

REUNION COMMEMORATIVE COINS



DON SNIDER AND KNOX SHIPMATES

Life member Don Snider wrote the following background to the beautiful 29th Reunion Coins distributed the final night of the reunion. Don's son, Tomas, donated the coins to the Reunion Association a gift.

Don writes, "I was a newly promoted First Class Petty Officer (Sonarman) while stationed in USS Frank Knox (DDR-742) from June 1962 – June 1964. I took 5 days annual leave in September 1963, while Knox was at sea on local ops, due to the birth of my son at the Yokosuka Naval hospital. He was 9 lbs 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz and the biggest newborn in the nursery. I filled out the birth documentation and named him TOMAS and a somewhat ugly Navy Nurse said sarcastically to me that TOMAS was spelled THOMAS. Being a rough riding Tin-Can Sailor and perhaps a year older than the nurse I shot back "by God that is the way I spell it" and so my son has been "stuck" with the first name of TOMAS ever since.

"After reporting back aboard I learned that Sonar was CASREPT'ed because the motor generators did not work. I was able to quickly fix this problem with a pencil eraser by cleaning the stator windings. While reporting CASCOR the Captain asked me where I had been while the ship was at sea, and I proudly told him at the hospital due to the birth of my 9 lb. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz son. He smiled, on both accords, and replied "good job".

"Tomas and I had been separated for a long period of time and re-connected in May 2019. We discussed a meet-up in San Diego while I was visiting for the Frank Knox's 29th annual reunion. Tomas said he had always had a soft spot in his heart regarding the Frank Knox because of his birth in Yokosuka.

Unknown to me he designed and purchased the Commemorative coins for each 29th reunion Shipmate attendee. Many of you told me how nice the coins are and when I told Tomas I'm sure he had a smile on his 9 lb 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz face. Grin..... Now you know 'the rest of the story'". The coins are beautiful! Thanks Tomas!! And thanks for sharing the story Don.