



October/November 2009

KNOX KNEWS

IMPORTANT !!! PLEASE check the Master Roster and update your information. I receive too many returned mailing with "Forward Expired, cannot forward" and too many email messages returned as not valid.

August 25 JOE DOLAN sent information that LTJG William (Carl) Travis passed away. Roster info listed home address as Dallas, TX, he served aboard June 1946 – October 1947. We do not have information as to death date.

DON SNIDER sent us an email inquiring about the possibility of the Frank Knox earning the Presidential Unit Citation during WWII. He received email from a Bob Culver TM2/c who was on the USS Samuel N. Moore DD-747 in DesRon 61 in 1945. I haven't heard anything to that effect but I did send the inquiry on to BOB O'KON and all of the Plank Owners that have email addresses and also brought up the subject at the re-union at Newport News.

News from JIM & SUE HEALY prior to the re-union. Some of you know that their grandson, George, is a part of the U.S. Naval Ceremonial Guard stationed in D.C. Their duties are to be part of the honoring and burial of fallen service men and women buried at Arlington National Cemetery. The Guardsmen, some casket bearers (who fold and present the flag to family at graveside), rifle team, drill team and who stand guard at government ceremonies, spend many, many hours preparing for these ceremonies. George sent word he was going to Boston to be part of the Guard at the funeral of Senator Ted Kennedy.

Jim and Sue are very proud of grandson George. There was a photo in our local newspaper of the Guard and Nancy & I picked out the tallest Navy man and said it must be George as Sue described him as 6' +, blond, good looking (she might be a little prejudiced)

The nineteenth reunion is history! There were 76 total attendees, unfortunately DON McCLANAHAN contacted the flu and GARY RUSCH became involved with a herniated disc and they were unable to travel.

The accommodations at the Point Plaza Hotel and Conference Center were great! Those folks went out of their way to be sure we had a marvelous time. The Hospitality Room received much attention and we won WWII, Korea and Vietnam wars all over again! Memorabilia was all around the room, old photos to look at and conversation was never at a standstill.

Attending were KEN & YOKO ARTHURS, BILL ATKINSON, HARRY & JOY CHANDLER, DON & NANCY CRITZ, JOE DEMPSKY & LEE LOCKE, ED EWOLDT (his 19th reunion), MARCUS GOOGER, RICHARD & DENNIS GREENE, TED & MITSUKO HALLMAN, MIKE HALOSKI and daughter YUNG-MEI, JIM & SUE HEALY, AL KAMISHLIAN, BILL & ELAINE KELLY, ED KENT, ORV & NANCY KRIEG, VAUGHAN & CAROL KRUGER, DON & BETSY LANDERS, PETE & JUANA LOPEZ, BILL & BARBARA MATTHEWS, SUZANNE McCLANAHAN & BRION SELLINGER, REG MUMLEY, JON & VERLIE OSBORNE, BILL & CONNIE PARKS, JACK & MARY PATTERSON, LARRY & BETTY PORTER, WILLIAM RHODES & BETTY NORTON, HAROLD & MARTI RINGSTROM, KEN & SUZANNE ROBERTS, JOSH & CHRIS RUSSELL, OTTO SCHIESS, JOE & SANDY SCHRECK, AL SMITH & HELEN SMITH-TARCHALSKI, DON & LOLITA SNIDER, JIM & KARON STARK, PAUL STOUT & BILLIE ANN BRADEN, BOB SUMMERS & DONNA SCUITTO, RAY THOMPSON, MYRON & JANICE TIMMONS, JOE & DOUGLAS VIROSTKO, EDD VITAGLIANO with guest LEE McCLANAHAN, AMOS & CHRIS WHITMAN with daughter YVONNE GAINES and BOB & CORAL WOODARD.

Highlights of the reunion were a trip to Colonial Williamsburg on Thursday, we had a steady drizzle most of the day and the gift shops sold a lot of ponchos and umbrellas. Our tour guide was a font of information during the entire trip. On to the quaint village of Yorktown with a stop at Yorktown Visitor's Center and a delightful lunch at the Riverwalk Restaurant. Then a bus tour of Chesapeake Bay port of Yorktown and Yorktown Battlefield, site of the final major battle of the American Revolutionary War.

Friday was a tour to Norfolk learning about its colorful 325 year history, viewing stately homes along the Hague, old St. Paul's Church, the Moses Myers House, the MacArthur Memorial, the Chrysler Museum of Art and on to downtown and the NAUTICUS, the National Maritime Center where we boarded the USS WISCONSIN BB64, one of the famous Iowa-class battleships. Next a riding tour of the Naval Station, the largest naval installation in the world. Homeport to 78 ships, 26 aircraft squadrons and headquarters of the Atlantic fleet. Lunch was at the old Officers Club but I don't believe the officers really ate like that.

Saturday afternoon was the Annual Business Meeting with much discussion about possibly having a joint reunion with other groups. This was tabled for further investigation. Another item of business was voted upon whereby voting for the next reunion site will be limited to the members that have attended a reunion in the previous three years so if you want to be heard attend a reunion. The consensus for 2010 is a Caribbean cruise. More information will be forthcoming in the Newsletter.

Following the business meeting we had the Annual Bazaar, PETE LOPEZ and VAUGHAN KRUGER auctioneered while HARRY CHANDLER was the "runner" and HELEN SMITH-TARCHALSKI collected money. We raised a tidy sum for the "fund". Generous participants came up with \$2,450.00! Previous auctions at San Diego - \$2,756.00, Milwaukee \$2,008.00. Thanks to all who support this activity making our reunions successful and keeping the organization solvent.

Saturday evening was the banquet with all members attending. We were paid a visit by one of the TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, Mr. Ezra M. Hill, Sr. who told about the Tuskegee Airmen of WWII and entertained us with a vocal rendition of "Proud to be an American".

Prior to dinner five young men of the US Navy Ceremonial Honor Guard in Washington, DC presented colors, they are GEORGE PECORARO RD3, CHRISTOPHER CRESPO FN, CHARLES McMANN SN, CANNON DEIMERLY SN, and RYAN CHATTERTON SN. JIM HEALY, on the pipes, accompanied PETE LOPEZ leading the group singing the National Anthem. Jim then played the Navy Hymn. We held the MIA/POW Ceremony assisted by MIKE HALOSKI. Invocation was by CAROL KRUGER.

Plank Owners present were JACK PATTERSON, PAUL T. STOUT and AMOS WHITMAN. First time attendees were HARRY CHANDLER, DON CRITZ, RICHARD GREENE, JON OSBORNE, RAY THOMPSON and AMOS WHITMAN.

We ran late with the banquet chores and did not get to the drawing of "door prizes" that were given by Tin Can Sailors so we picked names from the hat and the prizes went to GARY RUSCH who unfortunately had to cancel due to a herniated disk, HARRY CHANDLER, DON McCLANAHAN who came down with the flu, JON OSBORNE, RICHARD GREENE, EDD

VITAGLIANO, BILL PARKS and WOODY WOODARD. Congratulations.

Again I want to thank all who helped making this a successful reunion, HARRY CHANDLER, MIKE HALOSKI, JIM HEALY, NANCY KRIEG, CAROL KRUGER VAUGHAN KRUGER, PETE LOPEZ, HELEN SMITH-TARCHALSKI, WOODY and CORAL WOODARD and especially those who were so generously spending at the bazaar.

On October 19 received Email from Dick Shaw who was aboard the USS McKEAN during the encounter with the submarine saying Ken Sewell (the author) is going to England to meet with a documentary producer to hopefully get something rolling with our story.

October 23 received this from Dick Shaw:

Dick:

Just got back from NYC where I was interviewed and filmed for a documentary on Cold War Submarines. The producer was Dirk Pohlman, a veteran of the business. During our lengthy conversations I told him our story. He was very interested and will be presenting the idea of an expedition to some people he knows in Europe. His idea is to send a team consisting of an American, Russian, German and Frenchman, to hunt for the submarine...an international expedition.

Ken

That would be Ken Sewell, the author. Sounds promising, will keep you updated as to any progress. Orv

Received a nice note from TED HALLMAN expressing his enjoyment at the reunion and enclosed 2010 Dues. Thanks Ted. He also enclosed the Tin Can Sailors article about the Knox and McKean sub encounter as written in the July-August-September issue by Richard E. Oliver of the USS HARRY E. HUBBARD (DD-748).

FROM BOB O'KON;

VODKA Who knew?

1. To remove a bandage painlessly. Saturate the bandage with vodka, the stuff dissolves adhesive.
2. To clean the caulking around bathtubs and showers, fill a trigger-spray bottle with vodka, spray the caulking, let set five minutes and wash clean.
The alcohol in the vodka kills mold and mildew.
3. To clean your eyeglasses, simply whip the lenses with a soft, clean cloth dampened with vodka. The alcohol in the vodka cleans the glass and kills germs.
4. Prolong the life of razors by filling a cup with vodka and letting your safety razor blade soak in the alcohol after shaving. The vodka disinfects the blade and prevents rusting.
5. Spray vodka on wine stains, scrub with a brush and then blot dry.
6. Using a cotton ball, apply vodka to your face as an astringent to cleanse the skin and tighten the pores.
7. Add a jigger of vodka to a 12-ounce bottle of shampoo. The alcohol cleanses the scalp, removes toxins from the hair and stimulates growth of healthy hair.
8. Fill a sixteen-ounce trigger-spray bottle with vodka and spray bees or wasps to kill them.
9. Pour one-half cup of vodka and one-half cup water into a Ziploc freezer bag and freeze for a slushy, refreshing ice pack for aches, pain or black eyes.

10. Fill a clean, used mayonnaise jar with freshly picked lavender flowers, fill the jar with vodka, seal the lid tightly and set in the sun for three days. Strain liquid through a coffee filter, then apply the tincture to aches and pains.

11. To relieve a fever, use a washcloth to rub vodka on your chest and back as a liniment.

12. To cure foot odor, wash your feet with vodka.

13. Vodka will disinfect and alleviate a jellyfish sting.

14. Pour vodka over an affected area of poison ivy to remove the urushiol oil from your skin.

15. Swish a shot of vodka over an aching tooth; allow your gums to absorb some of the alcohol to numb the pain.

And silly me! I've only been drinking it!
HUMMMMM

Thanks Bob.

WISDOM FROM THE MILITARY MANUAL

"If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage, it's probably a helicopter - and therefore, unsafe."

"When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash."

"Even with ammunition, the USAF is just another expensive flying club."

pilot screws up, the pilot dies; If ATC screws up,... The pilot dies."

"Never trade luck for skill."

The three most common expressions (or famous last words), in aviation are:

"Why is it doing that?"

"Where are we?"

And

"Oh, S---!"

"Airspeed, altitude and brains.

Two are always needed to successfully complete the flight."

"Mankind has a perfect record in aviation;

"We never left one up there!"

"Flying the airplane is more important than radioing your plight to a person on the ground incapable of understanding or doing anything about it."

...to be continued...

HAS ANYONE HEARD FROM
THE FOLLOWING . . .

CHARLES R. SPENCER SAN DIEGO, CA
PERRY W. NELSON SHORT HILLS, NJ
JOHN WILLCUTT SANTA MARIA, CA
JOHN A. GRECIO BUFFALO, NY

TAPS

The following shipmates have reported to a new duty station, these names were read at the reunion:

KING, Richard A. STG2 08/??/07
10/61- 11/63 Waterford, MI
PO MYHRE, Maurice R. MM2 (02/06/08)
11/44 - 10/45 Spring Lake Park, MN
PO KIESLING, Raymond C. EM2 (10/05/06)
11/44 - 11/45 Brookhaven, PA
VAUGHT, James W. ENFM (07/12/08)
02/48 - 11/49 Saint George, UT
PO SMITH, Billy Jack TM3 (12/30/08)
11/44 - 06/46 Crown Point, IN
THOMPSON, Bruce Y. DC2 (01/27/09)
12/65 - 05/67 Livingston, TX
CALDWELL, SAM J. CDR CO (01/29/09)
06/50 - 04/52 Palm Desert, CA
WILLIAMS, Meredith, Jr MM3 (unknown)
08/46 - 11/47 Claremore, OK
HANSARD, George SN (07/02/05)
03/51 - 11/51 Sherman, TX
HEMPSTEAD, Robert L. GMCS (01/31/09)
08/56 - 05/58 Winchester, VA
ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM O LORD
AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON
THEM

May their Souls Rest in Peace and be escorted to
the SUPREME ADMIRAL of the UNIVERSE

Fair Winds



Following Seas

"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."

memo from

ED SUMMERS

I SERVED ON THE MC DERMUT DD 677 FROM 4/45 TO DECOMMISSIONING 6-46.

ON JULY 15 F16 WE AND THE REST OF DESTROYER SQUADRON 54 ESORTED THE IOWA MISSOURI WISCONSIN KING GEO V ON A BOMBARDMENT OF THE HIRATAKI JAPAN AREA.

ME AND SOME OF MY SHIPMATES BELIEVE THAT WE HEARD THAT THIS BOMBARDMENT RUN WOULD BE BROADCASTED IN THE US AT A LATER DATE. BACK THEN THE NAVY, SOMETIMES, OPERATED ON SCUTTLE BUTT.

SINCE THEN WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE GOVT BROKE ALL WAR BOND SACKS RECORDS WITH THE IOWA JIM FLAG RAISING. THE BOMBARDMENT COULD HAVE BEEN UTILIZED. THE R BOMB ON AUG 9 COULD HAVE CAUSED CANCELLATION.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A WRITTEN VERSION THEN BROADCAST ON RADIO.

ALOT OF MY SHIPMATES HAD BEEN INVOLVED WITH ALOT OF ISLAND INVASIONS, BUT, ME AT 18 1/2 YR OLD THIS WAS SOMETHING ELSE. HOWEVER, NOTHING LIKE THE CARLINER PILOT (THAT DEFIED HIS ORDERS) WHO SHOT DOWN A KAMIKAZE THAT WAS APPROACHING OUR BOW. MY 6 Q STA WAS PROXIMATE COMPARTMENT #1 GUN MOUNT. AND WHEN I WAS TOLD I WAS REPLACING A GUY WHO WAS KILLED BY TWO SHELLS FROM THE MISSOURI. A STARBOARD DUAL 5" DID NOT ELEVATE.

SOME MEMORIES WILL LAST FOREVER, THESE I CHERISH.

A VETERAN SAID "NO ONE CAN UNDERSTAND THE BONDING IN THE MILITARY, UNLESS YOU WERE THERE." AMEN!

THE MC DERMUT'S DECK LOG HAD ENTRIES STATING 4 THESE SHIPS, NOTHING ELSE. THE NAVY ARCHIVES AND ANOTHER ARCHIVE PLUS SOME BOOKS TIE THAT.

IF ANY OF YOUR DECK LOGS, HISTORIES HAVE INFO WOULD LIKE COPIES. IF THIS COULD BE PASSED TO PEOPLE OF THAT GEN. THEY MIGHT HAVE SOME INPUT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM. IT IS NOT VITAL. BUT CURIOSITY IS A FUNNY SITUATION.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL BUT BETTER GOOD HEALTH

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812
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NO COMPUTER
NO E MAIL
NO CELL PHONE

MISSSED COMPUTER
AGE AT WORK
RETIRED 28 YRS

WIFE HAS MEMORY PAUP SO PHONE RINGER NOT ON
ANSWER MACHINE COMES ON AFTER 5 RINGS

AGAIN, THANKS FOR YOUR TIME!

WE DO NOT HAVE A
JULY 15 ENTRY IN
CDR TILANSCRIPT
SO SHIPS INVOLVED
ARE FROM MEMORIES