



# FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

SEPT 2019

## COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

Well folks, it is getting closer to our 2020 reunion on April 20<sup>th</sup> in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It will be our 9<sup>th</sup> Caiman reunion. Here is a little tidbit. About a month ago, I resurrected some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the unstoppable march of technology. The phrases include: don't touch that dial; carbon copy; you sound like a broken record; hung out today; heavens to betsy; gee willikers; jumping Jehoshaphat; holy moly; we were in like Flynn; living the life of Riley; a knucklehead; a nincompoop; and not for all the tea in China. We of a certain age have been blessed to live in a time with so many changes. We are the children of the fabulous 50's and 60's. No one will ever have that opportunity again. We were given one of our most precious gifts – our memories. See ya later, alligator!!

John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

## SUB VETS CONVENTION

The 2019 Sub Vets convention was held in Austin, Texas. We had nine CAIMAN sailors attend plus six adult supervisors. Two were given hall passes and one is single. I have not checked but I bet we had the biggest attendance for a diesel boat.

## REUNION TEE SHIRTS

Once again, a CAIMAN shipmate has offered to furnish a reunion tee shirt. So, CAIMAN will have a special tee for our 2020 reunion. CAIMAN has a unique crew and it extends through all eras. I know of several submarine reunion coordinators that cannot get any help in holding a reunion, but CAIMAN shipmates step up and not only assist with the reunion but furnish special tees for the reunion and submit prizes for our drawings. I am very proud to be a CAIMANITE and to be a part of the reunions.

## If It's Not Broke...

The Navy is getting rid of touch screen and computer control of certain systems and replacing it with old simple electrical and manual systems. The recent collisions in the Pacific have been blamed in part on the reliability of the modern steering and engine speed control systems and confusion regarding their operation. The National Transportation Safety Board released a report regarding the USS John S. McCain colliding with the Alnic MC, a Liberian oil tanker, off the coast of Singapore and recommending that the Navy consider making changes. Work is underway to bring back real helms and engine order telegraphs. Why did they ever change it? If it's not broke, don't fix it.

## U.S. CENSUS 2020

### VETERAN STATUS QUESTION

The former head of the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs is pushing for the U.S. census to include a question about veterans next year. Terry Schow, a Vietnam veteran, wants the 2020 census to ask about veteran status so the state can have a more accurate count of people with military service. "It's really just one question: Are you a veteran?" Schow said.

The Census Bureau pulled the veteran status question from the questionnaire in 2010. The bureau continues to collect data on veterans through three smaller surveys: the American Community Survey, the Current Population Survey and the Survey of Income and Program Participation. These surveys only go to a portion of the population, Schow said. The American Community Survey, the largest of the three, is sent out to about 3.5 million people each year.

Current counts of veterans from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Census Bureau are likely missing a significant number of people, Schow said. The department lists about 152,000 veterans in Utah while the bureau says the state has about 144,000. A state database indicates Utah has about 180,000 veterans. The VA uses census data to determine spending on veteran housing, hospitals and assistance programs Schow said. Republican U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop sent a letter to the bureau's director earlier this month, asking for the veterans' question to be included. "I believe this small change will have a big impact on our ability to take care of our nation's heroes and the proper allocation of resources for veterans cemeteries and homes," Bishop wrote.

### MILITARY DISCOUNT

On what they're dubbing "Military Mondays", the department store chain Kohl's now offers a 15 percent, in-store discount on purchases for active duty members, retirees and veterans. Show your valid military ID, military dependent ID or a veteran ID at the cash register. Veteran IDs accepted include a state-issued identification indicating veteran status, or a Form DD-214. Among the other retailers that offer year-round military discounts are Lowe's and Home Depot; both offer 10-percent discounts. Once a veteran shows his status to a Lowes store a phone number will be entered in their records. All members of a household only needs to tell the cashier the phone number and the discount will be taken off the total purchase.

### SPECIAL DRAWING

We will be selling tickets for another special drawing at the reunion. We have another diesel boat diving alarm. It has a brass plate on it dated 1943. It's the real deal. A diesel boat diving alarm goes for \$500.00 or better on the Internet. Buying tickets is a lot cheaper and helps support our reunions. These old diving alarms are becoming very scarce. The nuke boats have an electronic diving alarm that sounds like a sick cow.

## BLUE WATER NAVY CLAIMS

The law which was signed in June will take effect Jan. 1, 2020. Addressing the issue of a long delay, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Robert Wilkie said the postponement is designed to "ensure that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of our Blue Water veteran community and minimize the impact on all veterans filing for disability compensation."

Presumptive Agent Orange conditions granted for BW Navy Veterans may be retroactive to the date the VA received their original claim. If BW veterans had a previously denied claim, they must resubmit their claim. The effective date will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Veterans who served in the seas around Vietnam and were previously denied claims related to agent orange exposure can file new claims under the changed rules. VA officials said veterans older than age 85 or with life-threatening illnesses will have priority in claims processing.

If the claimant dies while their claim is pending, a living dependent such as a spouse or child, may file a request to be substituted as the claimant. The requirements are: the veteran served on a ship that operated not more than 12 nautical miles from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia; and the cause of death was from a condition related to exposure to agent orange, then the VA may award entitlement to DIC on that basis.

## RICK CAMPBELL – AUTHOR

Rick Campbell, a retired commander and submariner, has written five books, all military thrillers. He has donated at least one book to our reunions as his books were published. His five books, in order of release, are:  
THE TRIDENT DECEPTION  
EMPIRE RISING  
ICE STATION NAUTILUS  
BLACKMAIL  
TREASON

If you are not one of lucky ones that wins a book in our reunion drawings, buy them. I am sure you will enjoy his stories.

## ACOMA TOUR

I have included a description of the tour planned for our reunion. Dings and I have only read about it and discussed it with the tour company as we did not have time to make the tour. We also talked to a member of the tribe that works at the VISIT ALBUQUERQUE office. I am sure all will enjoy the tour and will have fun at the casino on the trip back to the hotel. We will have tour guides on the buses and at the Acoma pueblo. The tour guides on the buses will describe the surrounding area on the way to Acoma and point out interesting sites and areas. Lunch at the casino is your choice – buffet, sit down meal, or nothing. You will have some time to strike it rich at the casino.

## REUNION SITES

Start thinking about where you would like to visit for our 2022 reunion. I hear shipmates say they like going to different cities and visiting the interesting sites so bring your ideas to the next reunion. Remember, we want to keep the cost of the hotel and the tour reasonable. We welcome ideas from the adult supervisors.

## REUNION REGISTRATION

The reunion registration forms will be in the January 2020 newsletter. We are having the reunion in April to avoid the typical high temperatures of the southwestern states. Registration will close March 15, 2020. As usual, just mail the registration form and the check to the address on the form. I will post the attendees on the [www.flamincaiman.org](http://www.flamincaiman.org) website as the forms arrive.

Remember, if you don't come to the reunion, we will talk about you. Show up and ensure all sea stories, especially the ones you are in, are told correctly.

## ETERNAL PATROL

This is never an article I want to include in our newsletter, but I believe our shipmates need to be informed. This issue has several shipmates and dear friends that have received eternal patrol orders. Our numbers are dwindling which is an outstanding reason to attend each of our reunions. Diesel boat sailors are fading.

Floyd, Charles ETC(SS) (48/51) 23 March 2018  
Sexton, John T. EMC(SS) (48/49) 28 August 2018  
Adams, Phillip R. Jr. SN(SS) (52/55) 31 July 2013  
Librizzi, Victor RMCM(SS) (52/55) 30 August 2018  
Kicenski, Virgil ENC(SS) (55/58) 8 August 2019  
Johnson, Walter O. EN2(SS) (56/59) 20 April 2018  
Scranton, Stuart YNC(SS) (57/57) 15 January 2019  
España, Francisco ETC(SS) (58/62) ?  
Lowe, William CDR (58/60) 21 June 2019  
Harrer, Neil ET2(SS) (59/62) 25 July 2019  
Florianic, Harvey YN2(SS) (61/61) 1 July 2019  
Bryant, Robert ICC(SS) (63/66) 6 April 2019  
Bruce, John Henry LT (70/72) 20 April 2018  
Sailor rest your oars.

## SAILING LIST

We found two more shipmates. Rather their sons found us and gave me the information on their fathers. Bobby Bates EM2(SS) (55/57) is in Mississippi. Now we need to get him to the reunion. The other newly located shipmate, Philip R. Adams Jr. SN(SS) (52/55), had received eternal patrol orders. We also have two shipmates living outside the US. One in South Korea and one in the Philippines. In addition we have one shipmate full time RV'ing. Here is our sailing lists current status.

Located shipmates	1355
Hopefully at the next reunion:	460
Eternal Patrol:	895
Lost List:	64

**When interrogated shortly after the war Admiral Shigeru Fukudome stated that the United States Submarine was by far the greatest obstacle to the success of the Japanese Navy. He indicated that the Japanese were certain that their submarines and personnel were far superior to the United States underwater fleet. This contributed to their unwillingness to create an effective system for antisubmarine warfare throughout much of the war.**

## **Sky City : Wednesday, April 22, 2020 : 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**\$65 Includes: motor coach, tour guide, all admissions, tax & bottled water**

Discover the centuries-old history of New Mexico's southwest Indians. Acoma Pueblo offers a window in time where Native people carry on the customary traditions of their ancestors through pottery making and tribal celebrations.



Acoma Pueblo is built atop a sheer-walled, 367-foot sandstone bluff in a valley studded with sacred, towering monoliths. Occupied since 1150 A.D., Acoma Pueblo has earned the reputation as the oldest continuously inhabited community in North America. Home to 4,800 tribal members with more than 250 dwellings, none of which have electricity or modern sewer or plumbing. In 1629, construction began on the massive San Esteban del Rey Mission, a Catholic mission. Both the Mission and the Pueblo are Registered National Historical Landmarks and are on the National Register of Historic Places.



Join us aboard a luxury coach accompanied by professional driver and narrative tour guide for a visit to **Acoma Pueblo "Sky City"**. Follow an Acoma Indian guide through the earthen streets as we hear their history first-hand. There will be opportunities to purchase hand-crafted pottery, other souvenirs and home-baked items on the mesa top.

**NOTES: This is an outdoor event, be prepared for warm (70°) and cool (50°) temperatures to occur in the same hour. Dressing in light layers works best. A broad brimmed hat or an umbrella come in handy for shade. Wear comfortable shoes, the mesa top is uneven rock and sand. The mesa top tour is about 1.5 hours and almost ¾ of a mile. There are numerous places to sit for a quick rest along the tour route (low walls, bancos and we will also sit on benches in the church.)**



We'll stop for lunch at Route 66 Casino Hotel on our way back to Albuquerque. Make your own choice for lunch: buffet, burgers and shakes, sit-down restaurant or the snack bar. You will have a little time to go to the casino if you would like.