



# FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

[www.flamincaiman.org](http://www.flamincaiman.org)

## MAY 2017

Well CAIMAN Shipmates, it is good to be settled down in North Carolina. We have just a few items in the garage to put away. I am sure glad to be away from California. I will not miss the earthquakes or the continuing scare that the big one is coming. I hope everyone has had a great 2017 so far and look forward to 2018 and our reunion in Little Rock, Arkansas. It should be a great time for all as the USS Razorback is a museum boat on the river. Smitty and Dings will be setting up the arrangements for our reunion this May. They always get the most reasonable price for all our events. This next reunion will be our eighth one and I am looking forward to seeing everyone who can possibly make it. We all look forward to each reunion and reminiscing the "good old times."

John "Yeo" Fagereng, (67/68) Commander

## CAIMAN'S 8<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

CAIMAN's 2018 reunion will be on May 7 – 10, 2018. We will be at the Holiday Inn Presidential in Little Rock, Arkansas. We have rooms at \$99.00 plus a 15% state tax, for a total of \$113.85 a night. This includes a breakfast buffet every morning. The hotel has queen and king beds so when you make your reservations state which you desire. Room with two queens are also available. Reservations will be open starting on June 1, 2017. The hotel phone number is 501-375-2100. Reservations will close on April 15, 2018 (IRS day). If you want our room rate remember to tell the clerk you are with the USS CAIMAN group. Reservations may be canceled up to the day before your arrival with no charge. The hotel has a free shuttle for their guests. This will allow us to partake in the many great restaurants in the area. The hospitality room is close to the bar for the shipmates that want something besides beer.

## USS RAZORBACK

We have the USS Razorback for the day Wednesday. They are turning the boat and barge over to us. I was told they trust submarine sailors but they expect us to keep an eye on the civilians. We will have a complete run of the boat, but remember DON'T TOUCH ANY VALVES, SWITCHES, ETC. We are required to consider ourselves NQP's. There will be buses to transport us to and from the boat and a catered lunch.

## REUNION TEE SHIRTS

CAIMAN has been lucky and has had shipmates design and purchase tee shirts for three of our reunions. Our tee shirt supplier has a great art department which has helped us in the design of these tees. Of course, they also print the shirts for us. If any shipmate desires to furnish tees for a reunion, please contact me and I will help you in the design and purchase of the shirts. Please do not wait till a few months before the reunion as the design and printing takes some time. Let me know soon if you want to furnish tees for the reunion.

## NAVY TO RESTORE ENLISTED RATING TITLES

A NAVADMIN message cancels a late September decision in which service leadership announced it would no longer address sailors by their rating – a more than 200-year-old tradition in which enlisted were known by their job title – and instead refer to enlisted sailors with the generic titles of Seaman (E-1 to E-3) or Petty Officer (E-4 to E-6). The unpopular title change was the most visible part of an enlisted rank modernization effort spearheaded by former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Michael D. Stevens.

In the message, CNO Richardson said Navy leadership had heard the criticism. "We have learned from you, and so effective immediately, all rating names are restored." "The feedback from current and former sailors has been consistent that there is wide support for the flexibility that the plan offers, but the removal of rating titles detracted from accomplishing our major goals."

Richardson had signaled leadership was considering reverting to the old rating naming system earlier this month after talking to thousands of sailors.

"I underestimated how fiercely loyal people were to their rating," Richardson said on Dec. 6 during an all hands call, Navy Times reported. "I've gotten a fair amount of feedback on that."

The look at the revamp for the enlisted system was born from Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus' push to create gender-neutral terms for the Navy and the Marine Corps, leadership said in September. Instead of tweaking rating titles like Damage Controlman or Hospital Corpsman, the Navy instead moved to refer to junior enlisted sailors by a generic title and adopt a series of Navy Occupational Specialty codes. The NOS codes are similar to the Military Occupational Specialty used by the Army and Marines and the Air Force Specialty Codes system.

"Our goals for modernizing the enlisted career development program – rating modernization – are to provide greater choice and flexibility for our sailors with respect to detailing and training, to provide greater flexibility for the Navy in assigning highly trained personnel, and to increase professional alignment with civilian employers," Richardson wrote. We strongly believe that providing this flexibility will make us a more capable Navy."

The reintroduction of ratings is by no mean the end of how the Navy will continue to reshape enlisted career paths or planned changes to titles in the service, Richardson said in the message.

"This course correction doesn't mean our work is done – rating modernization will continue for all the right reasons. Modernizing our industrial-age personnel system in order to provide sailors choice and flexibility still remains a priority for us," Richardson wrote. **ED:** *Over 100,000 active & past sailors voted against this*

## LAST REUNION

I forgot to mention in the last newsletter, that one of CAIMAN's adult supervisors wore a dress to the last dinner that resembled a naval uniform. She included a set of dolphins, a divers symbol, and a USS CAIMAN shoulder patch. We greatly appreciate her showing her pride in the Navy and in CAIMAN.

## LEGISLATION CREATING VIETNAM VETERANS DAY SIGNED INTO LAW

President Donald Trump recently signed legislation into law. The "Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act" (S. 305) sponsored by Senators Pat Toomey (Penn.) and Joe Donnelly (Ind.) establishes March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day. The date was selected because March 29, 1973 was the date that the last combat troops were ordered out of Vietnam. The bill passed the Senate and House unanimously. The law makes March 29 an official day "the flag should be displayed."

"In many cases, Vietnam veterans did not receive the warm welcome they earned when they came home. Thankfully, in the years following the Vietnam War, people and organizations across the country took it upon themselves to right this wrong by honoring the sacrifice and dedication the service our Vietnam veterans displayed. Permanently designating March 29th as National Vietnam War Veterans Day is a small, yet significant step, in these efforts," said Sen. Toomey. "With this bipartisan bill signed into law, we can finally give our Vietnam veterans the additional recognition they deserve. These Americans sacrificed to protect our country. They are our family, friends, and neighbors. It is important to honor and remember their patriotism, service and sacrifice," said Sen. Donnelly.

## Navy Rolls Out Four New Job Ratings

Military.com | Feb 01, 2017 | by Hope Hodge Seck  
After pulling the plug on a short-lived effort to get rid of its ratings system entirely, the Navy announced Wednesday it will add four new ratings for active-duty sailors, in an effort to channel more specialized training and resources to key positions aboard submarines and surface ships.

The ratings include yeoman submarine, abbreviated (YNS); logistics specialist submarine (LSS); culinary specialist submarine (CSS); and fire controlman Aegis (FCA), officials said in an announcement published Wednesday

The change will affect a relatively small number of sailors. According to data provided by Navy Personnel Command, the number of active-duty sailors eligible for each new rating is as follows:

YNS: 565  
LSS: 568  
CSS: 951  
FCA: 2,430

The new ratings will take effect Sept. 2 for sailors in the rate of petty officer first class, Oct. 17 for sailors in the rate of chief through master chief, and Nov. 28 for rates up to petty officer second class.

The ratings will be automatically applied to sailors who meet certain criteria, according to a Navy administrative message signed by Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Robert Burke.

## FY 2017 SPENDING BILL

Congressional budget negotiators reached a final agreement on spending for the current fiscal year (FY2017) that includes a \$21 billion boost to Defense spending compared to FY2016. Most of that increase will go to readiness. The bill passed both chambers and was sent to the President to be signed into law.

## CAIMAN'S ADDRESS

Yeo has completed his move to North Carolina so CAIMAN's address is back at Yeo's residence. The good news after the move is Judy, Yeo's adult supervisor, is still talking to him. Judy has put Yeo in a room above the garage. It is complete with a head and his computer. She is planning on adding a coffee pot so she will only see him at meals. We all know Yeo will not miss many meals.

Our official address is:  
USS CAIMAN ASSN  
167 Pendleton St.  
Raeford, NC 28376

## SAILING LIST

Two lost shipmates have found us. William George EM3(SS) (60/61) and Richard "Worm" Thomas EN2(SS) (67/70) discovered our web site and informed me they were not lost. I am pleased we get to add two more shipmates to our sailing list and hopefully we can expect them at the next reunion.

Sailing List:	1293
Expected at the next reunion:	483
Eternal Patrol:	810
Lost List:	137

## ETERNAL PATROL

Reunions become our chance to see shipmates before final orders are issued. We are a dwindling group so try and attend our reunions.

DUTCHER, Ronald A. EMC(SS) (59/61) 31 Jan 2014  
STUTTS, William H. SN(SS) (50/53) 15 June 2015  
WILLIS, Elisha J. ST2(SS) (52/54) 29 June 2016  
BILDERBACK, O. J. CAPT (62/63) 26 September 2016  
KENNEDY, Joseph W. SN(SS) 46/47 16 Dec 2016  
WEBERT, Warren F. LCDR (65/67) 19 February 2017  
Sailor, rest your oars.

