

The 820 Newsletter



The Official Publication of the USS Rich Association
Volume 20, Number 4

On the Internet: www.ussrich.org
November 2013

Almost Paradise

For a number of years we've been fostering the notion that our annual reunion venues are, in many instances, a "vacation destination". "Come early—stay late" has been the invitation. This year is no exception.

St. Petersburg Beach, Florida is internationally known as a desired location for folks to visit, lay on the beach and relax. It holds the Guinness World record for the highest number of consecutive days with sunshine. It is also known to be attractive to a more mature group and not of particular interest to Spring Breakers.

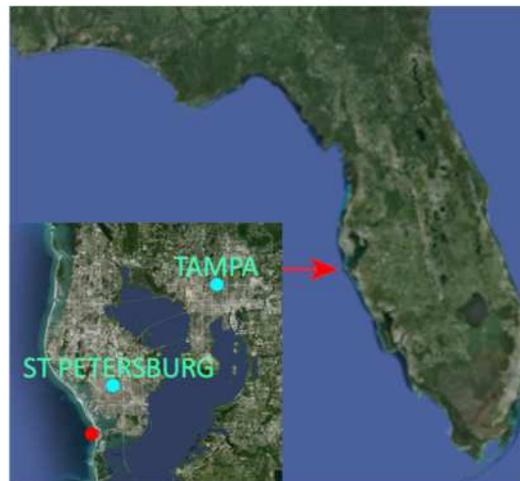
While there is much to see and do, the immediate area is not intensely commercialized. It is rather typical of beach resorts.



Within short distances from our Dolphin Beach Resort Hotel there are attractions you might not ordinarily see. Hosts Jim and Jo Ann Chester have planned two exceptional events for you and your

guest(s) as part of our reunion. You will be pleasantly surprised we're sure.

If the beach is not for you, you'll be within 45 minutes of an endless array of attractions and things to do. Most are reasonably priced and some are without cost. May is one of the most delightful weather months the area has to offer with warm days, cool nights and little rain. There have been no hurricanes in Florida during the month of May since the weather service began keeping records in 1851. Comforting!



Located on the Gulf of Mexico midway down the west coast of the Florida peninsula, the City of St. Petersburg is to the east and Tampa slightly further east yet all are connected via the Interstate system (I75/I375). From the hotel Tampa International is 28 miles and the Amtrak station is 13 miles.

ROOM RESERVATIONS

If you intend to arrive a few days early and/or stay a few days after the reunion **you need to make your room reservations very soon.** This is a very busy property with groups arriving/departing before and after us. Our room block only guarantees rooms Monday thru Thursday nights. Delays in making reservations may result in rooms not being available on the desired nights.

Reservations:

Online www.ussrich.org

Phone 800-237-8916

**DO NOT USE THE DOLPHIN BEACH
INTERNET RESERVATION SYSTEM**

Group Code G/USS/RICH

Treasurer Resigns

William F. Gross, BT3 (65-67) has resigned as Treasurer of the USS RICH Association. His resignation came in an email dated August 30, 2014.

The Association, which has no paid staff, is operated by unpaid volunteer members who conduct the business of the association throughout the year.

Of the number of elected and appointed positions, the elected office of Treasurer perhaps requires the most effort of an individual. This is particularly true in the first five months of the calendar year during membership renewals and annual reunion registration. Both evolutions involve the processing of digital and postal transactions while observing accounting practices consistent with a national non-profit corporation.

Former Treasurer Don Hogg of De Queen, AR has accepted the appointment as the interim Treasurer until the next Business Meeting in May, 2014 at the Ship's Company Reunion.

Vietnam Veterans

Prompted by periodic inquiries and requests for information, the USS RICH Association will explore if, in some way, it may assist former shipmates who are seeking guidance and/or information regarding the ship's two Vietnam deployments. The ship was deployed to the area from March to December 1968 and October 1972 to March 1973.

Our Veteran Service Officer, Chuck Weber, along with Association board members will attempt to assess what role the Association may play in this effort.

Apparently, proof of whereabouts is a major issue in shipmates making claims to the Veterans Administration.

Shipmates who were aboard during either deployment have been contacted by email to verify the fact they were aboard during the period of either deployment. If you have not been contacted and were aboard during a deployment during the above dates please contact the Ship's Office via email at this address:

shipsoffice@ussrich.org

If email is not available to you please send a postcard to:

8926 Phyliss Ave — Sarasota FL 34231

Include your name, address, rate and dates of service aboard the RICH to be added to the list to be contacted in the future. **No acknowledgements will be made for postal contacts** at this time.

The 820 Newsletter



The 820 Newsletter is the official publication of the USS Rich Association, Inc. 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 a member's home via First Class mail if requested. Non-member subscriptions are available.

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

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Service Officer's Notes

from Chuck Weber, Association VSO



VA Enrollees Exempt From Obamacare

By Patricia Kime pkime@militarytimes.com

Good news for veterans who lack health care and fear they'll have to buy insurance or pay a penalty under the Affordable Care Act: Enrollment in the Veterans Health Administration counts as being insured.

Veterans who qualify for VA health care — including all who fall into the Veterans Affairs Department's eight health care priority groups — do not have to buy insurance under the health care reform law's individual mandate requirement.

This includes veterans in Priority Group 8, often targeted for elimination by budget-cutters because it is for veterans who have no service connected disabilities and have income and net worth that exceed VA thresholds.

In 2003, VA closed enrollment in Priority Group 8 as a cost-saving measure. But in June 2009, VA reopened enrollment, with income restrictions. Former service members who do not qualify for a higher priority group and whose income exceeds VA's normal national and geographic income thresholds by less than 10 percent can enroll in Priority Group 8.

VA publishes its national and geographic income thresholds yearly.

According to figures provided by VA, nearly 8.6 million veterans are enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration. An estimated 6.6 million more of the nation's 23 million veterans are eligible to enroll. VA is "conducting analyses to better understand the potential implications of the Affordable Care Act on veterans," said VA spokeswoman Michelle Hammonds.

She noted that veterans and eligible beneficiaries who are not enrolled in VA health care can enroll in the system online.

"We'll continue to provide veterans with high-quality, comprehensive health care and benefits they have earned," she said.

Nearly 168,000 veterans have enrolled in Priority Group 8 since restrictions were lifted in 2009.

The largest enrollment group, with 2.2 million veterans, is Priority Group 5, open to veterans receiving Medicaid benefits or VA pensions, or who do not have a service-related condition and do not receive benefits but whose income is below VA financial thresholds.

U.S. citizens who do not have health insurance and do not qualify for government programs could face penalties under the ACA starting in 2014. Annual fines would start at \$95 for an adult and \$47.50 for a child up to \$285 per family or 1 percent of family income, whichever is greater.

In 2016 and beyond, fines would rise to \$695 per adult and \$347.50 per child, up to \$2,085 per family or 2.5 percent of family income, whichever is greater.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates about 1 percent of Americans would have to pay the fines.



2014 Reunion Events and Activities

Monday, May 12, 2014

- + Travel Day- No Planned Activities
- + Shipmates arriving throughout the day.
- + Hospitality Suite will be open sometime after mid-day
- + All Meals on your own.
- + 0000 Hospitality Suite secures.

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

- + Breakfast & Lunch on your own.
- + 0900 Bus departs for Ringling Museum (\$34/person)
- + 1600 Bus returns from tour
- + 1700 Light Dinner in Hospitality Room (*Cost included in your registration*)
- + 2000 Annual Auction in Hospitality Suite
- + 0000 Hospitality Suite secures.

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

- + Breakfast on your own.
- + On Your Own throughout the day
- + (Activity suggestions in Registration packet)
- + 1830 Bus departs for Dinner Cruise (\$55/person)
- + 2200 Bus returns from Dinner Cruise
- + 0000 Hospitality Suite secures.

Thursday, May 15, 2014

- + Breakfast & Lunch on your own.
- + 1000 Annual Business Meeting
- + 1700 Cocktail Hour Cash Bar.
- + 1800 Banquet (*Cost included in your registration*) Cash Bar.
- + 0000 Hospitality Suite secures.

Friday, May 16, 2014

- + Travel Day—No Planned Activities
- + Shipmates departing throughout the day.
- + Hospitality Suite secures at 1300
- + All meals on your own.

HOTEL and RESERVATIONS INFORMATION

Dolphin Beach Resort

4900 Gulf Blvd · St Pete Beach FL 33706 · 727-360-7011

Our daily rates: \$89* Standard - \$119* Poolside - \$149* Beach Front (*PLUS 12%)

Reservations: Online: ussrich.org - Phone 800-237-8916 Group Code G/USS/RICH

DO NOT USE THE DOLPHIN BEACH INTERNET RESERVATION SYSTEM

USS RICH - DD/DDE-820



USS RICH ASSOCIATION 2014 REUNION REGISTRATION

NAME: _____

RATE/RANK WHILE ABOARD: _____ TOUR DATES: _____

A	<u>REGISTRATION FEE(S) FOR CURRENT PAID*</u> ASSOCIATION MEMBERS (Please Print)	
	NAME _____	1 @\$65= _____
	GUEST _____	1 @\$65= _____
	GUEST _____	1 @\$65= _____
	<small>*Including Plank Owners and Life Members</small>	Sub Total _____

B	<u>REGISTRATION FEE(S) FOR NON-MEMBERS*</u> (Please Print)	
	NAME _____	1 @\$85= _____
	GUEST _____	1 @\$85= _____
	GUEST _____	1 @\$85= _____
	<small>*Persons who are not paid-up members</small>	Sub Total _____

C	<u>OPTIONAL EVENTS</u>	
	Tour of world renowned Ringling Museum	_____ @\$34/per= _____
	An Evening on the Intercoastal Waterway Dinner Cruise	_____ @\$55/per= _____
		Sub Total _____

S U M M A R Y	>>>>> Mail your check and this form to <<<<<<	Sub Total "A" _____
	Donald N. Hogg, Treasurer	Sub Total "B" _____
	USS RICH Association	Sub Total "C" _____
	1801 N. 9th St.	
	De Queen, AR 71832	
	You may also register online with your credit/debit card!	Total Amount Enclosed _____

**CUT OFF DATE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND TOURS:
Midnight, April 13, 2014**
(Better to make reservations then cancel if necessary)

[Back of registration form]



USS ZUMWALT: In The Water



By Larry Shaughnessy

(CNN) - The Navy's newest warship slipped out of dry dock this week into the waters of Maine, marking a new era for war fighting at sea.

The USS Zumwalt, the first of the DDX-1000 class of destroyers, is longer, faster and carries state-of-the-art weapons that will allow it to destroy targets at more than 60 miles, according to the Navy.

At 610 feet long and 81 feet wide, the Zumwalt is longer and thinner than the USS Arizona, a battleship sunk at Pearl Harbor. But it weighs about half as much.

Much of the ship's superstructure is wrapped in a huge canopy made of lightweight carbon fiber composite.

The canopy and the rest of the ship is built on angles that help make it 50 times harder to spot on radar than an ordinary destroyer.

"It has the radar cross-section of a fishing boat," said Chris Johnson a spokesperson for Naval Sea Systems Command.

The Navy had planned to spend up to \$9 billion in research and development on the DDG-1000

program and up to \$20 billion to design and deliver seven ships. But cost overruns cut production to three ships.

When it begins missions, the Zumwalt will be the largest stealthy ship in the Navy.

Coming out of dry dock at Bath Iron Works in Maine does not mean the ship is ready to put to sea.

The shipbuilder will now begin installing a considerable arsenal of weapons, including two Advanced Gun Systems (AGS), which can fire rocket powered, computer-guided shells that can destroy targets 63 miles away. That's three times farther than ordinary destroyer guns can fire.

The DDX will go to sea with a crew of about 150 as opposed to current destroyers which carry a crew of 275. One reason is the AGS is practically self-firing. It needs no sailors to load the shells or remove the spent rounds.

The Zumwalt will also be equipped with a new missile launching system capable of firing 80 missiles, including Tomahawk cruise missiles and Seasparrow surface to air missiles.

Finally, it will be able to carry and launch two Seahawk helicopters or four unmanned aerial vehicles.

Its christening had been scheduled for last month, but the government shutdown forced the Navy to cancel the ceremony.

It's expected to be rescheduled next spring. The shipbuilder plans to finish construction and turn the ship over to the Navy next year.

USS RICH - DD/DDE-820



“Now Set The Special Sea And Anchor Detail”

“Now set the Special Sea and Anchor Detail”

There was a loud-speaker on the ship. Somebody talked on it incessantly.

"Captain's on the bridge".

"Captain's off the bridge."

Time to get up.

Time to go to bed.

Time to be eight o'clock at night. (what the hell was that for?).

Somebody recorded the phases of my life with special scripted announcements of all the significant happenings of my days and nights at sea.

Each new act began the same way:

"Underway, shift colors".

"Sweepers, sweepers, man your brooms".

"Now set the special sea and anchor detail".

But long before that. Way into the night before. Into the early hours, before the weighing of that huge bunch of anchor, the crew came on.

I've been there. I've stood watch on the eve of the cruise. It's disgusting. And pretty funny most of the time.

When we put out to sea it was sometimes for a very long time. Sometimes we'd go for a few days and more often we'd go for a couple of weeks and some times we'd go for 6 or more months. A young man with ties to the shore can get a little melancholy as he drags his seabags up the gangway and into the vast imprisonment of the travelling jail town that we lived in out at sea.

One had a tendency to get drunk.

And then he'd have a few more 'for the road' as it were.

It wasn't just one ship that would be heading away. When we'd go 'on a cruise' as they called it for the long ones into the Mediterranean we'd go with an entire task force. We'd rarely travel alone. Someone's gotta protect our carrier. So we'd go with a number of cruisers and destroyers and frigates and supply ships and probably some submarines too.



A lot of sailors would have a reason to get drunk that night. The boardwalks at the beach, the bars, the trailer parks and cheap rental homes would all be sporting quite a party. When other task forces put out to sea I noticed that the beach was a good place to be the following night. Some wives got lonely right away. And they were very ready to party.

Rules enforcement in the parking lot at the gangway were pretty loose on that night before we left. Drunken sailors would be arriving every few minutes. Sometimes some of our boys were carried up the steps. Sometimes they cried. Sometimes a spouse or very friendly girlfriend would help the men in blue act out a veritable porno-show right there on the gangway.

Kids would cry. Daddy don't go.

It was exciting. We were going away. Off to see the world. It was sad. We were going away. Away from the world.

You had to get on board because one very high crime in the Navy is to miss the movement of your ship. The crime was called "missing movement". And I understand you went to jail for that.

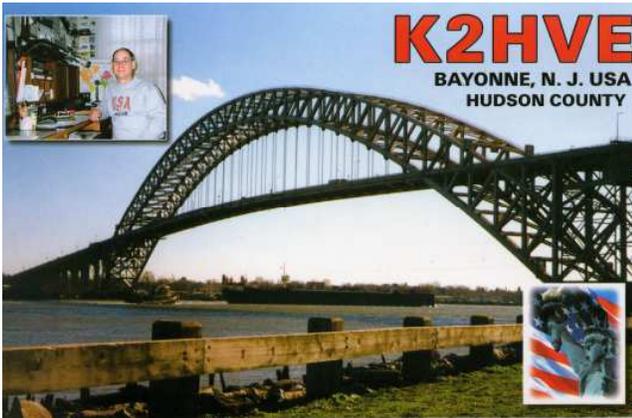
Next day you woke up and you were out at sea. They tied the planes down on the flight deck for the Atlantic crossing. Tied them with chains. It was pretty cool to go up on the flight deck and sit and see stars. More stars than anywhere else in the whole world. The stars were so ever-present, so overpowering, so heavily there that they actually felt like a weight fluffing over you. There were so many stars out at sea that it felt like a comforter you were looking up on. The universe seemed so real. The sunsets were so magnificent. The waves, the birds, the wind. So wonderful, I'll never do it again.

<http://bobbranchlander.blogspot.com>

USS RICH - DD/DDE-820



Shipmate Search Finds Ham Operator



The Bayonne Bridge connects Bayonne, NJ to Staten Island, NY. Completed in 1931 it spans 1652 ft. over the Kill Van Kull a major shipping channel for goods entering the United States. The Sidney Harbor Bridge in Australia is Her Twin Sister. Bayonne also has a Sister City on the South Coast of France. Bayonne is located 2.5 miles SW of New York City and 1.5 miles SW of the Statue of Liberty in N.Y. Harbor
 GRID - FN 20 Hudson County Lat. 40.67N Lon. 74.08W
 10-10 # 73125 WAS WAC

Chris Wreck K2HVE
 22 East 47th Street
 Bayonne, N.J. 07002-4012
 USA

Mobile
 QRP

To:

STAMP

Confirming QSO with	Day	Month	Year
UTC	MHz	RST	Mode 2-Way



[Navy Amateur Radio Club](#)
[Notes and Such](#)
[Membership Information](#)
[Member Area](#)
[Main Site](#)

LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF ALL WHO THREATEN IT.

The Navy Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was formed on 3 March 1979 to promote the fellowship of all Amateur Radio Operators who are serving, or have served honorably in the United States or Canadian Navy, Marine Corp, Coast Guard, or any reserve components of those services. The NARC meets daily on 7245 kHz. at 0700 to 0900 ELT (Eastern Local Time). Also, check into the Anchor Net. 7245 kHz. every Monday, 1600 ELT. Please support our troops. 73

Welcome to our newest members
Check out our NARC Notes

NARC Net Times
Morning Session 0700-0900 ELT 365 days a year on 7245kHz
Monday afternoon Anchor Net 1600-1700 ELT 7245 kHz

Hello Fellow Shipmates of the USS Rich. A special thanks to all the efforts of the Association for seeking out our crew members. I hope to be at the 2014 Reunion in St. Petersburg Beach.

I reported aboard in 1971 as a GMG3 and was Mount Captain of Mount 51, the twin 5"38cal " on the bow. In my gun crew was GMG3 Blough. I spent many hours playing cards and going on liberty with GMG3 Mowbray, Mount Captain of 52 on the fantail. GMG3 Smith was our Small Arms Lockerman. Our Division leader was FTC 2 Wilson. There are many more I will remember in time.

As a civilian, I'm Net Controller, doing the scheduling, for the Navy Amateur Radio Club (Call sign is K4NAR) on HF Amateur (HAM) Radio. My Call sign is K2HVE and I'm located in Bayonne, NJ about 1.5 mi. SW of the Statue of Liberty in NY Harbor.

We are a group of Navy, Marine and Coast Guard Vets on the air 07-0900 365 days a year on 7245 KHz. If any RICH sailors are Ham Radio Operators we certainly invite you to join in Net and visitors are welcome. Everyday there is an OOD (Net Control Operator) assigned to run the Net. There are always other stations from all over the US, east of the Rockies that join in. Every Wednesday our net is followed by the Tin Can Sailors Net at 0900. They are associated with the Tin Can Sailors Association.

The following is the Preamble read everyday at the beginning of the Net.

The Navy Amateur Radio Club was formed on 3 March 1979 to promote the fellowship of all Amateur Radio Operators who are serving or have served honorably in the United States or Canadian Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or any components of those services.

The Navy Amateur Radio Club meets Daily on 7245 kHz at 0700 – 0900 Eastern Local Time 365 days a year.

If you are not a Amateur Radio Operator, you can listen on a shortwave receiver at 7245 kHz (7.245 Mhz). I am looking forward to hearing from any of my Rich shipmates.

Chris Wreck (k2hve@msn.com) Bayonne, NJ.



Personnel Changes



Crew Reporting Aboard

Oct	Barstad	Willis A	77	Ltjg	Aug	Coffea	John F	77	BT
Oct	Diederich	Elmer M	66	GM3	Aug	Cullen	Paul P	77	HT1
Oct	Doty	Joseph A	77	BM3	Aug	Davidson	David B	77	MM3
Oct	Hulin	Jerry L	66	SA	Aug	DiGuiseppe	Alex G	77	SH3
Oct	Klemick	Ronald J	77	Ltjg	Aug	Duncan	Early B	77	
Oct	Martz	Marlin W Jr	66	SA	Aug	Gaydosh	Peter J	77	EW1
Oct	Middaugh	Douglas R	77		Aug	Gouin	Mark C	77	
Oct	Poe	Pault G	77	FTG3	Aug	Grandey	David R	77	MM2
Oct	Quick	Edwin T	77	Ens	Aug	Grubb	Jacob R	77	GMG1
Oct	Roberts	Stephen S	77	Ens	Aug	Hilton	Larry M	77	SH3
Oct	Soverel	Peter W	77	Ltjg	Aug	Hinkel	Paul H	77	MM3
Oct	Svendsen	John T	77	ET3	Aug	Linse	Francis X	77	EM1
Oct	Szabados	Joel F	77	BMSN	Aug	Lissimore	Kenneth W	77	BT1
Sep	Birchfield	Robert C	77		Aug	Litwhiler	Lance	77	ET3
Sep	Leem	Manual U	77	FN	Aug	Mays	Richard N	77	
Sep	McElvarr	Joseph E	77	STG1	Aug	McCafferty	Eric C	77	QM2
Sep	Roy	Mark S	77	MSSA	Aug	Nerren	Joseph K	77	
Sep	Terry	Loyd E	77		Aug	Pacio	Julio C	77	HT
Sep	Wessner	Charles R	77	MM1	Aug	Purvee	Wilford E	77	YN1
Aug	Able	John R	77	OCS	Aug	Schafers	Christopher J	77	GMT3
Aug	Archer	Kevin O	77	BT2	Aug	Smith	Reaford C	77	
Aug	Arnaud	Kevin J	77	MM3	Aug	Suppan	Richard G	77	
Aug	Bowman	Keith A	77	HT3	Aug	Tate	Michael E	77	
Aug	Burks	Stephan D	77		Aug	Transue	Oliver D	77	MM3
Aug	Carig	Rogelio S	77	MS1	Aug	Tripponey	Donald C	77	
Aug	Cleghorn	Travis L	77		Aug	Wendland	Steven L	77	



Piped Ashore - Deceased

Oct	Baker	Milton L	77		Aug	Able	John R	77	
Oct	Barwick	Norman R	77	Ens	Aug	Archibald	Robert L		
Oct	Deming	Earl J	77	SA	Aug	Davis	R A	77	MMC
Oct	Evertt	Warren J	77	SA	Aug	Feldhahn	William A	77	
Oct	Godby	Joseph B	66	SN	Aug	Fugler	Jerry B	77	PN1
Oct	Ward	Timothy P	77		Aug	Graham	Bradley K	77	GMGC
Sep	Fidler	John R	66-68	BM3	Aug	Prader	Robert W	77	ET3
Sep	Ponge	Norman F	63-67	FTG3	Aug	Shulz	Harold T	77	OS1



Dunnigan's Corner

"Where the old sailors come for a good laugh"



THIS IS A FRIGHTENING STATISTIC, PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST WORRYSOME IN RECENT YEARS. 25% of the women in this country are on medication for mental illness. That's scary. It means 75% are running around untreated.



Today's Short Reading from the Bible: From Genesis: "And God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the earth." Then He made the earth round... and He laughed and laughed.



After a tiring day, a commuter settled down in her seat and closed her eyes.

As the train rolled out of the station, the guy sitting next to her pulled out his cell phone and started talking in a loud voice: "Hi sweetheart. It's Eric. I'm on the train."

"Yes, I know it's six thirty and not four thirty, but I had a long meeting."

"No, honey, not with that blonde from the accounts office. It was with the boss."

"No sweetheart, you're the only one in my life."

"Yes, I'm sure, cross my heart."

Fifteen minutes later, he was still talking loudly.

When the young woman sitting next to him had enough, she leaned over and said into the phone, "Eric, hang up the phone and come back to bed."

Eric doesn't use his cell phone in public any longer.



The gentleman was sunbathing naked at the beach in Florida. For the sake of civility, and to keep from getting sunburned, he had a hat over his private parts. A woman walks past and says, snickering, "If you were a gentleman you'd lift your hat."

He raised an eyebrow and replied, "If you were better looking it would lift itself."



Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business.

When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, he decided he needed to find a wife with whom to share his fortune.

One evening, at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. "I may look like just an ordinary guy," he said to her, "But in just a few years my father will die and I will inherit \$200 million".

"Impressed, the woman asked for his business card and three days later, she became his stepmother.

Women are so much better at financial planning than men.





8926 Phyllis Ave—Sarasota FL 34231

