



FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

www.flamincaiman.org

JAN 2011

COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

To all CAIMAN Shipmates and their families – HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope you are all in good health and that Santa was good to you this past Christmas. The Association is working on our May 2012 reunion in San Antonio, Texas. We have several good leads for hotels with reasonable prices. We don't expect the hotel price to be as low as Circus Circus was, but we will do the best we can. Just a reminder – Dues are now due for the 2012 reunion. Dues are \$10 per reunion cycle or \$75 for life membership. VERY IMPORTANT – If you change your snail mail or email address, or phone number, PLEASE, PLEASE notify the Association so you can continue to receive newsletters and reunion information. I hope to see everyone in San Antonio in May 2012.

John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

Eligible for a pension

A little-known veterans' benefit for long-term care expenses is available to wartime veterans and their spouses. But the benefit is being overlooked by thousands of families, industry observers say. The Special Pension for Veterans' Aid and Attendance pays up to \$1,644 a month, \$19,736 annually, toward assisted living, nursing homes or in-home care for veterans 65 and older who served at least 90 days including at least one day during wartime - **stateside or overseas**. Congress defines the periods of war as Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946; June 27, 1950 thru Jan 31, 1955; August 5, 1964 thru May 7th 1975; and from August 2nd 1990 to date. You may qualify for this benefit, subject to certain asset and income limits. Veterans and their spouses can receive up to \$23,396 annually and spouses of deceased veterans, \$12,681. For more information, contact a Veterans organization, the VA, or use this link. [http://ezinearticles.com/?Little-Known-Veterans-Pension-That-Can-Earn-You-Up-to-\\$22,000-a-Year-Tax-Free!&id=1423015](http://ezinearticles.com/?Little-Known-Veterans-Pension-That-Can-Earn-You-Up-to-$22,000-a-Year-Tax-Free!&id=1423015)

Yes that is the web page – it is long.

PATROL REPORTS

All submarines submitted a detailed report of each war patrol they made. At the end of the war these reports totaled approximately 1,550 and over 63,000 paper pages. During the 1970's these were photographed and reproduced on microfilm to make them more easily accessible and easily reproduced (approx. 250 rolls). During 2008 this microfilm was scanned into digital format, and in 2009 it was made available online. <http://hnsa.org/doc/subreports.htm>. The CAIMAN reports are on our web site. As a hint, if the print is too small to read, right click with your mouse then click on zoom.

For our shipmates who do not have internet access, I have all the patrol reports on DVD. Contact me if you would like a copy.

ETERNAL PATROL

I have the sad duty of reporting that we lost two wives since our last newsletter.

Kidder, Celeste, Wife of John (44/45) 9 November 2010
Kurath, Julie, Wife of Craig (68/70) 22 August 2010
Rest in Peace.

DONATIONS

There was a story floating around at the last reunion that donations to the USS CAIMAN ASSN were not tax deductible. This is **NOT** true. We are a tax-exempt non-profit veterans association under section 501(c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our membership consists of over 90% war veterans so all donations made to our organization are tax deductible.

WARNING TO VETERANS

Forwarded from Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way. <http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>
VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DOD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services. In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty
Staff Attorney
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of General Counsel (022G2)
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

REUNION LOCATION

Some shipmates were unhappy about the process that lead to choosing San Antonio as the next reunion site. We believe we have a way to avoid the problems that occurred the next time we vote at our next reunion. One of our shipmates suggested the following, and the Association board has agreed. We will have an "unwritten rule". I use the term "unwritten" because USS CAIMAN Assn's bylaws do not mention reunion location votes. If any locations are within five votes we will have another vote on just the locations that are within five votes. By mentioning this in a newsletter, even though some of us are memory challenged, someone will remember this "rule". We believe this will avoid any future problems.

USAA INSURANCE

Many of us remember when USAA Insurance would only insure officers. That has changed. They will now insure White Hats, oh yes, Chiefs also. They are finally recognizing that we are the good guys. They have very good rates. Check them out on the web.

CONTACTS

As I am sure most of you are aware, our board members live in different areas. To make it easier for our members to get information and answers to any questions, I am listing contact information and title:

USS CAIMAN Assn Commander

John "Yeo" Fagereng
4042 Barnes Rd
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-1549
707-544-7903

USS CAIMAN Assn Vice Commander

Chris "Hoofs" Field
900 Dartmouth St
Newberg, OR 97132
503-538-3999

USS CAIMAN Assn Secretary/Treasurer

Doug "Smitty" Smith
3835 B Maple Ave
Bremerton, WA 98310
360-377-4763

USS CAIMAN Assn Web Master/Photo Editor

Greg "Hawkeye" Baer
4809 100th Ave Ct NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
253-265-2814

Those with email - any email sent to the address you receive this newsletter from will be received by all of members of the board. You will get at least one answer and hopefully one of them will be correct.

BURIAL AT SEA

Razorback base of Sub Vets (USSVI) will perform a "burial at sea" from the USS Razorback for submarine sailor's cremated remains. A local VFW supplies honor guards and 21 gun salute with taps. Members of the base assist in services. If any CAIMAN sailors or families are interested please call Bob (Arky) Bowlin (501-450-3559) for additional information. Razorback base doesn't charge for this service. USS Razorback is the decommissioned boat at Little Rock, AR.

SAILING LIST

We are still looking for CAIMANITES. I located one in Hawaii recently thanks to Sub Vets. Here are our latest figures. Please help us locate the missing 201 shipmates. If you know the area they are from, another boat they served on, where their wife was/is from, where they lived at anytime, let us know. I have located CAIMANITES using all those methods, any hint will help.

Sailing List:	1224
Expected at the next reunion:	563
Eternal Patrol:	661
Lost List:	201

REUNION PLANNING

Yeo and I plan to go to San Antonio in May to check the hotels and plan a tour or excursion for us in May 2012. We have several hotels that are interested in CAIMAN, and we intend to remind all hotels the deal Circus Circus gave us. Submarines do not normally have the attendance we do. There is a large group of retired bubbleheads living here in Bremerton and I have almost been called a liar when I mention our attendance figures. Our reunions are becoming known. Since Yeo was so nice and put my address and phone number in the reunion announcements, I receive many letters and phone calls from cities that want us to attend. I have explained our reunion location selection process so many times I have the spiel memorized. I also get phone calls after our reunions to see what city we selected. The world is learning that CAIMAN was a special boat and CAIMANITES are special people.

SUBMARINE COOKBOOK

Wally Gage TMC(SS) ret. recently wrote a cookbook, US NAVY SUBMARINE "CHEF" RECIPES of all the recipes that were used on US Navy Submarines and reduced them down to family portions. The price of the book is \$24.95 plus shipping of \$3.95. The book includes a tribute to all 65 lost submarines and crews and another section describing the location of all the US Navy Submarine Museums. It can be ordered from his website www.SubmarineVeteransCookbook.com or by phone 417-336-4400.

COMMEMORATIVE BRICK

Deterrent Park is located on Naval Submarine Base Kitsap, Bangor. The centerpiece of the park is a full scale replica of a FBM submarine topside with the USS WOODROW WILSON (SSBN 624) sail and upper rudder. Memorial bricks with engraved messages are used to form the submarine's missile deck. The Board recently purchased a brick for the CAIMAN Assn. Our brick is engraved with:

USS CAIMAN SS323

1944 - 1972

Our brick will be installed in May 2011. Individuals may purchase bricks. Information is available at the web site is <http://gertrude-check.org/deterrentpark.htm>. Bricks may be purchased for \$40.00 each which includes all engraving costs. You may purchase as many bricks as you wish. Once purchased, bricks become park property. You will receive a certificate verifying the message to be engraved and a chart showing approximate location of your brick.

"I saw the submariners, the way they stood aloof and silent, watching their pigboat with loving eyes. They are alone in the Navy. I admired the PT boys. And I often wondered how the aviators had the courage to go out day after day and I forgave their boasting. But the submariners! In the entire fleet they stand apart!"

*James Michener
Tales of the South Pacific*