

April/May, 2007

# Knox Knews

## WELCOME ABOARD!!!

New member ROSS KENNEDY, Scottsville, TX. Gene Chambers sent me his name and address. For those of you who served with Ross his address is P.O. BOX 733, Scottsville, TX 75688.

Received a nice e-mail from James Rez that read in part, "I noticed the remark about the Frank Knox becoming a radar picket ship in 1950, and you are absolutely correct. The Frank Knox was a radar picket ship when it left the yard upon completion of construction. In fact the Knox was designated as the radar picket ship type and was referred to that in its early days. I was aboard as a member of the staff of COMDESRON 3 IN 45 - 46 and we had a squadron of 8 radar picket ships all designated as being in the Frank Knox Class. All of the ships in this squadron had tripod masts to hold a new advanced altitude seeking radar and their Fletcher hulls had to be "stretched" to accommodate this new equipment. As I recall the ships in this original squadron were the Benner, Buckley, Hawkins, Fox, Sutherland, Higbee, Chevalier and the Frank Knox."

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If you plan to attend the reunion at San Diego now is the time to order your name badges if you do not already have them. They are very helpful when meeting "old" shipmates who think they haven't changed in forty or fifty years. The mens badges read:

USS FRANK KNOX DDR-742  
YOUR NAME RATE/RANK (*when aboard*)  
MONTH/YEAR - MONTH/YEAR

Ladies badge

NAME  
CITY AND STATE

they have magnetic backs eliminating poking holes in your clothes. Either drop me a line or e-mail.

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If you hear from anyone regarding the Reunion Reservation Form remind them that the Form only went out to those members in good standing - meaning their Dues have been paid.

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Does anyone know the whereabouts of Dr. WILLIAM DALL formerly of Pittsford, VT.? Mail to him was returned "unclaimed" and I have been unsuccessful tracking him down. Also on the list HIRAM S. LIGGETT, JR, Chesterfield, MO., WILLIAM R. NICKENS, Wilmington, NC. and DARREL HAWK, Wellsville, KS., PO JOHN A. GRECIO, Buffalo, NY., George W. Ross, Farmington, NM. RONALD E. STEPHENSON, San Antonio, TX, Any help will be greatly appreciated.

While on that subject be sure to notify us if you move, change e-mail addresses, all too often we get returned mail adding postage expense and returned e-mail messages. Thanks for your help.

*E-mail from Don Snider, Chula Vista, CA:*

I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were willing to die for one another.

I cannot say where we are headed. Ours are not perfect friendships; those are the province of legend and myth. A few of my comrades drift far from me now, sending back only occasional word. I know that one day even those could fall to silence. Some of these men will stay close, a couple, perhaps always at hand.

As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades....such good men.

From "These Good Men" by Michael Norman

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### ***Federal Task Force Launches Web Site Secretary invites feedback on services***

March 15, 2007

WASHINGTON - Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson, head of the new inter-agency task force examining the processes for combat veterans seeking services and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other federal agencies, announced the creation of a dedicated Web page to solicit input on the ease of accessing federal services.

"As the task force moves forward in studying how we can enhance services and cut red tape, we believe it's important to provide veterans, their family members and others with the opportunity to share their ideas and experiences," said Nicholson.

People can email their comments to the task force at [TFHeros@va.gov](mailto:TFHeros@va.gov) or fax comments to 202-273-9599. Task Force information and mailing address can be obtained on the VA home page, [www.va.gov/taskforce](http://www.va.gov/taskforce). The Web page allows active duty members, veterans, family members and others to comment directly to the task force on the accessibility, timeliness and delivery of services. Comments will be studied by the task force, used in the panel's evaluation of gaps in service and form the basis of recommended solutions.

Called the "Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heros," the panel consists of the secretaries of Defense, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Education, plus the administrator of the Small Business Administration and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Under the terms of the executive order creating the task force, the group has 45 days to identify and examine existing federal services for returning Global War on Terror service members; identify gaps in such services; seek recommendations from federal agencies on ways to fill those gaps and ensure that appropriate federal agencies are communicating and cooperating effectively.

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Contributed,  
YNCS Don Harribine, USN(ret)



A note from JAMES GIBBONS:

*When I came aboard the USS FRANK KNOX DDR-742 she had returned from Japan after being repaired. The Navy made a repair book on the ship, on how to use Styrofoam to raise a ship. The book was an official repair book with diagrams and photos of all flooded spaces. Plus pictures of the ammo sitting neatly stacked just as it was aboard on the reef! So somewhere in the U.S. Navy's archives is the book on the repair of the Knox. Maybe the association can get a copy? I do know that it showed that the only space forward of frame 110 that did not flood was the hedgehog magazine! And that there was still Styrofoam in the corners of main central in 1967. I came aboard in Jan. '67 till Aug. '70. Another thing in Japan, they wired the gun mount circuitry backwards. To light off the gun mount you hit the off button! and all the bolts holding down the UDS on the stern were made of brass!! Which due to vibration broke off. So you had to tap them out and replace with proper steel screw! The gunner's mate ran the UDS on the stern and the sonar men ran the hedge hogs forward of the bridge. Once off San Diego we steamed with the UDS played out some 350 feet or so and with the transducer down managed to run into what they said was an underwater object not on the charts?? We lost the 3 ton sonar transducer and about 200 feet of cable. Electric surge blew sonar men on watch into berthing! and started a fire in Sonar room!! I know that we got a new sonar transducer and 600 feet of new cabling! I believe this happened not near San Diego but while deployed overseas. They logged it in as hit uncharted rock?? off San Diego in '68. We had UDS down and hydraulic line blew. Had to take up 3 ton transducer by emergency air drive motor. We had about 200 feet of cable out. As we steamed all around ISO buoy all night reeling it slowly aboard so we could enter port! Took 8 hours to get the transducer aboard and stored. My cleaning station/work area was the UDS SQS-10B. My GQ was MT 52, left gun. Was a GMC3 on the Knox. Retired as GMG1*

*James Gibbons USN (RET)*

Another short anecdote from JAMES GIBBONS:

Might as well give you all the stuff that happened while aboard the Frank Knox. While steaming off the coast of Vietnam at Condition 3 with 1 gun mount manned for H&I shooting all night. We would have MT 51 loaded with star shells and HE rounds and aft MT 53 with WP and HE and AAC rounds. Shoot MT 51 at night, MT 53 during the day to keep wear on the gun barrels we'd switch gun mounts from time to time. Once while steaming off DaNang slowly passing Vietnamese fishing boats the little bastards snuck up on our stern by line #6, which was flayed out on deck and we were in the aft gun mount 53. We kept a M-1 in the mount to keep fishing boats away. GMG3 YEGGE shot 1 round .30/06 at the sampan that had snuck up and was trying to steal line #6!! So we did so to speak repel boarders in 1968! 'cause I had to log in the ship's armory ammunition expenditure as 1 rd .30/06 expended at sampan! in the ship's ammunition log. Aft lookout the week before said that the Vietnamese had tried that before but never made it close aboard. So that's why we had the rifle in the gun mount!

GMG1 James Gibbons USN (RET)

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Latest report on DON REDBURN is he began his second treatment of chemo and said he's doing OK but weak. Don is still at home and his daughters keep a good check on him.

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There is a story of a young woman who was traveling from Alaska to the Yukon. The highway was rugged and treacherous, but she set out on her trip in a small rundown car. The first night on the road she found a room at a motel near the summit. When she woke at 6 a.m. she saw everything was covered in fog.

The breakfast room was very small and the only seat open was at a table with two truck drivers. One of the truckers asked her where she was going, and she said "Whitehorse". The truckers said, "In that little car - in the fog? Then we will have to hug you." The girl answered "There is no way I am going to let you touch me." The truckers answered, "We will put one truck in front of you and the other behind

you, and that way we will get you through the mountains." All morning she followed the rear taillights of the truck in front of her, reassured of a big escort truck behind her. She made the trip safely.

Friends are there to "hug" you and help you as you go through tough times. What does the Reunion Association mean to you? It is more than a club. For me it means "family". We are bonded together because we served!

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**CONGRATULATIONS!!! Shipmate HAROLD BENSON, Ogema, WI was the first to sign up for the San Diego reunion!**

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Welcome Aboard to SUZANNE McCLANAHAN, Associate Member. Some of you may remember Suzanne as she attended the reunion at Seekonk.

3/30/07 1:23 PM

Untitled



**THE UNITED STATES NAVY MEMORIAL**  
701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 123  
Washington, DC 20004  
Phone: (202)737-2300 Fax: (202)737-2308  
[navylog@navymemorial.org](mailto:navylog@navymemorial.org) [www.navymemorial.org](http://www.navymemorial.org)

## ENROLL FOR FREE IN THE NAVY LOG

The United States Navy Memorial, located on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., was established to honor the men and women of the Navy – past, present and future. The Memorial does not focus on a particular platform, war or era, but on the people of the Navy. At the heart of The United States Navy Memorial is The Navy Log.

The Navy Log was established in the 1980's as the permanent National Registry of Sea Service members' and veterans' individual service information – name, duty stations, awards, photos and memories.

With the advent of the Internet and upgrades in capability at The United States Navy Memorial, people can enter their service information, or the information for a family member or shipmate, directly into the registry through the Internet without having a person at the Navy Memorial key in the data. The United States Navy Memorial passes that savings on to Sea Service veterans and their families by making enrollment in The Navy Log free.

The goal of The United States Navy Memorial is to have all the eligible veterans and service members enter their data into The Navy Log. More than a half million people are listed in The Navy Log, but there are millions more who can, and should be enrolled. Please encourage your shipmates to register today.

To enroll in The Navy Log, eligible veterans, service members, friends and family simply enter the appropriate information at [www.navymemorial.org](http://www.navymemorial.org). You can also use the services of the Navy Log customer service representative at 1-800-NAVYLOG (1-800-628-9564) to enter your information.

David J. Michael, Jr., NCCM(SW), USN Ret.  
Director, Navy Log  
U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation



## Help Wanted:

My name is James O. Beshears (Jim): I retired as Chief Yeoman on 9-1-61. Early in 2006, I decided to write a book which would include the WestPac cruise on USS CHEVALIER (DDR-805) in '47 - '48 to Tsingtao. I kept a notebook and added to it as research turned up new data. By late summer 2006, I had filled three notebooks with reference material and was ready to start writing. On 26 October 2006, had just returned from shopping at Kroger's when I suffered a stroke. I fell and lay in the same spot (according to tests by Pathology) for over 26 hours. That really played hell with my body: kidneys and liver shut down; blood contaminated; E-Coli was present; lost 24.6 pounds (had been weighed at Dr.'s appointment two days previously). Ex-son-in-law happened by and saw me, called 911. Still in coma at hospital, was 2 hours away from being placed on dialysis machine when I came to. All of this to let you know the reason for my request. The three notebooks disappeared. Following hospitalization and rehab, I entered an Assisted-Living Facility on 21 December 2006, where I will reside for the remainder of this year. That gives me plenty of time to get back to the book, except for a big problem: The notebooks are still gone, along with most of my memory.

I reported aboard CHEVALIER early '47. Division Flag was in FRANK KNOX; the 2 other ships in the Division were SOUTHERLAND (DDR743) and HIGBEE (DDR806). CDR J.E. Edwards was DivCom; we had just left Pearl when the DivCom decided he HAD to have a Chief Yeoman; I was transferred from CHEVALIER.

I would like very much to finish that book, and I NEED HELP. If you were on the cruise or happen to know anyone on the other 3 ships who made the trip, I'd like very much to hear from you. I'll do my best to compensate you for your time and efforts, and will give you credit in the book. You can reach me at:

Jim Beshears #223  
355 W. Westchester Pky  
Grand Prairie, TX 75052

972-264-4481

jimbeshears@sbcglobal.net

Lots of physical therapy during day, best time to phone after 1800.

Thank you for any assistance you might offer, and . . . STAY WELL!!

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Another sad e-mail, received from Jack McGovern, Jr.;

I'm writing on behalf of my father John (Jack) McGovern, my dad passed away Friday, April 6, 2007. My dad served in the Navy in the early 50's aboard the USS Frank Knox. One of the things he asked for in his final days was that I notify the crew of his passing. These past few years he has really taken a love for his Navy days, his room had pictures of the beautiful ship and he always had his hat, jacket, shirts, etc. to show his dedication for the time he served. A few years back when you had a reunion in San Francisco was the greatest time he had in years and he was looking forward to making the trip this year to San Diego.

Jack McGovern, Jr.

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*E-mail from Jennifer Chambers (Gene A. Chambers - 56 to 58) saying she had enclosed pictures of an Afghan she has made for the San Diego reunion. Tickets will be available at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. All money received will go to the Reunion Fund.!*

A lot of work went into this project - across the top of the Afghan reads "USS Frank Knox DDR-742 1944-1971", Across the bottom reads, "17th Reunion San Diego Oct 3-6 2007". I'm sure the winner of this prize will be very proud and that all those who did not attend the reunion will be very envious.  
Many thanks again to Jennifer.

Would you believe . . . I know it sounds incredible but would you believe I could have made a mistake, maybe two or more? As it were I owe apologies to WINSTON KING, Bowie, MD and PAUL FIELDS, Lakewood, CO. Seems I included them with a mailing that went out to delinquent members as a reminder their Dues were past due (I know it sounds unbelievable but each year some guys are late). A letter, (not a News Letter as only current paid up members receive Newsletters and invitations to a Reunion), went out reminding of dues being late and it was ONLY APRIL! Again, my apologies to those who called to tell me of my error.

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The subject of PAID-UP-FOR-LIFE membership has been asked and I plan to bring it up at the business meeting at the reunion. Bob O'Kon sent me an American Legion Paid-up-for-life Form as a guideline that looks most interesting. If the membership wishes to institute such a program we will do so in the future. It's worth looking into as we aren't getting any younger!

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If you haven't already sent your Reservation Form for the Reunion please do so NOW! Call the hotel with your reservation being sure to ask for the USS Frank Knox DDR-742 special rate. We also have two tours booked and we will have additional information and brochures available in your "Welcome" envelope with more places to see and visit during your stay.