

# The 820 Newsletter



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On the Internet: [www.ussrich.org](http://www.ussrich.org)  
Feb-Mar-Apr 2016

## Third Time is a Charm! Nashville Here We Come... Again

Unable to find accommodations in Maryland to meet our requirements, Gary and Cathy Wilson once again showed their generosity by stepping up and inviting us to Nashville. Again. We've accepted and are virtually assured we'll have a great time! Again.

Although there have been changes in "Music City" since our last visit ten years ago, there was little difficulty finding affordable facilities and entertainment events for our group. The *Grand Ole Opry* and the showboat *General Jackson* are back on the agenda to the delight of shipmates and guests.



April is a very busy month in Nashville and once again you are encouraged to make your hotel reservations and Reunion Registration as soon as possible but before the deadline of March 24th. This will assure you that you will indeed be a part of all the exciting events.

Event ticketing requires groups to bulk purchase with a deadline for unsold tickets.



In viewing the GOO online ticket availability, you would be astonished at the number of performances that are already sold out.

Following your cruise aboard the General Jackson, you will add fine dining and superb entertainment to your memories. The most difficult part of the cruise is trying to decide where to focus... the food, the entertainment or the delightful sights on the port and starboard sides of the boat!

The planned complimentary luncheon with a special speaker is a new addition to a reunion. We are certain you will be pleasantly surprised.

As previously stated, the deadline of **March 24, 2016** is crucial this year. While Reunion Registration fees can be refunded if necessary, event ticket purchases cannot. **We will, however, make attempts to resell un-used event tickets** in which case a refund will be made.

You will be personally responsible for cancelling hotel reservations. It is our understanding there are no fees if hotel reservation cancellations are made **24 hours in advance** of scheduled arrival.

# As seen on

## Russell (Middletown DE) Cold War Veterans Group

“How I spent twenty minutes of my day off work.” Microsoft customer assistance just called me. They said they are receiving a lot of errors from my PC. He would like me to download and run an application so they can fix my pc. I said “I have a notebook not a PC.” He replied “That’s fine sir.” I said okay and he walked me thru the steps. It took me ten minutes to get the right website down. I had him spell it out several times. He kept asking if I saw the site I said no. “What’s the spelling again? I may have it wrong.” Eventually I said “Okay, I got it “ Then another ten minutes for him to take me thru the download and run instructions. I was very pleasant and agreeable. Eventually I asked, “So my computer should be on?” Silence. Then in a broken English accent. “Yes sir. I thought it was on.” “No” I replied. “I’m writing it all down.” He said “You’re writing what down.” I said “What we been doing... your instructions. I told you I had a notebook you said that would be fine?” He said “I thought you were online.” I said “My notebook isn’t connected to the internet. It only has paper pages...”  
Hello?  
Hello?  
Hmm. I guess he hung up.

**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](mailto:shipsoffice@ussrich.org) or snail mail to 8926 Phylliss Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34231-7722.

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# Bring Your Artifacts

There is a reasonably good chance that at some-time since you left the Navy, someone in your family has looked upon, with disdain, a cherished and treasured item which you acquired while you were serving aboard the USS RICH.

A panel of shipmates will judge the presented articles to determine age and authenticity. Hand-made naval items will be considered as will periodic photos of the RICH and/or personnel photographed while actually aboard the RICH.

Articles branded with the USS RICH name, logo or imprint will be rated highest followed by all other US Navy items such as uniform items, personal shipboard accessories and such..

Cigarette lighters and other items purchased from the Ship’s Store will rank high as will parts and/or official US Navy items. You may enter as many items as you wish but only one item per person will be selected.

The panel of judges will be comprised of one enlisted shipmate from each decade the ship was in service and one commissioned officer.

For the ladies, bring your most favorite and/or endearing letter from your Sailor. The same panel of judges will determine which, among the entries, is the “Best of the Best”.

One prize will be awarded in each of the four decades in both the Shipmates and Spouses divisions.

Now is the time to head to the garage, attic, closet or seabag to gather up your personal artifacts. Clean them up, buff them up and get them ready. You will become a part of an effort which will resurrect many memories for you and your viewing shipmates!



# Service Officer's Notes

from Chuck Weber RVSO, Association VSO



Ask VA Secretary to Help Vietnam Vets on Ships

Help Vietnam Vets that served on Ships

A number of U.S. Senators recently dispatched a letter to VA Secretary Bob McDonald asking him to use his statutory authority to extend the presumption of service connection to veterans with Agent Orange related diseases who served in the territorial waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict. Shipmates are urged to use the [online] Action Center to contact the VA Secretary and express their support for a regulatory change so that thousands of "Blue Water" veterans can begin receiving benefits that have heretofore been unjustly denied.

Shipmates are encouraged to act by visiting the FRA website <http://www.capwiz.com/fra/home/> and complete the online letter which will be transmitted the the VA Secretary.

For those who do not have Internet access may contact the Ships Office who will provide the necessary documents to foster and support this effort.

Anyone, *veteran or not*, may participate in this cause and we encourage you to do so.

## ID Card Expiration Date Action Required if INDEF

In 2011, officials began replacing the Social Security Account Number, or SSAN, with a 10-digit number unique to the Department of Defense on all ID cards. Retirees, their family members, and survivors with an "INDEF" expiration date may not have replaced their ID card before and may therefore still have an SSAN printed on their card. DOD officials are urging people who have an ID card with an "INDEF" expiration date to visit a DOD ID card facility for a new ID card with the DOD ID number in place of the SSAN to reduce their risk of identity theft. Officials stress that until an ID card with a printed SSAN expires, it remains valid and does not need to be confiscated or replaced.

In time, every ID card will have a printed DOD number instead of a printed SSAN. Family members and survivors will have their own DOD ID number printed on their cards, not that of their sponsor. Because DoD ID cards will no longer have the sponsor's printed SSN, cardholders may be asked to provide it verbally. To find your nearest DoD ID card facility, visit <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs1> or call the Total Force Service Center at 1-800-525-0102. To confirm required documentation, refer to the Pre-Arrival Checklist at [www.cac.mil/docs/required\\_docs.pdf](http://www.cac.mil/docs/required_docs.pdf). Note that the nearest facility does not have to be an Air Force installation in order to serve Air Force retirees and their family members. People should check with the issuing facility to verify appointment requirements and hours of operation.

## Cold War Medal ► Reintroduced as H.R.2067

Representative Steve Israel (D-NY) has once again introduced a bill to create a Cold War Service Medal. It is H.R. 2067. This has been proposed in the last several Congresses and TREA is trying once again to finally get it passed. The Pentagon has repeatedly opposed the bill saying that it would cost them \$400M to create and award the medal. The CBO (Congressional Budget Office) accepted DoD's figures and scored the bill's price as the same \$400 million. TREA believes that this is a horribly inflated number and intends to fight it. If you are interested in this recognition please speak to your House member and urge him or her to cosponsor the bill.



# 2016 Reunion Events and Activities

## Monday, April 25, 2016

- + Travel Day- No Planned Activities
- + Shipmates arriving throughout the day
- + Hospitality Suite will be open sometime after mid-day
- + All Meals on your own (Hotel guests: Continental Breakfast)
- + 2300 Hospitality Suite secures

## Tuesday, April 26, 2016

- + Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner on your own (Hotel guests: Continental Breakfast )
- + 0700 Hospitality Suite opens  
Daytime On Your Own (including meals)
- + 1800 Bus departs for Grand Ole Opry (\$55/per)
- + 2300 Hospitality Suite secures

## Wednesday, April 27, 2016

- + Breakfast & Lunch on your own (Hotel guests: Continental Breakfast)
- + 0700 Hospitality Suite opens
- + 1030 Bus departs for General Jackson (\$70/per)  
Others On Your Own
- + 1830 Light Supper in Hospitality Suite (Cost included in your registration)
- + 2000 Annual Auction in Hospitality Suite
- + 2300 Hospitality Suite secures

## Thursday, April 28, 2016

- + Breakfast on your own (Hotel guests: Continent Breakfast)
- + 0700 Hospitality Suite opens
- + 0930 Annual Business Meeting (followed by Join Session w/spouse)
- + 1130 Lunch w/ speaker **Ticketed Event** (Cost included in your registration)
- + 1700 Cocktail Hour Cash Bar
- + 1745 Banquet & Entertainment (Cost included in your registration) Cash Bar
- + 2300 Hospitality Suite secures.

## Friday, April 29, 2016

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

## **HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION**

++ Reservation Deadline: March 24, 2016 ++

### **GuestHouse Inn & Suites**

2420 Music Valley Dr.—Nashville TN 37214

615-885-4030

\$85<sup>00+</sup> tax DbIOccp - Reference Code **USSRICHBLOCK**

[http://www.guesthouseintl.com/hotels/musicvalley?chebs=gl\\_ghi](http://www.guesthouseintl.com/hotels/musicvalley?chebs=gl_ghi)

# USS RICH ASSOCIATION 2016 REUNION REGISTRATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

RATE/RANK WHILE ABOARD: \_\_\_\_\_ TOUR DATES: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE(S) FOR CURRENT PAID\* ASSOCIATION MEMBERS** (Please Print)

A NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 1 @ \$65= \_\_\_\_\_  
 GUEST \_\_\_\_\_ 1 @ \$65= \_\_\_\_\_  
 GUEST \_\_\_\_\_ 1 @ \$65= \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Including Plank Owners and Life Members Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE(S) FOR NON-MEMBERS\*** (Please Print)

B NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 1 @ \$85= \_\_\_\_\_  
 GUEST \_\_\_\_\_ 1 @ \$85= \_\_\_\_\_  
 GUEST \_\_\_\_\_ 1 @ \$85= \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Persons who are not paid-up members Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTIONAL EVENTS**

C Grand Ole Opry \*\* [Tue] \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$55/ea= \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Jackson Riverboat Luncheon and show \*\* [Wed] \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$70/ea= \_\_\_\_\_  
 Speaker Lunch (No Charge) [Thu] \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$00/ea= \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*\*Transportation Included Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

S  
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R  
Y

>>>>> Mail your check and this form to <<<<<<  
 Gary Wilson, Treasurer  
 USS Rich Association  
 330 Franklin Rd #135a-209  
 Brentwood, TN 37027-3280

You may also register online with your credit/debit card!

Sub Total "A" \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sub Total "B" \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sub Total "C" \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**CUT OFF DATE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS :  
Thursday, March 24, 2016**

**GuestHouse Inn & Suites**  
 2420 Music Valley Dr.—Nashville TN 37214  
 615-885-4030

\$85<sup>00+</sup> tax Db1Occp - Reference Code **USSRICHBLOCK**  
[http://www.guesthouseintl.com/hotels/musicvalley?chebs=gl\\_ghi](http://www.guesthouseintl.com/hotels/musicvalley?chebs=gl_ghi)

(Back of Registration form)

**USS RICH - DD/DDE-820**



# Forty Years Gone

by Mike Hemming

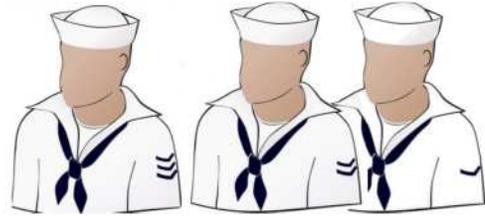
Thirty, forty or fifty, the number doesn't matter. It's just a measure of the time that has passed. It's the faces and names of the shipmates that matter. Faces and names, names and faces, are not always matched up.

Shipmates remembered even if it's only bits and pieces. We remember in snippets of things long gone, until we sometimes ask in our own minds did that happen or was it a dream or a story passed on? We would never say that out loud, for around our old buddies we always claim to remember all the good times and sometimes the bad.

They were good men that came from all over for many reasons and sailed together for a time. A time of testing and training, for men would pass on things to you that they themselves had earned. For you were expected to pass that knowledge on to those who came after you. It was a struggle to learn it all, sometimes. But you were learning lessons taught by the school of hard knocks.

There were faces of men now gone who once fought a hot war, who told you of traditions to honor those who did not return. Men that had seen too much to even tell it all. They were fighting a hard enemy that rarely gave quarter and so none was given back.

Faces of men that sailed through the years of a long cold war to hold our enemies at bay. Sacrificing years, marriages, limbs and even their lives at times to do what they thought was right. Years of stories untold even today watching the Bear and preparing for a war. Serving on boats built to fight a hot war and then holding the line through a cold war. Until the new boats that were built for the next hot war, a war that fortunately never came.



**And faces and names of those that sailed with you and now are gone these many years. We all say, "I wish I could see him one more time, but I don't know where he is."**

He was an old salt that guarded your back while ashore. Or a young kid that became a man when he stood beside you and fought fire or flooding without backing down. You didn't say "thanks" that day, but now you wish you had. They are all there in the time that has flown away from us.

We have all moved on now for better or worse. Some of them did more and some we never called upon to do more again. They returned home and went on with their lives. Names of men tested and found to be shipmates, an honor which can never be taken away. Faces with names that we shouldn't have lost as we traveled down the road. A road that led us away from what we did then as it always has to. But we shouldn't have lost all the faces and the names for all time. The faces and names of these special men that wanted to do something few can do. They did it for reasons unknown to themselves, sometimes much less to others that can never understand the pride in the accomplishment of what they did. For when the paths we travel meet again, we will all reconnect faces and names again. But wouldn't it be nice to sit with that lost shipmate forty years gone and remember that life just one more time, right now?



# Try A New Position



## facebook Page Manager

We're looking for a Page Manager! Are you comfortable working on facebook? Are you a RICH shipmate? Perhaps you're the one we're looking for! Send an email to [shipsoffice@ussrich.org](mailto:shipsoffice@ussrich.org). (The pay sucks but the rewards are great.)

## Digital Photo Librarian

We've amassed quite a library of digital photos which needs categorizing and organizing. The best resource is Google Photos. There is no urgency to the job so no pressure to complete.

Once organized, Google Photos will do the routine maintenance.

## Newsletter Subject Manager

We have published 80 issues of the 820 Newsletter since the association was founded. We need someone to identify subjects and create a "Subject Database" which will provide easy access to all articles.

*Family members* would be most welcome to volunteer for any of the above positions. The pay is the same.



USS RICH - DD/DDE-820

# The Captain Speaking

Greetings,

Already, I can hear the mess trays and cups crashing to the deck as this ship clears the harbor.

How can one watch the sunset or sunrise??

Might as well be a submariner . . .

Cap'n Ed  
Edward C Whelan, CAPT USN (Ret)  
Commanding Officer 1967-69



[A story from AP Mobile:](#)

## Largest destroyer built for Navy headed to sea for testing

BATH, Maine (AP) - The largest destroyer ever built for the U.S. Navy headed out to sea for the first time Monday, departing from shipbuilder Bath Iron Works and carefully navigating the winding Kennebec River before reaching the open ocean where the ship will undergo sea trials.

More than 200 shipbuilders, sailors and residents gathered to watch as the futuristic 600-foot, 15,000-ton USS...

[Read Full Story](#)



# The Conversations Never Will Cease

In this day and age when people get together, invariably the subject of the Internet comes up and generally *facebook* is mentioned. With *facebook*, some love it, some want nothing to do with it. But among the huge number of Interest *Groups* there are no doubt a number of groups that many of us would find very interesting and suddenly willing to join in the conversation. Groups such as **US Navy Vets, US Navy Veteran, Tin Can Sailors, Cold War Veterans**, and similar groups in which literally millions of non-active sailors participate in the conversation(s) 24/7/365. You, no doubt, remember sitting on the Mess Deck, Fantail, Foc'sle or wherever, where there is on ongoing conversation that you are listening to or engaged in. Topics you love, hate, enjoy, abhor and/or find yourself endlessly laughing, crying or are in complete disgust. *Facebook* is a virtual incarnation of that experience. Below is a glimpse of one of those conversations that you may have heard before. [The following text is *verbatim*]

## **Harry Snyder? to TIN CAN SAILORS II**

After 43 years I still fold my t-shirts the same way as taught in boot camp. My wife thinks I'm nuts but it's a pleasant obsession for me. Anybody else have impossible to break habits left over from their Navy days? Excessive alcohol consumption doesn't count. ??

**David Dalgleish** I still fold all our clothes the navy way...my wife insists i fold the wash

**David Dalgleish** And i always tome down the shower flow....don,t take 1 minute shower....but not too far off....i get annoyed when my wife takes 20 showers..outrageous

**Mark Thatcher** I still brace myself using the bulk-head (wall) when talking a piss.

**Harry Snyder** I brace myself walking around the house these days.

**Harry Snyder** Wow! After reading these I'm discovering I have many more unbreakable Navy habits than I thought Including hiding from "The Chief" when she's wandering about the decks...here she comes now, gotta go...

**Jim Shane** You never learned the clipboard trick? If you're just drifting around the ship, it's just a matter of time till somebody sees you and puts you back to work. People will leave you the fuck alone for fear But if you've got a clipboard in your hand while drifting

you'll make work for them. This technique is highly adaptable to civilian life and has served me well.

**Dennis Harden** Tried and true

**Robert Brock** I too fold my clothes the same as when I was in basic 51yrs ago, and can't stand shoes not being shined

**Steve Ware** Pussy on the left!!!

**Greg Allen** T-shirts and towels. Still fold them the same way

**Pat Flounders** " Say again"

**Shawn Salrin** O dark 30

**Boyce Martin** got off my first north Atlantic cruise and had developed a wide stance, went home and still had it, it's kind of faded over the years

**Michael Rice** Why couldn't we have kept some useful Navy habits into our old age?? Like PT!

**Jeff Collins** I can eat any meal in 3 minutes or less.

**Kenneth Jerram** Guys at work think Im A nut-case cause my workboots .I dont let them get dirty and Im always clean shaven and always have a cover

**Lisa Shannon** I love that... grooming is a lost art in civilian land

**Scott Lancaster** I agree, I keep clean shaved and have a navy haircut every two weeks

**Lisa Shannon** YESS!!!

**Scott Lancaster** My wife thinks I look like a serial killer because I keep my hair so short

**Lisa Shannon** High and tight baby!

**Scott Lancaster** Always

**Lisa Shannon** Serial killer? Yikes!

**Scott Lancaster** I think it looks good though

**Lisa Shannon** Absolutely...

**Scott Bacon** Folding clothes, pressed shirts and pants, shoes polished, gig line straight, always wear a belt, clean decks, fast eater, Navy shower, instantly wake up if there is the slightest change in background noise, etc.

**John Taylor** Do not tie my cloths to a clothes line with square knots anymore! LOL!!



# Personnel Changes

Nov-2015	Aladridge	Ralph	SN	64-66	Orlando FL
Nov-2015	Frizzel	Robert	SN	77-77	Philadelphia PA
Nov-2015	Giffard	David	BT2	73-75	Ridgeville SC
Dec-2015	Hardaway	Earl L	EWC	UNK	Crosset AR
Dec-2015	Lacorte	Mauricio	EM1	UNK	Deptford NJ
Nov-2015	Lake	Leo M	MM2	73-75	Fallston MD
Jan-2016	Lear	Phillip W	LTjg	70-72	Park City UT
Dec-2015	Martching	Larry D	RM1	UNK	Vallejo CA
Nov-2015	O'Donnoghue	Edward H	SK2	72-74	Gaithersburg MD
Jan-2016	Panosetti	Robert	CSSN	71-72	Nazreth PA
Jan-2016	Sanderson	Edward	Ens	72-74	Ranch Santa Fe CA
Dec-2015	Somuk	John A	MM2	75-77	Worthington IN
Jan-2016	Speck	Larry L	MM2	70-72	Galion OH
Nov-2015	Sprout	Richard B	DK2	73-75	Newark OH
Dec-2015	Testo	Michael J	OS3	70-77	Edwardsburg MI
Dec-2015	Vale	Paul Q	MMC	UNK	Thompsontown PA
Jan-2016	Wells	Jimmy	MM3	70-72	Moss Point MS
Dec-2015	Wofford	Robert N	UNK	UNK	Sanford NC
Dec-2015	Blair	Thomas W	EN2	UNK	Passed 22 Feb 2003
Dec-2015	Booker	John L	BT1	74-76	Passed 06 Dec 2012
Nov-2015	Culpepper	Robert	TMCS	67-68	Passed 14 Dec 2011
Nov-2015	Dibble	Thomas	TM3	49-51	Passed 19 May 2014
Dec-2015	Fuel	James C	UNK	UNK	Passed 06 Jan 2015
Dec-2015	Garcia	Alfonso	SD2	UNK	Passed 20 Jan 2015
Nov-2015	Jergens	Nicholas P	ETN2	73-75	Passed 02 Oct 1987
Nov-2015	Koenig	John O	BT3	63-65	Passed 15 Jul 2015
Jan-2016	Marcinkowski	Dennis	SR	71-73	Passed 00 Jun 1979
Dec-2015	Nunley	Waler B	GMG3	UNK	Passed 14 Apr 2010
Jan-2016	Oldham	Robert	RMC	68-72	Passed 15 Jan 1996
Dec-2015	Pavlansky	Paul S	RMC	UNK	Passed 18 May 1995
Jan-2016	Phariss	Alonzo	UNK	UNK	Passed 23 Oct 2002
Jan-2016	Pugh	Herbert J	LTjg	70-72	Passed 09 Sep 2010
Dec-2015	Scroggs	Franklin R	OS1	UNK	Passed 14 Aug 2007
Nov-2015	Simmons	James	GMG3	61-62	Passed 17 Oct 2011
Nov-2015	Skaggs	Jerry	RD1	61-65	Passed 13 Oct 2013
Jan-2016	Stellfox	George R	BT3	70-72	Passed 01 Aug 2000
Dec-2015	Svaib	James M	OS1	UNK	Passed 19 Jul 2012
Nov-2015	Taylor	William D	CDR(CO)	58-60	Passed 27 Aug 2015
Dec-2015	Weichel	George E	UNK	UNK	Passed 10 Jan 2006
Jan-2016	Woodson	James	SN	70-70	Passed 10 Jun 2009
Jan-2016	Young	Ivory	SH3	68-70	Passed 21 Jun 2005



# Dunnigan's Corner

"Where the old sailors come for a good laugh"



Two old guys, 80 and 87, were sitting on a park bench.

The 87-year-old had just finished his morning jog and wasn't even short of breath. The 80-year-old was amazed at his stamina and asked him what he did to have so much energy. The 87-year-old said, "Well, I eat rye bread every day. It keeps your energy level high and you'll have great stamina with the ladies."

So, on the way home the 80-year-old stopped at the bakery. As he was looking around, the saleslady asked if he needed any help. He said, "Do you have any rye bread?" She said, "Yes, there's a whole shelf of it. Would you like some?"

He said, "I want five loaves." She said, "My goodness, five loaves! By the time you get to the 3rd loaf, it'll be hard."

He replied, "I can't believe everybody knows about this shit but me."



It was raining hard and a big puddle had formed in front of an Irish pub.

An old man stood beside the puddle holding a stick with a string on the end and jiggled it up and down in the water.

A curious gentleman asked what he was doing.

'Fishing,' replied the old man.

'Poor old fool' thought the gentleman, so he invited the old man to have a drink in the pub.

Feeling he should start some conversation while they were sipping their whisky, the gentleman asked, "And how many have you caught?"

'You're the eighth'.



What is Celibacy?

Celibacy can be a choice in life, or a condition imposed by circumstances. While attending a Marriage Weekend, Frank and his wife Ann listened to the instructor declare, "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other." He then addressed the men.

"Can you name and describe your wife's favorite flower?"

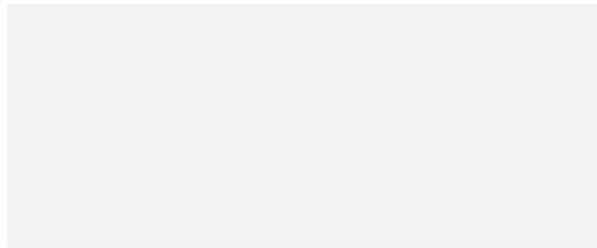
Frank leaned over, touched Ann's arm gently, and whispered, "Gold Medal-All-Purpose, isn't it?"

And thus began Frank's life of celibacy.





8926 Phyllis Ave—Sarasota FL 34231



"ALL RIGHT, SAILOR! LET'S GET THAT HAT SQUARED AWAY!"