

U.S.S. Marblehead (CL-12)

Marblehead Biography Biography of Stanley Anthony Adamczyk

Photographs of Stanley, particularly in uniform, with his wife, Delores, and/or with their children would be much appreciated. Please send to spwade@gmail.com.

Stanley Anthony 'Stan' Adamczyk was born in Chicago, IL on 17 FEB 1917 to Polish immigrants Anthony Adamczyk and Anna Kozakowska. His parents emigrated to the United States with Stan's older brother, Vladislav, in 1913. Stan was the 3rd-born of five children. His siblings were: Vladislav (1913-?), Stella (1914-?), Matthew A (1923-1958), and Adeline (1925-1984). Their dad was a repairman for the Chicago Surface Lines, which operated the street railway system in the Windy City from 1913 to 1947. Their mother was a homemaker.

Stan grew up in a tough Polish neighborhood on Chicago's south side known as 'back of the yard.' It was there he developed his street smarts and survival skills. His buddy 'Moose' Kraus of Notre Dame fame nicknamed him 'Bootie' and Stan often spoke of their friendship. Stan's athletic talent in baseball and softball gave him hope for a professional career, but a serious knee injury ended that dream.¹

On 24 JUL 1940, Stan enlisted in the Navy in Chicago and was assigned service # 3001256. He attended boot camp at the nearby Navy Training School, Great Lakes, IL.

Three days after enlisting, on 27 JUN 1940, Stan married Delores Frances Kiedrowski. It is unclear how they met, but very probably that they knew each other in high school. Delores was born on 23 APR 1920 in Racine, Wisconsin to North Dakota-born Anton Kiedrowski (1885-1948), a draw driver and later, a laborer on one of President Roosevelt's WPA (Works Progress Administration) parks projects in Chicago. Her mother was Minnesota-born homemaker Gertrude 'Gertie' Stanislawski (1887-1928). Her parents were also of Polish heritage.



Stan, still an Apprentice Seaman (AS), was first received aboard the battleship *USS Pennsylvania (BB-38)* on 12 Oct 1940. During his 13 months aboard, he would advance to Fireman First Class (F1c). On 20 NOV 1941, at Pearl Harbor, seventeen days before the Japanese sneak attack, Stan transferred to the *USS Chaumont (AP-5)*, a veteran Asiatic Fleet transport ship then bound for the Philippines.²

Since Japan attacked the Philippines just hours after Pearl Harbor, *Chaumont* diverted to Australia where, on 7 JAN 1942, Stan transferred as a F1c transferred to the *USS Marblehead (CL-12)*, known as "Marby" to her crew. At the time, *Marby* was serving as *Radio Darwin*, as she and other Allied ships regrouped in the Aussie Northern Territory port by that name.

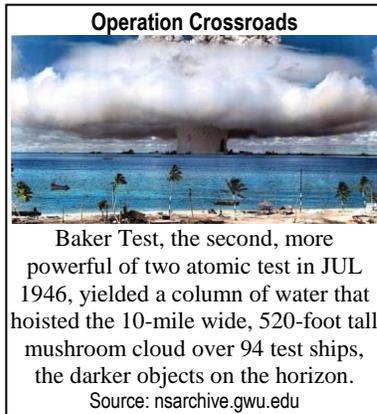
Stan would remain aboard *Marby* for three years during which time he would advance to the rank of Machinist Mate Second Class (MM2c). The events of that period, which include the bombing of the ship on 4 FEB 1942, its subsequent escape to New York, and its wartime exploits in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea are more fully described in [Marby's own biography](#) and the book [Where Away – A Modern Odyssey](#).

¹ From Stan's 2006 obituaries in South Haven Tribune and the Chicago Tribune.

² *USS Pennsylvania*, in drydock when the Japanese struck on 7 DEC 1941, avoided being sunk, but was severely strafed and otherwise damaged, losing 15 men killed, 14 missing, and 38 wounded. Repairs in San Francisco enabled her to rejoin the war effort on 30 MAR 1942.

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Stan transferred from the *Marby* on 26 JAN 1945 to the Fleet Service Schools in Norfolk, VA and on 25 OCT 1945, he joined *ATR 50*, a rescue tug operating in the Pacific. He was still a MM2c. On 18 MAR 1946, Stan transferred to *ATR 87*, another rescue tug operating out of Hawaii. While aboard, Stan participated in salvage activities related to Operation Crossroads the atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll in July 1946. Stan was present in the final muster roll for *ATR 87* on 22 JUL 1946. The vessel was decommissioned later than year and, and Stan was probably discharged shortly thereafter.



“After WWII, Stan broadened his education in night classes in electronics and drafting at Illinois Institute of Technology. This set the stage for advancement at Standard Coil Products, where he began in the Material Prep Department. He quickly moving up the ranks to Director of Purchasing. In 1947, SCP transferred him to their Bangor, MI plant which he was managed until 1954, when he was promoted to general manager of their Melrose Park, IL operation. In 1959, Stan purchased the Bangor operation, renaming it Adams Electronics. The company produced television and radio

components for industry giants of the time - Magnavox, Admiral, Zenith, Motorola and Sylvania. He expanded operations with an additional manufacturing plant in Mexico. He was President and CEO of the corporation until 1980 when it merged with Tracor Corporation of Texas. He stayed on as manager until 1983 when he retired.

Saint Basil Catholic Church of South Haven, MI was important throughout his life. He was active on the finance committee of the parish for many years. He served the community of South Haven on the Board of Public Works as well as well as alderman of his ward for several years. He was a sports enthusiast and avid White Sox and Notre Dame fan, attending football games for over forty years, A top notch golfer, he had a steady hand on the green, causing his opponents many headaches with his 'clutch' putting.”³

Delores passed away on 13 APR 2004 in South Haven at the age of 84. Stan died at home in South Haven, MI at the age of 89 on 11 SEP 2006. They are buried side by side in Lakeview Cemetery in South Haven IL. At the time of their passing, they were survived by daughter Barbara and son Richard, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Stanley Anthony Adamczyk is listed on page 234 of the book [Where Away – A Modern Odyssey](#).

Don't forget to read [Marby's biography](#).

Biography by Steve Wade, son of Frank V. Wade, BM2c, USS Marblehead 1939-1945, with information from Ancestry.com, Wikipedia.com, Newspapers.com, and other Internet sources.

Corrections, additions and photos are welcomed by email to spwade@gmail.com.

³ From Stan's 2006 obituaries in South Haven Tribune and the Chicago Tribune.