



MAY 2018

COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

Shipmates, wives, and friends it is just two short months before our 8th reunion in Little Rock, Arkansas. If you haven't signed up, it is not too late. We are all getting older and renewing old friendships is very important. See you ALL on the RAZORBACK in May 2018.
John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

REUNION GRAND PRIZE

I have the grand prize for the 2018 reunion in Little Rock and I am sure everyone would like to have it. The USS CAIMAN Assn board has had good luck in finding items for our reunions that are unique. This reunion is not an exception. It can be viewed at <http://www.flamincaiman.org/images/2018-grand-prize.jpg>

LIFE RING

Thanks to Hawkeye's building and maintaining our award-winning website, we were contacted by a person here in western Washington that had found a CAIMAN life ring at a garage sale. He offered to donate to us if we picked it up. I now have it in my garage and will bring it to the next reunion. There is a story that CAIMAN lost a life ring when she visited Puget Sound. We believe someone found it, painted over the CAIMAN name and recently sold it at a garage sale. The person that donated it to us was cleaning the yellow paint off and found USS CAIMAN SS323 and contacted us through the web site.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

We continually have problems with email addresses. If you change your email address, please inform us. Also, we still have shipmates that have filters on their email and have not included the email addresses we use. If you would like to be informed about our shipmates, please, unblock the two email addresses CAIMAN uses. #flamincaiman@comcast.net and #dbfrider@comcast.net (delete first character).

DEFENSE BILL

On 12 December 2017, President Trump signed into law the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The bill was approved by Congress in November and authorizes \$526.4 billion for a base defense budget and \$65.6 billion for a war fund. It increases the size of the Armed Forces for the first time in seven years and provides our Military with their largest pay increase in eight years.

REUNION REGISTRATION

Several shipmates have fail to include the \$10.00 registration fee in the total on the reunion registration form. I will collect at the reunion. This addition fee is important for us to continue our reunions as attendance decrease from reunion to reunion. Medical problems and Eternal Patrol orders have taken a toll on our shipmates.

FLAG PROTESTS

AMVETS officials are decrying "corporate censorship" from the National Football League for their decision not to run an ad in their Super Bowl program which responds to league players' decision to kneel for the national anthem in protest of national equality issues. The ad, which would have cost the veterans organization \$30,000, features the tag "#PleaseStand" with a picture of service members saluting the American flag and information on how to donate to the congressionally-chartered organization.

In a statement, AMVETS National Commander Marion Polk said the issue is one of fairness and respect. "Freedom of speech works both ways," he said. "We respect the rights of those who choose to protest, as these rights are precisely what our members have fought — and in many cases died — for. "But imposing corporate censorship to deny that same right to those veterans who have secured it for us all is reprehensible and totally beyond the pale."

In a statement, NFL Vice President of Communications, Brian McCarthy, said the Super Bowl game program "is designed for fans to commemorate and celebrate the game, players, teams and the Super Bowl. It's never been a place for advertising that could be considered by some as a political statement." They noted that the program will include a similar ad from the Veterans of Foreign Wars that states simply "We Stand for Veterans." McCarthy said AMVETS was asked to consider changing their ad to read "Please Stand for Our Veterans" but did not reply in time for production deadlines.

Numerous veterans' groups have criticized the flag protests before football games as "disrespectful" to current and former military members. Players involved in the actions have repeatedly said they are not related to service members in any way. The anthem protests began in 2016 when then San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick opted to sit during the anthem singing as a protest against racial inequality and police brutality. At the suggestion of former Staff Sgt. Nate Boyer, who played football in college, Kaepernick opted to change his protest to kneeling during the anthem, echoing troops "taking a knee" during a mission.

President Donald Trump publicly blasted players who followed Kaepernick's lead calling any player involved a "son of a bitch" and suggesting that teams fire them for the actions. The visibility of the protests has ebbed in recent months, after NFL executives met with player representatives to discuss ways the league can better support activism among employees. AMVETS officials said the same #PleaseStand ad was accepted by the National Hockey League and Major League Baseball for inclusion in their all-star games' programs. The organization sees the advertisement as an extension of their role as a "nonpartisan advocate for veterans and their families."

MY DEPARTURE FOR THE REUNION

I will be departing for the reunion on April 19, 2018. My adult supervisor wants to do some sightseeing and visit relatives. As in most households, she gets what she wants. It makes my life much easier. Any snail mail (USPS) will have to arrive before I leave. If this poses a problem for you please contact me, my phone numbers are: Home 360-692-8232 and cell 360-731-5233. We need accurate counts for the meals and the tour.

HVAC CHAIRMAN VOWS TO PASS AOBWN BILL THIS YEAR

During a joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing, the Chairman of the House Committee, Phil Roe (Tenn.) said. "I have colleagues who are impacted by this issue. So, let's get this issue off the table this year." The act clarifies service members who served off the coast of Vietnam during the conflict have a presumption for filing disability claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for ailments associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Enactment of H.R.299/S.422 will bring a degree of justice to tens of thousands of Navy personnel who have been denied VA services since 2002.

USSVI CRUISE

I RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION RECENTLY AND AM PASSING IT ON. It is unfortunate we must send this message, but clarification is needed in addressing a situation where we have several of our members that are attempting to or have booked passage for our 2018 Convention Cruise through a travel service other than Kim Hedges with AAA, who is our designated agent. The expense and benefits (meeting rooms, hospitality suite, vendor space, etc.) that USSVI incurs/needs to host the up-coming Cruise is no different than any past landlocked convention. Both the expense and benefits are regulated up or down by the number of people that register through the hosting facility we have in place at the event. For the 2018 Cruise that facility is Kim Hedges at AAA Washington. Any bookings outside of AAA will not be registered for the convention and credited to USSVI, which means their attendance does nothing for our organization. Guys, do not try to save a couple of bucks by backdooring a booking through a friends or relatives travel agent, you will not be registered and issued a name tag required to participate in our events and will not be able to participate in any of the convention activities including use of the Hospitality & Vendor Room. We would like to see all of you attend this cruise, but please support our organization by going through the proper channels to register. Please note: No Registration Fees after the Cruise casts off. If you have not done so already, you can register by going to: <http://www.ussviconvention.org/2018/>. Click on the Cruise Registration Button/Register Now Fill out the form and submit the form along with your deposit. **IF YOU SIGN UP FOR THE CRUISE, TELL KIM YOU ARE CAIMAN, SO WE WILL BE SEATED TOGETHER AT THE MEALS. CAIMAN SAILORS THAT STAY IN A HOTEL BEFORE AND/OR AFTER THE CRUISE, KIM IS PUTTING US IN THE HYATT.**

Non-Service-Connected Pension

If you are a veteran who is 65 years-old or older, or permanently and totally disabled you may be eligible for the VA Non-Service Connected Disability Pension (NSC)? This is a program that provides financial support to wartime veterans with a limited income. The amount payable under this program depends on the type and amount of income the veteran and his/her family members receive from other sources. Monthly payments are made to bring a veteran's total annual income (including other retirement and Social Security income) to an established level. You may be eligible for the NSC pension if you were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions and you served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war time, (12/7/1941 – 12/31/1946, 6/27/1950 – 1/31/1955, 8/5/1964 – 5/7/1975, 8/2/1990 – 1/2/1992). Your countable family income must be below a yearly limit set by law. You may be eligible if you are permanently and totally disabled, OR you are age 65 or older. See table at <https://militarybenefits.info/veterans-pension-rate-table/> See a Veterans Service Officer for more details.

AUCTIONEER

CAIMAN's own auctioneer has registered for the reunion. This is a warning to all who might wear a tie to the dinner on Thursday night. Remember what happened to Gerry "GT" Shafer. His tie was auctioned off and the money was used to support the next reunion. If you decide to wear a tie, you could lose a piece of your attire, but you will help the next reunion.

ETERNAL PATROL

This is always a sad entry in our newsletter. Craig Kurath and I attended a memorial service recently for a shipmate. I am glad we could attend but was very sad for the reason. As you can see sometimes we receive word on a shipmate's passing long after he received orders.

Cozad, Duane QMC(SS) (62/64) 27 December 2015
Lecumberry, Larry MM2(SS) (66/70) 7 December 2017
Schmidt, Charles R. TMCM(SS) DV (68/72) 14 Dec 2017
Hall, Orba QMC(SS) (69/70) 2 January 2018

SAILING LIST

We have not added any shipmates to the sailing list since our last newsletter. We have had some of our shipmates receive Eternal Patrol orders

Sailing List:	1340
Hopefully at the next reunion:	482
Eternal Patrol:	858
Lost List:	79

Probably the most expensive ballast ever carried by a ship was two tons of gold and eighteen tons of silver coins carried by the U.S. submarine TROUT while on a trip from Corregidor to Pearl Harbor early in World War II. TROUT had removed her moveable ballast to allow for a larger cargo of ammunition to be transported for the defenders on the embattled island. LCDR. Fenno, TROUT's CO, planned on replacing the ballast with sand bags, but found none were available. The gold and silver from the Bank of the Philippines was substituted as ballast, which also solved the problem of removing the treasure to a safe place prior to invasion by the enemy.

2018 ATTENDEES

NUM	LAST	FIRST	NICK	RATE	YRS	GUESTS
1.	AIELLO	PAT		TM2(SS)	60/65	LIDIA AIELLO
2.	AMATO	SAM	SAM	QM2(SS)	67/69	LIBBY AMATO
3.	ANDREWS	JEFFREY	ANDY	QM2(SS)	67/68	ALICE ANDREWS
4.	AVERY	ROGER	BOOG	EN2(SS)	61/64	
5.	BAER	GREG	HAWKEYE	STSC(SS)	69/71	ALICE BAER
6.	BARNHART	ROGER	BARNEY	EN2(SS)	68/71	MARILYN BARNHART
7.	BROWN	HAL		TM2(SS)	66/68	ANDY BROWN JACKSON BROWN
8.	BRUMMERSTED	DAVID	DAVE	LCDR	65/67	MAJORIE BELAIR
9.	CHRISTIANSEN	BENT	YEO	YN2(SS)	68/70	ROSE MARIE CHRISTIANSEN
10.	CHRISTISON	RANDALL	MR. C	LT	68/69	GINGER CHRISTISON
11.	CLARK	FRANK		LCDR	67/69	PATRICIA NICHOLS
12.	COFFEY	DAVID		STS2(SS)	65/69	
13.	COLEBANK	PHIL		TM2(SS)	67/70	HARRIET COLEBANK
14.	CUNNINGHAM	PHILLIP		EM2(SS)	62/64	PATRICIA CUNNINGHAM
15.	DAVIDSON	ROY	DAVY	QMC(SS)	61/66	SANDRA DE FRATES
16.	DAVIS	JOHN		FTG1(SS) (DV)	68/69	VICKEY DAVIS
17.	DENGEL	ROBERT	DINGS	EN2(SS)	64/68	RENAY DENGEL
18.	EHRNSCHWENDER	DAVID	LUCKY	CS3(SS)	68/71	CAROL EHRNSCHWENDER
19.	ELLIOTT	MICHAEL	SLICK	QM2(SS)	66/69	SHERRY ELLIOTT
20.	ERB	RON		TM2(SS)	58/62	HELEN ERB
21.	FAGERENG	JOHN	YEO	YNC(SS)	67/68	JUDY FAGERENG
22.	FLORIANIC	HARVEY		YN2(SS)	61/61	ELGIA FLORIANIC
23.	GARCIA	HUGO	CIA	TM2(SS)	66/70	TERRY GARCIA
24.	HARER	JIM		EN2(SS)	63/66	NANCY HARER
25.	HART	BUD	BUD	CAPT	61/64	
26.	HARTMAN	DAVID		EN2(SS)	55/57	
27.	HARVEY	CHARLES	HARV	QM2(SS)	58/60	GAYLE HARVEY
28.	HATHAWAY	JACK		EN2(SS)	68/71	VICKI HATHAWAY
29.	HAYES	CHARLES	GABBY	RM3(SS)	53/55	
30.	HUNNICUTT	JAMES	BUCKETS	YNM(SS)	68/69	JANE HAYES
31.	JOHNSON	ROBERT	JOHN	EN2(SS)	53/56	
32.	JURCHECK	JOHN		CAPT	68/70	NANCY JURCHECK
33.	KAISER	WALTER		EM1(SS)	60/62	IRENE KAISER
34.	KREH	RICHARD	RICH	FTG2(SS)	64/66	
35.	KURATH	CRAIG		QM2(SS)	68/70	
36.	LOWE	WILLIAM	BILL	CDR	58/60	SUE LOWE
37.	LUCE	JOHN	BIG JOHN	EN1(SS)	60/66	LAURA LUCE
38.	MAES	DENNIS		TM2(SS)	67/70	REGINA MAES DENNIS MAES II
39.	MAHONY	TERRY	XO	CAPT	67/69	BEVERLY MAHONY
40.	MARCOM	LINDSAY	HOT ROD	TM1(SS)	60/61	
41.	MCGAUGHEY	PHILIP		LCDR	57/59	CHRISTINA MCGAUGHEY REGINALD BEARDSLEY
42.	O'TOOLE	JIM	TOOLEY	MM2(SS)	66/70	KATHY KLOS
43.	POSPISIL	WARREN	POPS	TMC(SS)	70/71	
44.	PUNZEL	PHILLIP		TM1(SS)	69/72	MELVINIA PUNZEL
45.	REEVES	WALTER	NED	TMCS(SS)	64/68	KARLA REEVES
46.	RUGGLES	LARRY		ETR2(SS)	63/64	LOREAN RUGGLES
47.	SANOR	SANDY	SANDY	MM1(SS)	66/70	
48.	SCOBLIC	TOM	BIG STONE	STS3(SS)	67/70	NANCY SCOBLIC SHANNON SCOBLIC
49.	SHAFER	GERRY	GT	LT	64/68	LORI SHAFER
50.	SMITH	DOUGLAS	SMITTY	ET1(SS)	67/69	CHERYL COFFEY
51.	STARR	GERRY		CSCS(SS)	62/63	CHARLOTTE STARR

52.	SWEENEY	TOM	TOM	ETR2(SS)	65/66	
53.	TANEY	GEORGE		ENC(SS)	69/72	MARGARET TANEY JAMES TANEY JESS TANEY
54.	TRAHAN	WALTER	WD	TMCM(SS)	66/70	GAYLE McGLOTHLIN GARLAND GALLET
55.	TROUTMAN	JOHN		LCDR	66/68	SUSAN HEILMAN
56.	TURNER	SAMUEL	SAM	MMCS(SS)	66/68	RUBY TURNER
57.	VAIL	JESSE	JESSE	EMCS(SS)	68/72	BOBBIE VAIL
58.	VASSER	ALBERT		IC3(SS)	71/72	ALLENE VASSER
59.	WARNBERG	GURNEY	BUTCH	EM2(SS)	66/70	SHARYL WARNBERG
60.	WHELAN	CAROLYN		DAUGHTER W. W. FENDER	55/61	JIM WHELAN CRISTINA WHELAN
61.	WILLETTE	LLOYD	WILLY	EMC(SS)	58/61	DONNA WILLETTE