



THE IRONMAN—A DOUBLE ENDER’S NEWSLETTER

Membership Scorebox

Current	55
Past Due	116
Snail Mail Ad- resses Only	262
Email Address	463
Total Shipmates	3,218

Dues Notice!

Please be sure to check your mailing label or email notation.

If it doesn't say **Current** above your name at the top of the label, you should renew your annual dues. To reach the greatest number of shipmates, we will publish the complete Association newsletter to any valid email or snail mail address. Your dues payments make this possible.

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Project Nike

Missile technology before the REEVES and our 1950/1960 missile-ship fleet...

There was a Soviet heavy bomber that was feared by the U.S. Defense Department in the 1950s and 1960s. It was the Tupolev Tu-95, nicknamed "the Bear" by NATO. World-War II-era anti-aircraft guns were useless against these heavy post-war heavy bombers; they flew too high and too fast. So to keep the Tu-95 in check, the Army in the late 1940s initiated Project Nike. Its centerpiece was the Nike Ajax missile, the world's first operational air defense supersonic guided missile. One problem. Because of its limited range, the Ajax had to be launched as the invading bomber was nearly overhead. So the Army built 240 Nike installations from coast to coast, all near potential Soviet targets. Those who operated the Nike sites were our nation's last line of defense against the very real threat of a Soviet attack. The threat of a Soviet bomber attack was real, make no mistake about it.

Most Nike sites were split into two separate units within a mile or two of one another — the radar installation site and launch site, where 30 or more missiles were kept in underground concrete bunkers. Precision was always the goal. The missile required three radar systems — a target-acquisition radar, a target-tracking radar and a missile-tracking radar. After the target was acquired, a computer compared the signals from the track-

ing and missile radars to calculate the intercept point and steer the missile to its target. Still, there were the offbeat, day-to-day adventures found at all army bases, be they staffed by Roman-era infantrymen or Nike missilemen.

- When the Cuban Missile Crisis began on Oct. 14, 1962, the sites were on red alert for two weeks. "All of our missiles went topside, ready to go," said William Biagioni, a communications specialist at the Milford, CT site.

- When President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963, the sites went on high alert status again. "The booster stage fell off six seconds after they were fired, and the spent booster would have wound up in a residential area," Biagioni said. "But if it came to that, you really didn't care whose house it fell on. There were Navy picket ships right off the coast, and if those bomber got by them, we were it."

- The Tupolevs routinely made runs from the Soviet Union to Cuba, skirting U.S. airspace off the Eastern Seaboard along the way. The sites had to be ready to launch all the time.

Designed to intercept high-altitude aircraft, the Ajax missile consisted of a 14 foot solid propellant booster and a 21 foot liquid-fueled upper stage. Its maximum speed was 2.25 mach with a range of 25 miles. It could reach an altitude of 69,900 feet. Later models were longer and faster. The first Nike Ajax was made in 1951, and the pro-

(Continued on page 3)

The President's Page—Onward to Portland



Greetings to the Reeves Association Family:

Everything is on for our next reunion in Portland. The homework, proposals, and hotel site visits have all been completed, and the hotel that won the selection process is the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel. Mike and Lorri visited the hotel as part of the selection process and confirmed what the proposal bids could not have described to us, and that is that the Sheraton is the ideal choice for our stay. The contract with the hotel is signed, so we are officially on for Portland.

Portland is going to be an excellent venue for our reunion. It offers us a tremendous variety of things to do within easy striking distance of the city, good weather, and plenty of other neat attractions in the area. The city itself is known for great restaurants, interesting shopping venues, and upwards of thirty craft breweries to check out. It's already sounding like our kind of town. We have booked the MV Portland Spirit for our dinner cruise, and will have a variety of other tour options available for those that want to see special attractions outside of the Portland area.

We're hoping to change up our tour habits from what we have been able to do at a few past reunions. Organized bus tours that were relatively inexpensive in San Diego and Charleston are some-

what more expensive in Portland. This is due mostly to popular sites being spaced far enough way that renting a large tour bus for a relatively small crowd can get pricey. With some planning, and a sufficient supply of rental cars, we should be able to organize our own excursions to some of the popular tourist spots along the Columbia River. I'm thinking that somewhere between reunion activities, city roaming, a dinner cruise, and some self-guided tours that we shouldn't have any trouble entertaining ourselves.

Mike has a nice write-up further back in this issue describing some of the attractions that the area has to offer, so you can start thinking towards what you'd like to see or do. Mike has also found a day long cruise to Astoria that will be available for folks that may be interested in showing up a day early for the reunion. It could be a great way to take in a little Oregon sight-seeing prior to the reunion, if your travel plans allow.

That brings us down to the point where we have to start thinking towards planning for the reunion, and possibly contacting a few Reeves Shipmates that you have been meaning to invite to one of our reunions. Your call, or email, or facebook post to an old shipmate could be the one that gets that shipmate to join us in Portland. Perhaps you know someone that is hiding up in the northwest, who may have thought it a little far to join us in Charleston, but may consider travel to Portland to

join us for beer and conversation. You never know until you ask....

Keep in mind that we rotate the reunions from east to west to center primarily to catch up with shipmates in different areas. It also provides new places to visit for those of us that won't skip a reunion. While we're about it, we also have to start thinking over a few reunion items that require decisions. For starters, there are a few amongst us that feel the every-other year reunion cycle makes it difficult to stay engaged as an organization. The concern is that we meet so infrequently that it is difficult to organize anything other than ideas for the next reunion. Maybe more timely exposure would strengthen the organization. What do you think? Is a return to annual reunions something that would interest you?

While you're thinking reunions..... what do you think of San Antonio for our next gig? Also consider whether it should be 2015 or 2016. Now you have two points to ponder, please give it some thought and let us know what you think.

In the meantime, we hope you have a safe and happy Thanksgiving Holiday. There's plenty to be thankful for here of late, so we hope you get to spend time with your family over the holiday and that your travels are safe.

Here's wishing you fair winds and following seas.

Tom



Mail/eMail/Decklog From Our Shipmates —

Tom & Shipmates,

I always enjoy your newsy letters and hope everyone is doing well. Susan and I would like to make next year's Portland reunion. We've not been to that area of the country before, but have heard many good reasons why we should go. We'd definitely like to visit some of those wineries too. :) An added bonus for sure. More later.

Jeff Brinkmeier, IC-3, 71-74.

Ed: Believe me, wineries are on the itinerary, Jeff!

Mike,

Just wanted to say how impressed I am with your newsletter. I know what it takes to present a newsletter and you are doing an outstanding job. The USS Frank E. Evans reunion will be in Seattle Oct 1-4 in 2014. Have you selected the dates for the reunion in Portland? If it happens to be around that time frame I would really like to attend.

Best wishes always

Steve Krauss, SM2, 68-69

Ed: Steve, I'm expecting to see you in Portland!

Project Nike (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

ject was operational from 1953 to 1964. At first, the Nike sites were operated by the Army, but most of the installations were soon handed off to the state National Guards.

By the mid-1960s, a larger and faster Nike variant and one with three times the range was developed, the Nike Hercules. That meant that fewer missile sites were needed. So most of the Ajax sites were closed for good in the early 1960s. Some were converted to Hercules operations. Some of the Hercules missiles were nuclear-tipped — the idea being that a well-

Dear Mike,

Thanks for all you do for the Reeves info.

There was a year book 66-68 on the web site about a month ago. I haven't seen it since the last time I was on the site. also there was a older roster from 1964 that is no longer on the site. I would like to get a copy of the year book if some one can put it back on the site along with the roster from 1964 on.

Thanks for any help you can provide with my request.

Eugene Willingham Sr.

Ed: All the cruise books and artifact lists have been upgraded for quicker download.

Remembering the days spent on the Reeves 1975-77 - I bet I have a couple of pieces of the boat not found anywhere else... a commissioning pennant and a brass ships emblem - treasured keepsakes (interesting story behind both of them too...)

Nicholas Quarm, ET3, 75-77

I still think fondly of the old ship and the officers and men I served with on her from late Nov 1972 to Nov 1974.

placed atomic blast could take out an entire bomber wing. Both Ajax and Hercules missiles had a surface-to-surface capability, too, so they could be used against Soviet subs.

The missiles were named after Nike, the winged goddess of victory in Greek mythology. She's famously depicted in the c. 424 BCE relief sculpture "Nike Removing her Sandal," which was part of the Temple of Athena in Athens. In the 1950s, mention the word "Nike," and it was the missile, not a sneaker, that came to mind. (The original sculpture can be seen in the Acropolis Museum in Athens; a copy has

Matt Jaffe, LTJG, 72-74

Ed: About time we heard from you.

Served aboard 75-77 in Main Control then A-Gang. 2 Westpacs 75 and 77, too bad Reeves was used for target practice before and after decom. My other 2 ships are still afloat USS Orleck DD-886 (tied up at a pier in the south somewhere returned from Turkey) and USS Turner Joy DD-951 (a Memorial in Bremerton).

Greg Stohl, MM2, 75-77

Served onboard from '78-'81 in OC Div in the Radio Shack. Westpac's 79 & 80 and stayed on after the crossdeck. I well remember all the shack swabbies; RMCs Echroat, Seals & Crews, Martini, Matney, Gabler, Littlejohn(Rhino), Masi, Sleeman, Colley, Allen, Calloway. Love all you guys. Can't forget all the scivvy wavers - James, Toal, Branerd, & Herrod. Love you guys too. Great ship. Great time. Great memories. If ever in FW, give me a call and we can talk some Reeves shop. Bonzai.

James Hall, RMC, 78-81

been installed in the temple.) In all, 26 states had Nike sites. For a time in the 1970s and 1980s, towns used the squat, cement-block buildings for office space. Some Nike launch and radar sites have become parks, some have been developed into condominiums and others have been lost to the weeds. Indeed, in the American consciousness, the Cold War has been similarly lost in the weeds of history. It's more often than not mentioned in the same breath as tail fins and poodle skirts, two other artifacts from that era. [Source: Bridgeport Connecticut Post | John Burgeson | 13 Oct 2013]

Pledge Of Allegiance

A disagreement between a former U.S. Marine and a Quaker woman about the Pledge of Allegiance has sparked discussion about whether all county board and commission meetings should begin with the recitation. The debate originated among members of the Maryland Frederick County Human Relations Commission, where a vote was tied about whether to open monthly meetings with the pledge. Among those opposed to requiring the tribute was commission member Annette Breiling, who said her Quaker faith reserves expressions of allegiance for God rather than for flag or country. But Chris Huckenpoehler, a former Marine who sits on the 15-member human relations commission, was so troubled by his colleagues' reluctance that he offered his resignation to county commissioners Sunday. "I cannot with good conscience serve on a group with any members that deny or vote against an allowance to Pledge Allegiance to our American Flag," he wrote in an email.

Three commissioners quickly fired back messages in support of Huckenpoehler, rejecting his resignation and battling around ideas for incorporating the pledge into all county board and commission meetings. They say they plan to discuss the topic at the 3 OCT county commissioners meeting. Commissioners President Blaine Young suggested requiring the tribute on all meeting agendas, as long as those who do not want to participate are free to abstain. Commissioner Kirby Delauter says he's torn about whether to force

the pledge onto boards and commissions. "The military and patriotic side of me says yes, but the anti-dictator side says no," Delauter said. "It's a shame we're even having this conversation, to be honest with you." On Tuesday, he said he's inclined to recommend, but not require, a recitation of the pledge. Commissioner Billy Shreve agrees that boards and commissions should begin meetings with the statement and said he would contact the county attorney to look into the issue.

Angela Spencer, chairwoman of the human relations commission, said Huckenpoehler made the initial suggestion to open meetings with the pledge. The group took a vote on the issue at the commission's September gathering; four commission members supported including the pledge, four opposed it, and one person abstained, she said. Spencer said she voted with Huckenpoehler. However, she said involvement by county commissioners isn't necessarily a good thing. It might even set a negative precedent that would lead board and commission members to appeal their conflicts rather than work them out. Commissioner Paul Smith said he is reluctant to interfere with how boards and commissions conduct their business. Though he said he views the pledge as a "broad and profound symbol" that unites Americans across political divides, he argued that requiring the recitation would take away from its meaning. "If you make it mandatory, it kind of undermines the genuine, spontaneous patriotism that you'd like to see in place," he said. Com-

missioner David Gray said he also opposes an across-the-board requirement.

Breiling, who joined the human relations commission last month, said she is sorry her beliefs might result in Huckenpoehler's departure. Her conscience prevents her from joining in the pledge, but she said she always aims to be respectful while others are reciting it. She said she stands and mouths her own version: "I pledge respect to the peoples of all nations in the world and to these beliefs for which I stand, one world, under peace, with liberty and justice for all." She said she appreciates her community and country, but is uneasy with exalting America. "My belief is in the work of all nations," she said. "I get concerned about trying to set our nation over and above others. I think that can lead to militarism and cruelty to others." Her Quaker community has sent her numerous expressions of support since learning of the debate among the human relations commission, she said. Delauter said he thinks Breiling is overlooking the fact that she's able to follow her religious convictions because of the liberties that America offers. The tradition of saying the pledge during commissioners meetings dates back to the mid-1990s, when the board introduced it to their evening hearings. In the early 2000s, commissioners also added the recitation to their work-sessions, county staff reported. [Source: The Frederick News-Post | Bethany Rodgers | 3 Oct 2013 ++]

Have You Heard...Magic Trick

A sailor and a marine go into a pastry shop. The sailor whisks three cookies into his pocket with lightning speed. The baker doesn't notice.

The sailor says to the marine: "You see how clever we are? You marines can never beat that!" The marine says to the sailor: "Watch this, any Marine is smarter than a Dixie Cup, and I'll

prove it to ya."

He says to the baker, "Give me a cookie, I'll show you a magic trick!" The baker gives him the cookie, which the marine promptly eats. Then he says to the baker: "Give me another cookie for my magic trick." The baker is getting suspicious, but he gives it to him.

He eats this one too. Then he says again: "Give me one more cookie..." The baker is getting angry now, but gives him one anyway. The Marine eats this one too. Now the baker is really mad, and he yells: "And where is your famous magic trick?" The marine says, "Look in the sailor's pocket!"



Our Next Reunion: Portland, Oregon

In preparation for Portland as our next reunion city, Lorri and I attended a Military Reunion Planner's Conference in July at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel. This is an ideal reunion location for 2014.



Portland has been described as America's most European city. If that means a great walking city with tons of public transportation, a progressive atmosphere that celebrates the arts, a culture of great food, artisan coffee, beer and wine and neighborhoods chock full of shops selling handmade clothes, crafts and furniture, then we'd have to agree.



On the Willamette River...

As fantastic as Portland is to spend time in, it's one of the easiest cities to spend time outside. The mountains, waterfalls, wine country and other assorted outdoor goodies Oregon is so famous for are all a short drive away.

USS Reeves was no stranger to the Rose City. She made a few cruises to join in the Portland Rose Festival.

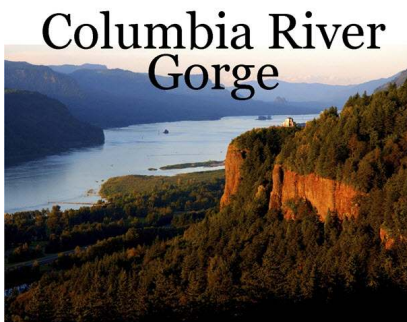
Heeding the call of the "Women's Auxiliary" at the 2012 reunion, Portland is a perfect base for wine and vineyard tours west of Portland.

So much to do, so few days to do it all!



Multnomah Falls at the Columbia Gorge

Our reunions aren't large enough to guarantee full buses and interest in certain venues. The requests for tour opportunities already exceed the days of the reunion.



We are going to set up a "tours" table in the hospitality room where those with and those without transportation can band together for their mutual tour destinations.



Mt. Hood east of Portland



Mt. St. Helens north of Portland

These can include easy drive day trips to Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens. A trip to Mt. St. Helens could include visits to the observation platforms at the Forest Learning Center and the Johnson Ridge Observatory.

Portland is the home to some 30 different breweries. There are pub and brewery destinations aplenty.

No itinerary would be complete without considering the Portland



Spirit Dinner Cruise. This will be the only organized tour on the Reunion agenda. Fresh Northwest cuisine, live entertainment and grand scenery are all the ingredients you need for a memorable evening.

On the Portland Spirit Dinner Cruise, this flagship yacht combines a classic nautical experience with a fine dining atmosphere, while the Captain provides entertaining narration on the outside deck. Major sights on the cruise include Memorial Coliseum, the Rose Garden Arena, Oregon

Pre-Reunion Cruise....

We are waiting for information from the Portland Spirit Cruise people that they are planning a 2014 run up the Columbia River from Portland to Astoria on October 8th



This is a full day cruise to the mouth of the Columbia, with a light breakfast, a full lunch and bus transport back to Portland. If this cruise is scheduled, we will contact everyone about it's availability.

Financials

FY 2013 (Final) Operating

Income

Dues	\$1,040
Donations	\$700
Interest	\$1
Ship's Store	\$289
Cost of Goods	-\$863
Total Income	\$1,167

Expense

Advertising	\$162
Newsletters	\$798
Postage/Delivery	\$142
Program Expenses	\$481
Total Expense	\$1,583
Net Income	-\$416

FY 2013 (Final) Assets

Cash Assets	\$3,494
Liabilities	\$27
Net Equity	\$3,467

Charitable/Educational Objectives

The USS Reeves Association is an educational, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization registered with the Internal Revenue Service, FEIN 86-1163983. For that purpose at the 2010 business meeting, it was recommended that future excess funds be used for donations and scholarships as determined at business meetings starting in 2012.

This newsletter is published by:

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All comments, suggestions, submissions
and criticism are welcome. My email is
always open...

Finding Shipmates

Kurt Stuvengen started the following email chain on 4 Sept:

Chaplain Teske,

I reached out to Chaplain Tidd to see if he had any contact info for former Chaplains. I was aboard Reeves with you in the early 80's. Served in B-Div as a BT2. Recently a Mr. Hung Hong contacted the Reeves crew members on one of the Reeves Facebook pages. He was one of the Vietnamese people we recused. He mentioned you by name and would like to contact you. Would that be alright? If so I will forward on your e-mail address to him. Mr. Hong had been living in FL and is now back in Vietnam. Hope this finds you well. I retired as a CPO in 1999 and now steam boilers at the University of Wisconsin.

Regards,

On Sep 5, 2013, Paul Teske
<pastor@stpaulwestport.org> wrote:

Kurt:

Thank you for the email. You may certainly connect me to Mr. Hung Hong. I vividly remember the episode and have some photos from the 1981 Reeves yearbook. You can also send him my church website www.stpaulwestport.org to provide him with a current update about me and my ministry.

Please keep me posted on USS REEVES reunion gatherings. I may be able to attend one in the future.

Sincerely,

Pastor Paul Teske

Kurt Stuvengen followed up with:

Chaps,

Great to hear from you. The pictures from the cruise book are how Mr. Hong found us. One of the crewmembers posted them to FB. I will pass on your contact info to Hung.

Here is the link to the USS Reeves DLG/CG Association... I will pass your address to Michael Robertson our Secretary/webmaster at ... and he will put you on the list. The newsletter is free whether you join the Association or not.

Glad you are doing well and suspect you will be hearing from Hung very soon.

Regards,
Kurt

I added Paul Teske to our data base. How do we to get Mr. Hung to our Portland Reunion.

Subject: Romantic Dinner

A man and a woman were having a quiet, romantic dinner in a fine restaurant. They were gazing lovingly at each other and holding hands.

The waitress, taking another order at a table a few steps away, suddenly noticed the man slowly sliding down his chair and under the table, but the woman stared straight ahead.

The waitress watched as the man slid all the way down his chair and out of sight under the table. Still, the woman stared straight ahead.

The waitress, thinking this behavior a bit risqué, and that it might offend other diners, went over to the table and, tactfully, began by saying to the woman "Pardon me, ma'am, but I think your husband just slid under the table."

The woman calmly looked up at her and said, "No, he didn't. He just walked in the door."

Shift Colors

To receive the Navy's Shift Colors newsletter via email send the following information to

Mill_ShiftColors@navy.mil -- First name; Last name; E-mail address; Title (Mr., Mrs., rank, etc.); and Military affiliation (retiree, surviving spouse, veteran, other). There is no longer any funding for hard copies to be printed and mailed. To receive Shift Colors it does not matter whether or not you're retired, active duty, a veteran, a surviving spouse, or just someone who's interested in receiving the newsletter.

National Museum of the Pacific War

Fredericksburg, Texas, appears to be typical of small-town America: quaint, family-owned shops and restaurants line Main Street. However, tucked behind a gift store, a German restaurant and other casual eateries stands the National Museum of the Pacific War.



National Museum of the Pacific War.

The museum complex sits on six acres and hosts 50,000 feet of exhibit space, including a stunning collection of artifacts, memorabilia and interactive exhibits in the 33,000-square-foot George H.W. Bush Gallery.

Among the items on display:

An HA-19 Japanese submarine that was used in the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. Visitors can peer inside the sub, one of five used in the attack and the only one on display in the United States.

A door from the USS Arizona.

The casing that would have held the third atomic bomb had Japan not surrendered to the Allies.

A B-25 plane from the Doolittle Raiders.

An M3A1 Stuart tank and the Japanese gun that punctured a hole in the front of the tank — the two

items are set off by the exact distance when they were in combat. The tank was used by the Australian Army at Buna on the north coast of New Guinea in December 1942.

An American flag that was stitched together with a rusty nail by three POWs. They hid the flags from a real American flag for 42 months during their captivity and stitched together red and white strands from a parachute for the stripes.

It's no wonder the museum has received high accolades; The Wall Street Journal wrote, "A museum of this quality — and importance — needs to be seen." And just how did the museum end up in Fredericksburg, about an hour north of San Antonio? "Fredericksburg, Texas, is actually the birthplace of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz," museum director of marketing Brandon Vinyard explained. "The building he was born in is up Lincoln Street, and across the street is a toy store. He was born in a room in the back of that." The restored Nimitz Hotel, located on Main Street, houses the Admiral Nimitz Museum. "His grandfather owned the hotel," Vinyard said. "In the 1800s, Admiral Nimitz spent a good part of his life there before the family relocated." The smaller Nimitz museum focuses on the town's German influence, the Nimitz family and the life and career of the admiral.

The main Pacific War Museum begins in the 19th century with the expansion of western trade to provide background and context to visitors. "We began with the collapse of the Qing Dynasty because that is when the Japanese began to lose respect and fear of China," said retired U.S. Army Maj. Richard Koone, the museum's education director. "The Japanese also realized that they must modernize their military to

prevent the Europeans from doing the same to them as was being done in China. Japan then began to seize Chinese territory and demand concessions eventually resulting in their conquest of Manchuria in 1931 and their invasion of China in 1937. It was the conflict in China that brought the United States and Japan into what would eventually become open conflict." As visitors leave that part of the gallery, they enter a barely lit room and encounter a black hulking mass: the Japanese sub from the Pearl Harbor attack. "The Japanese subs were known to have their gyroscope malfunction and leak toxic fumes, and their batteries would not always work," Vinyard said. "The gyroscope malfunctioning is what caused this one to run aground and led to the pilot ending up being the first prisoner of war of World War II."

From there, visitors walk through watershed moments in the Pacific theater — Manila, Bataan, the Doolittle raid, Midway, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Iwo Jima and more. Less than 10 percent of the museum's collection is on display at any one time. "To be displayed, the artifacts must have some kind of connection to the storyline or the event being portrayed in the exhibit," Koone said, adding that a temporary exhibit gallery is used to showcase other items on a rotating basis. The museum is aiming to continue to grow and tell the story of the war in the Pacific. "The collections on the second and third floors will eventually be accessible to researchers and authors to come in and research, go through the archives, access the oral histories," Vinyard said. "Our plan in the next year is to become the pre-eminent center for research on anything about the Pacific War." Refer to <http://www.pacificwarmuseum.org/index.asp> for more information on the museum's display, visiting hours, and amenities.

Future Reunions

Looking ahead, San Antonio would be a great 2015/2016 October reunion location. Be part of the selection process and join us in Portland to select our next gathering time and place. Emails are also a good

way to make your preferences known.

The National Museum of the Pacific War is an overwhelming USN destination choice! In particular, this is an ideal location for a two-bell ceremony for all of our

past shipmates who are no longer present to attend our reunions.

OK, Texicans. You've got our attention. Let's make this one the biggest reunion of all—and tell us what year you'd like!

Obituary for Navy Tradition (1775-2013)

In a press release from Washington D.C., the Navy Department announced the death of Navy Tradition after a long illness. Navy Tradition was born into a world of turmoil and revolution in 1775. Starting with nothing as a child, Navy Tradition evolved to become an essential part of the most powerful Navy the world had ever seen. He was present when James Lawrence ordered “Don’t give up the ship” as he lay mortally wounded on the deck of the Chesapeake. He witnessed cannon balls bouncing off the copper-shielded sides of the USS Constitution, “Old Ironsides.” He fought pirates off the Barbary Coast and suffered with his shipmates on the battleship Arizona during the attack at Pearl Harbor. He fought his way across the Pacific with Nimitz and saw MacArthur fulfill his promise to return to the Philippines. Navy Tradition was there when sailors fought bravely to save the frigate Stark after it was hit by a cruise missile and witnessed the launch of Tomahawk missiles from the battleship Missouri at the outset of Desert Storm.

Through all the strife, good times

and bad, tradition was port his and give the mis-some-panied a Be the peace or Tradi-

sure that we always remembered we were sailors. He made sure that promotions were celebrated with an appropriate “wetting down”; crows, dolphins and wings were tacked on as a sign of respect from those already so celebrated; chiefs were promoted in solemn ceremony after being “initiated” by their fellow brethren; and only those worthy were allowed to earn the title “shellback.” But in his later years, Navy Tradition was unable to fight the cancer of political correctness. He tired as his beloved Navy went from providing rations of rum to its sailors to conducting Breathalyzer tests on the brow. He weakened as he saw “Going into harm’s way” turn into “Cover your



Navy Tradition there to sup-shipmates a balance to ery that times accom-life at sea. nation at at war, Navy tion made

backside,” and as “Wooden ships and iron men” morphed into “U.S. Navy, Inc.”

A lifelong friend of Navy Tradition recalled a crossing-the-equator ceremony during World War II: “I had to eat a cherry out of the belly button of the fattest sailor on the ship. It was disgusting. But for that few minutes, it took our minds off the war and to this day it is one of my greatest memories.” In lieu of flowers, the family of Navy Tradition has asked that all sailors who have earned their shellback and drunk their dolphins; who remember sore arms from where their crows were tacked on and were sent on a search for “relative bearing grease” or a length of “water line”; who’ve been through chiefs’ initiation or answered ship’s call in a bar fight in some exotic port of call, to raise a toast one more time and remember Navy Tradition in his youth and grandeur. Fair winds and following seas, Shipmate. You will be missed.

[Source: Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Sousa (USN Ret.) letter to Navy Times Oct 2013 ++]

TRICARE & ObamaCare

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as the health care law (and Obama Care), was created to expand access to affordable health care coverage, lower costs, and improve quality and care coordination for all Americans. Under the health care law, people will have health coverage that meets a minimum standard (called “minimum essential coverage”) by January 1, 2014, qualify for an exemption, or may be required to pay a fee if they have affordable options, but remain uninsured. Because of this, many TRICARE beneficiaries may be wondering how this new law will affect them and their families. Simply speaking, the Affordable Care Act will have very little impact on TRICARE beneficiaries. The biggest change they will notice may be an extra letter in their mailbox every January, and an extra box to check on their tax forms every April.

Beneficiaries who receive TRICARE benefits, whether at no cost, by electing to pay an enrollment fee, or by paying monthly premiums, have minimum essential coverage under the Affordable Care Act. This includes: TRICARE Prime, Prime Remote and Standard; TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS); TRICARE Young Adult (TYA); TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR); and the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP). Eligibility alone for premium-based TRICARE benefit plans – TRS, TYA, TRR and CHCBP -- does not constitute minimum essential coverage. Eligible beneficiaries must purchase and be in good standing, by paying their premiums to have coverage in force, in order for these TRICARE programs to qualify as minimum essential coverage. There are two groups of TRICARE beneficiaries who do not meet the minimum essential coverage requirement: those getting

care for line of duty only related conditions, and those only eligible to receive care in military hospitals or clinics.

Beginning with the 2014 tax season, and every tax year after that, the Department of Defense will send every TRICARE beneficiary the same information it sends the Internal Revenue Service. This notification will detail whether sponsors and their dependents had minimum essential coverage during the previous year. Sponsors can then use this information when they file their tax forms. Because the information sent to the IRS is generated using beneficiaries’ Social Security numbers, it’s essential for sponsors to make sure their family’s Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) information is correct and up to date.

[Source: AFPS DHA article 10 Oct 2013 ++]

Ship's Store

We are slowly building our ship's store as we can find affordable sources and stock selected items.

Ship's photos from each era:

1960's (\$10) + s/h



1967— Entering Sydney Harbor

1970's (\$10) + s/h



1975—Departing Pearl Harbor

1980's (\$10) + s/h



1985—Enroute Yokosuka from Australia

Shipping and handling:

Shipping is via USPS. Please add the following for each item to cover the association's packaging and postage costs:

Photos: \$1 per photo

Ball caps: \$2

Mousepads: \$1

Challenge Coins: \$2 for 1, \$.50 for each additional coin

Shirts: \$2 per shirt

1990's (\$10) + s/h



1992—Seattle Sea Fair Festival

Reunion ball caps (\$10 each) + s/h

2009—San Diego

2010—Chicago

2012—Charleston



Challenge Coins (\$14) + s/h



Golf Shirts (\$20) + s/h



Mousepads (\$10) + s/h



T-Shirts (\$15) + s/h



USS Reeves Association - Ship's Store Order Form					
Item	Description	Qty	Price	S/H	Total
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Ball Cap					
Mousepad					
Challenge Coin					
Golf Shirt					
T-Shirt					
				Total	

Send to: USS Reeves Assn c/o Michael Robertson
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Mead, WA 99021

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Other—Phone: _____ Email: _____

Who Is A Veteran?

Many veterans still do not know they are veterans. If you are a former or retired member of the United States Armed Forces, you may qualify for benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. If you are receiving this newsletter, you most certainly are a veteran.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs defines “veteran” in Title 38, United States Code, Section 101, as “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable.” Being a veteran does not mean being male, or having served in combat, or even having served in wartime. Former and retired members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Com-

missioned Corps, as well as some other groups with World War II Service, qualify for benefits from the VA. Some examples of those with World War II service are the Women Airforce Service Pilots or “WASPS”, Merchant Mariners, and Filipino veterans who served with U.S. forces.

The definition of “active military, naval, or air service” is not as clear as one would think. Guard and Reserve members may still qualify for veteran status if disabled by injury or disease during active duty for training or inactive duty for training. Former and retired members of the Guard and Reserve still qualify for some benefits including educational benefits and home loan guaranty from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs even if not labeled a veteran under Title 38. Some benefits from the U.S. Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs require a certain amount of time on active duty, a discharge under “other than dishonorable conditions”, or wartime service. Most State Departments of Veterans Affairs also offer benefits to veterans, and may have different definitions of a veteran for benefits eligibility. If you are unsure of your veteran status, check with a Veterans Service Organization or Military Service Organization. Gather any documentation you have of your service. Every veteran has a different experience of his or her time in service to America. But they all share a common characteristic: a veteran is someone who, at one point, wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America for an amount of ‘up to and including their life.’ [Source: MOAA Claims Assistance Blog | Lauren Kologe | 1 Oct 2013 ++]

Have You Heard?

Fresh from my shower, I stand in front of the mirror complaining to my husband that my breasts are too small. Instead of characteristically telling me it’s not so, he uncharacteristically comes up with a suggestion.

“If you want your breasts to grow, then every day take a piece of toilet paper and rub it between them for a few seconds.”

Willing to try anything, I fetch a piece of toilet paper and stand in front of the mirror, rubbing it between my breasts. “How long will this take?” I ask.

“They will grow larger over a peri-

od of years,” my husband replies. I stopped. “Do you really think rubbing a piece of toilet paper between my breasts every day will make my breasts larger over the years?” Without missing a beat he says, “Worked for your ass didn’t it?”

He’s still alive, and with a great deal of therapy he may even walk again, although he will probably continue to take his meals through a straw.

Ed: Seems to me that this is similar to sending the boot seaman to the Bos’n Locker for several yard of waterline, or the boot fireman for a left-handed wrench.

Miss Jones

From Ron Brown, BM-3, 64-66:

This teacher (Miss Jones) went to school one morning and told her students she would give them a certain word and they could make up a sentence using that word.

Five or six kids did so—then came Johnnie’s turn. The teacher told Johnnie, “It’s your turn and your word is fascinate. Make up a sentence using ‘fascinate’.”

Johnnie thought for sometime before saying, “Miss Jones, the only thing I can think of is: my sister has a blouse that has 10 buttons. Her breasts are so large, she can only fasten eight.”

Ed: Ron! What goes on in that one room school house up there in Maine?

Valuable News Sources

As I have said before, the semi-monthly RAO Bulletin is an invaluable source of USN/DOD news for this newsletter. I strongly recommend every Veteran subscribe to this informative and timely source:

Lt. James “EMO” Tichacek, USN (Ret)

Editor/Publisher RAO Bulletin

RAO Baguio, PSC 517 Box RCB, FPO AP 96517

Tel: (951) 238-1246 in U.S. or Cell: 0915 -361-3503 in the Philippines.

Email: raoemo@sbcglobal.net

Web Access:

<http://www.veteransresources.org>,

<http://frabr245.org> or

<http://vets4vets.zymichost.com/rao.html>

Agent Orange Lawsuits BWNVVA/MVA vs. Shinseki

In a new suit filed in federal court in Washington DC, two veterans organizations have filed suit against the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric Shinseki, for failing to provide benefits to a group of Vietnam War veterans who served aboard ship off the coast of Vietnam. Over a hundred thousand of these Blue Water veterans were exposed to Agent Orange through their drinking water while providing gunfire support, air support and logistic support in the territorial seas off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam. The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association, (BWNVVA) a not for profit corporation chartered to advance the cause of the Blue Water Navy veterans, along with Military-Veterans Advocacy (MVA) another non-profit who advocated for veterans, filed the 32 page suit charging that the Secretary ignored scientific evidence which showed the presence of Agent Orange in the waters off shore as well as solid proof that the shipboard distillation process, which converted saltwater to potable drinking water, enriched the effect of the dioxin.

Attorney John Wells, who brought the suit, is a retired Navy Commander and served as Chief Engineer on three Navy ships. "I am very familiar with the naval operations at the time and the distillation equipment that enriched the dioxin." Wells said. "We have taken this evidence to two separate committees of the Institute of Medicine, and they agree that the distillation process, based on Henry's law of thermodynamics, would have co-distilled and enriched the dioxin. This confirmed an earlier study by the University of Queensland." Wells is the Executive Director of MVA and previously served as Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs for the BWNVVA.

After retiring as a surface warfare officer he opened a law practice in Slidell Louisiana with emphasis on military and veterans law. John Paul Rossie, a retired Information Technology expert, served in the Navy off the coast of Vietnam. Rossie has served the BWNVVA since its inception as its Executive Director. He said as follows: "Sea service personnel operating in the war zone were given a straight shot of Agent Orange into their drinking water. They drank it, showered in it and had their food prepared with it," Rossie continued, "but the VA has just ignored them. Now they are dying and leaving their families without the VA compensation that they earned."

Prior to 2002, the Blue Water Navy veterans were granted the presumption of exposure. This was rescinded based on a 1997 VA General Counsel's opinion that concluded the words "service in the Republic of Vietnam" meant "service in-country." Australia, an American ally in Vietnam, has been granting benefits to their naval personnel since 2003. The Blue Water Navy veterans actually won a restoration in benefits from the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in 2006 but that decision was set aside on administrative law grounds by the United States Court for the Federal Circuit in 2008. "This suit covers different grounds," Wells noted. "We are not attacking the lack of rulemaking as was the case in the previous suit, but we are showing that the Secretary's decision was arbitrary and capricious, unsupported by substantial evidence and in violation of existing law. The VA currently grants the presumption of exposure for ships that steamed into inland waterways that they have arbitrarily defined as rivers. What the VA either did not know or intentionally ignored, is that

the 1958 Convention on the Territorial Seas and the Contiguous Zone, which the United States has signed and ratified, includes bays and harbors as inland waterways. Additionally the treaty makes the territorial seas part of the sovereign territory of the nation.

"I sat down with John Gingrich, who at the time was the Chief of Staff for the VA and showed him a picture of Da Nang Harbor, which is surrounded on three sides by land. He thought that the harbor was covered. I had to show him his own manual which specifically excepted the harbors. He agreed that the VA's position did not make sense and agreed to re-visit it. Instead last December, the VA published a Notice saying that they would not change their policy. The VA did not return the telephone calls I made to them after the notice was published." The plight of the Blue Water Navy veterans has support in Congress. Presently 127 members of the House (including Rep Mike Michaud (D-ME) ranking member of the Veterans Affairs Committee) are co-sponsoring a bill by Rep. Chris Gibson (R-NY) to restore the presumption of exposure to those who served in the territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam. "We are heartened by the bi-partisan support of this bill," Rossie said, "but despite the support, it is still stalled in Committee. So while we are continuing to gather support in Congress, we felt the need to also move forward in court. Our people are dropping like flies and we need to try any avenue we can to obtain these benefits." Point of Contact: John B. Wells. Direct Line 985 290 6940 Email JohnLawEsq@msn.com.

[Source: Salem-News.com | John B. Wells | 3 Aug 2013 ++

Mesothelioma, Our Next Frontier

Working with Paul Richmond and the Agent Orange issue, we are expanding our search for disease sources. Everyone who ever walked the decks

of a Navy ship, knows that the vessel was full of asbestos, from stem to stern, keel to foretop. We are looking for builder drawings to support any

mesothelioma claims from our shipmates. These have been showing up over the years. It's just that—no one thought to ask... Sad!



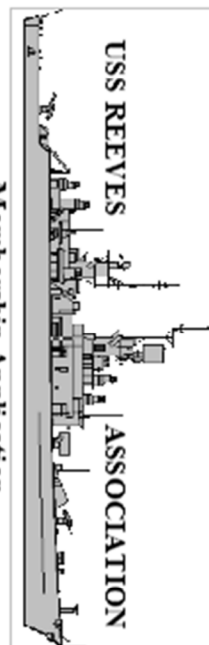
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Membership in the Association includes the right to vote and hold elective office. It also includes receiving a newsletter, email updates and further privileges as to be determined by the Board of Directors.

Dues Per Year: \$20.00

I also wish to support the goals of the Association which is the building of a membership that will increase interest in bi-annual reunions, as well as the establishment of a newsletter and other means of communicating our activities with all Reeves shipmates. I am making an additional donation of \$_____.

I enclose my check or money order in the amount of \$_____.

I am interested in helping the Association grow and become successful. I wish to serve on a committee, provide other assistance or have an interest as follows:

Mail application to:

USS REEVES (DLG-24/CG-24) ASSOCIATION
 15709 N Sycamore St
 Mead, WA 99021

For further information call or email Michael Robertson at 509-315-8107, fax 703-740-9161

More details online at: michael.d.robertson@comcast.net
[USS Reeves Association Website](http://www.ussreeves.net/association.html) (hyperlink)

at <http://www.ussreeves.net/association.html>