

92 LIFE MEMBERS and counting

KNOX KNEWS

Editor: LT Steve Cross '67 - '68

OUR HISTORY WON'T SAVE ITSELF!

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

www.ussfrankknox.com

Winter 2022



In this issue – REUNION 2022 – WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA – CALVIN CHRISTENSEN SA/MEDICAL - Kenneth (Ken) Giles QM-3 - USS PUEBLO AGER-2 - ROUGH RIDER PATCH CREATOR - USS KITTY HAWK CVA-63 - Taps - Ships Store

REUNION 2022 IS ON! - The Frank Knox Board voted to pursue the second- choice location, Wilmington, NC. More **details on page 3, 4 and website Reunions tab.** Pensacola has not fully recovered from the 2020 hurricane and the impact of COVID. FKRA is among more than a dozen military reunion organizations to have moved their reunions from Pensacola to other sites.

ACTION ITEMS - DUES ARE DUE! – Don't miss out on the newsletters, Communications, Annual Auction or special event like the 30th Anniversary Coin in 2019. Life Members are included in all special events – only **8 Life Memberships left – first come, first serve.**

The Reunion Association is here to maintain a factual narrative of the ship and men who served aboard USS Frank Knox. Call us and share a memory or picture. It is through shared memories that we live on! **OUR HISTORY DOES NOT WRITE ITSELF!** Send to Steve Cross (619) 992-9449 Email: stephencross742@gmail.com

Winter 2022



USS Frank Knox (DDR742) Reunion Association
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“ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE” Orv Kreig

If you haven't already paid dues for 2022, in the words of Orv, “Dues are Due”

2022 Membership Renewal, 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), 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:		

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

NOTES:



SAVE THE DATE: **September 20 – 24, 2022**
32nd Annual USS Frank Knox Reunion
Tours: Wednesday, 9/21 and Thursday, 9/22
Business meeting, auction, and banquet: Friday 9/23

Updates: www.ussfrankknox.com

SAVE THE DATE

You're going to



Tuesday, September 20th – Saturday, September 24, 2022

USS Frank Knox DDR-742 32nd Annual Reunion



Marriott Courtyard, Wilmington/Wrightsville Beach, NC

Reserve your hotel today. The reunion dates are Tuesday, Sept. 20th (check in) through Friday, Sept. 23rd, 2022, check out Saturday. **The banquet is on Friday Night.** Tours are on Wednesday and Thursday.

It does not cost you anything to reserve your room (just a credit card to hold your room). If you need to cancel your reservation, you may do so by 4:00pm two days prior to arrival. \$109.00 per night reunion rate (+tax), single/double occupancy, traditional room. Please call the hotel direct at 910-395-8224 or the Marriott Reservation line (888)236-2427 to make your reservations now and lock in your rate. Be sure to tell them you would like to make reservations for the USS Frank Knox 2022 Reunion in September 2022. **Give them the reservation rate code: FKRS.** Rates apply 2 days before and 2 days after the reunion (pending availability, no breakfast). If you prefer you may also book online (click on the link or copy and paste the following into your browser): <https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1644002843467&key=GRP>. If you have questions or need help with the link, please do not hesitate to ask. Also, let Bill Atkinson, Reunion Coordinator, know if your rate for nights before or after the reunion dates are not quoted at \$109.00 (email mrbl1l50@aol.com or phone (713) 645-8147). The hotel sales manager will make a manual adjustment.

Please note: Cutoff Date is Friday, August 19, 2022. Reservations by attendees must be received on or before the Cutoff Date.

Your stay includes:

- Complimentary Breakfast Buffet for up to 2 guests in the hospitality room, Wednesday through Saturday
- Complimentary fitness room and outdoor pool, subject to covid restrictions
- Business Center
- Complimentary guestroom Internet and parking
- Wilmington airport is less than 6 miles from the hotel. **Airport shuttle is available to and from airport only, subject to covid restrictions.** Please have an alternative transportation plan to and from the airport.

- Itinerary, tours, and guest speaker to follow.....
- Reunion registration form will be available after we secure tours.
- Please book your room at your earliest convenience. It helps us plan our tour bookings.
- Please note day of the week changes to our normal itinerary.

REUNION 2022 – WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA – Dates are Tuesday September 20 to Friday September 24, 2022. The mid-week reunion will allow us to keep prices in line. However, should you want to stay longer you will need to contact Anthony in guest services to retain our low mid-week rate. Our hotel, the Marriott, is on Wrightsville Beach, a popular destination.

The Cape Fear River is a major feature in this area. The city's River Walk is lined with sights and restaurants. Smugglers, pleasure boats and rebel forces used the river. Over 200 shipwrecks are in the area including one of the richest shipwrecks in history the SS Central America. Maybe some of that gold will appear on the beach for us to find. Closer to us, and more accessible, is the most decorated battleship in WWII, the USS NORTH CAROLINA. We'll visit there.



Wilmington is the home of basketball great Michael Jordan. Three excellent museums are in town. Historic Fort Fisher dates back to Civil War time, finally falling to Union troops and Navy forces in 1865.

Wilmington airport welcomes American, Delta and United airlines, among others, connecting from Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Dallas, NYC, Newark, Philadelphia and Washington DC. You can't go wrong including Reunion 2022 into your travel plans.

A Few Places to See



Battleship North Carolina



Wilmington Railroad Museum



Museum of the Bizarre



Riverwalk

CALVIN CHRISTINSEN SA/MEDICAL – Calvin is our first LIFE MEMBER of 2022. He was aboard FRANK KNOX from November 1951- November 1953. He attended YN A school before reporting aboard our ship. In those days YN A school was located in Norfolk, at that time. Following school Calvin had to travel cross-country to meet our ship in San Diego CA. Calvin recalls typing aboard the FRANK FNOX was a real challenge causing him seasickness. He requested a spot in Hospital Corps school. The wait stretched his time aboard to two years. During his time aboard he worked many months in the Medical Department. During his time aboard he helped treat five sailors from the USS BOXER who leapt overboard to escape a fire in the hanger deck. The sailors were picked up by the Captains Gig while they treaded water.

His most unusual patient was a 40 foot whale which washed up on Mission Beach San Diego following a 2am collision with FRANK KNOX a few days prior. Evaluation – “he’s dead.” The powers in the City decided to remove the whale from Mission Beach, place it on a trailer and show different local cities what a 40-foot whale looks like – until it starts to go really bad then the remains went to the dump.!! Calvin also shared some information about the FRANK KNOX torpedo tubes – **he recalled the torpedo tubes were replaced by a second mast and electronics package** or box aft of the ships main mast. Calvin was given a slot at Hospital Corp school arriving late 1953 to start his course of instruction.



PHOTO NEEDED Knox Knews is looking for a broadside photo of USS FRANK KNOX from 1951-53. Thanks!

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Sue Healy, Committee Member

Vaughan Kruger, Committee Member

KEN GILES QM-3 is our newest LIFE MEMBER. Ken was aboard USS FRANK KNOX from 6/66-4/68. Giles did not begin his Navy life as a Quartermaster; he began as a Boatswains Mate. “It wasn’t my decision to be a BMSN”, says Giles. Once aboard, Giles was part of the after refueling station work party, the GQ – phone talker relaying lookout information to the bridge officers. During his time as a BMSN he worked for BMCS Parker. Parker lived close the Ken’s family and would hitch a ride with Giles while FRANK KNOX was in the Long Beach shipyards.

Giles recalls the powder residue from gunfire missions was thick and smelly. He also recalled working on the after refueling station and seeing cases of Salisbury Steak come on board – cases stamped as made in 1943! Giles recalls “that steak covered in the Navy’s gravy was sooo good to a hungry sailor.”

Are you wondering how Giles became a Quartermaster? An opening for a QM striker came up. Giles applied and was accepted. As a QM Giles reported to Chief Whitehead. It was a good transfer for Giles. Today Giles is retired and lives with his wife Dianne in Yorba Linda CA. Welcome aboard Ken!

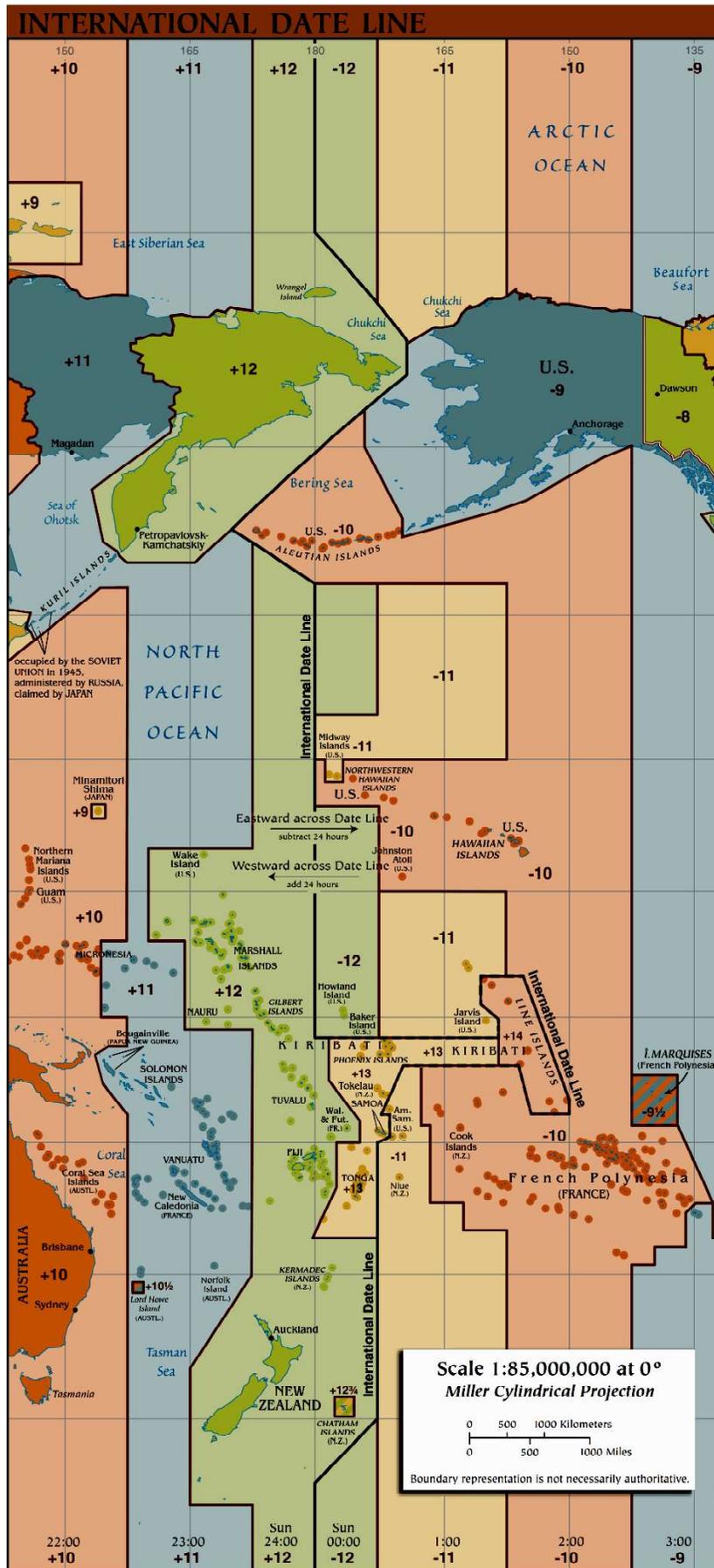
USS PUEBLO AGER-2 and The International Date Line. The International Date Line (IDL) now passes between Samoa and American Samoa, which remains on the eastern (American) side of the line. Tokelau is a territory of New Zealand north of Samoa whose principal transportation and communications links with the rest of the world pass through Samoa. For that reason, Tokelau crossed the IDL along with Samoa in 2011.

If you were on board the USS FRANK KNOX headed North from a port call in Wellington, NZ the feeling of homeward bound was on everyone’s mind. The two-ship group consisted of us and the USS COONTZ (DLG-9 until 1975 then DDG-9). The night of January 22nd and the 23rd the two ships pushed toward calmer waters and sunnier skies. Notice of the USS PUEBLO’s seizure likely circulated to OICs and COs first then several hours later the All Navy message told the hard to believe news that North Korea had seized the PUEBLO and its package of intelligence and communication gear.

Jim Lasswell, the ship’s Weapons officer, clearly recalls “Definitely remember the nervous energy wondering which direction we would head.” Korean waters or Samoa and home to San Diego. Jim also recalls meeting CDR Lloyd Bucher at PG School (Navy Post Graduate School) Monterey CA. Bucher was the skipper of the PUEBLO at the time of the ship’s seizure.

Denny Conley, our Engineering Officer, recalls “I remember seeing the all-fleet message announcing the seizure of the PUEBLO. Prior to seeing the message, I recall we increased speed for some period before reducing speed back to our fuel-efficient cruising speed and directing our course to American Samoa, our next refueling stop.”

Jerry Harken, Our Operations Officer, recalls “I remember the message and our first reactions, but nothing that followed. Interestingly enough the ship I reported to in March as XO was the USS JOHN R. PERRY (DE 1034). Our mission was “spec ops” and the PUEBLO incident was the focus of many messages, discussions and ‘drills’.”



Steve Cross, the ship's ASW Officer, recalls meeting the future XO of PUEBLO, Ed Murphy in an Intelligence class. The shock of seeing his name on the list of captured personnel is a lasting memory.

YN-2 Bill Atkinson added a fascinating insight. Bill handled the officer's records and typed fitness reports in the ship's office. Bill recalled "that our XO, LCDR Don Pfister, received orders to USS BANNER a sister ship of USS PUEBLO. Part of the orders included a stop-over in Pearl Harbor so LCDR Pfister could be briefed on his new assignment at CINCPACFLT headquarters and initiate a security clearance [for him] with something called Blue." The photo shows LT Harken, QMC Whitehead, QMSN Giles and LCDR Pfister on the FRANK KNOX bridge about September 1967. Not much is known about Pfister's departure time from the ship or his command period on USS BANNER. The seizure of the PUEBLO and the attack on another intelligence ship USS LIBERTY in the Mediterranean on 8 June 1967 changed much about how these ships were deployed and utilized. USS LIBERTY has a FRANK KNOX connection.

The skipper of the USS LIBERTY at the time of the attack in 1967 was Captain William McGonigal, a former FRANK KNOX officer who attended several of our reunions. McGonigal was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions on June 8 and 9, 1967.

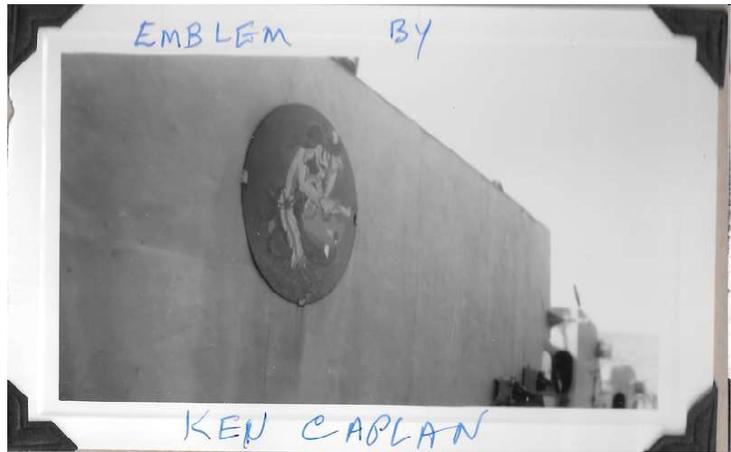


There is little mention of the PUEBLO in the literature of 1968. Beginning with the PUEBLO the news of civil disobedience, assassinations and bleak news was broken in August when FRANK KNOX was awarded the "Battle 'E' for excellence and in November when VADM Baumberger came to San Diego to present the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy to our ship and crew. Good news at last.

So, what about the IDL? In crew quarters the talk was our ship was racing to cross the IDL and prevented being redirected back to Vietnam or Korean waters. More likely than not the high-speed run north was to position both ships, COONTZ and FRANK KNOX, closer in case they needed to be recalled. Fortunately, that did not happen. The IDL takes an eastward bend to accommodate American Samoa and Western Samoa because Western Samoa trades heavily with Australia and New Zealand and others in the area. American Samoa, where the ship fueled (through that incredibly small fuel hose), trades heavily with US, Canada and other North and Central American countries

ROUGH RIDER PATCH CREATOR

– According to Irv Eisenberg RM3 it was a signalman named Jack Lypman SM3 who designed the “Rough Rider” insignia/ patch for the USS FRANK KNOX. After approval by the XO and CO, CDR J. C. Ford USN, the insignia design was then converted into a unique symbol carefully painted on to a large metal disc. The domed metal was sealed against the elements then welded on each side of CIC. [PHOTO].



The photo is from Bob O’Kon’s album and part of our reunion display. “Ken Kaplan gets credit for crafting the discs and welding them into place outside CIC.”

Irv did not hesitate to give me the name of the originator. When I looked for Lypman’s name on the original roster it wasn’t there. At the time of commissioning there were a total of 12 officers and 144 enlisted formed in Norfolk VA then transported to Boston MA to join their ship. This number is far below the war time manning of the crew. When deployed to the Pacific FRANK KNOX carried 23 officers and an estimated 150 additional enlisted. The original crew listing makes special mention of LT J. T. McBroom the ship’s Fighter Direction Officer and in charge of the Combat Information Center for the KNOX.



Eisenberg completed Radio School in October, 1944 and was ordered to pre-commissioning crew based at Norfolk VA. Like all young SM he was trained in the equipment but unexperienced in the operation of a war time Radio Room or a ship at sea in the combat zone. He did have frequent access to the XO and Co, bringing in urgent messages. When he reported aboard for duty Eisenberg still did not shave and reported he did not know how to shave himself. One visit to the CO changed Irv into a dedicated “shaver”. While delivering a message to the CO on the bridge Irv’s emerging new growth was visible. The CO received the message, glanced at Eisenberg and barked “Eisenberg! Get rid of that peach fuz!”. Irv hustled below and found an experienced friend to shave him and give him lessons. Irv remained clean shaven the rest of the time in the Navy.

The identification of ships was carefully concealed during WWII. Crewman were directed to remove the unit identity ribbon from their flat hats. Numbers on the ships bow were smaller and likely not readable beyond 3-4000 yards. The bold shield with the painted Rough Rider seemed to stay outside of CIC until the ship returned to San Diego CA Spring, 1946 from Tsingtao China.

The Rough Rider honors the Spanish American War Service of Secretary of the Navy, William Franklin Knox, 1940-1944. He was a member of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Rider Regiment and was an early backer of Roosevelt in his Presidential campaign. Knox was also the Vice Presential nominee opposing Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936. Roosevelt admired Knox, his organizational abilities, political following in the New England states and his backing of Roosevelt's policy of allied support prior to the entry into WWII. It was Knoa flanked by his assistant walked into Roosevelt's office at 130pm EST to announce that Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor in three waves doing massive damage. On December 11, 1941, Adolph Hitler mentioned Frank Knox by name in his declaration of war against the United States.

Special thanks to: Irv Eisenberg for his recollections; the late Bob O'Kon YNC for preserving so much of the ship's history in his scrapbook and Helen Smith Tarchalski for sharing her father's photos from WWII and post-war Japan.

USS KITTY HAWK CVA-63 - At approximately 1058 Tuesday 1/25/22 passed her former home port San Diego under tow toward the scrapyard to be dismantled. Kitty Hawk was for a while the 2nd longest active duty ship in the US Navy next to the historic sailing ship USS CONSTITUTION. As she passed west of San Diego USS MIDWAY Docents and staff gathered on the MIDWAY's flight deck to say farewell.

KITTY HAWK was the first ship of her class followed by USS CONSTELLATION CVA 66. USS JF Kennedy CVA 67 67 is mistaken for the third ship in this class. KENNEDY is a variant of the KITTY HAWK design and is a one ship class.

KITTY HAWK was the last conventional carrier in the US reserve fleet. She was commissioned 29 April 1961 and decommissioned 12 May 2009. Her flight deck was 1068 feet long and 282 feet wide. She displaced 81,00 tons. Her flight deck could hold 89 (or 85 aircraft depending on the source) aircraft. Her engines produced 280,000 hp with design speed of 33 knots.



Aircraft Carrier museums in the US are USS HORNET – San Francisco, USS MIDWAY – San Diego, USS LEXINGTON – Corpus Christi TX, USS YORKTOWN – Charleston/Mt Pleasant SC and Air and Space Museum USS INTREPID – New York City. Conventional carriers are a thing of the past, replaced by the FORD class and earlier NIMITZ class carriers

***Underway
Ah, to sink the land,
With all troubles left ashore.
With shipmates that count
On me, and I on them.
Ah, to sink the land . . .***

Sent in by Bob Golling ETN3 68-69

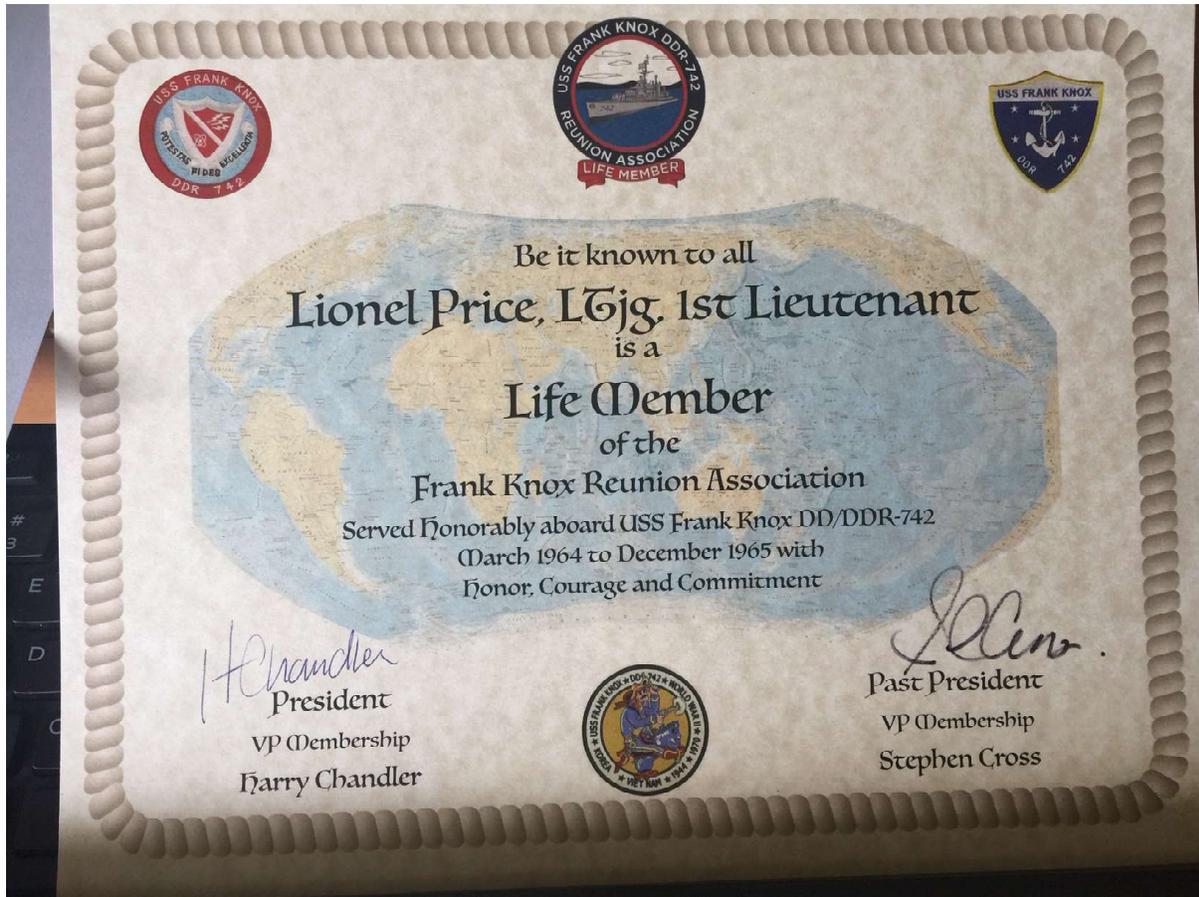
TAPS – Reporting To A New Duty Station

Earl Andrews	CMM, 6/49-12/50	Bellevue, WA	2019
Robert Bernier	SH2, 1/53-3/56	Portsmouth, RI	2021
George Glaze	BMSN, 7/50-8/53	Blackwell, OK	8/29/29
Paul Stout	QM2, 11/44-10/45	Senath, MO	9/2020
Dave Trudell	YN3, 9/62-7/64	New Braunfels, TX	1/31/2021

Fair winds and following seas, gentlemen. 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.”

“We are destroyermen! Ready to sail and always can do. The first to arrive
and the last to go.” Destroyerman’s Creed

Life Member Certificate and Pin



USS Frank Knox Ships Store



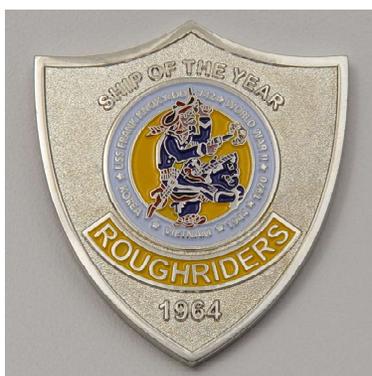
Baseball Cap \$20.00



Rough Rider Patch \$5.00



USS Frank Knox Shield Patch \$5.00



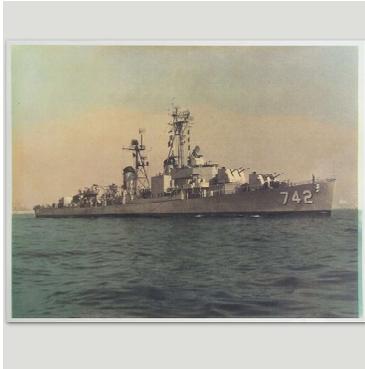
Ship of the Year Roughriders 1964 Medallion \$10.00



U.S.S. Frank Knox Ship's Medallion \$10.00



License Plate Frame \$20.00



USS Frank Knox \$10.00

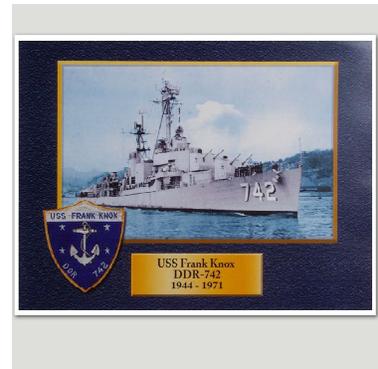
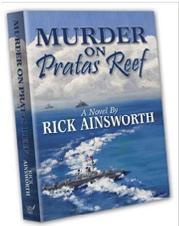


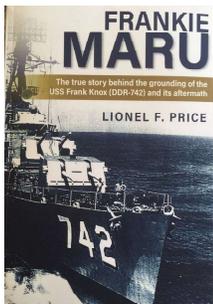
Photo - Ship with shield patch and plaque \$5.00



Murder on Pratas Reef

Finalist for the 2007 National Best Books Award for Historical Fiction, this must-read delivers a compelling story of suspense and intrigue. Set in the context of the real life accident, the burgeoning Vietnam war and the civil rights movement, the fictional murder tests the men of the Knox to their limits. Follow the adventure as they attempt the next-to-impossible feat of freeing their ship and turn what could have been

humiliation into a testament to honor, loyalty, and dedication. This item is available on Amazon.com.



Copies available - USS Frank Knox Reunion Assoc. \$30.00 send check to Margaret Watson Treasurer. or, Order it Amazon.com Frankiemaru Lionel F. Price

"The true story behind the Grounding of the USS Frank Knox (DDR-742) and its Aftermath"

Welcome to our Ship's Store! Here you'll find some great items hand selected by Association volunteers. All are priced at what we pay plus a bit to cover shipping and taxes and we do our best to respond quickly to all orders. Items are sent 1st Class U.S. mail. Please let us know if you have any questions. Enjoy! How to Order We accept payment by check. To make a purchase, please give Don Greer a call and he'll take your order by phone at (503) 789-9968. Non members please add \$1 per item.

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