

The 820 Newsletter



The Official Publication of the USS Rich Association
Volume 14, Number 3

On the Internet: www.ussrich.org
August 2007

All Rich Sailors Entitled To Certificate

Cold War Certificate Program

In accordance with section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States anytime during the Cold War era, which is defined as Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991.

The U.S. Army Human Resources Command is the only official facility to which qualified personnel may request Cold War Recognition Certificates. A web site is operated by the United States Army, the executive agency for the Cold War Recognition Program. Cold War Recognition Certificates are available to qualified individuals at no cost. Any other site offering these certificates or replicas for sale or purchase are not official sites and are not approved or endorsed by the US Army.

Due to the remarkable success of this program, turn-around time for mailing certificates will be a minimum of 2 months. The CWRS Operations Team is working as fast as possible to clear the backlog. Please do not request feedback prior to 2 months from the request date. Thank you for your patience and interest in the Cold War Recognition program.

Who is eligible?

All members of the armed forces and federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991. Individuals requesting a certificate will certify that their character of service was honorable. Acceptable supporting document for proof of

service is any official government or military document [i.e. DD214] with recipient's name, Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, and date of service.

Where to apply

Online--

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/coldwar/default.htm>

In writing:

U.S. Army Human Resources Command
Cold War Recognition Program,
Hoffman II, Room 3N45
ATTN: AHRC-CWRS
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0473

Phone Line: (703) 325-5864

Fax: 1-800-723-9262

Email: CWRS Team



Annual Business Meeting

Minutes of Meetings – 2007 USS RICH Association

Board of Directors Meeting – April 27, 2007

The BOD met at 3 p.m. at the reunion site hotel.

Vice President Chuck Weber made a presentation on his activities in the past year to obtain incorporation of the Association. He advised that the Association was incorporated as a non-stock, not-for-profit corporation of Delaware, that a new FEIN had been obtained and a filing had been made to the IRS for tax exemption under IRS Code Section 501 (c)(19). Due to the Association's level of annual gross receipts, an additional \$450 was needed in order to satisfy the IRS' filing fee of \$750. The BOD passed a motion to pay the additional \$450.

He also provided detailed information on the advantages and duties of a corporation. He then provided information on the various types of insurance that the BOD should consider procuring: General Liability, Liquor Liability and Accidental Medical coverage for each reunion as well as Directors' and Officers' Liability coverage year-round. He noted that he had procured the recommended coverage for this year's reunion. He said that the D&O coverage was less of a necessity but should be discussed and considered.

Following discussion, a motion was passed to develop a design for, and to procure, an Association flag.

President John Skillen dispelled the rumor that there was a plan to raise the reunion general fee of \$65. He noted that there was no plan to raise it.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Incorporation Meeting – April 28, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Vice President Chuck Weber, Incorporator.

He reminded the assembled membership what had happened at the 2006 general meeting:

- The membership passed a motion to incorporate the Association
- The membership passed a motion to give the Board of Directors extraordinary authority in order to achieve incorporation.
- VP Chuck Weber volunteered and was appointed to act as the Incorporator

He advised that the full, correct and only name for the corporation is:

USS RICH Association

He advised the membership that he had incorporated the Association and that several actions needed to be taken in order to finalize the process. He proceeded to entertain the membership to make certain motions which occurred as follows:

- A motion was passed to ratify the Articles of Incorporation and the formation of the Corporation.
- A motion was passed to ratify the Incorporating By-Laws
- A motion was passed to ratify the existence of, and lengths of term for, the various officer and director positions.
- A motion was passed to ratify the incumbent Officers and Directors to their respective positions and terms in the incorporated Association.

He then advised that the only remaining requirement was that an annual general membership be held. With that the Incorporation meeting was ended and the gavel was passed to the President.

First Annual Meeting of the Membership of USS RICH Association – April 28, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by President John Skillen in York, PA.

The president led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain Hoot Gibson led the membership in opening prayer.

A roll call of officers and directors revealed all present except Director LE Beeman, who was excused. His wife is in medical distress.

Minutes of the 2006 general membership meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Don Hogg made a financial report on the Association which was approved subject to audit.



Annual Business Meeting (Continued)

Old Business:

A question came from the floor asking about incorporation. President Skillen deferred the question to Vice President Weber, Incorporator. The following answer was given:

- Incorporation establishes a "legal person" which assumes liability and shelters the officers, directors and membership from possible lawsuit action.

- Our Incorporating By-Laws further indemnify the above named persons.

- The corporation can be taxed, but we have filed for exemption with the IRS.

New Business:

President Skillen appointed member John Szabo as the Association's Legal Advisor. He will advise the Board of Directors as necessary on actions of the Board and needs of the Association.

President Skillen advised the membership of the discussions and actions of the Board meeting of April 27th.

Following Director Gary Wilson's comments on our current difficulty in obtaining viable reunion sites, President John Skillen appointed a committee to develop alternate sites for future reunions.

Member Joe Franchetta agreed to host the 2008 reunion in Vineland, NJ.

Member Dick Koeniger said that he would explore the possibility of a reunion in Cincinnati, OH.

President Skillen mentioned that there was possibility of a reunion in Wisconsin.

President Skillen emphasized that there was no plan to raise reunion fees from \$65.

President Skillen called for a standing ovation for Don Hake and his family thanking them for providing us with an outstanding 2007 reunion.

Don Hake raised the issue of reunion hosts needing to advance their personal funds in order to make arrangements for a reunion. Following discussion a motion was made to advance each reunion host \$2,000 in order to make arrangements. The motion was not seconded. Following further discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

President Skillen invited all first time attendees to stand and be recognized. All were warmly welcomed.

Chaplain Hoot Gibson reported on the working party of RICH members on the USS Laffey Memorial in the Fall of 2006. He asked for a donation for future restoration work.

A motion was passed to donate \$500 to obtain supplies for the USS Laffey Memorial restoration.

The Vice President position stood for election. Incumbent Chuck Weber was nominated, accepted and was re-elected to the position.

The three-year Director position stood for election. Incumbent LE Beeman was not present. Member Jerry Dunnigan was nominated, accepted and was elected to the position.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Attest:

Larry Dixon, Secretary

The 820 Newsletter   

The 820 Newsletter is the official publication of the USS Rich Association. It is published quarterly in the first week of February, May, August and November.

The newsletter is included in the membership dues and is sent to members home via First Class mail. Non-member subscriptions are available.

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You may contact us on the Internet at Editor@ussrich.org or snail mail to 8926 Phyllis Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34231-7722.

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NO REFUGE COULD SAVE

By Dr. Isaac Asimov

(Editor's Note- Near the end of his life, the great science fiction author Isaac Asimov wrote a short story about the four stanzas of our national anthem. However brief, this well-circulated piece is an eye opener from the dearly departed doctor.....)

I have a weakness -- I am crazy, absolutely nuts, about our national anthem. The words are difficult and the tune is almost impossible, but frequently when I'm taking a shower I sing it with as much power and emotion as I can. It shakes me up every time.

I was once asked to speak at a luncheon. Taking my life in my hands, I announced I was going to sing our national anthem -- all four stanzas. This was greeted with loud groans. One man closed the door to the kitchen, where the noise of dishes and cutlery was loud and distracting. "Thanks, Herb," I said "That's all right," he said. "It was at the request of the kitchen staff"

I explained the background of the anthem and then sang all four stanzas. Let me tell you, those people had never heard it before -- or had never really listened. I got a standing ovation. But it was not me; it was the anthem.

More recently, while conducting a seminar, I told my students the story of the anthem and sang all four stanzas. Again there was a wild ovation and prolonged applause. And again, it was the anthem and not me.

So now let me tell you how it came to be written.

In 1812, the United States went to war with Great Britain , primarily over freedom of the seas. We were in the right. For two years, we held off the British, even though we were still a rather weak country. Great Britain was in a life and death struggle with Napoleon. In fact, just as the United States declared war, Napoleon marched off to invade Russia . If he won, as everyone expected, he would control Europe, and Great Britain would be isolated. It was no time for her to be involved in an American war.

At first, our seamen proved better than the British. After we won a battle on Lake Erie in 1813, the American commander, Oliver Hazard Perry, sent the message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours." However, the weight of the British navy beat down our ships eventually. New England , hard-hit by a tightening blockade, threatened secession. Meanwhile, Napoleon was beaten in Russia and in 1814 was forced to abdicate. Great Britain now turned its

attention to the United States, launching a three-pronged attack.

The northern prong was to come down Lake Champlain toward New York and seize parts of New England.

The southern prong was to go up the Mississippi , take New Orleans and paralyze the west.

The central prong was to head for the mid-Atlantic states and then attack Baltimore , the greatest port south of New York . If Baltimore was taken, the nation, which still hugged the Atlantic coast, could be split in two. The fate of the United States , then, rested to a large extent on the success or failure of the central prong.

The British reached the American coast, and on August 24, 1814, took Washington , D.C. Then they moved up the Chesapeake Bay toward Baltimore . On September 12, they arrived and found 1,000 men in Fort McHenry , whose guns controlled the harbor. If the British wished to take Baltimore , they would have to take the fort.

On one of the British ships was an aged physician, William Beanes, who had been arrested in Maryland and brought along as a prisoner. Francis Scott Key, a lawyer and friend of the physician, had come to the ship to negotiate his release.

The British captain was willing, but the two Americans would have to wait. It was now the night of September 13, and the bombardment of Fort McHenry was about to start.

As twilight deepened, Key and Beanes saw the American flag flying over Fort McHenry . Through the night, they heard bombs bursting and saw the red glare of rockets. They knew the fort was resisting and the American flag was still flying. But toward morning the bombardment ceased, and a dread silence fell.

Either Fort McHenry had surrendered and the British flag flew above it, or the bombardment had failed and the American flag still flew.

As dawn began to brighten the eastern sky, Key and Beanes stared out at the fort, trying to see which flag flew





over it. He and the physician must have asked each other over and over, "Can you see the flag?"

After it was all finished, Key wrote a four stanza poem telling the events of the night. Called "The Defense of Fort McHenry," it was published in newspapers and swept the nation. Someone noted that the words fit an old English tune called, "To Anacreon in Heaven" -- a difficult melody with an uncomfortably large vocal range. For obvious reasons, Key's work became known as "The Star Spangled Banner," and in 1931 Congress declared it the official anthem of the United States.

Now that you know the story, here are the words. Presumably, the old doctor is speaking. This is what he asks Key:

*Oh! say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the
perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly
streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
Oh! say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

("Ramparts," in case you don't know, are the protective walls or other elevations that surround a fort.) The first stanza asks a question. The second gives an answer:

*On the shore, dimly seen thro' the mist of the deep
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering
steep.
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream '
Tis the star-spangled banner. Oh! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*

"The towering steep" is again, the ramparts. The bombardment has failed, and the British can do nothing more but sail away, their mission a failure. In the third stanza I feel Key allows himself to gloat over the American triumph. In the aftermath of the bombardment, Key probably was in no

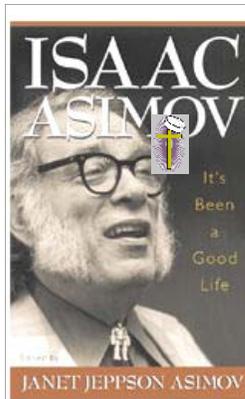
mood to act otherwise? During World War I when the British were our staunchest allies, this third stanza was not sung. However, I know it, so here it is:

*And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave,
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*

(The fourth stanza, a pious hope for the future, should be sung more slowly than the other three and with even deeper feeling):

*Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation,
Blest with victory and peace, may the Heaven - rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, for our cause is just,
And this be our motto -- "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

hope you will look at the national anthem with new eyes. Listen to it, the next time you have a chance, with new ears. Pay attention to the words. And don't let them ever take it away ... not even one word of it.



Isaac Asimov, (January 27, 1920 - April 6, 1992), was a Russian-born Jewish author and professor of biochemistry, a highly successful and exceptionally prolific writer best known for his works of science fiction and for his popular science books.

Asimov wrote or edited more than 500 books and an estimated 90,000 letters and postcards.



Barleycorn, Barleycorn... Who's Barleycorn?

By Robert C. Baldwin (LTjg, 57-59)

The USS RICH, DDE-820, had been MED-moored and nested alongside the USS NEW, DDE-818 since July 1, 1958 in Genoa, Italy and was preparing to get underway for liberty in Cannes, France on the early morning of July 8.

As a part of these preparations voice checks on all steaming circuits were being conducted by our ship's radiomen and bridge personnel. COMDESRON-36 (CDR-36) had his flag in the NEW and his Communications Officer, Leigh Trevor, was on her bridge personally conducting these checks. Inoperative voice equipment and poor audio quality circuits were major causes of stress for all the Communications Officers in CDR-36. The XO and perhaps the Commanding Officer, CDR Cecil Clark, were on our bridge. RICH's pilothouse, with its voice circuit handsets and speakers, was at most 50 feet from the NEW's bridge on our immediate port side. We were all set to go with radio circuit keys active and speakers turned up for all to hear, at least so I thought.

LTJG Trevor, who I could see on the NEW's bridge, keyed his mike and said: "BARLEYCORN, BARLEYCORN, THIS IS COCKTAIL ZULU. OVER" This was repeated several times. Of course we didn't answer; we were SIDEKICK and hadn't been called. With each repetition Trevor became more animated and agitated and was pointing at me. Leigh was a very good communicator. BARLEYCORN had not answered. Something was clearly fouled-up.

Finally the Captain asked me "Who's Barleycorn, Who's Cocktail Zulu?" That was followed immediately by the XO asking the same with "How Come Mr. Baldwin?" CIC and then my Ops-Officer roommate's questioned the identity of BARLEYCORN. "Aren't we SIDEKICK?" Our voice call had been SIDEKICK since I came aboard in August, 1957. Trevor yelled over from his bridge to ours "You are BARLEYCORN!" The flap had begun in earnest. Uh, oh.

As RICH'S Communicator and RPS custodian I was responsible for the majority of the ship's operating classified publications. One of these, JANAP-119 if I recall correctly, was in a group termed Non Registered Publications (NRP).

Unlike some other highly classified publications JANAP-119 was classified CONFIDENTIAL and like all NPRs was delivered by registered mail without request, to all in the operating forces who required it. It held Joint Army-Navy-Air Force wide call signs, address groups, and individual as well as collective voice calls. I ran over to the NEW, after I hurriedly had searched our radio room and my two large safes for a new, superceding edition of JANAP-119. No joy. The RICH didn't hold a copy of that vital effective publication. None the less ultimately this was my responsibility. Until the last moment when the RICH's lines were singled up and we were about to move away from NEW I was furiously hand copying all the pertinent voice calls I thought we might need on our way to Cannes from CDR-36's current JANAP-119. This was the old Navy; no copying machines on destroyers. I was not popular at that point! We sent a flurry of messages attempting to obtain a current copy ASAP.

We made it to Cannes on July 9th without a voice call incident and in the Registered Mail awaiting us there we found a current JANAP-119. Our new copy designated RICH as BARLEYCORN, and COMDESRON-36 as COCKTAIL ZULU. Now the "Rest of the Story:" Cannes liberty was great until it was cut short on the night of July 14-15, 1958 when we, along with other units of the 6th Fleet got underway for an Emergency Sortie for Lebanon. If we had not received that current copy of JANAP-119 in Cannes that really would have been a Major FLAP. Thankfully, it didn't come to that.



Med-Moored in Cannes, France



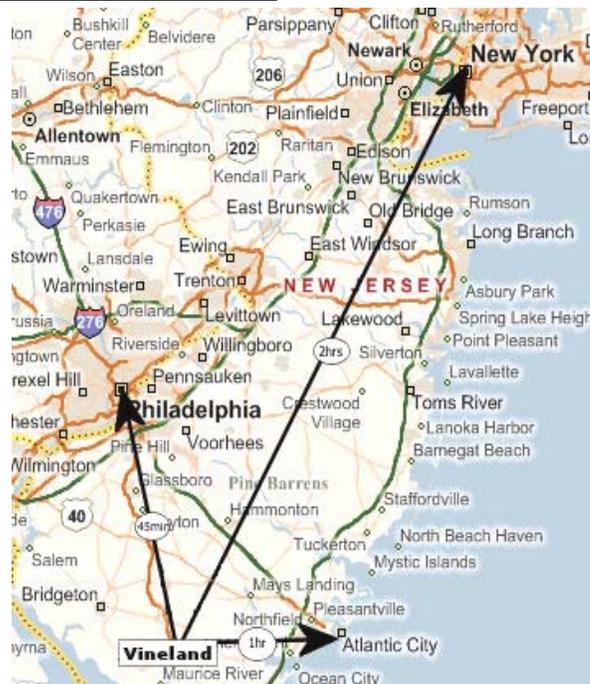
Annual Reunion Plans On Course

Host Joe Franchetta and his team report that plans for the 2008 Annual Reunion are well underway. Mark your calendars for May 14-18 to be in beautiful downtown Vineland, New Jersey. Joe opted to set the date a few weeks later than usual in order to take advantage of better pricing and hopefully better weather.

The Holiday Inn Express at the Cumberland Mall is our host hotel. You may book your room at anytime at the special rate of \$85/pt night. Be sure to mention you are with the USS Rich Reunion. Telephone 856-293-8888 or online at www.hiexpress.com/vinelandnj.

The Borough of Vineland is a city in southern New Jersey with a population of about 57,000. It was incorporated in 1880. Vineland is located at 39°28'49"N, 75°0'50"W. Vineland is home to the largest farmer's cooperative on the east coast and is the birthplace of Welch's Grape Juice. Vineland has the only remaining drive-in theater in New Jersey.

Vineland was formerly the poultry capital of the U.S. A huge percentage of the U.S.'s chicken supply came from Vineland. Around 1916, Lohman Animal Health started by Dr. Arthur Goldhaft is credited with putting "a chicken in every pot" after developing the *fowl pox chicken vaccine* that saved millions of chickens from death. Without Dr. Goldhaft's work the world's chicken supply would have greatly diminished from the fowl pox disease.



Among current and former notable residents of Vineland is Alan Kotok, a computer scientist known for his contributions to the Internet and World Wide Web.

In addition to the 820 Newsletter, information and details of the 2008 Reunion will be published on the USS RICH website as they become available. As in past years, shipmates will be able to register online or by postal.

May 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 USS RICH REUNION	15 USS RICH REUNION	16 USS RICH REUNION	17 USS RICH REUNION
18 USS RICH REUNION	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Meanwhile, exploration of future reunion sites continues. Shipmate George Hammes, SH3 (68-70) of way-up-there in Holmen, Wisconsin has been scouting the area and reports good hotel accommodations and room rates for a reunion.

Other areas being researched are the Cincinnati, Ohio area; Fredrick, Maryland area; and even across the state from Holmen at Waukesha, Wisconsin.

All reunion venues are approved by the membership.



**3rd ANNUAL
USS LAFFEY FIELD DAY**

Oct 7th through Oct 14th

Onboard berthing is by space available. There are motels nearby at reasonable rates if there is no room on the Laffey. **You will know well in advance of availability.**

Three daily meals will be prepared and served on the Laffey. Cost per person is \$9.00 Per Diem payable upon departure. There is no requirement for you to spend the entire week. You may arrive and depart at your convenience but we will need to know your schedule to accommodate meals and berthing. We ask that once you establish your schedule that you *do not* make changes as your berth is likely to be re-assigned to another shipmate.

What you will be doing: The Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum relies upon a certain amount of volunteer efforts in a number of areas. During our Field Day you will receive assignments relative to the maintenance and upkeep of the USS Laffey museum ship. The work to be done is planned in advance by the museum staff as part of an ongoing program. Each assignment is consistent with individual talent and capability. Just as when we were on active duty, *safety is first and foremost*. The assignments do not have a deadline and work is performed as we are able.

Driving and Parking: When you arrive at Patriots Point, continue through the parking lot toward the Welcome Center. Continue left around the rear of the Center through a gated parking lot. (Guard hut on left) Select any un-designated space. Telephone the Laffey at 843-971-5042. If you're lucky, someone will answer and they can send a cart to the head of the pier to fetch you and your luggage. Your family should have this number (for emergencies) as cell phones will not work below decks.

- What to bring:**
- Bath Towel ● Soap ● Wash Cloth ● Work clothing (for painting, cleaning, etc.)
 - Douche Kit ● Blanket ● Pillow ● Appropriate footwear
 - Shower shoes ● Medication (if you have a favorite.) ● USS Rich ball cap

Laffey Chief's Quarters 843-971-5042.



Clip, complete and return

**2007 USS LAFFEY FIELD DAY
07 OCT through 14 OCT, 2007**

Field Day Reservation

On board berthing space is limited. Complete and return. Your reservation is not complete until you have received an acknowledgement. All berthing is on a first reserved basis. Meal costs will be \$9.00 per day.

Name: _____								Email: _____															
																Phone: _____							
I'll be sleeping aboard on these nights:																							
Sun-Oct 7	Mon-Oct 8	Tue-Oct 9	Wed-Oct 10	Thu-Oct 11	Fri-Oct 12	Sat-Oct 13	Sun-Oct 14																
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																
I'll be eating aboard on these days:																							
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D	B	L	D	B	L	D	B	L	D	B	L	D	B	L	D	B	L	D	B	L			

Register online at www.ussrich.org or mail to : Field Day, 8926 Phyliss Ave, Sarasota, FL 34231

Personnel Changes

Jul 2007 - Reported Aboard

Thompson	Bob	LTjg	70-72	Nashville	TN	bftompson-at-comcast.net
Hinger	Joseph	SN	63-64	Titusville	FL	hingerj-at-msn.com



Piped Ashore - Deceased

Smith	George H			Rolla	MO	05JUL2007
Carson	W Dave	FT1	59-60	El Paso	TX	

Jun 2007 - Reported Aboard

Wolff	Roger	DC3	67-69	Westfield	WI	rogew-at-verizon.net
Seiler	Glenn	BM2	50-54	Homosassa	FL	seiler2-at-embarq.com
Dale	Kenneth J	SN	59-61	Clewiston	FL	kdsanta-at-embarqmail.com
Thompson	Joseph	HT2	75-77	Farmington	NM	whiteeagle-at-fisi.net



Piped Ashore - Deceased

McKnight	John			Chandler	FL	28AUG2006
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May 2007 - Reported Aboard

Sugg	Dick			Wichita Falls	TX	suggtex-at-juno.com
Taylor	Daryl	MM3	76-77	Hampton	VA	thayl57-at-verizon.net



Piped Ashore - Deceased

Pape	Darrell		67-71	Niceville	FL	16DEC2006
Johnson	R.P.	GCMC	60's	Yorktown	VA	

We appreciate "Passing The Word" of the loss of a shipmate. We pay respects to each and every one of these men at a memorial service conducted at our annual Ship's Company Reunion.

We also pay tribute to World War II veterans by including the video "Before You Go" following the memorial service. It is an emotional reminder of the sacrifices of our vets.

USS Rich Plank Owners as well as all shipmates who are World War II veterans are entitled to life membership in the USS Rich Association.

If you have not received your Life Member membership card, contact the Ships Office and we'll get one out to you.

No Longer Traveling

Some of our shipmates no longer travel away from home due to health and/or other reasons. These men still want to maintain contact with shipmates. Their email address is posted on the USS Rich web site or you may obtain their postal address from the Ships Office.

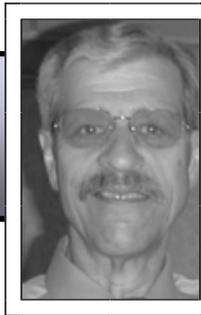
Brown	Raymond C	S1c	46-48	St James City	FL
Drewry	Walter J	HMC	62-65	Woodbridge	VA
Duclos	Armand E	ET1	56-59	Nashua	NH
Hill	Robert E	Ltjg	50-51	Sun City Center	FL
Parsons	Raymond L	RMC	68-69	Wellington	FL
Schwartz	John E	BMSN	61-63	Fairmont	WV

Are there more of you out there? Contact the Ships Office and get your name on the list.



Dunnigan's Corner

“Where the old sailors come for a good laugh”



A young ensign decides to try horseback riding, even though he has had no lessons or prior experience. He mounts the horse, unassisted, and the horse immediately springs into action. As it gallops along at a steady and rhythmic pace, the Ensign begins to slip from the saddle. In terror, he grabs for the horse's mane, but cannot get a firm grip. He tries to throw his arms around the horse's neck, but he slides down the side of the horse anyway!

The horse gallops along, seemingly impervious to its slipping rider. Finally, losing his frail grip, the Ensign attempts to leap away from the horse and throw himself to safety. Unfortunately, his foot becomes entangled in the stirrup, and he is now at the mercy of the horse's pounding hooves as his head is struck against the ground over and over and over.

As his head is battered against the ground and he is mere moments away from unconsciousness, to his great fortune, a Master Chief shopping at Wal-Mart, sees him and unslugs the horse.



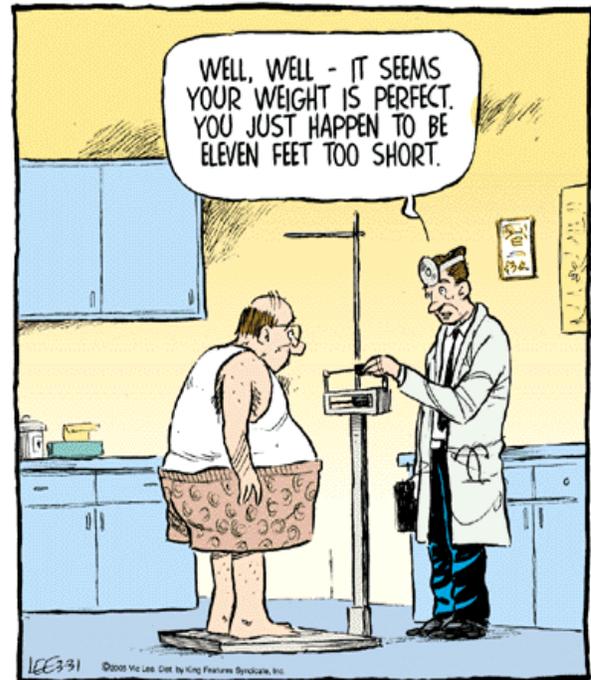
An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%. The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, 'Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.' The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my Will three times!'



One day, a guy came home and was greeted by his wife dressed in a very sexy nightie.

"Tie me up," she purred, "and you can do anything you want."

So he tied her up and went fishing.



My wife and I were watching "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" in bed.

I turned to her and asked, "Do you want to have sex?"

"No." She answered.

Then I asked, "Is that your final answer?"

Yes," she replied.

So I said, "I'd like to phone a friend."

... and that's the last thing I remember.



Doctor: "You'll live to be 60!" Patient: "I AM 60!"
Doctor: "See! What did I tell you?"



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