



SUMMER FALL 2011

# KNOX KNEWS

Plans for the 21<sup>st</sup> reunion of USS Frank Knox DDR-742 at Rapid City, SD are being met with good response from the membership. Don't miss the boat... SIGN UP NOW! After much negotiating a menu for the Reunion Banquet has been sent to all that signed up to attend the Reunion.

Correspondence from CMDR LIONEL F. PRICE (RET), then LT. 3/64 – 12/65, related making progress on the Frank Knox Pratas Reef grounding story however a key delay has been getting the trial transcripts. He is inviting anyone who may have served on the Knox at the time of the grounding (July 18, 1965) to send him any objective evidence (such as copies of deck logs, engineering logs, pictures, etc.) that apply to the happening, if they are willing. About all he can promise is the contributor will be recognized in the book, given credit where due, if the contribution can be utilized.

Over the years he has accumulated a wealth of information including some of the deck logs, captain's log, engineering info, etc. but there are still remaining pieces of the jig saw puzzle that need to be put in place before all of the truth in the matter can be ascertained. Any pictures of the Army barge during the typhoon, when loaded down with ammo, wherein he took aboard about ten volunteers to lash down the ammo before it blew the ship up, would be greatly appreciated. Also the names of those volunteers would be appreciated. So far he remembers PO3 Williams, PO3 Patterson and SN Lube and he does not want to leave anyone out.

Anyone wishing to contribute pictures, statements, etc. contact:

Lionel F. Price  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 647  
Panama City, FL 32402  
[lfprice@yahoo.com](mailto:lfprice@yahoo.com)  
850-588-8054

He and wife Sharon are unable to make the reunion this year and wishes us a great reunion. Perhaps next year.

**FYI**

1. Go to GOOGLE
2. Type in the phone number I.E. 727-724-1279
3. Press “Google Search” button
4. Look at the results

you’ll probably wasn’t to print and save.

### **VA Publishes Final Regulation to Aid Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange in Korea**

Washington – Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving along the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Korea will have an easier path to access quality health care and benefits under a department of Veterans Affairs (VA) final regulation that will expand the dates when illnesses caused by herbicide exposure can be presumed to be related to Agent Orange.

“VA’s primary mission is to be an advocate for Veterans” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki “With this new regulation VA has cleared a path for more Veterans who served in the demilitarized zone in Korea to receive access to our quality health care and disability benefits for exposure to Agent Orange.”

Under the final regulation published today in the *Federal Register*, VA will presume herbicide exposure for any Veteran who served between April 1, 1968, and Aug. 31, 1971, in a unit determined by VA and the Department of Defense (DoD) to have operated in an area in or near the Korean DMZ in which the herbicides were applied.

Previously, VA recognized that Agent Orange exposure could only be conceded to Veterans who served in certain units along the Korean DMZ between April 1968 and July 1969.

In practical terms, eligible Veterans who have specific illnesses VA presumes be associated with herbicide exposure do not have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This “pre-sumption” simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits and ensures that Veterans receive the benefits they deserve.



Received word that DONALD L. REDBURN QM2, 3/48 – 6/52 passed away June 15, 2011 at Weisson, WA after suffering a stroke. Don attended many reunions. Condolences were sent to the family.

After sending out email reminder that time was running out to sign up for Rapid City we received a reply from Ed Stinson, son of Plank Owner LEO F. STINSON GM3 that Leo had passed away on May 20, 2011. Leo attended reunions at Baltimore, Virginia Beach, Charleston, Washington, D.C., Jacksonville and Mobile, Alabama. The ranks of Plank Owners grow thinner with the passage of time.

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I HAD other pages for the interior pages of Knox Knews but somewhere in the translation they disappeared and consequently I’m trying to put together something of interest for you.

## REUNION 2011 RAPID CITY, SD. . . .

The reunion is now history, we had 49 attendees including BILL ATKINSON, Houston, TX, GERALD & MARLENE BAKER, Bullhead City, AZ, CHARLIE & CHERYL BROWN, Morgan Hill, CA DON & NANCY CRITZ, Prairie Home, MO, JOHN & NADINE DUGAN, Plainville, KS, ED EWOLDT, Wheaton, IL, GEORGE GLAZE, Blackwell, OK, MARCUS & SUE GOOGER, Mt. Pleasant, SC, MIKE HALOSKI, Waipahu, HI, BOB & BOBI HARP, Torrance, CA, JIM & SUE HEALY, Chicago, IL, ORV & NANCY KRIEG, Clearwater, FL, VAUGHAN KRUGER, Seattle, WA, DON LANDERS and BETSY WILSON, Ft. Worth, TX, BILL & BARBARA MATTHEWS, Vestavia Hills, AL, JACK & MARY PATTERSON, Nobelsville, IN, LARRY & BETTY PORTER, Cambridge, MA, HAROLD RINGSTROM, Murfreesboro, TN, GARY RUSCH & JOAN RUSCH, Plymouth, MN, JOSH & CHRIS RUSSELL, Tyler, TX, TOM SOLTIS, Downers Grove, IL, JIM & KARON STARK, Leucadia, CA, BOB SUMMERS & DONNA SCUITTO, Foster City, CA, MYRON & JANICE KAY TIMMONS, Conifer, CO, MIKE & MARGARET WATSON, Corvallis, OR, and

WOODY & CORAL WOODARD, Sacramento, CA

Due to health concerns we had two cancellations Don & Lolita Snider and Paul Stout and Billie Ann Braden.

Great accommodations at Comfort Suites Hotel & Conference Center Rapid City. They went first class to make sure everything was done up right. Breakfast was included in our room rate and our Hospitality Room served us very well where we had refreshments every day while greeting and meeting old friends and *NEW* former shipmates and spouses. We rehashed much of the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War.

During festivities in the Hospitality Room we learned that Richard Huehn Minneapolis, MN and Harry and Joy Chandler Prescott, AZ also had to cancel reservations for personal reasons. They were sorely missed.

Our first tour on the 22<sup>nd</sup> was to downtown Rapid City to view the statues of the presidents, very impressive although we would have preferred time for picture taking. As it was our Driver/Guide along with Bill Atkinson gave verbal description of each located on the four corners of each block as we drove. Highlight of the reunion was the tour to Mt. Rushmore in the afternoon. We enjoyed a cafeteria-style meal prior to the Lighting Ceremony at dusk. Put Mt. Rushmore on your "bucket list"



of places to visit and there are many other places of interest in the Black Hills.

Our Park Ranger gave information concerning the creation of the four faces of the Monument and at the end of the presentation he asked all veterans to join him on the stage for recognition.

The second tour on the 23<sup>rd</sup> was a visit to The Gold Factory, one of four certified to use the name "Black Hills Gold" where we saw the manufacture of many jewelry items and were given the opportunity to purchase items at a discount. Next was on to the Flying T Ranch for a cowboy meal of bar-b-cue beef, buffalo, chicken, baked beans, baked potato and dessert all served on a tin plate just like a "round-up" meal. To be kind I thought it was at best mediocre. But the entertainment afterward was a group of Blue Grass Boys that everyone seemed to heartily enjoy.

Saturday afternoon we held the annual business meeting where Vaughan Kruger announced he had audited Nancy's spreadsheets and found everything up to date. BOB SUMMERS gave information that he and DON SNIDER, who had to cancel attending due to health matters, along with PAUL STOUT and BILLIE ANN BRADEN, about the proposed trip to Hawaii in December

commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor. Some of you know the Knox was in Tokyo Bay at the surrender signing by the Japanese. Following the meeting we had the "replenish the coffers" auction bazaar. Once again our thanks go out to JOE ZOCCALI of Salinas, CA who sent us a case of wine with USS FRANK KNOX labels. At auction the first bottle went for \$35 so we sold the remaining 11 bottles at the same price. Items from the attendees from all over the country brought in \$2,747! ! This was a GREAT showing. Some past auctions were;

2008, Milwaukee \$2221.00,  
2009, Newport News, VA \$2450.00,  
2010, Cruise No auction as we didn't have a Hospitality Room

Voting took place for the next reunion and it is SEATTLE, WA. Dates to be confirmed and more info later.

Charleston, NC, South Padre Island, TX, Albuquerque, NM and Tucson, AZ followed in the vote. ATTEND A REUNION AND CAST YOUR VOTE!

Our THANKS to all participants bidding on the items.

BILL and ELAINE KELLY were unable to attend this reunion and sent along a check for \$50 toward the auction. Once again VAUGHAN KRUGER was the able auctioneer and kept thing rolling.

The evening brought our

Banquet starting with the Cocktail Hour at 6:30 followed by dinner at 7:30. After opening with the MIA/POW ceremony JIM HEALY once again had brought his pipes and played the Navy Hymn. GERRY BAKER offered a toast for the evening. MARCUS GOOGER III, LT EO gave us a report on William Franklin "Frank" Knox (January 1, 1874 – April 28, 1944) it is a bit lengthy so will save it for another Newsletter.

After dinner, with the help of MIKE HALOSKI, the Two Bell Ceremony was held remembering our recently deceased shipmates. This also is a very touching and emotional ceremony as Jim closed with the playing of "Amazing Grace".

We always receive material from The Tin Can Sailors Organization and these items were given to attendees with the drawing of names present, including a year's subscription to an attendee who is not already a subscriber plus there were gift certificates to Tin Can Sailors Ship's Store. Our thanks always go out to Tin Can Sailors for their generous contributions. We also send them a write-up for publication in the magazine.

Another successful reunion ended and it was time to return home until next year at Seattle. Special thanks go to VAUGHAN KRUGER, JIM and SUE HEALY, MIKE HALOSKI, WOODY and CORAL

WOODARD AND ALL who made this another grand slam reunion. A surprise for Mike was when his daughter YUNG MEI arrived unbeknownst to him.

Some of our folks extended their reunion time with addition touring. Nancy and I returned to Florida receiving a phone call from Vaughan Kruger informing us that the founder of the Frank Knox DDR-742 Reunion Association, BOB O'KON, had passed away September 1, 2011. Our reunions have been successful because of Bob O'Kon and his relentless enthusiasm searching out former crewmembers, officers and enlisted, and spreading the word for a reunion. Bob was a life member and will always be remembered as a great shipmate.

## **FYI**

### **VA Adds Ships to Agent Orange List**

VA announced in September that it has expanded its list of ships that served in areas of Vietnam that now qualify for the disability compensation due to Agent Orange herbicide exposure.

Veterans who served on the ships between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, can file VA claims for 15 medical conditions VA presumes to have been caused by Agent Orange exposure. They can find the list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships at



[www.publichealth.va/exposures/agentorange](http://www.publichealth.va/exposures/agentorange).

Vets can also call VA's Special Issues Helpline at 1-800-749-8387 and press 3.

Veterans afflicted with the three conditions (Parkinson's disease, various chronic B-cell leukemias and ischemic heart disease) VA added to the Agent Orange presumptive list last year can file claims at

[www.fasttrack.va.gov/AOFasttrack/](http://www.fasttrack.va.gov/AOFasttrack/).

According to VA's Sept. 2 announcement, "Service onboard ships anchored in an open-water harbor, such as DaNang Harbor, or on ships on other open waters around Vietnam during the war, is **not** considered sufficient for presumption of Agent Orange exposure."

Veterans interested in obtaining deck logs can contact the National Archives at College Park, MD at [www.archives.gov/dc-metro/college-park/researcher-info.html](http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/college-park/researcher-info.html).

Others interested in conducting their own research or submitting their own documentary evidence can e-mail [211\\_AOSHIPS.VBACO@va.gov](mailto:211_AOSHIPS.VBACO@va.gov).

For more information about specific legislation or VA benefits, contact VFW's Washington Office at [vfw@vfw.org](mailto:vfw@vfw.org). A member of VFW's National Veterans Service staff will respond as soon as possible.

## **North Korea Agrees to MIA Talks**

Discussion between North Korea and the U. S. on resuming searches for the remains of GIs missing from the Korean War have begun, according to an announcement by the Communist state.

"Work for talks between the militaries of the PDRK (North Korea) and the U. S. is now underway," said a spokesman for North Korea's Foreign Ministry.

The Pentagon said earlier in the month that it had initially contacted Pyongyang about resuming the searches, which were halted in May, 2005 over concerns about North Korea's nuclear program.

Pyongyang's announcement came hours after the U.S. offered \$900,000 to North Korea for flood assistance.

It also follows a series of meeting between Pyongyang, Seoul, Washington and Beijing to halt North Korea's nuclear program.

The announcement was good news for VFW members, whose delegates approved *Res 423—Renew POW/MIA Discussions with North Korea*—at the organization's 112<sup>th</sup> National Convention in August.

A total of 7,986 Korean War GIs are still listed as missing on the Korean peninsula, the vast majority of whom are in North Korea. The Pentagon's joint POW/MIA Accounting Command conducted 33 search missions in North Korea between 1996-2005. They recovered

229 “probable” remains, according to the Pentagon’s POW/Missing Personnel Office, of which 88 have been identified and returned to families.

Work is progressing on the Seattle Reunion. VAUGHAN KRUGER has been very busy doing legwork for me and we will soon have information out to you about all of the events and festivities. There will be some new twists and surprises so stand by.

Word was sent via e-mail to those whose addresses we have that the Association was donating \$200.00 to the Pacific Historic Parks, in particular, the USS *Arizona* Memorial Restoration. JIM BOYD, CDR (RET) responded saying he was sending a check to us and perhaps it would be a good idea if all shipmates would contribute to this worthy cause. Checks have been arriving almost daily thanks to our generous shipmates.

Check can be mailed to the association address, 585 Sky Harbor Dr. #125, Clearwater, FL 33759. MAKE THE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

**“Pacific Historic Parks”**

mark the “memo” line USS Arizona Memorial Restoration.

I will bundle them up and forward to Hawaii in one batch from;

USS FRANK KNOX DDR-742 CREW

So far we have heard from JIM BOYD, ORV KRIEG, BILL MATTHEWS VAUGHAN KRUGER, BOB SUMMERS, HARRY CHANDLER, DON SNIDER

If you haven’t already done so get out your check book and send a donation>

*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.”