



FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

www.flamincaiman.org

May 2021

COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT On the Lighter Side and for those with a warped sense of humor. A week after his wife disappeared in a kayaking accident, a Claddaghduff, Ireland man answered his door to find a grim-faced Constable and one other waiting in the front yard. "We're sorry, Mr. O'Flynn, but we have some information about your dear wife, Maureen," said one of the officers. "Tell me! Did you find her?" Michael Patrick O'Flynn asked. The constables looked at each other and one said, "We have some bad news, some good news, and some really great news. Which would you like to hear first?" Fearing the worst, Mr. O'Flynn said, "Give me the bad news first." The constable said, "I'm sorry to tell you, sir, but early this morning we found your poor wife's body in the bay". "Lord sufferin' Jesus and Holy Mother of God!" exclaimed O'Flynn. Swallowing hard, he asked, "What could possibly be the good news?" The constable continued, "When we pulled the late, departed poor Maureen up, she had 12 of the best-looking Atlantic lobsters that you have ever seen clinging to her. Haven't seen lobsters like that since the 1960's and we feel you are entitled to a share in the catch". Stunned, Mr. O'Flynn demanded, "Glory be to God, if that is the good news, then what's the really great news?" The constable replied, "We're gonna pull her up again tomorrow." We will do this till the lobster season is over.
John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

REUNION

Remember, third time is the charm!! As everyone is aware of, we have rescheduled the reunion again. The latest dates for the reunion are April 18 – 21, 2022. The hotel and tour company has been very considerate. They have changed dates, rewritten contracts, and transferred deposits with zero problems and zero added expense. I have received many phone calls and several emails stating that the board made the correct choice to delay our reunion. It was a hard decision to make. Everyone is looking forward to the reunion.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Hotel reservations will be open when you receive this newsletter. The new contract has been signed and returned for the third time. The hotel phone number is: 505-884-2500. Remember to tell the room clerk that you are with the USS CAIMAN. I suggest if you plan on attending you make a reservation and if your plans change you can cancel 24 hours prior to your scheduled arrival. Our hospitality room is on the 12th floor of the tower and the hotel has set aside all rooms on the 11th and 12th floor for us. There are a limited number of rooms on those two floors, so get your room early or you will have to walk farther for your first cup of coffee or whatever you use for an eye opener.

REUNION REGISTRATION

If you have not registered for the reunion or have received a refund, use the revised reunion registration form that will be included with the January, 2022 newsletter. We have had four years to get ready and we all are ready for our ninth reunion and it will be fun. After two cancellations, the Albuquerque Crowne Plaza hotel is ready and anxious for us to visit.

DIVING ALARM

We have acquired another diving alarm or klaxon. Hawkeye did a great job restoring it. As at the previous reunion, we will have a separate drawing for the diving alarm. There is no doubt every adult supervisor will be incredibly pleased to have a diving alarm in her house so be ready to buy tickets for our diving alarm drawing. These older diving alarms are becoming exceedingly rare and expensive. The nukes use an electronic "thing" that sounds like a sick cow.

FACEBOOK

For the FACEBOOK users, Hawkeye maintains the FACEBOOK page "**FlaminCaiman DBF**". As a board member, Hawkeye has the straight skinny, so his information is normally correct and up to date. If Hawkeye is not the originator of a post or comment it may be pure scuttlebutt.

SEAWOLF CLASS

The Seawolf class submarines are the latest nuclear-powered fast attack submarines (SSN) in service with the United States Navy. The class was the intended successor to the Los Angeles class, and design work began in 1983. A fleet of 29 submarines was to be built over a ten-year period, but that was reduced to 12 submarines. Seawolf submarines are larger, faster, and significantly quieter than previous Los Angeles-class submarines. They also carry more weapons and have twice as many torpedo tubes. The boats are able to carry up to 50 Tomahawk cruise missiles for attacking land and sea surface targets. The submarines are capable of diving to depths of up to 2,000 feet, and crush depth estimates run from 2,400 to 3,000 feet. At 353 feet long, Seawolf subs were designed to be slightly shorter than their predecessors, by just seven feet, but with a twenty percent wider beam, making them forty feet wide. **CAIMAN was 311 feet long and 27 feet wide so the Seawolf class has a tad bit more room.**

GOOD NEWS

We have been reminded for almost a year to wash our hands. Good News! We have advanced beyond just washing our hands. You can now wash your whole body. Yes, everyone can now take a shower. It has been approved. Showers are now permitted, and you can take hotel showers. Showering with a friend saves water.

BIDEN VOIDS BAN ON TRANSGENDER MILITARY SERVICE

President Joe Biden issued an executive order that requires both the Pentagon and the Homeland Security Department (Coast Guard) to allow transgender individuals to serve in the military. "The all-volunteer force thrives when it is composed of diverse Americans who can meet the rigorous standards for military service, and an inclusive military strengthens our national security" according to a release from the White House. The Executive Order eliminates the previous administration's policy that began in July 2017, that prohibited transgender Americans to serve in the military. Biden's order immediately shuts down any involuntary separations or denials of continued service based on gender identity.

The White House release stated, "Simply put, transgender service members will no longer be subject to the possibility of discharge or separation on the basis of gender identity; transgender service members can serve in their gender when transition is complete and the gender marker in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is changed and transgender service members should know that they are accepted throughout the U.S. military," The Executive order requires the Department of Defense and Homeland Security to report their progress in overturning the ban to the White House within 60 days.

VACCINES

I am aware of COVID virus causing the passing of one and hospitalization of a CAIMAN shipmate and his adult supervisor and there may be others. The COVID-19 vaccine is available. Supposedly the vaccine is free, but we know we have already paid for the vaccine with our tax dollars. I suggest you get your money's worth and take the shot. While it is a personal choice to accept the vaccine, remember that vaccines have stopped the spread of many diseases throughout history and saved many lives. If you believe you have COVID – see a doctor. You do not want to be the one that infects your friends, and most important, your adult supervisor.

VETERANS IN THE 117TH CONGRESS

There are 91 members of the 117th Congress with prior military service which is 17% of the membership. This number has steadily declined since its peak in the 1970's, when the veterans' membership in congress was around 75 percent.

The veterans in the 117th Congress by the numbers:

17 will serve in the Senate, 74 will serve in the House.

28 are Democrats, 63 are Republicans.

More than half (49) had overseas combat deployments.

15 are first-time lawmakers.

6 are female.

44 served in the Army, Army Reserve or Army Nat Gd

15 served in the Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air Gd

15 served in the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserv

17 served in the Navy or Naval Reserve.

None served in the Coast Guard.

DONATIONS

Richard Bondi, one of our World War II vets, donated to our reunion. He stated that he was unable to attend but wished we all had a good time. Also, Bruce Riggs' adult supervisor passed away and he donated her registration fees to CAIMAN. Two more examples of the great CAIMAN crew. I can never say enough about the excellent shipmates that were aboard CAIMAN. I feel very privileged to have been a CAIMANITE.

SHOT CARDS

The shot card issued when you receive the COVID vaccine may be required by some organizations and companies. You may need them for travel. Staples, Office Depot, and Office Max does not charge to laminate the cards.

ETERNAL PATROL

We will all miss our friends and shipmates that have received their orders for the final patrol.

Allen, William H. RD2(SS) (50/52) 10 June 2010
Atchison, Thomas CDR (68/70) 22 November 2020
Barrett, John TM3(SS) (65/66) 30 November 2020
Bocho, Peter P. LCDR (56/56) 19 May 2015
Cash, Eugene CAPT (64/66) 22 July 2019
Desiderio, Anselmo L. SD3(SS) (53/54) 12 April 1987
Donnelly, John EN3(SS) (49/49) 23 February 2021
Fries, Robert YN1(SS) (52/54) 8 December 2020
Gelfand, Richard A. SN(SS) (47/48) 14 July 2004
Hardin, Mason EMCS(SS) (70/72) 22 November 2020
Holdren, William TMCS(SS) (59/62) 8 January 2021
Lisner, Charles FT1(SS) (51/53) 1 September 2020
Miller, Robert ET3(SS) (64/65) 22 April 2018
Moore, Richard ET2(SS) (52/53) 17 May 2019
Newcomb, William IC2(SS) (58/60) 23 March 2008
Overholt, Lawrence RMCS(SS) (60/63) 18 March 2021
Perry, Richard C. RM3(SS) 56/58) 3 January 2021
Pitts, Ray EMCS(SS) (71/72) 10 December 2020
Riggs, Bonnie (WIFE) (71/72) December 2020
Somers, George TMC(SS) (55/55) 5 February 2020
Sorrells, Robert H. EN2(SS) (51/55) 6 December 2020
Stevens, Dean YN3(SS) (63/63) 15 December 2020

SAILING LIST

Our last Plank Owner, Paul Stokes, has been admitted to a nursing home. He is 95 years old and is suffering from stage seven dementia. I located five shipmates from the lost list, all on eternal patrol.

Located shipmates	1371
Hopefully at the next reunion:	419
Eternal Patrol:	952
Lost List:	47

**IT CANNOT BE INHERITED,
NOR CAN IT BE PURCHASED,
WE HAVE EARNED IT,
AND WE OWN IT FOREVER -
THE TITLE
SUBMARINE VETERAN**

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

The Navy Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Navy which was established in August 1936. Award Criteria: The General Orders of the Department of the Navy which established the medal states, "The medal will be awarded, to the officers and enlisted men of the Navy who shall have actually landed on foreign territory and engaged in operations against armed opposition, or operated under circumstances which, after full consideration, shall be deemed to merit special recognition and for which service no campaign medal has been awarded. The Navy Expeditionary Medal is retroactively authorized to February 12, 1874." Additional awards of the Navy Expeditionary Medal are denoted by service stars.

Classified Operations: Under the "deemed to merit special recognition and for which service no campaign medal has been awarded" clause, both the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal (MCEM) and Navy Expeditionary Medal (NEM) have been awarded for classified operations with proper adjudication by the Secretary of the Navy Special Awards Board. The MCEM and NEM "can be authorized and awarded to individuals or units who have participated in classified operations not necessarily in connection with larger operations in which the public is aware." The SECNAV INSTRUCTION 1650.1H - NAVY AND MARINE CORPS AWARDS MANUAL details the process via the Special Awards Board for issuing classified awards. Anecdotal reports from former service members cite a wide variety of classified operations for which the MCEM and NEM have reportedly been awarded, ranging from Marine Corps units clandestinely deployed in Africa, to helicopter gun-crews or force protection units assisting SEAL-DEVGRU or Delta Force teams worldwide, **and even classified submarine operations during the Cold War.** In cases where the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal or Navy Expeditionary Medal has been awarded for classified operations, the name of the operation is omitted from public documentation including from the individual service member's DD214 personnel record with only the name of the award and issue date provided.

NOTE: If you survived a "spec op" you have earned this award. CAIMAN also earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for furnishing support when North Korea captured the USS Pueblo.

If you think you are suffering memory loss!

In the following analysis the French Professor Bruno Dubois Director of the Institute of Memory and Alzheimer's Disease (IMMA) at La Pitié-Salpêtrière - Paris Hospitals addresses the subject in a rather reassuring way:

"If anyone is aware of his memory problems, he does not have Alzheimer's."

1. I forget the names of families.
2. I do not remember where I put some things.

It often happens to people 60 years and older that they complain that they lack memory.

"The information is always in the brain, it is the "processor" that is lacking."

This is "Anosognosia" or temporary forgetfulness.

Half of people 60 and older have some symptoms that are due to age rather than disease.

The most common cases are:

- forgetting the name of a person,
- going to a room in the house and not remembering why we were going there,
- a blank memory for a movie title or actor or actress,
- a wasting of time searching where we left our glasses or keys.

After 60 years of age most people have such a difficulty. These symptoms indicate that it is not a disease, but rather a characteristic due to the passage of years.

Many people are concerned about these oversights hence the importance of the following statement:

"Those who are conscious of being forgetful have no serious memory problem."

"Those who suffer from a memory illness or Alzheimer's, are not aware of what is happening."

Professor Bruno Dubois, Director of IMMA, reassures the majority of people concerned about their oversights:

"The more we complain about memory loss, the less likely we are to suffer from memory sickness."