

The 820 Newsletter



The Official Publication of the USS Rich Association
Volume 22, Number 1

On the Internet: www.ussrich.org
Feb-Mar-Apr 2015

Norfolk On The Horizon

About the time you'll be reading this there will be about 80 days until we all meet in NorVa for the 22nd Annual Ship's Company Reunion!

It will be a busy week for the attendees with lots to see and do. If you haven't visited the area in awhile, you probably won't recognize anything with Norfolk being the home of the "largest military installation in the world". This gives the reunion planners the opportunity to hold events that are of a military nature which are typically incredibly interesting and priced to afford.

We recommend you come a day or so early to give yourself time to motor around the area to see not only the modernization that has taken place but also to see perhaps some of the old haunts we all so dearly remember. The D&S Piers, long believed to be gone, are (as of 2012) intact and functioning as we remember. The visual difference is the gate that we used has been relocated further north and depending on the defense status of NOB you may be able to drive down by the piers and visually visit in-port destroyers and subs.

As with anything to do with the Navy, some of us didn't have the most wonderful experience with the ship or the community, yet others not only have pleasant memories but nearly 100* of our shipmates made the area "Home". Perhaps this is part of the reason that shipmates volunteer to be the local Reunion Host and the membership continues to vote "Yes" in making NorVa the reunion destination. The 2015 Reunion makes the third return to Norfolk making it the leading city of choice with our membership.

(*Number does not include deceased shipmates)



Annual Reunion Reminder #1

To make a room reservation at our host hotel call
1-800-228-5157

You MUST tell them the RICH REUNION
to obtain the \$99/night inclusive rate
(Price honored 3 days prior and after the reunion)

Deadline: Friday, March 27, 2015

Annual Reunion Reminder #2

In order to participate and enjoy the planned events of the reunion you must register by mail or online to accommodate our service providers.

Tues: Nauticus/USS Wisconsin w/lunch-\$40

Wed: Military Aviation Museum w/dinner- \$49

Deadline: Friday, April 1, 2015

Reunion 2016

First it was Baltimore. Then Eastern Maryland. They couldn't fill our requirements. So we looked elsewhere.

Memphis looks exciting and remains a possibility but Chattanooga has a certain southern sweetness that can't be ignored.

If it sounds a bit like a Grade B Soap Opera, you'll want to be at the 2015 Membership Meeting and hear all the lurid details. :-)

Looking For Authors

Crank up the old word processor

Many years ago when you were standing next to that guy in the Chow Line, you had no way of knowing what his future life would hold. Some would die young, some would lead a quiet life as many Americans do and still others would find careers with remarkable results. On the negative side we even had a serial rapist-killer in our crew. (He died in prison.)

What we don't often hear about are those who go on with life with interesting and successful careers both in the Navy and in civilian life.

Perhaps you don't fancy yourself as a writer but have a story to tell. We'd like to hear it and we'll help (if necessary) "groom" it into a tale your family and shipmates will be proud of.

To start things off we have a story written by Lee Champagne, DC3, 1966-67 who took advantage of opportunities presented and following a 30-year Navy career went on to a successful civilian job in, what else? Damage Control.

You'll find his story in the Life Aboard Ship section of our website at www.ussrich.org. What's your story? Send it to us!




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.

The entire content of the 820 Newsletter is ©2015 by the USS Rich Association, Inc. and may not be used or reproduced in any manner without express permission. Other copyrighted material may appear and is the sole property of the copyrighter.

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

Editor	Marshall K. DuBois	SH2 (62-66)	941-966-1252
President	Johnny V. Skillen	BMSN (64-66)	870-535-3331 870-692-1173
Treasurer	Gary E. Wilson	SHSN (60-62)	615-371-9612 615-371-0130

Sea Stories

from the Navy on the Internet

Hitting rough seas. Most had sense enough to know how to handle chow, but some had to learn the hard way even after being told several times. Young guy gets his tray of food and glass, puts his tray down at the table, then walks away with the glass for his drink. Ship takes a roll and without saying a word to each other, all of us at the table quietly lift our trays to allow his to slide and hit the deck. Then we put our trays back down and continue eating.

World War Two..... Two Canadian Corvettes, both arriving in London Derry, Ireland. Entrance to the harbour has a boom vessel that opens and closes the anti-submarine net.

Canadian ship number one, slows down to allow boom vessel to open sub net. Ship number two doesn't slow down and hits number one in the stern, causing serious damage.

Signal from number one to number two, by loud hailer..... "If you touch me there again, you will have to marry me."

Once upon a time, my father was a naval officer. Another officer in his unit said "We should rename this unit to more accurately reflect our mission. We say we are Commander, Fleet Operational Computers, Pacific, but we REALLY are in charge of utility computers."

This was accepted, and they got as far as getting the new plain language address for their message traffic before realizing that they'd been had... Commander, Fleet Utility Computers, Pacific translated to the following message address: COMFUCPAC. **Go Navy!**



Unofficial US Navy Certificates

Through the years, the wish to mark other seagoing milestones has given birth to certificates for all kinds of distinctions. Most of them are variations on the shellback theme; they document, typically in salty language, passing certain places for the first time. Some of these time-honored traditions that have come to light include:

(Ed Note: This is a partial list)

Decommissioning

Decommissioning of a ship, land unit, or squadron.

Emerald Shellback

Crossing of the Equator at the Greenwich Meridian.

Frozen Stiff

Members who have crossed the Antarctic Circle and are entitled to all privileges of this frozen realm of blizzards, including freezing, shivering, starving and any other privileged miseries that can possibly be bestowed.

Golden Dragon

Crossing of the 180th Meridian (International Date Line).

Golden Shellback

Crossing of the Equator at the 180th Meridian.

Great Lakes

Cruising the St. Lawrence Seaway and Great Lakes.

Icelandic Domain

Commemorating service in Iceland.

Mossback

Traversing around Cape Horn.

Northern Domain of the Polar Bear

Crossing the Arctic Circle (66- 32 North latitude).

Order of Magellan

Going around the World.

Order of the Ditch

Transiting the Panama Canal.

Order of the Rock

Transit through the Straits of Gibraltar.

Panama Canal

Transit through the Panama Canal.

Persian Excursion

Persian Gulf service

Plank Owner

Commissioning a Ship

Pollywog

Member who has not previously "crossed the Line" (Equator).

Realm of the Czars

Cruising the Black Sea.

Red Nose

Member who has crossed the Antarctic Circle (66-32 South latitude).

Royal Domain of the Emperor Penguin

Crossing the Antarctic Circle (66-32 South latitude).

Royal Order of Whale Bangers

Crew members who accidentally fired at a whale, unfortunately mistaking it for a submarine.

Safari to Suez

Transiting the Suez Canal.

Sea Squatters

Member who takes to the water and spends more than 24 hours on a life raft.

Shellback

Crossing the Equator. Special Gold Shellback title for crossing at the International Date Line, special Emerald Shellback title for crossing at the Greenwich Meridian.

Spanish Main

Cruising the Caribbean.

Suez Canal

Transit through the Suez Canal.

Note: If you are a Navy veteran who has received a certificate not listed above or on the link below, and would like the certificate considered for inclusion in this list, send a photocopy of the certificate with a brief explanation concerning its issuance to:

Web Site Committee

Naval Historical Center

805 Kidder Breese Street

Washington Navy Yard

Washington DC 20374-5060

A complete listing may be found at:

<http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq92-3.htm>



2015 Reunion Events and Activities

Monday, April 27, 2015

- + Travel Day- No Planned Activities
- + Shipmates arriving throughout the day
- + Hospitality Suite will be open sometime after mid-day
- + All Meals on your own
- + 2300 Hospitality Suite secures

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

- + Breakfast & Lunch on your own *(Hotel guests: Free Full Breakfast)*
- + 0700 Hospitality Suite opens
- + 0930 Bus departs for Nauticus/USS Wisconsin **Cost \$40.00/person**
- + 1600 Bus returns from museum
- + 1800 Light Supper in the Hospitality Suite *(Cost included in your registration)*
- + 1900 Fun 'N Games in the Hospitality Suite
- + 2300 Hospitality Suite secures.

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

- + Breakfast & Lunch on your own *(Hotel guests: Free Full Breakfast)*
- + 0700 Hospitality Suite opens
- + 1100 Bus departs for Military Aviation Museum **Cost \$49.00/person**
(Dinner included. For those not on the trip, dinner is on your own)
- + 1830 Bus returns from museum
- + 2000 Annual Auction in Hospitality Suite
- + 2300 Hospitality Suite secures

Thursday, April 30, 2015

- + Breakfast & Lunch on your own *(Hotel guests: Free Full Breakfast)*
- + 0700 Hospitality Suite opens
- + 1000 Annual Business Meeting
- + 1700 Cocktail Hour Cash Bar.
- + 1800 Banquet & Entertainment *(Cost included in your registration)* Cash Bar.
- + 2300 Hospitality Suite secures.

Friday, May 1, 2015

- + Travel Day—No Planned Activities
- + Shipmates departing throughout the day.
- + Hospitality Suite secures at 1300
- + All meals on your own. *(Hotel guests: Free Full Breakfast)*

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Reservation Deadline: Friday, March 27, 2015

Quality Suites Lake Wright

6280 Northampton Blvd · Norfolk VA · 757-461-6251

Our group rate is \$99/night inclusive (You MUST tell them you are with the USS RICH reunion)

Reserve online at: <http://ussrich.org> –or– telephone 800-228-5157

DO NOT USE THE CHOICE HOTELS INTERNET RESERVATION SYSTEM

USS RICH - DD/DDE-820



USS RICH ASSOCIATION 2015 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= _____
*Including Plank Owners and Life Members		Sub Total _____

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

C	<u>OPTIONAL EVENTS</u>	
	Nauticus/USS Wisconsin (Transportation/included) _____	@ \$40/ea= _____
	Military Aviation Museum (Transportation/meal included) _____	@ \$49/ea= _____
	Sub Total _____	

S U M M A R Y	<i>Make checks payable to USS RICH ASSOCIATION</i>		Sub Total "A" _____
	>>>> Mail your check and this form to <<<<<<		
	Gary Wilson, Treasurer		Sub Total "B" _____
	USS Rich Association		
	330 Franklin Rd #135a-209		Sub Total "C" _____
	Brentwood, TN 37027-3280		
You may also register online with your credit/debit card!		Total Amount Enclosed _____	

**CUT OFF DATE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND TOURS:
Friday, March 27, 2015**
(Better to make reservations and cancel if necessary)

(Back of Registration form)

USS RICH - DD/DDE-820



Navy Mulls Not Shaving Recruits' Heads

For men, getting their head shaved on the first day of Navy boot camp has been a rite of passage for decades.

Women are also required to get first-day haircuts to ensure their hair is trimmed to regulation length, equal to the uniform collar.

But the days of these old traditions could be numbered.

Women taking part in a three-month pilot program at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Illinois, and Officer Training Command Newport, Rhode Island, will not be required to get their hair shorn. A similar move is being considered for men that, if adopted, would eliminate the decades-long ritual.

The first pilot program will test new rules for women, according to Naval Service Training Command.

Instead of requiring women in boot camp to have their hair cut to the lower edge of the uniform collar, they would only be required to choose a hairstyle that meets Navy uniform regulations, according to the Jan. 8 NSTC release.

But if they still want the traditional haircut — they can request that, too.

"We are constantly considering fleet feedback and policy changes to improve training and quality of life during initial accession and indoctrination into the Navy," said Rear Adm. Rich Brown, commander of NSTC, in the release.

Female recruits aren't allowed to wear their hair longer or pinned up. As a result, NSTC said, female sailors and officers are not taught proper grooming standards, which would allow them to have longer hair when they reach the fleet

The pilot comes months after a [high-profile case](#) in which the Navy booted a mid-career sailor who refused to shear off her locks. Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (SW/AW) Jessica Sims said she had worn this coiled,

natural hairstyle, popular with black women, for the majority of her 12 years in uniform; her new bosses at RTC Great Lakes said the hairstyle violated regs. One of the lessons officials took from the controversy was that female hair regs are neither well-understood nor enforced in the fleet.

The pilot will bring the Navy in line with the other services, none of which require women to get their hair cut as part of recruit training.

"NSTC is considering a similar pilot program change regarding male recruits, following the pilot of the new female haircut program," according to the release.

Men have their heads shaved to one-eighth of an inch when entering training at Great Lakes, Newport and the Naval Academy — a ritual for decades.

They, too, could end up only being required to get a haircut that puts them inside the Navy's grooming standards. After the initial head shaving, all follow-on male haircuts during recruit or basic officer training are only required only to meet the service's grooming standards, a measure that ensures they graduate with regulation haircuts.

Final approval hasn't come for a male hair pilot program, and no schedule has been set, officials say.

"Presently, we are looking into the feasibility and logistics of a male haircut pilot, which would require males to have a regulation haircut of their choosing," NSTC spokesman Lt. Matthew Comer told Navy Times. "Once we determine the feasibility and training value of a male haircut pilot, we would move forward with planning."

When asked if recruits could opt to have their head shaved to the current 1/8-inch standard upon arrival, Comer replied: "Trimming hair to an 1/8-inch would certainly fall within those standards."

 By Mark D. Faram, January 8, 2015



Journey Back

Rediscovering life and love on the open road.

By Andrew Cotto



In the midst of his grief after my mother died, my 72-year-old father began to ride a motorcycle again. He hadn't been on a bike in over 40 years, since his first son—my brother, Chris—was born. But as he traveled rural Carolina roads on two wheels, whisking along at great speeds, carving turns into the asphalt, my father's veil of sadness began to lift.

That's when he joined the motorcycle club in his retirement community, Sun City Carolina Lakes, a "gang" of roughly 70 men and women who, like my father, love to ride. They also, like my father, love to eat, hence their motto: "Live to Ride, Ride to Eat." And so they do. Every Wednesday and Sunday, weather permitting, the posse takes off en masse for a food destination—usually a barbecue joint or famous diner within a few hours of Indian Land, S.C. They take the most adventurous and scenic route, twisting through mountainous topography to a place to share a meal and enjoy each other's company before returning home.

A hodgepodge of seniors from different backgrounds and different parts of the country make up this auda-

cious gang, all who have become friends in a fashion fueled by a specific passion, one that brings exhilaration and meaning to a time of life often complicated by uncertainty. These are men and women who will certainly not go gentle into that good night.

My father's friendship with one gang member, a Tennessee gentleman named Gary Crabtree, offered him something particularly valuable. Both men had lost their wives to cancer and they often shared long conversations about the experience. But it was Gary who first attempted an intimate relationship as a widower, falling for and eventually marrying a woman he had known for many years. Gary's example inspired my father to be open to new love, and soon he met Arlene McCarthy, a successful, charming and independent Sun City resident.

On one of their first dates, Arlene, who had never been anywhere near a motorcycle, bravely climbed on board my father's Kawasaki 750, wrapped her arms around his waist and held on for dear life, screaming "Yahoo!" as they rocketed into the distance.

On a Sunday ride last year, as the crew of riders collectively cruised along, my father's dear friend Gary quietly veered off course and crashed on his side. Doctors and witnesses suspect that Gary had passed before hitting the ground. The gang agreed that leaving this life on your motorcycle, surrounded by friends, as Gary did, was a good way to go.

I don't know when or how my father will go, but I know, for now, he is happy and vital. He has friends and family and a passion that carried him out of shadows of grieving into the light of life. And in this, his 75th year, my father will keep riding on roads where the sun will shine on his shoulders and the pavement will blur below his feet, his new companion on the back of his bike and the motorcycle gang by his side. Yahoo!!!

Parade MAGAZINE JAN 8, 2018

USS RICH - DD/DDE-820



Service Officer's Notes

from Chuck Weber, Association VSO

Concurrent Receipt Bills Introduced

Rep. Gus Bilirakis (Fla.) introduced the "Retired Pay Restoration Act" (H.R. 303), which would expand the eligibility of retirees with less than 50 percent disability rating to receive service-connected disability from VA and their full retirement pay for retirees eligible for Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP). Currently, only CRDP disability disabled retirees with a rating of 50 percent or more are eligible for concurrent receipt. Rep. Sanford Bishop (Ga.) has also introduced comprehensive concurrent receipt reform (HR 333) that includes disabled retirees with CRDP less than 50 percent and CRDP (Chapter 61) medically retired (less than 20 years of service). Members are urged to use the FRA Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center) to contact their representative to ask their support for these proposals.

Source: FRA NewsBytes, January 16, 2015

Flag Desecration Amendment

Rep. Steve Womack (Ark.) has introduced a proposed constitutional amendment (H.J. Res. 9) to allow Congress to pass a law to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. Many brave men and women who serve and have served in the armed services feel deeply about the dignity of "Old Glory." The physical desecration of this symbol of democracy and freedom is an affront to them and the memory of those who died in the service to this nation. Members are urged to use the Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center) to ask their representative to vote for this proposed constitutional amendment.

Source: FRA NewsBytes, January 16, 2015

Awards Replacement Request

Use SF 180, Request Pertaining To Military Records

The military recognizes that military medals are often a cherished part of family history and makes replacement medals, decorations, and awards available to veterans or their next of kin if the veteran is no longer living or able to make the request on his or her own behalf. Replacement medals, decorations and awards should be requested on SF 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records. This form can be downloaded from <http://www.va.gov/vaforms>.

Each request should be filled out neatly, and should include the veteran's branch of service, social security number, dates of service, and it should be signed by the veteran or the next of kin if the veteran is incapacitated or deceased. Where to forward it to is indicated by an address code on the back of the SF 180. In general, requests made by the veteran are fulfilled at no cost. This includes requests made by family members who have the signed authorization of the veteran. There may be an associated fee for requests made by next of kin, especially if the request involves archival records (records are considered archival records 62 years after the veteran's date of separation from military service).

[Source: RAO Seal Beach CA | John Ryan | Jan, 01, 2015]



Personnel Changes



Reported Aboard

Jan-15	No Reported Changes				
Dec-14	Link	Andrew	GMG3		Dadeville AL
Dec-14	Godwin	Russell T	ETR3	63-65	Bath PA
Dec-14	Hayes	B Lawrence			Harvard MA
Dec-14	Massey	Jerry O	RD1	64-65	Longview TX
Dec-14	Nexbitt	Larry F	SO1	63-66	Sumter SC
Dec-14	Santos	Llewellyn	RMS		Louisville KY
Dec-14	Sanderson	Virgil	SK1	63-65	Roanoke IL
Dec-14	Munier	Lawrence M	FTG3	52-64	Ocala FL
Dec-14	Parson	Francis J	SN	66-68	Philadelphia PA
Dec-14	McGrady	Ronald D	FA	63-65	Calhoun GA
Nov-14	Coolen	Ralph J	GMG3	74-75	Churchville PA
Nov-14	McWilliam	John T	Lt	71-73	Placitas NM
Nov-14	Garner	Lawrence			Hedgesville WV
Nov-14	Principe	David L	ETNSN	66-68	Oneida NY
Nov-14	Whittaker	William F	ETR3	65-67	Macungie PA
Nov-14	McCall	Robert D	EM3	70-73	McGaheysville VA

Piped Ashore - Deceased



Jan-15	Barner	Donne G	GMG3	60-63	Passed 24 Jan 15
Dec-14	Kreider	Larry E	MM3	63-67	Passed 24 Jun 14
Dec-14	Burton	Richard E		64-66	Passed 20 Feb 93
Dec-14	Clore	Wayne C		61-63	Passed 05 Jun 07
Dec-14	Crosby	John H	ETN3	64-66	Passed 20 Oct 02
Dec-14	Nicolais	Donato	SKC	63-65	Passed 27 Apr 14
Dec-14	Badonsky	Emil	MMC		Passed 23 Dec 88
Dec-14	Drewry	Walter J	HMC	62-64	Passed 28 Feb 08
Dec-14	Francis	Francis J	SH1	63-65	Passed 01 Sep 10
Dec-14	Gantt	Charles A	EM1	61-63	Passed 00 Nov 76
Dec-14	Hellman	William A	BT1	63-65	Passed 13 Nov 05
Nov-14	Dale	Kenneth J	SN	59-61	Passed 13 Feb 13
Nov-14	Radunz	Julius	EN2	64-64	Passed 10 Apr 14
Nov-14	Amos	Lewis H	BMCS	72-73	Passed 01 Mar 14
Nov-14	Zettlemoyer	Barry L	YN3	70-72	Passed 20 Oct 13
Nov-14	Harbert	Robert E	FP1	54-55	Passed 08 Oct 14
Nov-14	Erickson	David L	SK3	68-69	Passed 14 Dec 12
Nov-14	Fournier	Paul E	BT3	49-53	Passed 01 Sep 11
Nov-14	Rutherford	Orion G	CS3	63-65	Passed 27 Feb 75
Nov-14	Rose	Benton J	OS3	71-73	Passed 20 Nov 13
Nov-14	Ceraolo	John A	PN3	64-65	Passed 28 Nov 13



Dunnigan's Corner

"Where the old sailors come for a good laugh"



When I was ready to pay for my ammunition and rifle clips, the cashier at the gun store aid, "Strip down, facing me."

Making a mental note to complain to the NRA about the gun control whackos running amok, I did just as she had instructed.

When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I realized that she was referring to how I should place my credit card in the card-reader. I have been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.

They need to make their instructions to us Seniors a little clearer. I still don't think I looked *that* bad.

(Bob Basnight, STG3 68-71)



I asked a sexy Chinese girl for her number.

She replied, "Sex Sex Sex, Free Sex Tonight"

I said "WOW!"

Then her friend said "She means 6-6-6-3-6-2-9"

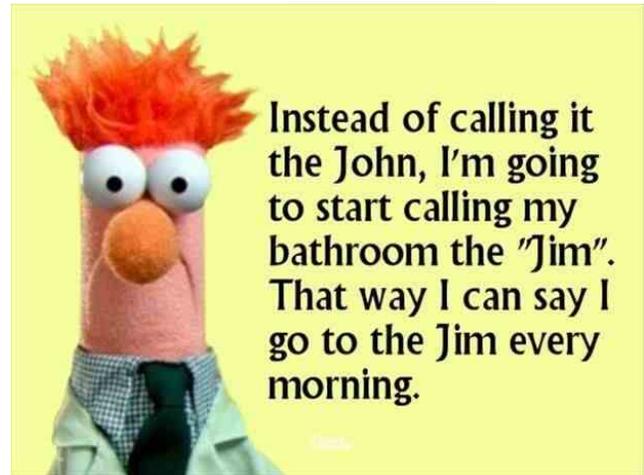


TSA discloses Airport Screening Results

Dec 14 Statistics: Airport Full Body Screening	
Terrorists Discovered	0
Transvestites	133
Hernias	1,485
Hemorrhoid Cases	3,172
Enlarged Prostates	8,249
Breast Implants	59,350
Natural Blondes	3

It was also discovered that 308 politicians had no balls.
(Thought you'd like to know.)

(Jim Carroll, MM3, 65-67)



Yesterday, a couple of my buddies and I stopped in at Hooter's for some Hot Wings and drinks. After being there for a while, one of the servers asked me which waitress I would like to be stuck in an elevator with. !

I told her "The one who knows how to fix elevators." !

I'm old, tired, and have to pee a lot.



THE FIVE MOST DANGEROUS SAYINGS IN THE NAVY:

A Seaman saying "I learned this in Boot Camp..."

A Petty Officer saying "Trust me, sir..."

An Ensign saying "Based on my experience..."

A Lieutenant saying "I was just thinking..."

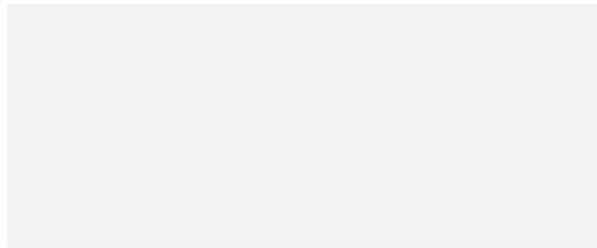
A Chief chuckling, "Watch this shit..."

(Chris Wreck, GMG3, 71-72)





8926 Phylliss Ave—Sarasota FL 34231



Via facebook: US Navy Veterans