

86 LIFE MEMBERS and counting

# KNOX KNEWS

**OUR HISTORY WON'T SAVE ITSELF!**

*"It is only through shared stories and pictures that we live on and do not die."*

[ussfrankknox.com](http://ussfrankknox.com)

Summer 2021



**KNOX KNEWS-SUMMER 2021** – In this issue – **REUNION ON! DUES**; Happy Birthday; Priceless Photos; Swim Call; Army vs. Air Force; Blues on the BLUE; USS FRANK KNOX Hospitality; Girls Like Grace; Finding USS JOHNSTON; Richard Sanford; Hank Huber; TAPS; Photos.

**REUNION 2021 IS ON!** – Albuquerque NM is our destination. The dates are **September 22-25, 2021**. The hotel to reserve rooms is the Sheraton Uptown Plaza phone 1-505-830-5781; mention the group meeting **USS FRANK KNOX REUNION**. A reserved room is not charged to your later. You need to reserve your room to preserve you **LOW** reunion room rate. Next complete your **REUNION REGISTRATION FORM** to let us know what reunion activities you want to participate in with your shipmates.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

**DUES ARE DUE!** – Don't miss out on the newsletters, communications, Annual Auction or special event like the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coin in 2019. Life Members are included in all special events – only **14 Life Memberships left** – first come first serve.



USS Frank Knox (DDR742) Reunion Association  
 Harry Chandler, President: [hchandler66@gmail.com](mailto:hchandler66@gmail.com), 928-925-9490  
 Stephen Cross, VP Communications: [stephencross@earthlink.net](mailto:stephencross@earthlink.net), 619-922-9449  
[www.ussfrankknox.com](http://www.ussfrankknox.com)



"DUES ARE DUE" Orv Kreig

If you haven't already paid dues for 2020, in the words of Orv, "Dues are Due"

### 2021 Membership Renewal, Life, Life Membership & Membership Application

It's that time of year again; to remind you the Membership Dues are due. We would appreciate you filling out the information below and sending it with your check to:

USS Frank Knox Reunion Association c/o Margaret Watson, Treasurer 3421 NW Coronado St., Corvallis, Oregon 97330  
 Tel: 541-757-8067 **PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO "MARGARET WATSON"**

Annual Dues Renewal: \$30      Lifetime Dues (one-time payment):  
 Age 60 – 69, \$300  
 Age 70 – 79, \$200  
 Age 80 – 89, \$100  
 Age 90 + , Free

Membership dues include Master Roster (to be mailed out early March), newsletters and mailings, special pricing for the Reunion activities, and voting privileges on matters before the membership at the annual business meeting. Even if you are unable to attend the reunion, your dues will help support costs to maintain and preserve our USS Frank Knox Reunion Association - membership roster, website maintenance ([ussfrankknox.com](http://ussfrankknox.com)), mailings and to preserve our Mission Statement: "The USS Frank Knox Reunion Association conducts reunions and other meetings to foster camaraderie with the officers and sailors who served aboard the USS Frank Knox (DDR-742) during her 27 years of service in the US Navy. The Reunion Association will maintain a factual narrative of the ship and men who served aboard USS Frank Knox." *If you have a special talent and would like to offer your assistance, help is appreciated.*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL		
APPLICANT INFORMATION - JOIN		
Name:		
Date of birth (optional):	Wife/Companion:	
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Phone/s:	Rank when on board:	Years Served on Ship (mo/yr to mo/yr)
E-mail:		
<b>**MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR CALENDAR YEAR INCLUDE: MASTER ROSTER, REUNION PRICING &amp; NEWSLETTER**</b>		
NOTES:		



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
 September 22-25, 2021  
 30<sup>th</sup> Annual USS Frank Knox Reunion  
 Albuquerque, New Mexico

Watch for updates on the website: [www.ussfrankknox.com](http://www.ussfrankknox.com) Dates and hotel information will be posted on the website as soon as confirmed. Please plan on making your hotel reservation early. If you do not have internet access, please feel free to contact a board member. Official reunion registration will be sent out by March, 2021.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** – The gentleman pictured in Photos sections is **FT1 Melvin Clark** who turned 93 in April. His step-son forwarded pictures to us and helped us connect with this 1960 era sailor who served as a Fire Control Technician aboard FRANK KNOX. Clark and his wife also provided a home and home-cooked food for a group of sailors from our ship on weekends.

**PRICELESS PHOTOS** – Thanks to **Helen Smith Tarchalski**, Al Smith's daughter we now have these priceless photos from WWII FRANK KNOX. The door pictured leads into the Radar Room with Jamming Equipment. DDR's were tasked to detect incoming kamikaze aircraft as well as jam selected frequencies. Al Smith and other radar specialists referred to themselves as the "Jambin' Joes", hinting that their jamming work was a high priority. The second photo shows Al Smith and fellow radarman each with pictures of their wives and in Al's case his baby daughter, Helen. The working space looks snug! Helen writes "I'm just so happy for all the priceless photos shipboard. Quite a nono, and my dad was such a law-abiding person. I guess something inside him said these photos were important to document history. His friends would form a circle, and they would be all be eyes to cover for him....One, two three quick snaps of Halsey, and a camera back down at the speed of light. So cool! He would hold his camera down at his waist and hide it while his friends covered for him." Thank you Helen for these treasured photos now seeing the light after 76 years, except for reunions. Adjacent to the radar room was the radio shack manned by **RM3 Irv Eisenberg** and fellow RM's. Irv is a frequent contributor to Knox Knews. His latest sharing is called Swim Call.

**SWIM CALL 1944 – 1970** – It is a time honored tradition for Navy ships to stop when the water is warm, the seas calm and operational requirements permit and ship to stop for a couple of hours and allow the crew to "jump off ship" and swim in the ocean. Irv Eisenberg RM3 recalls the FRANK KNOX allowing swimming in likely places such as Uliti Atoll, Tinian Island and the Philippines. A shark watch is always stationed, with a rifle, to protect the swimmers. Shark interruption is rare however there are a couple of recorded cases so caution is best. When I asked Irv if he swam during WWII he said of course. Irv is a New Yorker – did the sharks give him professional courtesy?

**Don Greer BT3** and **Roger Mullinix MM3** have opposite opinions from 1965. While the ship was aground on Pratas Reef. Greer recalls the Captain was on the

bridge with a rifle shooting sharks so he decided not to swim. Mullinix on the other hand was anxious to get in the water and cool off so he participated, jumping off the fantail into the shallow (30 feet) water near the reef.

In 1967-8 there were swim calls near Grande Island in the Philippines. Pictures show ENS Barabash, Dave Loder and Skip Dittmann enjoying the water and sand beaches.

More recently, a swimming friend on active duty responded “yes” to a swimming and promotion in the ocean. The appointed day, winds stirred the waters off La Jolla also dropping the water temperature well below tropical. The honored officer donned his tan uniform shirt, devices and fore/aft cap joining us at the ¼ mile buoy for ceremonies. His “senior” friend brought devices and held steady in the waves while new devices were pinned on his uniform shirt. Someone produced a flask and shared a rum salute with the 10+ swimmers. Promoted and fueled with rum the group swam back to shore, showered dressed and headed for hot coffee. “A most memorable promotion and swim call”. Compare this photo with his promotion to CDR host by his boss, a 3 star admiral. Hey, what are friends for?

Do you have a swim call story? Please share .ED

**ARMY VS AIR FORCE** – I have a friend, Dr. Richard K. who is a Vietnam Era Veteran. Richard’s journey to stateside duty is unusual and humorous. Richard is a physician, a physics major, a father and grandfather. He also likely remembers every word of medical and physics books he read over the years. In 1968 Richard was in the Air Force Reserves during medical school and the beginning of his residency. The Air Force apparently owed the Army something because Richard suddenly had orders to Vietnam at the end of his residency. Richard reported to the Army office and was handed a paper saying he was resigning his Air Force commission. Richard responded that he was loyal to the Air Force and would not resign his commission. Three plus hours later he is quietly sitting while the Army tries every tactic to get him to resign his

commission. In the Colonel's office, Richard responds to "What do you want?" with to "serve my country in a job commensurate with my education without resigning my commission." Smiling the Colonel rose, went to the file cabinet, and returned with a file. "This job at FT Belvoir VA requires a physics degree, flight status and medical degree is all I have." Richard responds, "I have all three requirements. I'll take the job, and keep my Air Force commission." The Colonel ordered Dr. Richard's file brought to him immediately. A quick review of Richard's file proved Richard filled all three requirements and Richard received orders to FT Belvoir VA.

Richard served as the medical officer for nuclear power and flight surgeon for the staff there for two years and made many friends. His next assignment was the VA hospital in Oakland, CA.

In Oakland, the patient load accumulated month by month to overload. Richard, accompanied by a nurse or two, talked to each patient, ignoring the nurses offering him a file. Instead, Richard seemed to remember each patient, allowing all the necessary time to understand the primary injury. Rather than rush through rounds he would often inquire further about something that caught his attention. His diagnosis work and concerns for his patient made friends. The Army was not pleased with their Air Force physician. Soon, other patients began to request the "Air Force guy". Then, other physicians began to consult with Richard. The Army threatened to send Richard to Vietnam but lacked authority over him. The Army changed his shift so two nurse sections would share Richard's lengthy consultations.

One day, an administrator noticed Richard playing cards with a long-term patient. Sensing an opportunity to catch Richard in a transgression the administrator pounced. Richard countered "this patient has a head injury and possibly vision trauma as well". Before the administrator could respond, Richard dealt the administrator 5 cards. He then asked the patient what cards he held; two of the five cards were **incorrect**. Glancing at the administrator's hand he asked "And you?" The administrator left after carefully placing his cards on the patient's bed. In late 1970 Richard left active duty in the Air Force to establish a private practice in San Diego. His wife, five sons and the koi in his pond remain well maintained

and cared for. Richard always roots for **Navy over Army** during the annual football game between academies. [NOTE: There is a VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT, Go to [Vietnamwar50th.com](http://Vietnamwar50th.com) for more information. USS MIDWAYMUSEUM recently hosted two interviewers for a week of interviews, photos and taping. Check your area for information and participation. Don't let your story go unheard. [ED]

**BLUES ON THE USS BLUE.** - **Gordon Grimwald** corresponded with me in February and March after locating our website [ussfrankknox.com](http://ussfrankknox.com) on line. Would I like information about the Frank Knox visit to Cairns? I answered by email "Of course". Responding Mr. Grimwald sent three items, One – a fuel log showing four US Navy ships, SHELTON, COLLETT, FRANK KNOX and BLUE, all receiving the same fuel load, 11,667 gallons of NSFO (Navy Special Fuel Oil), "furnace fuel" (FFO) or "diesel fuel oil" (DFO). Later, ships were converted to "marine distillate" or NATO Fuel F76 Distillate. All this from my friend who served as one of the Navy's fuel specialists. BLUE, with pilot aboard, unfortunately rammed the wooden pier doing some expensive damage. **Supply Officer Ed Grochowiak** needed to arrange for payment for damages. Payment had to be arranged with the closest US State Dept. officer was in Brisbane AU, roughly 1050 miles away. Ed diligently arranged payment to cover the ship's damage to the pier. Ed lost considerable liberty time but arranged payment for the damage to the pier. I may get some questions from this next section.

**Pilots** are "merely an advisor to the commanding officer" in the version of Naval Regulations I reviewed. The CO, "or any subordinate, is not relieved from his or her responsibility" etc. The one exception is the Panama Canal and adjacent waters. USS BLUE's collision with the pier in Cairns is etched in Ed's memory because the payment for the damages was a challenge any hard-working supply officer would hope to avoid.

The third item from Mr. Grimwald were pictures and a diagram of the Cairns fuel tanks. The tanks have a net capacity of 1,268,874 gallons of fuel. The tanks have a concrete floor, stand about 20 feet tall providing heating fuel and fuel for ships in Cairns Harbor. Of note, the page of fueling records I viewed showed each ship

received the same number of gallons 11,667, whether US or Royal Australian Navy.

**USS FRANK KNOX HOSPITALITY** – The officers and crew of FRANK KNOX enjoyed an excellent record of on shore behavior. **George Henderson BM2** of Shawnee OK is pictured in 1964 presenting a plaque to the RAAF in return for the hospitality of the RAAF Mess. The photo was published October 1, 1964. Henderson played an important role 10 months later when the USS FRANK KNOX was aground and an ammunition barge was alongside filled with fuel and topped with 5-inch shells and hedgehogs. **Henderson, Marshall BM3, Lube SN** were part of a roughly 20-man work party trying to cover the loose ammunition with netting and tarps during Typhoon Gilda in the book *FRANKIE MARU – The True Story Behind the Grounding of the USS FRANK KNOX (DDR-742) and Its Aftermath* by author Lionel Price.

**GIRLS LIKE GRACE** – Speaking of good foreign visit manners there is an article posted on the website titled *Girls They'll Marry Must be like Grace*. Australian Women's Weekly published the article during the port visit of DESRON 3 ships KYES, HIGBEE, EVERSOLE and SHELTON. Once you read the article decide for yourself if FRANK KNOX visits to Cairns 1964 and Newcastle in 1968 present a better image. I think you will.

**FINDING USS JOHNSTON DD-557** – In late March, 2021 the remains of the USS JOHNSTON was located again and positively identified. It is the deepest wreck dive in history, 60% deeper than the Titanic, at a depth of 21,180 feet. Caladan Oceanic founder and pilot Victor Valesco reported "the expedition found the bow, bridge and mid-section of the JOHNSTON intact, along with two full gun turrets, twin torpedo racks and multiple gun mounts". The guns still pointed toward the enemy. The hull number "557" was still visible. All location and dive footage was transferred to the US NAVY.

The commanding officer **Ernest Evans, CDR USN** was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in the Battle of Samar. Evans was the first Native American in the Navy to receive the CMO. Evans was an officer aboard the ALDEN, a WWI destroyer during the Battle of the Java Sea disaster. In October 1943 he assumed command of the USS JOHNSTON and announced to the crew "This is going to be a fighting ship. I intend to go in harm's way, and anyone

who doesn't want to go along better get off right now. Now that I have a fighting ship, I will never retreat from an enemy force." True to his word he went right at superior Japanese fleet and together with other destroyers like USS HOEL which also sunk, forced the enemy fleet to retreat. Evans said he would never retreat. The JOHNSTON's crew totaled 327 officers and men; 190 of those followed Evans to the bottom of the Philippine Sea.

**Catching up with Richard Sanford** - Richard served as EMO, Personnel Officer and Navigator on our ship 1966 – 1969. Richard and Editor Steve Cross met for breakfast in Buellton, CA joined by Steve' wife, Carol. They enjoyed a grand time swapping stories about adventures in South Island NZ and Winery visits in Australia. He started two wineries in his career and is still involved with the second, *Alma Rosa* in an ambassadorial role. He's active and healthy, living on some of the same property he and his wife acquired many years ago. Their grown daughter lives nearby with her family. He says "hi!" to all.

**Please keep Hank Huber LTjg in your thoughts. Better yet, send him a note or card. Address: Apt 101, 5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing, MI 48823-9203.**

**Hank joined us in San Diego in 2019. He was a JOOD for Russ Judah, LCDR and Gunnery Officer.**

### **TAPS – New Orders Received**

**Russ Judah**, LCDR, USNR –Oct 1950-Aug 1952 Houston TX June 2021; World War II Veteran.

**Orv Krieg**, GMG3 – Sept 1950 – May 1954 Independence, OR April 2021; 2<sup>nd</sup> President of Frank Knox Reunion Association.

**Jim Gibbons**, GMG3 – Jan 1967 – March 1970 Cottage Grove, MN March 2021

Fair winds and following seas, gentleman. From an Orv Krieg Newsletter: "May the Lord fill our sails with fair wind, support our hulls in inviting seas, guide our hands upon the tiller toward pleasant places, and bring us home, O Lord, to a safe and loving harbor."

**-PHOTOS**

**Happy Birthday – (Two photos Melvin Clark, FT1)**

**Dues are Due – 3(Life Member Pin, Certificate, with photo of FRANK KNOX at speed during sea trials.)**

**Priceless Photos – 3**

**Swim Call – 2**

**Army vs. Air Force (none)**

**Blues on BLUE – 3**

**USS FRANK KNOX Hospitality – 3**

**Finding USS JOHNSTON – 3**

**Richard Sanford – 1**

**TAPS –**

**Russ Judah 2**

**Orv Krieg 1**

**Jim Gibbons 2**

Happy Birthday FT1 Clark



Dues Life Member



Life Member Pin - Back and Front



1 - Priceless Photos



2



3



War Bonds



War Bonds Frank Knox for \$10 million



Swim Call - 1



Swim Call - 2



Blues on the Blue



Finding USS Johnston



Steve Cross w/ Rich Sanford



Finding USS Johnston



LTJG Huber - left



Taps - Jim Gibbons



Did you ever have one of those days?

Taps - Russ Judah, LCDR



Taps - Orv Krieg, GM3



Don Xegge W  
Jim Gibbons, GMG3



Taps - Jim Gobbons, GMG3



Taps - Jim Healy, Piper



Priceless - 4



Priceless - 5



Priceless - 6



MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS



Priceless - 7



8



9

Steve Cross w/ Richard Sanford, R



10



11



12

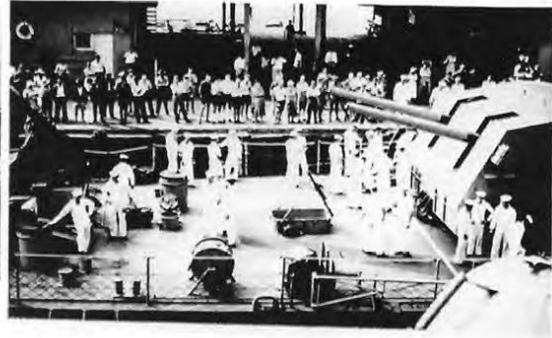


13



14

Japan 1945



**CAIRNS,  
QUEENSLAND**



National Library of Australia

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news>

## *Girls they'll marry must be like Grace*



*HAPPY when the conversation is bright are U.S. Navy officers at a party given for them in Brisbane. From left are Daphne Godebye, Ensign W. E. Bryun, Lieut. Peter Walker, Dawn Winks, Lieut. Joy Larsen, Lieut-Commander W. Smith, and Jan French.*

*HAPPY when the conversation is bright are U.S. Navy officers at a party given for them in Brisbane. From left are Daphne Godebye, Ensign W. E. Bryun, Lieut. Peter Walker, Dawn Winks, Lieut. Joy Larsen, Lieut-Commander W. Smith, and Jan French.*

● The girl with the Grace Kelly charm now has the surest way to a young American's heart — so Brisbane discovered during a week's visit of four ships of the U.S. Third Destroyer Squadron — the Kyes, Higbee, Eversole, and Shelton.