



USN Mailman Insignia



Wilbert Oliver Hoffman
NAM 3/C U.S. Navy
1944 – ?

Wilbert, or “Wimp,” nicknamed after Wimpy in the Popeye cartoon, was born on 14 June 1926 in the historic Log House in Wescosville, Pennsylvania. He was named in memory of his mother’s youngest brother, and in honor of next door neighbor Oliver Clinton Reuben Bastian, teacher and farmer, who, with his wife Jennie Huff Bastian, were his godparents. Wimp attended the two-room Wescosville School, and graduated from Allentown High School in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Class of 1944. He was employed by Town Auto Company of Allentown as part of the auto-shop industrial course at Allentown High, and continued to work there for a time after serving in the Navy. He served in the Pacific Theater during World War II and was discharged with the rating NAM 3/C, a mailman. After his return to the States, Wimp owned an auto-collision and engine-repair shop in Haafsville, Pennsylvania. At various other times he worked for William F. Deibert Trucks in Allentown, and for Strohl Chevrolet in Fogelsville, Pennsylvania. After moving to California he worked as a night foreman for Norm Pressman’s (Peterbilt Truck Company) in San Diego. He was joined there by his brother Lamont, nicknamed “Massey.” Both Massey and Wimp were masters of diesel and gas-engine repair. In his own words, Massey often said, “Wimp could fix absolutely anything, but he couldn’t affix a six-cent postage stamp because he had only five cents.” Wimp was generous to a fault. Wimp married **Betty Billman** of Allentown in 1949, and had two children, Judy and Blair. After Betty’s death, he married **Barbara Potocnie** and had two children, Wilbur, nicknamed “Butch,” and June. Wimp had an interest in music and toyed at playing the banjo with his friend Billy Deibert. He was the fourth son of **Norman Henry Hoffman** (2 December 1895 – 17 June 1963) and **Bessie Kate Haas** (23 December 1896 – 13 January 1992). He died of cancer on 13 November 1985 in San Diego. Two of Wilbert’s brothers, **Erwin Arthur** and **Norman Charles**, served in the Army during World War II. His brother **Lamont “Massey” Lewis** and another brother, **Russell Frederick**, served in the Army and Navy, respectively, during the 1950s.