERING DOC STULLKEN

By Denny Holt

I heard today that Doc Stulken died. I have fond memories of Doc. Doc was big, boisterous and loud. We could hear him halfway down the hall arguing over the SCAMMA phone with Capt. Tolleson in Hawaii. We used to joke that he could have used a megaphone and been heard in Oahu. So much for secure comm.

I'm sure that the guys on the carriers with Doc have better stories. Here's mine.

Before Apollo 5, I carried Doc's bags on a 3-week LRD briefing tour in the Pacific - Hawaii, Guam, Philippines & Japan. It was a great adventure for a 23 year old. Doc was never short of words and he never stopped telling stories - recovering space monkeys, the "Stulken collar", etc. Most impressive was that I'm sure Doc ever told the same story twice.

My most vivid memory was when my suit coat flew out of a helicopter over Manila on the way to Clark AFB. The Manila paper said "Visiting NASA scientist loses papers" and the US Embassy offered a reward. As we were leaving a few days later, the helicopter set down on the Embassy grounds and I gave the Marine Guard on duty \$10 to retrieve my airline tickets, orders & a couple of blank TR's. Doc laughed at the \$10. He said the Embassy had paid a pretty penny to recover my documents, but he knew the Marines would appreciate the ten buck contribution to their beer fund.

Denny forwarded an email from Gene Kranz:

**From:** Gene Kranz

**Sent:** Sunday, December 13, 2009 3:28 PM

**Subject:** Passing

Hi Gang,

This afternoon I received a call from Russ Stullken that "Doc" had passed away this morning. Those in Mission Operations remember "Doc" for his professionalism, courtesy and great humor. I remember him for his

attempts to sabotage (dilute and introduce beans into the flight directors team and others during the early years of the chili cook offs.) His laugh was contagious and his son Russ sounds just like him. Remember him in your prayers..... I will pass on more details when I get them.

*Gene. Kranz*