

**WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF BROTHERS...
LOSING YET ANOTHER ONE**

That's what I said in a note yesterday to my Brother Jim, who picked up on that phrase right away, knowing only too well how true that has become.

Our Parents had 10 children but three were gone before the seven remaining siblings were even born, so we didn't know anything about the first three. But there remained seven Merna siblings, six boys and one girl, all of whom spent varying amounts of time at St. Dominic's Convent in Blauvelt, NY or St. Agnes Home and School for Boys in Sparkill, NY, all but George in both. The seven, with childhood nicknames if any, are shown below:



**Top: Dad Merna; George C. (Sonny);
Middle: Gerald F. (Brother), James E. (Jimmy); Robert P. (Bobby);
Bottom: Vivian G.; Thomas G. (Tommy); Richard G. (Richie);
St. Dominican's Convent, Blauvelt, NY, 1942**

On Feb. 11, 1945, Brother George, a Navy LST-Signalman 2d Class, was killed in action off the coast of Leyte when his ship was sunk by a Japanese submarine. He was 19.



**Signalman 2dCI George C. Merna, USN
Ozone Park, L.I., NY 1943**

On May 7, 2000 Brother Thomas, a long-time resident of San Francisco, who was employed for a longtime on Fisherman's Wharf, died of natural causes. (Tom was the only Brother who did not serve in the military).



Thomas G. Merna

On July 4, 2006 (six short months ago) we lost Brother Richard from numerous causes after languishing in the hospital for 32 days, most of that in the intensive care unit.



**Cpl. Richard G. Merna USMC
Korean War**

Now we are sad to report that we lost yet another Brother, Bob, today (December 22, 2006), following a long bout with cancer, blindness and other illnesses. He died in San Jose where he lived briefly after many years in San Francisco and Moraga, CA.



Jerry Vivian Jim Bob



**Robert Paul Merna, USN
Korean War**



Bob Vivian Jerry

So now there are two brothers, Jim and Jerry, and one Sister, Vivian. (After George, Jerry is the oldest).



Bob Merna at Vivian's Wedding



Vivian



**Jerry and Jim at West Point, 1953
Home from Korea**

Jim and I are flying out to San Jose to join our Sister Vivian, and her two daughters, Karen and Roberta, who have been of tremendous help to Bob during his courageous battle. While he did die peacefully, his illnesses were significant to him, as they were for Brother Richard earlier this year.

Please remember all of us in your prayers.

**Jim and Jerry Merna
December 22, 2006**



Photo: Courtesy U.S. Navy