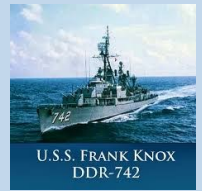




KNOX KNEWS

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS FRANK KNOX REUNION ASSOCIATION

Winter 2015 Edition

Volume 1, Issue 2

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Summers Elected President

Bob Summers of Foster City, California, was elected president of the USS Frank Knox Reunion Association Saturday, September 26 at the association's business meeting held in Portland, Maine. Summers, 67, will succeed current association president Orville Krieg January 1, 2016.

A slate of officers was also elected which include:

- Stephen Cross, La Jolla, California, Vice President-Communications

- Vaughan Kruger of Seattle, Washington, Vice President-Reunion Coordinator
- Margaret Watson of Corvallis, Oregon, Vice President-Finance
- Harry Chandler, Prescott, Arizona, Vice President-Membership
- Robert Woodard, Sacramento, California, Ship's Store Manager

The association also voted to approve a set of by-laws that take effect immediately.

2016 Reunion

Sheraton Hotel Named as 26th Site For 2016 Reunion

Portland, Oregon, "the City of Roses" has been named as the site for the 2016 reunion.

The USS Frank Knox Reunion Association will hold our 26th reunion September 21-25, 2016 at the Sheraton Port-

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President's Corner

By: Bob Summers, President

We approach 2016 with a new slate of officers anxious to complete a host of goals to continue the successes of the USS Frank Knox Reunion Association. We are so grateful for the leadership of Orv Krieg (and Nancy) over the last 12 years. They have set a standard that will prove hard to emulate. Our

highest complements and thanks go to both Orv and Nancy. As a first duty, I have asked Orv to assume the role of Chairman Emeritus of the USS Frank Knox Association and he has accepted. He will continue as a valued advisor.

For those with us in Portland, Maine, it was a great reunion. Our out-

ings to Casco Bay and then to the Maritime Museum & sailing by Bath Iron Works were terrific. We learned that USS Frank Knox was built in 76 days during 1944. We viewed in passing the latest DDG in the fleet, the USS Zumwalt DDD-1000. It's hard to reconcile how our ship has evolved

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Editorial

Submissions:

- Website and Newsletter Contributions desired
- Send Photos and story to bob.summers@sbcglobal.net
- The Association reserves the right to edit and or use any submissions

2016 Reunion, continued

land Airport Hotel, 8235 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR.

Vaughan Kruger, Vice President of Reunions, reports the association has agreed to terms for the annual meeting of the membership. Cost of rooms will be \$109 per night and will include a

complimentary breakfast daily. He reports participants will take a beautiful dinner cruise on the Willamette River Thursday evening. Plans are being formulated for another outing in the area. The hotel will provide airport shuttles from the airport to the Sheraton Hotel at no cost.

“I have visited the hotel along with Bob Summers and we both agree this will be a great site for 2016,” said Kruger. “In the coming weeks we will have more details of the reunion program. Check our newsletter for more information.”

President’s Corner, continued

into the massive ship the Zumwalt has become.

Our banquet speaker Captain Barack F. “Barry” Tibbitts, USN (Ret) ASNE told the fascinating story of the refloating, salvage and rebuilding of the USS Frank Knox in Yokosuka, Japan in 1965-66.

We voted and approved new by-laws and new officers. The mission for Steve, Vaughan, Harry, Margaret, Robert and me will be to grow our active membership and provide

a meaningful reunion experience for all of our members. You can be sure we will be learning our roles this year and working diligently to accomplish our objectives. We may stub our toes for a while, but in the end I’m confident we will provide a reunion experience of which we can all be proud.

We will be continuing quarterly publication of Knox Knews. Please send me any submissions that we can include in the newsletter. Of course, the association will

reserve the right to publish or not to publish all submissions.

Please give any of us a call or drop a note to pass onto us any comments or information you feel necessary. We value your ideas and comments. Now, bring on 2016 and let’s all plan on a proud meeting again in Portland, Oregon in September!

Be well.

Bob

Personal Health News

I was diagnosed with Stage 2 esophageal cancer in mid-November. I began chemo and radiation therapy on December 7. This will continue for 5 weeks and about a month after that (mid-February) I will undergo surgery. I have full confidence in the treatment plan as well as the talents of my three doctors. I fully expect to beat this. Think good thoughts. I’m looking forward to seeing all of you in Portland, Oregon in September. Be well. Bob Summers

Lifetime Members	
Bob Beachkofski John Bruins Donald Greer Yung-Mei Haloski William King Gary Rusch Joshua Russell Donald Snider Bob Summers	One time lifetime dues by age: 60 years old + = \$300 70 years old + = \$200 80 years old + = \$100 90 years old + = FREE

Effective January 1, 2016

The official address for the USS Frank Knox Reunion Association is :

Bob Summers
 800 Sea Spray Lane, #102
 Foster City, CA 94404

First Impressions

By: Bob Summers

As an eighteen year old sailor about to graduate San Diego's Fleet Sonar School in June of 1967 I was an impressionable young man.

Graduation day was approaching and our lead instructor a chief sonarman, who's name I've long since forgotten, was reading the orders for all of his charges. Alphabetically he read through the list announcing the next duty stations for us all. "Summers, USS Frank Knox (DDR-742)" he read aloud. I knew what a DD was and even a DE, but a DDR? I was flummoxed.

After the chief had finished I approached him and asked "chief what is a DDR?"

"Hell, I don't know, go ask the first class" he answered.

I went to his assistant, a first class sonarman whose name I also don't recall and asked him. He answered with a 'tin can swagger' "that's the worst damned duty in the navy. That's a picket ship!" he warned.

"What's a picket ship?" I asked.

"They sit out in the middle of the ocean and track aircraft," he told me.

My heart sunk. I had wanted a regular destroyer like those I had known from Sonar School. We would go out to sea on destroyers from 32nd street, San Diego's destroyer base, and stand watches for a couple of days in the later days of

Sonar School. I had grown to like those.

I went back to the chief and asked him if he knew where my new ship was. He looked at his paperwork and said, "it's



down at 32nd street," he answered.

After school I took the bus down to the destroyer base to see my picket ship. Maybe it's not so bad I thought. I was so anxious to see my ship. Three months of basic training, six weeks of electronic school and 8 weeks of sonar school—I was schooled out. I was anxious to go out to the fleet.

I walked down the pier to the ship with the hull number 742. This ship is the ugliest ship I'd ever seen. What I didn't know is that the ship was being prepared for a full battleship grey painting. It was sand-blasted and did not look her best at all.

Leave it to me to be assigned the ugliest ship that would sit in the ocean tracking aircraft. As I walked down the pier nearing her bow, two sailors came off the

ship and one asked, "are you coming aboard?"

"Not yet," I answered. "I'm going home for a week of leave and then I will report."

"Oh good, you'll make the West-Pac cruise with us. We leave in two weeks" he said.

I knew what that meant. We were going to Vietnam. Just what we would be doing I didn't know.

After my week of leave I returned to San Diego not excited about seeing my ugly ship. I now walked down the pier with my sea-bag on my shoulder and orders in the other hand and now found my

ship all painted and looking a lot better than the last time we'd met. She was beautiful from her new paint job, better than any of the 'tin-cans' around 32nd street I thought.

Of course what I didn't know is that USS Frank Knox had once been a very proud ship in the Pacific Fleet and later had fallen out of grace with the grounding upon Pratas Reef in 1965. Her special radars and electronics would serve the fleet well and we would not sit in a lonely ocean tracking aircraft. Our ship would fulfill all the duties of regular destroyers. This cruise would become the first step in restoring the glory and prestige of the ship.

I crossed the brow and proudly saluted the officer-of-the-deck and reported for duty.

Our Website

Want more news about our association? Would you like to see pictures of Frank Knox sailors back in the day? Would you like to read stories about our history?

Go online to: www.ussfrankknox.com

We are very proud of our website and believe you may be also. Go online and check it out. Do you resist going online? Grab your grandson or granddaughter and have them help you. Perhaps have them show you how to save the site to your 'Favorites'.

Submit ideas and comments to Steve Cross at stephencross@earthlink.net.

USS Frank Knox DDR-742 Reunion Association

800 Sea Spray Lane, #102
Foster City, CA 94404

www.usfrankknox.com

Letters to the Editor

Letter to Orv Krieg

Dear Orv,

The trip to Bath, Maine would be an exciting one for me – here's my memories of that city –

When I graduated from Storekeeper School in Newport, Rhode Island in about September 1944, I was transferred to Norfolk, Virginia with orders – “Transfer to Norfolk, Va. For a new construction destroyer.”

No name was given of the new destroyer and after a month in Norfolk, Lt. Koelch came to me and said, “How would you like to go to Bath, Maine?” I didn't know where it was but I said “Yes.” I went by train – this was about Nov. 1, 1944, and arrived there in a heavy snow storm. They didn't give me time to settle in and the next morning I went on security duty – 4 on 8 off. They were putting Radar equipment on the USS Frank Knox (this was my new construction destroyer). I was able to go into town

to the USO – dancing and drinking Coke – walking from our barracks to town – no busses. A lot of guard duty was on ship and some in a fenced in area of a warehouse – they gave me a sandwich, a Coke and a .45 and I stayed the night. I was on guard duty until the day the USS Frank Knox left Bath, Maine for Shakedown. Then we arrived in Boston Navy Yard to fill the ship with supplies – On December 11, 1944, the Frank Knox was commissioned by Mrs. Frank Knox at the Boston Navy Yard. I'm sorry to say I will not be attending the Reunion in Portland, Maine.

The sad news is that my loving wife of 67 years passed away on February 1, 2015.

Yours, Bob Beachkofski (Plank Owner)SKD-1c 12-11-1944 to 5-20-1946

Letter to Harry Chandler

Hello to some old and patriot sailors! My good friend and old shipmate asked me if I remember a great destroyer from my long

service in the air and sea.

Anyone who served in our Navy in the Pacific would remember the Frank Knox, DD-742. I have steamed with the Knox on many occasions as a JO on Ranger and later as XO on the FDR in Vietnam. While I am in my 90's, I vividly recall her as a “Steamer” always ready and never a need for guidance, but some of details of our enjoyable and challenging deployments together have passed my fading memory.

I want to congratulate the crew or parts of the crew for getting together to enjoy the comradery and memories of a great and gallant ship that so fiercely defended our great nation.

May I wish you a great reunion, and God bless you for your service to our Navy and our country!

Vice Admiral R. F. Schoultz, USN (Ret)
September 22, 2015