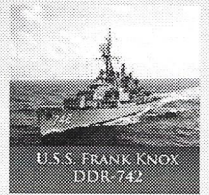




KNOX KNEWS

www.ussfrankknox.com



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS FRANK KNOX REUNION ASSOCIATION

Summer 2016 Edition

Volume 2, Issue 2

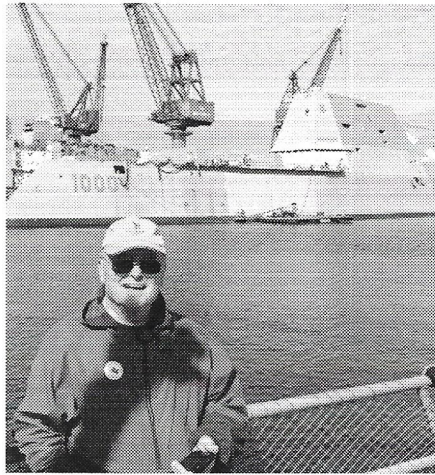
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Editorial Submissions:

- ♦ Website and Newsletter Contributions desired
- ♦ Send Photos and story to orv.nancy@verizon.net
- ♦ The Association reserves the right to edit and or use any submissions

In Memoriam



Robert L. Summers, Jr.
President, USS Frank Knox
Reunion Association

USS Frank Knox (DD-742)
October 1966—August 1969

Died May 12, 2016

2016 Reunion Update

Reservations are increasing weekly. When calling to make a reservation for a room phone (503) 281-2500 then hit "0" for the operator/front desk. Identify your res-

ervation as part of the USS Frank Knox Reunion. You don't need payment to reserve your room, so reserve early. There is a special Reunion room rate of

\$109.00 per night plus tax etc. Your Frank Knox Reunion is always a great value, especially this year the 30th Anniversary of "Top Gun"!

President's Corner

Bob Summers died May 12, 2016 after a short, courageous battle with cancer. Bob worked on the Spring 2016 Edition of Knox Knews before and after surgery; it was his last Edition.

Since his election he established a network of Shipmates to move the organization forward. This network is Bob's lasting gift to the organization. The Vice Presidents and support leaders will complete work on the 2016 reunion in Portland OR and reunions beyond. A new

By: Steve Cross, Vice President Communications

President will be chosen at the annual business meeting Saturday 9- 24. Our banquet will feature a salute to Bob on Saturday night. All the pieces of this reunion are in place. We have a terrific location, interesting events and a speaker for Friday night second-to-none. Pete Pettigrew RADM, RET was the Technical advisor for the movie "Top Gun". "Top Gun" first released in 1986, 30 years ago. Pete is a retired Naval Aviator, airline pilot, Top Gun Fighter Weapons

School instructor and a veteran of 386 combat missions. He'll talk about the making of the movie "Top Gun" and has several surprises you won't want to miss.

Be sure to attend Reunion 2016 both Friday for "Top Gun" and the Saturday business meeting, evening Banquet and salute to Bob Summers See you there!

When Tincans Collide

By: John F. ORourke, MM3/c USN

The destroyer "Knox" with the rest of Div 172, Sqdn 17 (Higbee, Southerland and Chevalier) on Nov. 9, 1946 left San Diego for Naval Occupation duty in the Far East.

While conducting tactical exercises 500 miles east of Pearl Harbor, the Knox, C.O. Cmdr. Bertholf on the bridge, observed the Higbee on the starboard quarter on collision course at 800 yards. He immediately ordered left full rudder and sounded General

have sheared the Knox in two. It was too late and the Higbee collided dead on with her bow to the starboard side of the Knox.

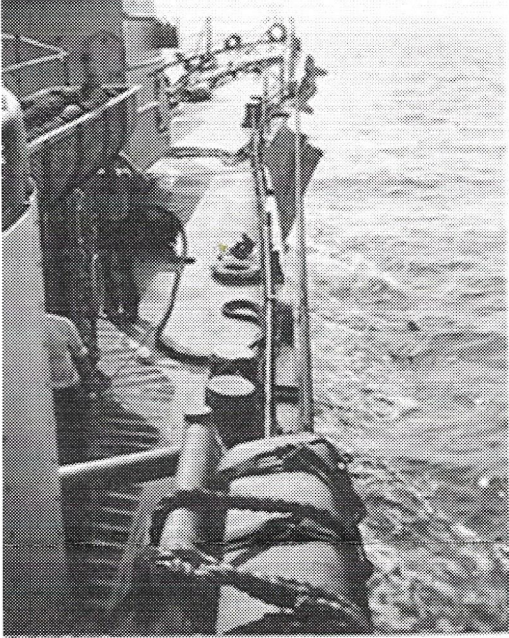
The bow on the Higbee was badly bent and swaying back and forth. The side of the Knox was badly crushed and the fuel tanks were leaking into the Aft Engine Room. Then the bow of the Higbee fell into the sea. It was a strange sight to see, the majestic destroyer, minus her bow, sitting in the ocean with thousands of oranges floating around her after being released from the food locker.

We on the Knox, went ahead to Pearl and into Dry Dock leaving the Southerland behind to assist the Higbee. The Higbee, under her own power, at 5 knots was

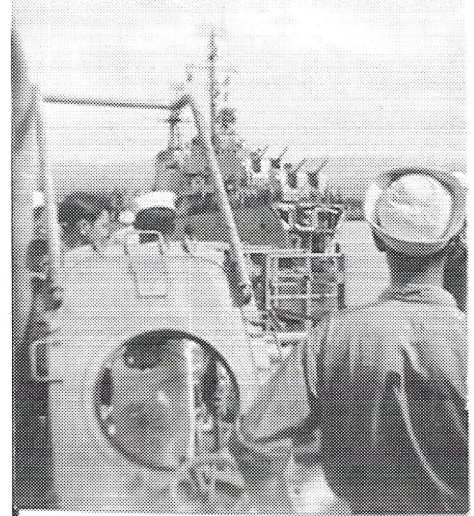
able to proceed Backwards the 500 miles to Pearl. She joined the Knox in the Dry Dock.

I remember the days we spent down in the bilges of the Knox scrubbing them with rags to remove the oil residue after the fuel oil was pumped out. The bright side of this episode was that there were no injuries and we were able to spend an unplanned month and a half of liberty in Hawaii before we had to leave Pearl on Jan. 8, 1947 for Guam, Marianna Islands.

**Uss Higbee 1946
after Collision**



USS Higbee heading for Dry Dock in Pearl Harbor after collision with USS Frank Knox '46



**Lt Alan Dougal
Engr Officer
Uss Frank Knox**



Alarm and Collision Quarters. The Higbee at the same time called for Full Speed Astern, or they would



USS Higbee after Collision with Frank Knox 1946

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

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.

Pearl

By: Bob Summers, President

I had only been on board a week when my ship, the USS Frank Knox left for Westpac from San Diego. Five days along our way we stopped in Pearl Harbor to take on fuel and food.

I had never seen anything like Pearl Harbor, with the tropical trees and plants it represented perhaps a magazine page in my past. The weather was wonderful. Coming into the harbor we would pass the USS Arizona Memorial, the battleship was sunk December 7, 1941. The only thing amiss here was that I had the duty and had to stay on board the entire day. It was a day in June 1967.

I would stand the afternoon watch (noon to 4 PM) that first day in my "tropical whites." We manned the quarterdeck where people would come and go across the brow to the pier and from the pier. The Officer-of-the-Deck (OD) and the Petty Officer-of-the-Deck and myself, a lowly seaman, would attend to the goings on during that afternoon. When in port and moored to a pier, the quarterdeck is the

focal point of the ship's temporary command.

Every so often a bus would come down the street alongside the pier. The sign on the bus read, Waikiki Beach, as their destination. I'd heard of Waikiki Beach, but never had seen it. This was my first time in Hawaii. I was from California and was familiar with the beach in San Francisco, my home town, near the Cliff House and across from the amusement park, Playland at the Beach.

My buddies were ashore enjoying Honolulu and perhaps Waikiki Beach. As the day went on I thought "tomorrow is my turn to see Honolulu." I had another set of "whites" for tomorrow. Tomorrow I'm going to get on that bus and see if that Waikiki Beach is everything it's made out to be.

The next day after breakfast I went back to our compartment, that is, our living quarters. My buddies had seen Waikiki the day before and no one wanted to take the bus back down there today. So after putting on my clean

crisp white uniform I climbed up the ladder out of the compartment to begin my solo adventure ashore. I walked outside and noticed the warm day and the ever present humidity and turned toward the quarterdeck. I saluted the OD and the "colors" and walked across the "brow" onto the pier. Not far up the street was the bus stop.

After a bus ride of not more than 30 minutes the bus stopped on the street at the pink colored Royal Hawaiian Hotel. I got off the bus and viewed the spectacular surroundings and mused, "I've never seen a beach like this before." It was beautiful!

Surfboards standing on end and people in scanty bathing suits everywhere just enjoying their day. Waikiki beach was just in front of me and people all the way up the beach some in the water and some just sunbathing. Surfers were in the water on their long boards, some quite skillful and others not so. There were catamarans speeding through the water with tourists aboard hanging onto **Cont'd page 4**

Where Do I Send It?

Anything you need to send to the association like dues payment, reunion application and payment should be mailed to:

Margaret Watson, Treasurer
3421 NW Coronado St,
Corvallis OR 97330

Ship's Store Question or Payment?
Please contact:

Woody Woodruff
5724 Nonnie Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95841-2817
Phone 916-334-3360
E-mail woodyW44@att.net



USS Frank Knox (DDR742) Reunion Association

Stephen Cross: stephencross@earthlink.net

Harry Chandler: hchandler64@gmail.com



26TH ANNUAL USS FRANK KNOX 2016 REUNION PORTLAND, OREGON SEPTEMBER 21-26, 2016

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Name:

Date of birth (optional):

Wife/Companion:

Address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Phone/s:

E-mail:

****MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR CALENDAR YEAR INCLUDE: MASTER ROSTER, MEMBERSHIP CARD, REUNION PRICING & NEWSLETTER****

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name of a relative not residing with you:

Address:

Phone:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Relationship:

ITINERARY:

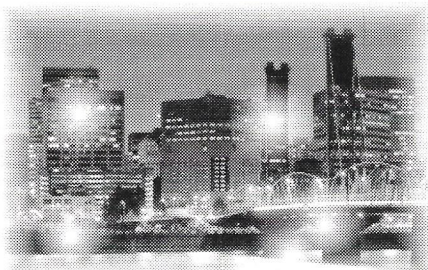
Wednesday, 21 Sept. 2016: Attendees arrive for 26th annual Frank Knox Reunion. Meet and Greet! Check into your room and then come to the Garden Room Hospitality Suite to pick up your Welcome Packet and visit. Later in the evening you can enjoy dinner at the hotel's "Columbia Grille" restaurant or choose one of many nearby restaurants available by the hotel's 24-hour free shuttle vans. Evening meal is at your expense.

Thursday, 22 Sept. 2016: Wake up to a casual full buffet breakfast in the hotel's restaurant area. You will have the day to swim, exercise, gamble and other activities in the hotel or go exploring or shopping around the Portland area. Then, at 1730 (5:30 pm) we will board the bus at the hotel and head out to board the "**Portland Spirit**" for a dinner cruise. This is a 3-hour trip on a beautiful excursion boat down the **Willamette River** with a full sit down dinner (choice of 3 entrees). Enjoy the lights of Portland on our return up the Willamette. The price of this dinner cruise, including transportation is \$85.00 for members and their guests, and \$95.00 for non-members and their guests. The trip is 1830 – 2130 (6:30 pm – 9:30 pm). The bus will return us to the hotel.

Friday, 23 Sept. 2016: Breakfast at the hotel "Columbia Grille". Then at 0900 (9 am) we will board the bus for the "**Windshield City Tour**" with our tour guide sharing **Portland's** history and pointing out sights including the **Vietnam Memorial**, the **Battleship Oregon Memorial**, and submarine **USS Blueback**. We will stop at the **International Rose Test Gardens** (Portland is the "**City of Roses**") and then off the bus at **Riverplace Marina** where members can choose restaurants for lunch and shopping in the area. The price of this tour is \$37.00 for members and their guests and \$47.00 for non-members and their guests. The trip is 0900 – 1330 (9 am - 1:30pm). You may want to stay downtown and take the **MAX** (light rail) back to the hotel area. Be sure to let us know so we can keep the bus on schedule. Dinner Friday evening will be at the hotel or one of the nearby restaurants of your choice (at your expense). Transportation available by the hotel shuttle.

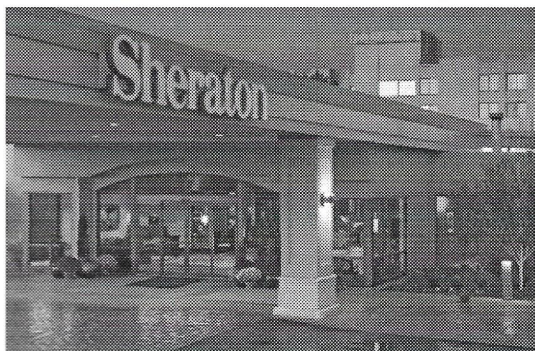
Friday, 23 Sept. 2016: "Top Gun" movie technical advisor, Pete Pettigrew, RADM Ret. will talk to us about his role in making this classic Navy film. Want to know where they got all those fighters? Where the scenes were filmed? Tom Cruise? Kelly McGillis? Meg Ryan? Pete was a Top Gun instructor and is a veteran of 386 combat missions. An evening of hor d'oeuvres and inside information on one of the hottest military films ever made. It will "take your breath away". Cost will be announced soon.

Saturday, 24 Sept. 2016: Breakfast at the hotel, then at 0900 (9 am) we will have our annual business meeting in the Garden Room until noon – break for lunch and then at 1300 (1:00pm) begin our **White Elephant Auction**. Please remember to bring your gifts (wrapped if possible and suitable for auction) and a full billfold as we raise funds for our association thru this auction function. As soon as it is over we will rest up in anticipation for our no



host bar Happy Hour, 1830 -1930 (6:30 – 7:30 pm). Our Grand Buffet at the Sheraton will feature a 3-entrée menu including Wild Salmon, Beef and Chicken, and all the trimmings. The cost of the Banquet is \$40 for members and their guests, and \$50 for non-members and their guests. It is guaranteed to be one of our best ever! Special guest speaker to be announced.

Sunday, 25 Sept. 2016: Wake up to our last breakfast (unless you are spending additional days). Then we will be packing up the hospitality suite and saying farewell to all our friends and shipmates until fall 2017.



Reserve your hotel today. Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel
8235 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97220, phone: **(503) 281-2500, press 0 for operator to get to the front desk. Mention "USS Frank Knox Reunion".**

\$109.00 per night reunion rate, single/double occupancy, traditional room. Rates extended 3 days pre and post reunion (Tax: 14.5%, subj to change). Room rate includes complimentary parking, wireless internet, and breakfast buffet!

Please see Sheraton website for more information:

<http://www.sheratonportlandairport.com/>

- Experience the Sheraton Sweet Sleeper Bed.
- Light rail access to downtown via the Max train.
- Complimentary 24-Hour Shuttle to and from the Portland International Airport and Cascade Station/MAX (light rail).
- 24-Hour Fitness room, Indoor Pool, and Spa.
- 24-Hour Room Service.
- 24-Hour Business Center.
- Complimentary parking.
- Complimentary Wireless Internet throughout hotel.
- Coffee maker, hair dryers, refrigerators, and ironing boards in all rooms.
- Columbia Grill and Bar.
- Gift Shop featuring Starbucks Coffee.
- Complimentary meeting space.
- **Complimentary breakfast.**
- Located less than one mile away from Cascade Shopping Center with access to the MAX light rail.

REUNION EVENTS

	\$ PRICE	QTY	AMOUNT
"Portland Spirit" Dinner Cruise, Willamette River (per person)	85.00		
"Windshield City Tour", Portland (per person)	37.00		
USS Frank Knox Banquet Dinner (per person)	40.00		
Special Speaker (Pete Pettigrew- TOP GUN, Friday evening), hor d'oeuvres and no-host bar	TBD		
While we know you would like to attend all events, it isn't required that you sign up for everything. If it fits your schedule and budget, we're pleased. But, don't feel you have to attend all festivities and stay all 5 days. The main thing is to show up to the reunion and enjoy your friends and shipmates. The Business Meeting and Banquet are our primary events.			
Looking forward to seeing you in Portland, Oregon!!			
Non-Members please add \$10.00 per event (Member's guests receive member pricing):			
** 2016 Association Membership Dues if not already paid will give you membership pricing on Reunion events. Family price:	\$ 10.00		
	\$ 30.00		
TOTAL ENCLOSED:			\$

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: "MARGARET WATSON" AND MAIL TO MARGARET – MEMO LINE: "USS FRANK KNOX"

Please return this form with your payment to: USS Frank Knox Reunion Association c/o Margaret Watson, Treasurer
3421 NW Coronado St., Corvallis, Oregon 97330 Make payable to Margaret Watson.

Questions: Contact Vaughan Kruger, Reunion Coordinator at (206) 466-6094 or e-mail vaughankruger@yahoo.com

USS Frank Knox DDR-742
Reunion Association

Margaret Watson, Treasurer
3421 NW Coronado St.
Corvallis, OR 97330
www.ussfrankknox.com

SAN DIEGO
CA 920
04 AUG '16
PM 3 L



THOMAS SOLTIS
7331 NORTHGATE WAY #3
DOWNERS GROVE, IL 60516

60516-404103



Pearl, cont'd

their cameras.

In 1967 the area around Waikiki was not built up the way it is today. There were hotels along the beach then, but not nearly as many as would be built in later years.

I saw large and small kanaka (Polynesian) folks. The kekes (children) were just enjoying life on the beach. For the most part there were Hawaiians on the beach with some howli (white) tourist type folks. I'm sure the beach patrons saw me as just another gawking sailor. There were lots of us around there at that time.

I would walk around for a while and would sit on a bench and just people watch. I soberly thought

for me this was to end soon, because tomorrow our ship would continue on it's way ultimately to the Gulf of Tonkin where we would become active participants in the Vietnam War. For now though I would enjoy the warm day in the shade of a peaceful day on my park bench. This was the most beautiful place I had ever seen. Granted I was eighteen years old and had not seen much in my youth.

Since joining the navy my life now was filled with firsts. Virtually everywhere and most everything I did was a first for me then. I had now seen Waikiki and it sure was not like any beach I had ever

seen.

Later I walked across the street to the other bus stop and boarded the returning bus back to Pearl Harbor. There weren't as many riders going back as came out. The next morning we cast off all lines and got underway. We would now head west toward Midway, Guam and then Japan. As we departed, sailing out the channel of Pearl Harbor, I remember thinking to myself, "when I get out of this man's navy, I'm coming back here." Over time I would keep my promise as I've returned to the Hawaiian Islands many times since.



Top Gun

30th Anniversary

Join shipmates Friday, September 23rd
7:00 pm in our Reunion Hotel

Featured speaker

Pete Pettigrew, RADM USN (Ret.)

The technical advisor for the movie

Top Gun.

Cost is included in your reunion registration.

You don't want to miss a minute of this inside.

Look at the stars, scenes and
rumors of this classic Movie.

Pettigrew's biography is on the reverse side.



The 2016 USS Frank Knox Reunion
will convene in Portland, OR
on September 21-25th, 2016.

We are very excited to be hosting
RADM Pete Pettigrew as our
keynote speaker. Pete flew 325
combat missions in Southeast Asia and is
retired from commercial aviation, where he
was active in the National Airline Pilots
Association. He is a fiercely competitive
rough-water swimmer, plays age-division
water polo and serves as a docent on the
Midway. We hope you'll take this opportunity
to meet this remarkable San Diegan.

Read more about Pete's work
on Top Gun or read his full bio.