



June 4, 2016

Planning Board, City of Alameda (submitted by email)
2263 Santa Clara Ave.
Alameda, CA 94501

Subject: Planning Board, May 2016, Revised Street Names, **YORK**, proposed in Site A.

Dear Boardmembers,

Today would have been Marilyn York's 94th birthday, 6-4-1922 (she died in October 2012). **YORK** is the proposed new name for the very short **E Street** that fronts Building #77, the home of Alameda Naval Air Museum. While the museum is not part of Site A development, due to Waterfront Park and Pan Am Way extensions, E street is in Site A and will forever impact access to the museum. We think **YORK**, or better yet, **York Way**, is a fitting tribute to the founder of our museum who worked tirelessly to preserve the legacy of the Naval Air Station and those who worked here.

"Many young people don't understand the tremendous sacrifices that were made by their own grandparents and relatives. It's critical that we act now to preserve the lessons of history for future generations of Americans." - Marilyn York

You should know who she was and why honoring her is important to us and should be to City of Alameda's historical community, who are passionate about remembering the legacy of people, not just architecture, who have made their mark. York is especially important at Naval Air Station – Alameda.

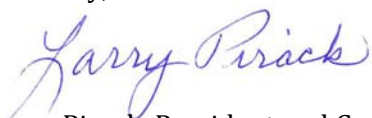
- 1941, Japan bombs Pearl Harbor, Marilyn York leaves university studies in San Jose to become part of the first class of Navy WAVES – Women Accepted for Emergency Volunteer Service.
- 1943, September, assigned to NAS-A after being trained as aircraft mechanic. A true "Rosie the Riveter", she was also a driver for the base commanding officer.
- 1945, September, discharged when WWII ended, she continued working in same capacity, but as a civilian, rising to the status of journeyman aircraft mechanic.
- 1976, retirement did not end her love for Alameda Navy operations. She was a regular volunteer in base activities, particularly NARFE (National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association) .
- 1995-1997, dreams grew with looming base closure in November 1997. With help from Commanding Officer Jim Dodge and York's volunteers, Building #77 was identified as the perfect home for the Naval Air Museum - the place to preserve and conserve base history and artifacts.
- 1997-2004, through countless ARRA and City Council meetings, business plans, a \$750,000 grant secured by the museum board with help from Congresswoman Barbara Lee through her then staff assistant, Sandre Swanson, occupancy of the former Air Terminal began in 2004 and the many electrical and safety upgrades required to meet City codes.

- 2005 to present, Alameda Naval Air Museum remains committed to education and excellence in preserving base and aviation history. Marilyn is still our leader in a spiritual way. Most of the board and key volunteers have been helping for than 10 years. Some of us go back to the late 1990's, twenty years ago, and have fond memories of her.

York Way. Her way, a WAVE... a fitting name to remember a remarkable woman, our own "Rosie", a very small woman in stature, but a larger-than-life woman, who stubbornly and successfully fought for our country and for a museum. Please select York Way as a fitting new street name for "E" street.

One more thing. While we are taking the time to show support to Site A and Alameda Point Partners for their choice of names, we would like to state our support and preference for **W. Atlantic Ave.** from Main Street into the former base. It is the original name. Alameda Point will always be a different kind of area. Whenever possible, keeping the street names, the trees, honoring and maintaining the historical district structures, and remembering the past should always be a priority as we move forward.

Sincerely,



Larry Pirack, President and Curator



Robbie Dileo, Board Secretary

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(Letter submitted by email)

cc: Mayor and City Councilmembers

Andrew Thomas, Debbie Potter, and Jennifer Ott

Historic Advisory Board

AAPS Board and Preservation Action Committee

Rachel Campos for Site A, Alameda Point Partners