



On April 6<sup>th</sup> at the NAS Whidbey Officer's Club, one of the Prowler Community's civilian icons, "Papa" Joe and his wife Carole "CF" Farina were recognized at a retirement celebration attend by a large turnout of individuals from industry, the Airborne Electronic Attack (AEA) Community, local civilians, family and friends.

"Papa" Joe began his career with Grumman Corporation on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1963 the day before he graduated from high school. He was shortly thereafter assigned to the Lunar Module (LEM) Program at NASA working on the Apollo project. "Papa" Joe subsequently provided logistical support to the E-2A Hawkeye and F-14 Tomcat programs before coming to Oak Harbor and NAS Whidbey in the early 1970's for what was to be a short-term assignment providing logistical support for the A-6E Intruder and EA-6B Prowler aircraft. He and "CF" fell in love with the personnel at the base as well as the local community ending up staying until he officially retired from Northrop Grumman on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017. "Papa" Joe was very active in local organizations, such as the Prowler Association, Oak Harbor Chapter of the Navy League and Whidbey Roost of Association of Old Crows, actively supporting the AEA and Navy Community. He was also a mainstay in helping organize both the Prowler Sunset Picnic and Dinner during the Navy Prowler Sunset Celebration.

The Prowler Association recognized "Papa" Joe and the love of his life "CF" by presenting them with a dozen roses and a glass plaque with the Prowler Association logo and the following inscription:

**To  
Papa Joe and "CF" Farina  
Lifetime Achievement  
To the  
Navy's AEA Mission**

"Papa" Joe and "CF" will remain in the local area enjoying their grandchildren and continuing to provide superb support to the AEA Community.