



JUNE 2013

# KNOX KNEWS

## **'Blue Water' Vietnam Sailors Denied Comp**

A federal notice in December announced that Vietnam War sailors who served off the coast of the country during the war will not receive VA benefits for exposure to Agent Orange. VA noted in the Dec. 28, 2012, *Federal Register* that there is "insufficient evidence" that they were exposed.

VA based its assumption on a National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine review that examined transport logs, veterans interviews and medical research. It concluded that "blue water" sailors should not be presumed to have been exposed based merely on their location.

"Brown water" sailors who served inland as well as soldiers, Marines and airmen who served on the ground in Vietnam don't have to prove exposure to Agent Orange to qualify for VA benefits.

Blue water vets can still apply for Agent Orange-related benefits, and their claims will be decided on a case-by-case basis. VA also noted that while evidence doesn't support a presumption for them, that doesn't mean that evidence will never be found.

For a list of ships exposed to Agent Orange, access [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp)

FOR MORE INFORMATION about specific legislation or VA benefits, contact VFW's Washington Office at [vfw@vfw.org](mailto:vfw@vfw.org). A member of VFW's National Veterans Service staff will respond as soon as possible.

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The first to send his reservation for the upcoming 23<sup>rd</sup> reunion is STEPHEN CROSS, La Jolla, CA. Congratulations Steve!

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Received notice that JAMES G. BAKER, CO 6/67 - 11/69 has been hospitalized with congestive heart failure. Steve has been in touch with the family and Capt. Baker is improving and should be out of the hospital by the end of May

Informed JOSEPH F. DOLAN, ENS. 08/45 - 12/46 peacefully passed away in his sleep March 21, 2013. Joe was aboard at Tokyo Bay during Japanese surrender September 1945. Joe attended reunions at San Antonio, San Francisco, Colorado Springs and Seekonk (Boston)

Apr. 14, 2013

Dear Mr. Krieg,

Please accept my apology for not writing sooner and letting you know that my husband Armando passed away Aug. 19, 2012 from his long illness. He was at Capistrano Beach Care Center, Capistrano Beach, Calif for almost 5 yrs and he wore his baseball cap every day with great pride. He had a picture of the USS Frank Knox in his room and a picture of himself sitting on one of the cannons. He had great pride for the years he served on the USS Frank Knox.

At his request I am sending in his dues a little late but he wants to do his part in keeping the memory of the great ship.

Thank you for his great interest in all that had to do with one great ship.

*I miss him very much especially when he was asked about the Frank Knox his eyes would light up.*

*God bless you and your wife for what you do.*

*Sincerely*

*Genoève Altamirano*

## ATTENTION!

Now is the time to send in your invitation to attend the REUNION!

If you did not receive your invitation it is because your Dues are not up-to-date, you must be a paid up member to attend a reunion and ONLY those paid up receive the invitation.

All information is on the **WEB SITE** . . . . check it out, go to [www.ussfrankknox.com](http://www.ussfrankknox.com) > complete information is there including the form to update your Dues. **DON'T MISS OUT!** JOIN US AT WASHINGTON, DC!!!

These are the shipmates signed up for the reunion:

Stephen Cross  
Vaughan & Carol Kruger  
Mike Haloski & daughter Yung Mei  
Donald & Irene Greer  
Orv & Nancy Krieg  
Bill Atkinson  
William & Elaine Kelly  
Bob Summers & Donna Suito  
Jim & Susan Healy  
Brion Sellinger  
Gene & Jennifer Chambers  
Woody & Coral Woodward

Received phone call from VAUGHAN KRUGER informing BILL ATKINSON is in VA hospital at Houston, TX. We will give you more information as



Received two cards after recent visit to hospital, one from Chuck Smith and another from Bill Fell. Thanks guys I'm doing very well glad to say.

By now you should have received your invitation to the reunion at Washington, DC. This will be our second visit to DC and the Tours are entirely different, even saved you some money as we were able to get transportation to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center from host Holiday Inn at no charge (the association picked up the tip to the drivers).

Now is a good time to remind you to send in your invitation so you do not miss out on this grand reunion. It's going to be another great time.

Received notice of JOSEPH B. PEARSALL, YNSN 11/47 – 04/50 211 W. HARPER ST., SNOW HILL, NC passed away November 13, 2012. Condolences sent to family. Joe had not attended any reunion.

Our web site is generating response!!! Many of you "old-timers" will remember JOHN and JANICE KELLER, they attended many reunions. Janice even came to reunions after John passed away. John tried to organize a FRANK KNOX reunion prior to Bob O'Kon but without success, evidently couldn't convince enough former shipmates a reunion would be a fun thing to do. Anyway when Bob started his version John and Janice were right on board, helping wherever they could and the USS FRANK KNOX REUNION ASSOCIATION was born and became what it is today.

We received an email from Dave Keller, son of John & Janice, thanking us for our web site. Here is his email;

*Good evening Ory,*

*My name is Dave Keller and I want to thank you and the crew for establishing the website. If my father, John R. Keller Sonarman and plank owner, was still alive he would really enjoy the site. You may remember my mother Janice as she made numerous reunions. She is suffering from Dementia and is currently in a nursing home and no longer travels. When she was traveling she always took some of her grandchildren to the reunions and they had memorable times. Rachel, the oldest, recently finished a Navy tour, she was an instructor at the Nuke school. Justin just got out of the Army after Iraq and was a scout in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. Jenny, is still active and currently serving on the USS John C. Stennis CVN 74. There still seems to be a Navy tradition in the Keller family. I took a two week tiger cruise last year on the Stennis from Pearl to Bremerton at the end of their mission in the Persian Gulf. Mom still talks about the reunions and I know she misses them.*

*After reading the newsletter and seeing the website I had to drop a line and say thanks and keep the memories alive.*

*Dave Keller*

Dave can be reached at – drkeller@verizon.net drop him a line.



soon as possible. Also Vaughan said AL SMITH has also been hospitalized and we will give additional info when given.

We're hoping Bill and Al will both be with us for the reunion in September.

**RECEIVED FROM CHARLES R. SMITH . . . . .**

Rattlesnake:

Now the news media will spend days trying to determine why these men did what they did in Boston. They will want to know what America did to make these brothers so angry with us. They will want to know why these men were not arrested before they did something unlawful. The media will be in a tizzy about the new era of homegrown radicals and about how they could live among us and still hate us.

Here in West Texas, I have rattlesnakes on my place. I have killed a rattlesnake on the front porch. I have killed a rattlesnake on the back porch. I have killed rattlesnakes in the barn, in the shop and on the driveway. I kill every rattlesnake I encounter. I kill rattlesnakes because a rattlesnake will bite me and inflict me with poison. I don't stop to wonder why a rattlesnake will bite me. It will bite me because that is what rattlesnakes do. I don't try to reason with a rattlesnake...I just kill it.

I don't try to get to know the rattlesnake better so that I can find a way to live with the rattlesnakes and convince them not to bite me...I just kill them. I don't quiz a rattlesnake to see if I can find out where the other snakes are because (a) it won't tell me (b) I already know they live on my place...I just kill the rattlesnake and move on to the next one.

I don't look for ways that I might be able to change the rattlesnake to a non poison rat snake. I just kill it. Oh, and on occasion I kill a rat snake, because I thought it was a rattlesnake at the time. Also, I know that for every rattlesnake, two more lurk out there. In my lifetime I will never be able to rid my place of rattlesnakes. Do I fear them? No! Do I respect what they can do to me? Yes! And because of that respect I give them fair justice...I kill them.

Maybe as a country we should give more credit to the jihadist just being a rattlesnake!

## **One last reminder for this month . . .**

*SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION FORM TO JOIN US IN CHANTILLY, VA (DC AREA) FOR THE 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL REUNION !!!! WE WILL BE VOTING ON WHERE THE NEXT REUNION WILL BE HELD AMONG OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS.*

*Steve Cross and Bob Summers will have classes on how to access the new web site. You don't want to miss it.*

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBER!**

**KENNETH GILES** wife Diane  
13531 Edgewater Dr.  
Corona, CA 92883  
(951) 203-2889  
QM3 June 1966 – April 1968

VAUGHAN KRUGER called to tell me Bill Atkinson will probably have surgery for the removal of infected foot. Vaughan also said Al Smith is once again home.

We're still looking forward to having Bill and Al with us at the reunion.