



## **Arthur "Art" McDole**

1917-2011

SALINAS – Born in Colorado Springs, Colorado on April 3, 1917 to Arthur and Iva McDole. Preceded in death by his loving Wife Mary and Sister Idabeth McDole. Art was raised in Minturn Colorado where he graduated from high school 1<sup>st</sup> in his class and worked as a carpenter and cabinet maker.

Art married his high school sweetheart Mary Cline in April 1940. They moved to Salinas in 1942, where Art worked at Salinas Planing Mill, then went to work for Coin-a-Matic repairing jukeboxes. Art was always interested in radio and in 1949 he was hired by Sheriff Jack McCoy at the rank of Sergeant, to build and install radios in the Sheriff's cars, and handle radio communications. Art rose to the rank of Captain before leaving the Sheriff's Dept to head a new County Communications Department, creating a consolidated dispatch center in 1969 in the basement of the new North Wing of the Courthouse. In his new department, Art also headed the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Telecommunications Division, as well as served as a volunteer firefighter, member of the search and rescue team, assisted the Civil Air Patrol, and worked with the MAST helicopter rescue program at Fort Ord.

In 1972 Art worked with State Assembly Member Charles Warren to draft and pass the Warren 911 act, which requires counties to answer the new emergency number and created the telephone surcharge that still pays for the infrastructure and answering equipment in local Communications Centers; and with State assistance built the first countywide 911 system in the nation in January 1975. In 1988 he built the first countywide enhanced E911 system in California. Art also created and installed the Alert system still used by the Water Resources Agency (WRA) to remotely monitor water levels throughout the County. Art retired in 1990 after 41 years of service and continued working as a volunteer with WRA, OES, and APCO.

Art was a lifelong Ham radio operator, call sign W6WJM, member of the Radio Club of America, member of the Monterey County Peace Officers Association, charter member of Northminster Presbyterian Church, member Masonic Lodge, SIRS #56, and a Life Member of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), serving for over 50 years as a Frequency Coordinator for Northern California – a job he continued to perform until one month before his death at age 93. His work with APCO and the FCC spanned decades, technologies and regulatory upheavals. APCO's highest award for technical excellence is the Art McDole Award.

In his free time, Art was an avid outdoorsman, hunter, fisherman, and member of the German Short Hair Dog Club, through which he participated in many field trials. Art is survived by his

Son Gary of Berkeley, Daughter Maridee of Arizona and Chilean daughter Maggie of Florida; Sister Jane Black (Harold) of Salinas, Brother-in law Jim Cline of Wolcott, Colorado; one Great Grandchild, a host of Grandchildren, Nieces, and Nephews; and a legion of dear friends and colleagues.

Art was a spellbinding story-teller with many great personal stories to tell. He will be sorely missed. A two hour video of Art's life – his history and stories captured for posterity and interviews with colleagues – was thankfully made in 2006. It is available for viewing at [http://www.share-a-vision.com/mcdole\\_video.html](http://www.share-a-vision.com/mcdole_video.html)

A Memorial Service and Celebration of Life will be held on May 14th at 11:00 AM at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 315 E. Alvin Drive, at McKinnon, Salinas, 93906. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the APCO Historical Archive (386) 322-2500 or [apco@apcointl.org](mailto:apco@apcointl.org) (checks should be made to APCO International, Inc., and the memo should refer to the Art McDole Donation or Heritage), or Northminster Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund (831) 449-2717, or a charity of your choice. Friends are encouraged to leave messages of condolence at <http://mcdole.share-a-vision.com>