

# THE IRONMAN—A DOUBLE ENDER’S NEWSLETTER

## Membership Scorebox

Current	63
Lifetime	9
Past Due	135
Snail Mail Ad- dresses Only	268
Email Address	499
Total Shipmates	3,934

### Dues Notice!

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

If it doesn't say Current or Life 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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## What The United States Flag Stands For

By Angela Bell

*A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Centennial High School in Peoria, Arizona.*

She was crafted in the hands of liberty and washed in the name of justice. She is saluted by the bravest heroes to walk this earth and a wretched curse to her foreign enemies. She is flown over battlefields as a symbol of victory and in remembrance of those she lost. Like a mourning mother, she weeps and drapes herself over her fallen soldiers’ coffin, for they paid the ultimate price in her name. Their sacrifice gives her life. She watches over the future leaders of this nation as they gain knowledge in her classrooms. She resides along the bright stars as she gazes down at her loved one from her mount on the moon. She is the United States Flag and she is revered by her people.

Since the inception of organized civilizations, societies have adopted symbols to represent their virtues and distinguish them from others. In this sense, America is no different. Founding father, revolutionary general and first U. S. President George Washington defined the flag as such: “We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty.”

Along with Washington’s definition are countless others; each differently embodies the nature of the star-

spangled banner and what it stands for. It stands for freedom and a democratic government by the people. It stands for the blood, sweat and tears of the nation’s bravest soldiers. It stands for the trials and tribulations that a unified country overcame, against all odds. And it stands for the wildest dream of the youngest, purest American child.

Those stars and stripes are a beacon of hope for men, women and children of all nations; may the flag forever fly over a free people and may the United States never forget the cloth from which she was cut.

*Source: Fleet Reserve Association monthly magazine FRA Today, June 2016 issue, page 28, 2015-2016 FRA Americanism Essay Contest. Angela Bell was the overall contest winner.*

### Reunion Boxscore

The reunion in San Antonio October 6th through October 9th will be the largest we have assembled to date. On this our 10th anniversary as an organization, it is fitting that we have a faithful cadre of shipmates, including our life members, that renew each year and attend our reunions.

For San Antonio, we will have shipmates across the spectrum from 1964 to 1993, commissioning crew to decommissioning crew; shipmates who served in Vietnam and Enduring Will, Gulf of Tonkin to the sands of the Persian Gulf. And, all those who called Yoko home in the sixties and eighties!

See Page 8 for reunion information, hotel reservations and reunion registration. As my kids say, be there or be square!

## The President's Page



Greetings to the Reeves Association Family;

Welcome to the Summer of '16. We seemed to have waited forever for Spring to make an arrival in Southern

Colorado. When it did arrive, it only stuck around for a few days before launching right into summer. Quite a departure from the long slow spring ramp-up we were accustomed to on the East Coast, but since winter is all gone.... we're good with it. We celebrated this year by taking a trip we have been talking about for years, and headed off to the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona. We took our camper, but it could hardly be considered "camping", as we didn't exactly rough-it. We spent the week marveling down from both the south and north rims of the Grand Canyon, which has to be one of the most spectacular sights in America. We really couldn't see enough of it. It was an amazing road trip, and we may have worn-out the term "wow", as it was repeated repeatedly to keep up with all the cool things we saw. We even managed to take in Southeastern edge of Utah on the return trip. Big rock walls a plenty.

But it turns out that the Grand Canyon venture is only the start of a year we plan to see a lot more of America. We have trips planned throughout the summer, as we work our way up to the big road trip in October, when we head our way down to San Antonio to re-unite with some old friends, and hopefully make the acquaintance of some new ones. Yes, we're talking about the

Reeves Association Reunion, and time for you to plan on joining us for the reunion is starting to run out.

Planning for this 10-year anniversary reunion has been going on over the last two years, since we made the "Let's head to Texas" decision at our last reunion in Portland. We now have everything in place and ready to go for our October 6-10 reunion dates. We've reserved a block of rooms at the *El Tropicana River Walk Hotel* in beautiful San Antonio, so that our shipmates can get the best deal we could muster, and we'd all be in one place for the festivities.

The good news we're hearing from the hotel is that we have a lot of shipmates that have already reserved rooms. From the counts we have so far (39 rooms confirmed), this promises to be one of the best attended reunions to date. It looks like we have already outdone the numbers for our reunions in San Diego and Portland, which were our best previous attendance numbers. We also have an additional 22 reunion registrations made through the association that don't necessarily include a hotel reservation. In addition, we have had a few positive responses that don't show up on either list.

For the time being, this is all very good news. It's nice to have such a great turnout well in advance of the event. However, as we get closer to the reunion dates we need to pull all these lists together to understand just how many shipmates (and guests) are headed our way, to ensure we met everyone's needs. To help with that effort, we make a few requests; 1) If you haven't called the hotel, please confirm your

reservations by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2) if you haven't filled out your reunion registrations (attached at the end of the newsletter), please get them completed and mailed to Mike, 3) if you've already completed steps 1 and 2..... you can consider yourselves completely squared-away and should immediately treat yourself to an appropriate adult beverage. During the enjoyment of said beverage, you should make an effort to call a long-lost Reeves shipmate, and see if they'll consider joining us.

When making reservations, please remember to mention the USS Reeves Association, so that you get the rate we negotiated and we get some more help in holding our costs down. For you San Antonio locals who may not be staying at the hotel with us, please indicate this on your reunion registration so we don't worry about you.

So for now we are off to enjoy the next few months of nice summer weather, as we look forward to joining all our Reeves Shipmates for what promises to be the best reunion we have ever had. We hope you make plans to do the same.

Here's wishing you fair winds and following seas.

Tom Bailey BT2 (84-87)

Mustang on the loose..... We are very proud to announce that Reeves shipmate CDR Rick Gilbert (Who went from BTFA to BT2 on Reeves 83-87) was recently selected for advancement to CAPT (06). Rick worked in both FWD and AFT Fire Rooms, and was also ran the Oil Lab during his stay on the Reeves. That's getting it done Rick..... Congratulations Shipmate!

**This newsletter is published by:**

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

### Life Memberships

At the 2014 reunion in Portland, shipmates voted for a Life Membership. After researching various Associations, it was decided that the US Navy Cruiser Sailor Association's plan was best for the USS Reeves Association. Monies for life membership are placed in an interest-bearing account and not mixed with operating funds. The schedule is simple:

Age	Amount
Under 50	\$500
Under 60	\$400
Under 70	\$300
Under 80	\$200
80 or older	\$100

We already have nine life members.

## Emails, Etc.

Michael,

I just sent you an article from our local TV station where they addressed the status of Agent orange and Blue Water Sailors.

This says what we have all have been saying in the that you guys were effected by Agent Orange even if you didn't step foot on land.

It seems that a congressman, Jeff Miller from Pensacola Fl is sitting on this.

Nancy K Elkins

*Ed: The contents of that article are posted on page 4.*

Mike,

I was looking at the ship's roster and noticed that you have me as PO3 when I was RM3.

How do you look at the Deck Logs? I guess we were a group of Reeves sailors that chose to not have a cruisebook. I wonder if it is still possible to put something together with all of our pictures?

David Boudreau

*Ed: Thanks for letting me know that you were an RM3. I pull information in where ever I can find it.*

*We have only a couple of pages from the deck logs (1966). A complete set would contain nearly 330,000 pages. At roughly \$1 per page, that's a lot more than we can afford.*

Michael,

I have an extra copy of the 1977 Westpac Cruise Book. Please send me the shipping information and I'll drop it in the mail.

Bruce Underwood/HT2 75-77

...

I haven't gotten a response so I thought I would try once more. I served on the Reeves from 75-77 in R division. I came across the notice in DAV magazine about the reunion this year so I went to the web site where I saw the information on sending in cruise books for the site. I

was one of the contributing photographers for the 77 cruise book as well as the unofficial ships photographer. Along with the book I would like to donate I also have 30 or so photos (I will put on a disk) from the line crossing ceremonies, un-rep, a ships formal inspection by Capt. Chang held on the pier at the Yokosuka Naval Base and returning home to Pearl Harbor. If you are interested in these items for the web site please send me a mailing address and I will send them, if not please let me know and I will return them to storage.

Thank You,

Bruce Underwood

*Ed: I was a delegate to the Washington State Republican Party Convention in Pasco, WA, when Bruce first contacted me. After electing a full slate of Cruz delegates, I contacted Bruce to get the materials sent to the Association.*

Hello-

My father Robert Federighi passed away yesterday. He was so fond of his ship!

He was HM-2 from 1965-1967, born June 1st, 1946 and died May 24, 2016

Thank you.

My address is 830 Almond Drive, Aurora, IL 60506. I'd like to know about the reunion this fall.

Jennifer Carnes

*Ed: Robert's information has been posted on the Remembrance Page on the website. He will be remembered at our banquet dinner in San Antonio.*

My father, CJ "Dusty" Hendricks, served on the Reeves as SKC in the early 1960's. He taught SK school at the Newport naval base, where I was born in 1963. Unfortunately my dad died of colon cancer many years ago. I remember him telling a few stories about his time aboard but like many teenagers, I didn't listen nor remember as well as I could or should have.

I believe he was stationed on the Reeves when it was commissioned. I have a booklet, and a few things from that ceremony, which I believe my mother, also deceased, attended. My question, is there someone that would enjoy, or some entity that would maintain these things (assuming I can still find them!)? While I am proud of my dad's service, maybe someone else would enjoy these things rather than gather dust in his old foot locker, which he got in Bremerton and still has his name, rank, etc written on its top.

Thanks for your time and thank you for your service.

Tom Hendricks

*Ed: C J Hendricks is now posted on the Remembrance Page. His obit data has not yet been found.*

Hello,

Was great to find this site but I'm afraid there is a crew member missing from the roster. I served on the Reeves (albeit only one year) in 76/77.

DS2 Thomas Pinkasavage OPs OD.

Thanks,

Tom

*Ed: Tom, there are lots of shipmates missing from the rosters. And, there's even more information missing from all those shipmates who are listed. It's a labor of love, one shipmate at a time.*

What's up shipmate this is MM3 Henri Tavares Jr I have a copy of the 88 -90 cruise book.

*Ed: And I asked him to send it to me so that I could scan it and then send it back.*

*Ed: David Boudreau is right. There was a time when we didn't put cruise books together. I remember the cruise book committee sitting in my living room in 1973 with ENS Bill Kwake sorting a ton of pics...*

## Spreading Concern About The Effects Of Agent Orange



Jets and helicopters used the destroyer USS Buchanan as target practice in the year 2000. Mike Kvintus, of New Port Richey, remembers a much different ship. He served on the Buchanan during the Vietnam War.

"We provided direct shore bombardment for the U.S. Military. We also provided search and rescue missions for our pilots," said Mike, a former Bosun's Mate on the ship.

The military sprayed Agent Orange on the jungle to kill vegetation and along river banks. Rivers flow into harbors. Deck logs obtained by 8 On Your Side show the Buchanan maneuvering into Da Nang Harbor on August 12, 1966. Herbicide exposure maps for that same day also reveal the military sprayed thousands of gallons of Agent Orange around Da Nang.

"The plume just covered that whole harbor," Mike remembered.

Today, Mike suffers from diabetes,

heart disease and neuropathy, all conditions that are caused by Agent Orange. The Department of Veterans Affairs rejects that his illnesses are tied to the defoliant since he never stepped foot on Vietnamese soil.

Advocacy groups contend the VA is ignoring plenty of scientific evidence that shows Blue Water Navy vets were exposed to a more concentrated form of Agent Orange through ships' water systems. Distillation systems turned salt water into fresh water to power ships engines and more.

"We drank that water; we bathed in it, brushed our teeth, everything in that water," Mike said.

According to studies done by the Australian Navy, as well as the Institute of Medicine, distillation systems actually exposed sailors on ships in harbors and just off the coast to a more potent form of Agent Orange.

"The studies have shown that, that actually did not remove the dioxin, it enriched it," explained retired navy commander and lawyer John Wells. Wells heads Military Veterans Advocacy, Inc.

"So these guys were getting a straight shot of Agent Orange into their drinking water," he added.

Florida Congressman Jeff Miller of Pensacola, chairs the House Veterans'

Affairs Committee. Miller said he isn't buying it. He's asked the Department of Defense to test the distillation systems of Vietnam era ships for traces of Agent Orange.

John Wells contends that makes no sense at all and is a waste of taxpayer dollars.

"Here's why, those ships, from the time they left Vietnamese waters, were constantly being flushed by water. All the piping was being flushed; the distillation plants were being flushed; the tanks were being flushed because that's part of normal ship's operations," Wells pointed out. "Most of them are either at the bottom of the sea or razor blades."

Navy veterans are hoping Congress passes the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015, but Miller has refused to let it out of committee until he gets more evidence.

There will be no luck determining whether there are traces of Agent Orange on the USS Buchanan. "It's at the bottom of the ocean," Mike chuckled.



*We can be angry at our Representatives that protect us against parasites who take advantage of our government's largesse, when those governmentals take the "show me" road.*

*Jeff Miller was born in 1959 and was six years old when I first deployed to Tonkin Gulf.*

*He wasn't there and he didn't see the oil slicks in the early morning drifts at SAR or Yankee stations. He may be a good advocate for the military. He's a couple cards short of a full deck when he questions the Agent Orange scenario for surface ships in the Blue Water Navy.*



**"If ye break faith - we shall not sleep" IRISH PROVERB**



### 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>

## Reunion 2016: San Antonio, Texas

Our reunion base in San Antonio this year at the [El Tropicano River Walk Hotel](#).



In the proposal from El Tropicano, several problems were overcome. The largest was an acceptable daily room rate (\$115). Additionally, all of the San Antonio hotels charge daily parking rates. The El Tropicano reduced their daily parking rate from \$16 to \$12. The next was the daily complimentary breakfast included in the daily room rate—a \$10 daily value per person. This was followed closely by no charges for the hospitality and banquet rooms, or setup and daily service fees, and lastly, the hotel agreed to participate in our Friday welcoming reception. Basically, the hotel was willing to negotiate.

Since there is so much to do on the River Walk, and the nearby Downtown and Old Town (Mercado) areas, only one day trip is planned—to the National Museum of the Pacific War



El Tropicano Pool

(Admiral Nimitz Museum) in Fredericksburg. See the information in the registration form. Reserved seats are going quickly. Presently, 38 are reserved; 55 are available. If the demand is big enough, we may be able to arrange additional bus transportation.

San Antonio tours depart the hotel regularly and cover all sites of interest. The most complete city tours are the all-day Ultimate Trolley Tour and the Grand City Highlights Tour.

As there are no plans for a dinner cruise, evenings are free to explore the many restaurants throughout the area. As done at past reunions, there will be a Welcome Reception in the Hospitality Room with a hosted bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres on Friday evening.



Admiral Nimitz Museum

Thursday and Saturday evenings will be free to explore the culinary delights along the River Walk and in the Mercado.

Shipmate Jeff Brinkmeier (a San Antonio resident) has highly recommended a Texas Cookout night at the Salt Lick BBQ. It is located in Austin, an hour north of San Antonio. We are looking at organizing a caravan Saturday night. The Association would be able to provide beer and wine for a group dinner. Check with planning at the registration desk.



For those who feel more agile and adventurous, there is the Ultimate San Antonio Segway tour of the downtown tour highlights. That would be a memory worth a million pictures.

Set aside the dates 6 October 2016 through 9 October 2016 to meet with many shipmates at the El Tropicano River Walk Hotel in downtown San Antonio. Many of our 50+ Texan shipmates are already planning a big Texas welcome. At this printing, we expect nearly 40 shipmates, and a total of over 70 for the event.

### Please Read

***Room reservations made through the hotel by shipmates as part of our room block help defray costs for breakfast, any daily parking charges, the hospitality room, daily hospitality services and banquet room. These costs are normally added to a contract.***

***Web-shopping makes sense. It hurts us.***

***It has been suggested that a reasonable surcharge be added to the registration form (or raise the registration fee) for those staying elsewhere than the host hotel or those making reservations through web-based travel sites to reduce lodging costs. This is an agenda item for the Association meeting on Sunday.***

## FY 2016 Financials

### FY 2016 Operating P&L To Date

#### Income

Dues	\$1,640
Donations	\$298
Reunions	\$4,806
Ship's Store	\$809
Misc	\$13
Cost of Goods	-\$778

**Total Income** **\$6,788**

#### Expense

Advertising	\$108
Newsletters	\$391
Postage/Delivery	\$17
Reunion Expenses	\$1,138
Misc	\$451

**Total Expense** **\$2,105**

**Net Income** **\$4,684**

### FY 2016 Balance Sheet To Date

Total Assets	\$13,961
Liabilities	\$865
Net Equity	\$13,121

### 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.

### Shift Colors

To receive the Navy's Shift Colors newsletter via email send the following information to [Mill\\_ShiftColors@navy.mil](mailto: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.

## RADM William D. Center—Biography

*RADM Center is known affectionately to us (REEVES shipmates) as CAPT Center (1987-1989). He was a strong believer in the Navy's improvised steel beach barbecues in the middle of the Persian Gulf during Operation Earnest Will (July 1987—December 1988), escorting tankers past the Iranian Navy.*

*He will be our guest speaker at the 2016 San Antonio Association Reunion (October 6th through October 9th). He will be attending all of our events for all four days.*

*To the rest of the world, he is now known simply as Bill. This is his official non-Navy biography.*



Bill Center retired from the U.S. Navy as Rear Admiral in 1999 after 35 years service and not long afterwards assumed leadership of a Seattle-based trade advocacy

group where he worked for the next seven years. He then lectured and served as the senior advisor for international fellows programs at the University of Washington's Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.

Bill is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and the Evans School. A specialist in policy analysis and strategic planning, Center served as a senior advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff on

### No-Tipping Policy Impact

Joe's Crab Shack made headlines last November when it boosted its servers' hourly wages and adopted a no-tipping policy at 18 of its 131 restaurants. Now, just six months into the trial run, the popular casual seafood chain is pulling the plug on the no-tipping policy and reverting back to the standard gratuity model at all but four of the test restaurants. It turns out the no-

arms control and international agreements. He was General Colin Powell's deputy director for international negotiations and served in the same role for General John Shalikashvili. In his final assignment, from May 1996 to May 1999, he commanded the Navy's third largest fleet concentration area, Navy Region Northwest.

During his naval career he served in a wide variety of assignments including more than twenty years of sea duty. He commanded the minesweeper USS EXPLOIT (MSO-440), the frigate USS MEYERKORD (FF-1058) and the cruiser USS REEVES (CG-24). Along with his wife and two sons, he lived in Japan during four different assignments totaling eight years, including three years as chief engineer on the aircraft carrier USS MIDWAY (CV-41).

Since retiring from the Navy, Center has devoted himself to nonprofit leadership, education and volunteer work. He is a leader in the Rotary Club of Seattle and the US Naval Academy Alumni Association. A sought-after public speaker, he taught various courses on leadership, economics, global business and U.S. Foreign Policy at the University of Washington.

Raised in Los Angeles, Bill and Karla – his wife of 47 years – reside in Seattle, WA. He enjoys spending time with their twin granddaughters, music, cooking, woodworking, landscape design and sports.

tipping policy was not only unpopular with Joe's workers, but the majority of its customers also disliked it, Nation's Restaurant News reports. "[O]ur customers and staff spoke very loudly [about the policy]," said Bob Merritt, CEO of Joe's Houston-based parent company Ignite Restaurant Group, in an analyst call last

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Ship's Store

*Ships Photos (\$10) + s/h*



1968— Entering Sydney Harbor



1985—Yokosuka from Australia



1975—Departing Pearl Harbor



1992—Seattle Sea Fair Festival

*Golf Shirts—all sizes (\$20) + s/h (2XL/3XL-add \$2)*

*T-Shirts—all sizes (\$15) + s/h (2XL/3XL-add \$2)*

*Mousepads (\$10) + s/h*



*Challenge Coins (\$14) + s/h*



*Ball caps (\$12 each) + s/h*

- 2009—San Diego
- 2010—Chicago
- 2012—Charleston
- 2014—Portland -



*Ship—DLG 24*

*Ship—CG 24*



### USS Reeves Association – Ship's Store Order Form

Price	S/H	Total	Description
		Total	

**Shipping and handling:**

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

Photos: \$2 per photo

Ball caps: \$4 each

Mousepads: \$3 each

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

Shirts: \$5 per shirt

**Shipping Label**

To:

Address:

City, State, ZIP:

Phone:

Email:

Send order to: USS Reeves Association  
c/o Michael Robertson  
15709 N Sycamore St  
Mead, WA 99021

All store items will be available at the San Antonio reunion, October 6th through October 9th, 2016.

## VFW To Obama: 'No Confused Politics Here'

In defending his administration's handling of the economy, President Obama took a swipe at the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States yesterday by alleging it was confused by rightwing media pundits and outlets. During a speech in Elkhart, Ind., the president said "I'm concerned when I watch the direction of our politics. I mean, we have been hearing this story for decades — tales about welfare queens, talking about takers, talking about the 47 percent. It's the story that's broadcast every day on some cable news stations, on rightwing radio. It's pumped into cars and bars and VFW halls all across

*America, and right here in Elkhart. And if you're hearing that story all the time, you start believing it. It's no wonder people think big government is the problem. No wonder public support for unions is so low. No wonder that people think the deficit has gone up under my presidency when it's actually gone down."*

"I don't know how many VFW Posts the president has ever visited," said VFW National Commander John A. Biedrzycki Jr., "but our near 1.7 million members are a direct reflection of America, which means we represent every genera-

tion, race, religion, gender, and political and ideological viewpoint. We don't have confused politics, we don't need left or rightwing media filters telling us how to think or vote, and we don't need any President of the United States lecturing us about how we are individually affected by the economy. "Our nation was created and continues to exist solely because of the men and women who wear the uniform," he said. "Let's not denigrate their service, their sacrifice or their intelligence." {Source: *VFW Action Corps Weekly* | June 3, 2016 ++}

## Atomic Vets: Operation Hardtack I & The VA's History Of Denial

In 1958, Frank Farmer was a young sailor on the USS Hooper Island, one of many deckhands who took part in an operation so secret, they couldn't talk about it for almost 40 years. Afloat in the Pacific, the ship participated in Operation Hardtack I, a series of 35 nuclear tests conducted in the throes of the Cold War arms race with the Soviet Union. Farmer personally witnessed 18 of the explosions. "You feel the heat blast from it, and it's so bright, you actually can see your bones in your hands," Farmer said in a new documentary highlighting the service of thousands of U.S. troops who participated in nuclear weapons testing from 1946 to 1968.

The "Atomic Vets" installment of Retro Report, released on Memorial Day weekend, is a collaboration of Reveal News, from the Center for Investigative Reporting and The New York Times. Reveal reporter Jennifer LaFleur said the journalists decided to tackle the year-long project to spotlight a forgotten group of veterans and call attention to their ongoing fight for recognition as well as disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. LaFleur, whose father served in the Marine Corps and participated in the largest atmospheric nuclear test ever conducted in the continental United States during Operation Plumbbob, was surprised by how little Americans know about the secret history of the Cold War. "I hope people are able to learn, and the Atomic Veterans could get some sort of recognition as they've been fighting for all these years," LaFleur said.

Following the bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, that ended World War II, the United States embarked on a nuclear testing program that began at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands and moved to the Nevada desert as well as parts of Alaska, Colorado and Mississippi. The country conducted more than 1,000 nuclear tests before 1996 when the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was introduced. The precise number of veterans who participated in the tests is a topic of debate but could be as high as 400,000, according to LaFleur. They have never received any commendations or ribbons related to their service and many have had to fight for health care benefits to treat illnesses they believe are related to ionizing radiation exposure.

The VA has deemed a number of cancers as presumed to be related to radiation exposure, meaning that a veteran who develops a recognized disease doesn't need to prove a connection between his or her illness and their military service. VA has designated several other diseases as associated with radiation exposure but the veteran must provide proof of exposure during the claims process. Many have been denied, however, and more are not recognized as Atomic Veterans because their military records were lost or they participated in post-test cleanup that isn't considered by VA as part of the group. "The veterans who went back to the Marshall Islands [in the 1970s] are fighting for health care and benefits," LaFleur said.

One of the veterans interviewed for the

video at [https://vp.nyt.com/video/2016/05/29/40294\\_1\\_retro-atomic-vets\\_wg\\_360p.mp4](https://vp.nyt.com/video/2016/05/29/40294_1_retro-atomic-vets_wg_360p.mp4) and <http://nyti.ms/1X7hiuP>, Army engineer Steve Harrison, said he spent months moving dirt and concrete on the island of Runit, where a concrete dome covers the debris. "One of my buddies there just recently came down with lung cancer," Harrison said. "There were (a) number of guys, though, that are sick with different kinds of cancers, skin rashes, and they're all being denied by the VA," Harrison said. Last November, Rep. Mark Takai (D-HI) introduced a bill that would extend health benefits and disability compensation to those who served on cleanup crews. Sens. Al Franken (D-MN) and Thom Tillis (R-NC) introduced similar legislation in April.

Although the film focuses on the plight of a specific group of military veterans, LaFleur says it is likely to resonate with troops who have been exposed to other environmental toxins while serving in the military, from chemical testing in World War II to Cold War biological testing, Agent Orange, nerve and mustard gas, tainted vaccines, burn pits and depleted uranium. Her father, Lee LaFleur, died in 2012 of heart disease but had Parkinson's for much of his life. He never completed an application for VA benefits, she said. "The one thing that came off from all these guys is even though many of them feel they were guinea pigs, they don't regret their service at all and are very proud to have served this country," LaFleur said. [Source: *Military times* | Patricia Kime |

**USS REEVES (DLG/CG-24) ASSOCIATION REUNION  
2016 REGISTRATION FORM  
October 6-9, 2016**

***Important! See Additional Information on Reverse!***

Make hotel reservations with the **El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel**, 110 Lexington Ave, San Antonio, Texas 78205, Reservations: 877-736-4311 | Email: [reservations@eltropicanohotel.com](mailto:reservations@eltropicanohotel.com). Tell them "USS Reeves Association Reunion" to ensure proper credit to our Association and receive the group rate (\$115.00 per night).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Years served on board: 19\_\_\_\_\_ to 19\_\_\_\_\_, Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate onboard \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 pm Hotel registration. Reunion check-in at the Hospitality Room.

**Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 – 8:00 pm Welcome Reception in Hospitality Room with open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres

**Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 – 5:30 pm National Museum of the Pacific War Tour, Fredericksburg, TX. (Optional, transportation provided. Reservations required. Meals not provided.)

**Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 – 4:30 pm Association meeting – Hospitality Room

5:30 – 7:00 pm Cash-bar happy hour: Group/Individual Photos

7:00 – 10:00 pm Reunion Banquet:

Choice of (please indicate number of orders — vegetarian entree available upon request):

#\_\_\_ Grilled New York Strip (10 oz., topped with sautéed mushrooms & caramelized onions, loaded smashed potatoes)

#\_\_\_ Chicken Roulade (stuffed with baby spinach, mushrooms, & parmesan cheese, garlic cream sauce, rice pilaf)

#\_\_\_ Grilled Atlantic Salmon (with lemon dill caper cream sauce, with wild rice pilaf)

Dinner also includes El Tropicano salad with ranch dressing, fresh Market Vegetable Medley, fresh baked rolls and butter, Dulce De Leche or cheesecake, regular or decaf coffee, fresh brewed iced tea.

**Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am -12:00 pm Hotel checkout & departure

There is a single, all inclusive fee of \$110 per person for the reunion that includes the Welcome Reception, beverages & snacks for the hospitality room, banquet cost, reunion ball cap and attendee materials. Tours are not included in this fee.

I will attend the reunion \_\_\_\_\_ I am bringing \_\_\_\_\_ guest(s).

TOTAL attending x \$110 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL for Museum/Fredericksburg Tour \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL for Shirts \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (see back) TOTAL Enclosed for Reunion \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Renew your 2016/2017 Association Dues at this time: \$ 20 per year. Enclosed for Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and return no later than 8/31/2016 (sooner if at all possible!); make check payable to:**

**USS REEVES ASSOCIATION**

**Mail to: Michael Robertson, Reunion Planner  
15709 N Sycamore St, Mead, WA 99021 509-315-8107**

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**USS REEVES (DLG/CG-24) ASSOCIATION REUNION  
2016 REGISTRATION FORM  
October 6-9, 2016**

**Reunion, Tour Information & Reservations**



**Association Shirt** – This is a handsome, high quality, Navy Blue polo shirt with the USS Reeves Association logo embroidered on the left chest. The shirt is an exclusive product of our Post Falls, ID, supplier. Most reunion shirts have date and place information included in the embroidery. This shirt will appear as shown. Reunion date and place are included on the complimentary reunion ball cap. Sizes available: S, M, L, XL, XXL and XXXL. The price for shirts are \$20 (add \$2 for sizes XXL and XXXL). **Latest date for returning registration forms and ordering shirts is 8/31/16.**

\_\_\_ Yes, I would like a shirt(s). Qty: \_\_\_ S , \_\_\_ M , \_\_\_ L , \_\_\_ XL , \_\_\_ XXL , \_\_\_ XXXL

**General San Antonio Tour Information.** Other than the Nimitz Museum tour, reunion-organized tours will not be offered. Tour opportunities in San Antonio are so diverse that the organization couldn't possibly guarantee 25 participants for any particular tour and cover the cost of transportation and entry. There are tours of nearly every description, from the 8-hour grand tour, to the 2.5-hour Segway tour, to the hop-on hop-off double decker downtown shuttle, to the have-it-your-way walking tours ranging from ½ mile from the hotel to 1.5 miles from the hotel (and visit everything from the Mercado (Old Town) to the west and the Alamo to the east). If you have access to the internet, go to <http://www.eltropicanohotel.com/life-on-the-river-en.html> for a sampling of site destinations. For the best recommendations, go to <http://www.viator.com/San-Antonio/d910/top-attractions>. Tickets may be purchased on-line for many of the motorized tours, some at savings over regular prices.

**National Museum of the Pacific War (Nimitz Museum) — Departs hotel @ 0830 (8:30 am) returns by 1730 (5:30 pm).**

The National Museum of the Pacific War is a dynamic, world-class experience designed for visitors of all ages and backgrounds. It is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific Theater battles of World War II. Located on a six-acre site, the Museum includes the George Bush Gallery, Admiral Nimitz Museum, Pacific Combat Zone, Plaza of Presidents, Memorial Courtyard, Japanese Garden of Peace, and (opening soon) the Nimitz Education and Research Center. Explore the Museum Complex and immerse yourself in Pacific War history, American and Japanese culture of the time, and heartfelt tributes to the heroes of the Pacific Theater. Feel what it was like to walk the wooden dock alongside a PT Boat, stand in the hangar deck of an aircraft carrier as a torpedo bomber is readied for a strike, and view Japanese battlefield entrenchments.



**Admiral Nimitz Museum** - This is the flagship of the Museum Complex on a 6-acre campus. A landmark in Fredericksburg since the late 1800's, the building was the old Nimitz Steamboat Hotel, owned and operated by Admiral Nimitz's grandfather Charles Henry Nimitz Sr. and is where Chester W. Nimitz spent his early childhood. Today, fully restored to its original splendor, the iconic building houses exhibits



its on the life and career of Admiral Nimitz, the Cailloux Education Center, and the Admiral Nimitz Grand Ballroom and Mezzanine.

**Fredericksburg** - founded in 1846 by German immigrants, today Fredericksburg is the unofficial capital of the Texas Hill Country, attracting visitors from around the world. The town has maintained its charm by preserving architecture and institutions of historical importance and encouraging the development of Main Street's shops, galleries, brew pubs and restaurants, which range from "down home" to cosmopolitan. The Museum is located on Main Street (Texas Route 87) in downtown Fredericksburg.

The most difficult decision of the day will be selecting one of many restaurants for lunch. Fee includes transportation, admission and driver gratuity.

\_\_\_ Yes, I/we will participate. Number participating: \_\_\_ x \$25

**Amount Enclosed For Shirt(s) and Nimitz Tour \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (please copy to front page)**

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## Battle of Midway Update 01 ► Code Breakers Honored

The more than 100 U.S. Navy intelligence code-breakers who played a key role in the World War II victory against Japan were honored in ceremonies at Pearl Harbor on 6 JUN, the 74th anniversary of the Battle of Midway. Sworn to secrecy, most of the code-breakers never received public recognition during their lifetime. “That honor was being denied them while they were doing their work here,” said Capt. Dale C. Rielage, director of intelligence and information at the Pacific Fleet. A commemoration was held before news cameras at Building 1, also known as Station HYPO, where the intelligence unit worked in secret in the basement, intercepting and interpreting Japanese communications during the war. The basement is now used mainly as a storage area.

The Battle of Midway, June 4-6, 1942, is viewed by many historians as the key turning point in the war against Japan because the United States was able to cripple Japan’s carrier fleet and halt its expansion in the Pacific. The battle resulted in the destruction of four Japanese carriers and 256 aircraft and the deaths of more than 2,204 Japanese sailors and

aviators. The U.S., by comparison, lost one carrier, 150 aircraft and 307 men, according to the Navy. “That broke the back of Japanese naval aviation,” said Brad Sekigawa, historian at the Naval Air Museum at Barbers Point. After the battle, he said, the Japanese lacked a sufficient number of experienced personnel to develop its naval fleet. Burl Burlingame, historian at the Pacific Aviation Museum, said the Battle of Midway showed that, contrary to some who felt naval destroyers were the primary weapons in battle in WWII, carriers and aircraft could also play a pivotal role. He said in the battle, U.S. dive bombers were able to penetrate the Japanese defenses.



Before the battle got underway, the Pearl Harbor-based intelligence unit, led by Cmdr. Joseph J. Rochefort, knew Ja-

pan was mounting naval forces at a place called “AF” and suspected that AF was Midway but needed to confirm the location, Rielage said. Rochefort’s combat intelligence unit had the naval station at Midway send an unencrypted message noting that Midway’s desalinization unit wasn’t working. Days later the combat intelligence unit intercepted a Japanese message that mentioned the desalinization unit wasn’t working at AF, confirming that Japanese forces were mounting an attack at Midway.

Rielage said through the 1940s and the early 1950s, not even the official naval historian was aware of the code-breakers’ role in the Battle of Midway. The Navy declassified some information about the code-breakers at Pearl Harbor in the 1970s as a film about the Battle of Midway was being produced, and declassified all the information in the 1980s. Rochefort, who died in 1976, was posthumously awarded a Distinguished Service Medal in 1985 and awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1986. [Source: The Honolulu Star-Advertiser | Gary T. Kubota | June 7, 2016 ++]

## Joe’s Crab Shack

*(Continued from page 6)*

Wednesday. “And a lot of them voted with their feet.”

Joe’s Crab Shack hiked the wages of its servers and raised its menu prices at the no-tip restaurants to cover the increased labor costs. Merritt said the pilot restaurants saw an 8 to 10 percent drop in customers after implementing the no-tipping policy. The restaurant chain’s research revealed that about 60 percent of its customers disliked the change in the tipping policy. “Merritt said customers disliked the no-tipping policy for two reasons: first, they didn’t want to lose control of incentivizing service, and secondly, they didn’t trust manage-

ment to pay the increase price to employees,” said Restaurant News. As it reverts back to the standard gratuity model at 14 of the test sites, Joe’s also plans to roll back prices at those locations. According to CNN Money, the no-tipping policy will remain at four of the fast-casual seafood restaurants where it was well-received. Merritt said his company will also try and identify the reasons why the policy works at some locations and not at others. “The system has to change at some point,” Merritt said. [Source: MoneyTalksNews | Krystal Steinmetz | May 13, 2016 ++]



## My Tip Philosophy

Always remember the rule of 2: a \$10 bill earns a \$2 tip, a \$20 bill earns a \$4 tip and so forth. In the worst of circumstances, service may be total crap, but the server is still being paid a lot less than minimum. Their attitude is not your problem. A smile will go a long country mile to solve a few labor problems.

Places that take advantage of their servers and the generosity of their customers will make a case for paying the minimum to their employees. Don’t punish the wait staff.

In a coffee shop, the typical tip will be \$4. The meal will usually cost \$20. If it costs \$25, then leave a \$5 tip.

If you don’t want to deal with tips, go to McDonald’s, Burger King, Wendy’s or Popeye’s.

Lastly, establish a good rapport with your server. Exhibit patience. Go to the bar, get an attitude adjustment, and make sure the table server gets credit for the bar service—but make sure you give a cash tip to the bar server (using the same rule of 2).

I love Christmas all year long...

*Michael*



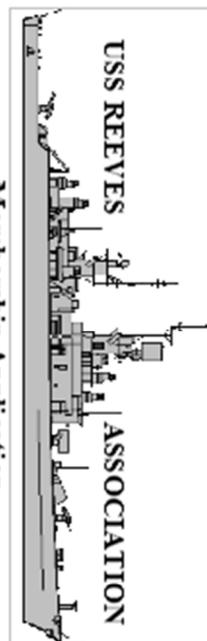
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Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I served on the USS REEVES (DLG-24/CG-24) as a \_\_\_\_\_ (rate/rank) from 19 \_\_\_\_\_ to 19 \_\_\_\_\_.

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:

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

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