

**CRUISE BOOK DONATED** – The letter from Paul Fields GMG-3 of Lakewood CO is simple enough: “Dear Mr. Cross, having thought about coping the cruise book I have decided to donate the book to the Frank Knox Reunion Association. It will be better served in the Associations possession. Sincerely, Paul Fields.” Thank You, Paul!! Your book and two others rest in the USS Midway Research Library, San Diego CA. The library now has cruise books 1961-1964, 1967-68 and 1969-70. There is also a digital copy of our newsletters, the *Knox Knews*, published on our website [ussfrankknox.com](http://ussfrankknox.com). Your stories and memories go into the newsletter, then on to the website and then to the USS Midway library as an additional level of preservation. IF YOU SHARE, your stories are not lost.

**The opening Two pages of the 1961-64 cruise book** are quoted here: “On the morning of 21 October 1961, USS FRANK KNOX sailed from San Diego, California to begin her eleventh tour in the Western Pacific. Unlike previous Far Eastern deployments, her recent commitment homeported FRANK KNOX in Yokosuka, Japan for a period of 33 months. “During that time, she operated both independently and as an AEW/ASW support unit for six attack and two Anti-submarine carriers in a variety of Seventh Fleet missions. From the Yellow Sea through the Straits of Taiwan to the Gulf of Tokin FRANK KNOX picketed and steamed under the watchful eyes of Communist China. She and her crew became well-acquainted with the South China, East China and Philippine Sea areas. The track between Subic Bay and Yokosuka through the Bashi Channel was used to the extent that navigation was second hand. Keelung, Kaohsiung, Hong Kong, Olongapo and Okinawa became familiar ports of call. “In the late spring of '62, FRANK KNOX participated in “Project Mercury” – America’s first extended, manned orbital space flight. On her assigned recovery station east of Luzon P.I., she achieved the distinction of being the first surface unit to visually sight the capsule.

“During the summer of '63, FRANK KNOX made goodwill visits to Uno, Beppu, and Kure on the Japanese Inland Sea. In March of the following year, she deployed to the Indian Ocean as a unit of the United States First Concord Squadron. Steaming as far west as the Ivory Coast of Africa, the force made calls at Diego Suarez, Madagascar – Mombasa, Kenya – and the British Protectorate of Aden. [Following these visits, the Concord Squadron traversed the east and west section of the then-contested Singapore Straits with FRANK KNOX leading the night passage of destroyers, the carrier USS BON HOMME RICHARD and a fuel ship, thus opening the passage to international shipping. (information from CDR Lionel Price and LT Douglas McKnight of USS BON HOMME RICHARD. ED] On her return to CONUS in July of the same year she visited Cairns, Newcastle and Sydney on the western coast of Australia. In each of these operations and good-will missions she was closely associated with the

President's "People to People" program of cultural exchange. As an ambassador of America's aims and ideals, FRANK KNOX performed an outstanding service to the furtherance of creating the true American image in the hearts and minds of peoples throughout the Eastern Hemisphere.

For overall superior performance in the battle efficiency competition during '63, FRANK KNOX was awarded the Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Fund Award; CRUDESPEC nominated the ship for the Arleigh Burke Award; OUR NAVY declared her "Ship of the Year". She set a Pacific Fleet refueling record with the HASSAYAMPA and performed firepower demonstrations for Chang Kai Shek and the Shah of Iran. The record is endless.

"During her tour the FRANK KNOX steamed 187,280 miles, conducted 192 underway replenishments, and consumed a total of 11, 182, 292 gallons of fuel – underway! On 12 August 1964, FRANK KNOX chopped once again to First Fleet and, via Pago Pago and Pearl Harbor, returned to their current home port of San Diego arriving on the 31st of that month." [The FRANK KNOX was relieved by USS MADDOX DD-731. Maddox was attacked by NVA patrol boats the evening of August 2, 1964. A subsequent report of a second attack when Maddox was accompanied by USS TURNER JOY proved incorrect according to a US Naval Institute article published in February 2008. Multiple crew members including Paul Fields report that "during our tour of the Tonkin Gulf we had multiple VC gunboats around us most of the time." ED]