

The 820 Newsletter



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Ligonier, PA is the place to be in May, 2017

As we travel from one end of the population spectrum to the other (Nashville (pop. 679,000) Ligonier, PA (pop. 1,600) there is a good chance we won't need a police officer to help us get safely across the street next year. Ligonier is located 51 miles E-SE of Pittsburgh. Driving time is about 60 minutes.

Good memories of this state return as we recall the record-setting attendance in York 2007. It's not difficult to understand the numbers given the fact that **10%** of our shipmates live in Pennsylvania. Other memories also return of our reunions in smaller towns and limited resources. (Think Moncks Corner, Rehoboth, Vermont and a few others.) Small towns don't limit our activities. As you get further into this issue you'll see that Paul and Karen Angelicchio have lined up some very impressive activities for those of you fortunate enough to attend.

Sleeping accommodations *will be at a premium* as we will occupy most (or all) of the only hotel in town. There are three levels of rooms: Standard, Deluxe and Suites. Each are price accordingly and as each level reaches capacity, you will be required to reserve in the next level. Of course, you may book any room on any level available at the time

of reservation. (Suggestion: Book early and stay in a room of your liking.) Although there are 3 or 4 B&B's in town, we have no information on them. Also, there are other hotels 6-8 miles from Ligonier.

If you arrive early or are going to stay after the reunion, TripAdvisor.com lists the top 10 things to see/do in the area such as:

Fort Ligonier	Ligonier Valley Railroad Museum
Fat Daddys Place	Idlewild & Soak Zone
Ligonier Beach	Ligonier Country Market
Curiosity Shop	Ridgeview Golf Club
Ligonier Theater	Bull's

We've crossed out Fort Ligonier because that is one of our tours but there are certainly nine others which seem to be interesting. Always plenty to see and do whenever you're someplace new.

Be sure to visit the website for constant weather updates and this year we have something new... the Ligonier WebCam so have a look!

And we'll be looking for you in May to have a great time at our **24th Annual USS RICH Reunion!** Be there!



Surprising Research Results From Canadian Study



A Canadian study reported the frequency of sexual activity of senior males depends on where they were born. Statistics just released from Statistics Canada and The United Nations B.O.H. Team, revealing that:

North American men between 60 and 80 years of age, will on average, have sex two to three times per week, (and a small number a lot more), whereas Japanese men, in exactly the same age group, will have sex only once or twice per year if they are lucky.

This has come as upsetting news to both me and most of my shipmates, as none of us had any idea we were Japanese.

The 820 Newsletter

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No Vietnam MUC



Recently, there was a query from a former USS Rich shipmate who was aboard in 1968 during the Vietnam deployment. He was interested in learning if USS Rich had qualified or been awarded the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation during the deployment. Apparently, he was a bit frustrated from being brushed off by several sources. He asked for help/clarification.

Calls to several ONAV offices were referred to other offices. Finally, a young fellow named Dillon was interested in the question on a Friday afternoon. He promised to research the award and get back to me on Monday.

Mid-morning Monday, a follow up telephone call from Dillon in the OPNAV "Veteran's Awards" office - was received as promised.

Dillon stated that he had gone back through the records and determined that the USS Rich (DD 820) did not qualify for the Vietnam M U C.

He explained the he had located the reason in SECNAV Notice 1650 dated March 27, 1974.

He went on to say that the Notice authorized the Vietnam M U C for ships and units operating under Naval Forces Vietnam and exempted ships of the Seventh Fleet and the Marine Amphibious Unit.

Commanding Officer Edward Whelan recalled that RICH always operated in Units or Elements of the Seventh Fleet while the Riverine forces were controlled by Commander Naval Forces, Vietnam.



A Profile of Ligonier, Pennsylvania

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ligonier,_Pennsylvania

Ligonier is a borough in [Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, United States](#). The population was 1,573 at the 2010 census. Ligonier was settled in the 1760s. The borough is well known for nearby [Idlewild Park](#), one of the oldest [amusement parks](#) in the country, and nearby [Seven Springs Mountain Resort](#). Another tourist attraction is Fort Ligonier Days, a parade and craft market that takes place every fall over the course of three days, and the Ligonier Market in the summer months. Ligonier is part of the [Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area](#).

Ligonier is the site of a reconstruction of [Fort Ligonier](#), an example of a frontier fort of the [French and Indian War](#). Ligonier is also known for its downtown square, the Diamond, which has a [bandstand](#) in the middle.

In 1758, when British forces launched a major campaign to remove [French](#) forces from the forks of the [Ohio](#), now [Pittsburgh](#), this spot on [Loyalhanna Creek](#) was the site of their westernmost camp before reaching the Ohio. It was an enormous army, a virtual moving city of 6,000 people, that temporarily made this the most populated spot in Pennsylvania second only to Philadelphia. The fort was named Fort Ligonier after [John Ligonier](#), a [British](#) noble of French origin who held the rank of [Field Marshal](#) in the [British Army](#). Eventually, the name of the settlement that grew up around the fort was shortened to Ligonier.

In 1817, the Philadelphia-Pittsburgh Turnpike was completed, a gravel road that was the precursor to today's [US Route 30](#). Fort Ligonier was a logical place for travelers to break their journey, and with such commercial opportunities in mind, a local resident named John Ramsay (sometimes spelled Ramsey) laid out the street plan, including the space now known as the Diamond. He initially called the town Ramseytown, later changed to Wellington (after the [Duke of Wellington](#)), and finally the name was changed to Ligonier.¹ Several decades of prosperity followed. On April 10, 1834, Ligonier was incorporated as a borough.

However, in 1852 the [Pennsylvania Railroad](#) was completed, which avoided Ligonier and passed through [Bolivar](#) and [Latrobe](#) instead. Traffic shifted from horse-drawn vehicles to the railroad, causing the community's population to drop to 350 according to the 1860 census. A quarter-century of stagnation ensued as the town withered.

Ligonier enjoyed a new impetus when the [Ligonier Valley Railroad](#) was completed in 1877, linking the community to Latrobe where connections to the Pennsylvania Railroad were possible. The Ligonier Valley Railroad enabled lumber, coal, and quarried stone to be transported out of the Ligonier Valley, which spurred development of the town. Also, the railroad made it easier for Pittsburgh residents to visit Ligonier, causing the town to develop as a summer resort. Some major physical changes to Ligonier occurred during this period. In 1894, the Diamond, which had been used as a corral for horses and wagons, was transformed into a park with a bandstand. A large hotel, the Hotel Breniser, was built in 1900 where the town hall currently sits. In 1909-1910, the Ligonier Valley Railroad built an ornate station and headquarters building, which still stands at 339 West Main Street.

In 1952, the Ligonier Valley Railroad ceased operation, due to a combination of overlogging, decline of the coal industry, and the loss of passenger traffic to motor vehicles.

The [Pittsburgh, Westmoreland and Somerset Railroad](#) also served Ligonier from 1899 to 1916, although it did not enjoy the success of the Ligonier Valley Railroad.

Ligonier has three listings on the [National Register of Historic Places](#): the [Fort Ligonier site](#) at 216 South Market Street; the [Ligonier Historic District](#), which encompasses the Diamond and the oldest parts of the borough; and the demolished [Ligonier Armory](#).^[7]

Ligonier and its surrounding countryside are strongly associated with the Mellon banking family, which still owns considerable tracts of land in the area. The Huntland Downs estate, near Ligonier, comprises some 30,000 acres of land and is the centerpiece of the Mellon land holdings in the region.



USS RICH - DD/DDE-820



Interesting and Informative Tours

We are fortunate in that with each reunion location there are interesting, informative and fun places to visit and explore. This year is no exception.

Flight 93 Memorial

The Flight 93 National Memorial is located at the site of the crash of [United Airlines Flight 93](#), which was [hijacked](#) in the [September 11 attacks](#), in [Stonycreek Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania](#), about 2 miles north of [Shanksville](#), and 60 miles southeast of [Pittsburgh](#). The memorial was made to honor the passengers and crew of Flight 93, who stopped the [terrorists](#) from reaching their target by fighting the hijackers. A temporary memorial to the 40 victims was established soon after the crash, and the first phase of the permanent memorial was completed, opened, and dedicated on September 10, 2011. The current design for the memorial is a modified version of the entry *Crescent of Embrace* by Paul and Milena Murdoch.

Of the four aircraft [hijacked](#) on September 11, Flight 93 is the only one that did not reach its intended target, presumed to be the [United States Capitol](#) in [Washington, D.C.](#)^[2] Several passengers and crew members made [cellular telephone](#) calls aboard the flight and learned about the attacks on the [World Trade Center](#) in [New York City](#) and the [Pentagon](#) in [Arlington County, Virginia](#). As a result, the passengers and crew members decided to mount an assault against the hijackers and wrest control of the aircraft. The plane crashed in a field in [Stonycreek Township, Pennsylvania](#), about 150 miles (240 km) northwest of Washington, D.C., killing all 39 [civilians](#), a [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officer](#), and four [terrorists](#) aboard.



A boulder marks the impact zone of flight 93

Full story: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flight_93_National_Memorial

Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater



Fallingwater is a house built between 1936 and 1939 over a waterfall in southwest Pennsylvania. Frank Lloyd Wright, America's most famous architect, designed the house for his clients, the Kaufmann family. It instantly became famous, and today it is a National Historic Landmark.

Why is it so famous? It's a house that doesn't even appear to stand on solid ground, but instead stretches out over a 30' waterfall. It captured everyone's imagination when it was on the cover of Time magazine in 1938.

The Kaufmanns were from Pittsburgh, PA. They owned Kaufmann's Department Store, a very exciting and elegant place to shop in the 1930s. (Today, it is part of the Macy's chain). Edgar Kaufmann and his wife, Liliane, had one son, Edgar Jr.

The Kaufmanns lived in the city, but like many other Pittsburghers, they loved to vacation in the mountains southeast of Pittsburgh. They could hike in the forest, swim and fish in the streams, go horseback riding, and do other outdoor activities.

Pittsburgh at the time was sometimes called the "Smoky City," due to the amount of air pollution from Pittsburgh's steel industry. People who could afford to take the train to the mountains (\$1 round trip) relished the chance to breathe fresh, cool mountain air.

Full story: <http://www.fallingwater.org/37/what-is-fallingwater>

USS RICH - DD/DDE-820



Quecreek Mine Memorial

On July 24, 2002, eighteen [coal miners](#) at the Quecreek Mine in [Lincoln Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania](#), owned by Black Wolf Coal Company accidentally dug into the abandoned, poorly documented Saxman Coal / Harrison #2 Mine [Saxman mine, flooding](#) the [room and pillar](#) mine with an estimated 50 million gallons of water. Both the Saxman Mine and Quecreek Mine are in the Upper Kittanning coal seam. The Upper Kittanning seam locally ranges in thickness from 38 to 62 inches and [dips](#) 1.7 to 2.3 degrees (3 to 4 percent) to the northwest.

The structural geology of the area caused the flooded mine void of the shallower Saxman Mine to be at a higher elevation than the active Quecreek Mine. The Saxman mine was located along the axis of the anticlinal Boswell Dome and the Quecreek Mine on the western flank of the [anticline](#). The mine was opened by Quemahoning Creek Coal Company in 1913 as Quecreek No. 2 mine. Saxman Coal and Coke Company purchased the mine in 1925 and mined it until 1963 with an idle period from 1934 through 1941. The mine had also been named Saxman, Harrison, and most recently, Harrison No. 2. The miners were working on July 24 in the 1-Left panel. The 1-Left panel was driven up dip from the Mains for approximately 3,100. The flooded abandoned mine was located immediately up dip of the Quecreek #1 mine permit boundary in the Upper Kittanning coal seam.

At approximately 9 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24, the eighteen miners were in danger 240 feet underground, below the fields of Dormel Farm when the flooded Saxman mine was breached as the mining progressed eastward. Water had broken through the face and was inundating the entry, and the nine miners in the 1-Left panel area used the mine's phone system to notify the other group of nine miners in the 2-Left panel to evacuate immediately. These miners were able to escape at around 9:45 p.m. and alert others, and a [911](#) call was made at 9:53 p.m. However, the mine was flooding too rapidly for the miners in the 1-Left panel area to evacuate. Twice they tried to travel in the four-foot-high tunnels over 3,000 feet to a shaft that would lead them to the surface, but these were also flooded. Back on the surface, [Pennsylvania State Police](#) were guarding the Quecreek mine site by 10:30 p.m., and instructed reporters to go to the local church for a press conference scheduled to occur later that night.

Complete story at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quecreek_Mine_rescue

Last... But Not Least

The Oakhurst "Tea" Room has been around for over 65 years. There was no "Tea" involved in this little Tea Room when gentlemen gathered together to have liquor served from tea pots and into "tea" cups, during prohibition.

They serve a smorgasbord lunch, a Sunday smorgasbord brunch and a Friday night seafood smorgasbord.

I was never very impressed with the food but my mother always thought it was wonderful and this is where she choose to go on special occasions.

Everything is made from scratch, nothing is ever frozen. They have a huge dessert bar with hand-dipped ice cream..

The 1940's and 1950's Oakhurst featured many big bands and attractions from New York City and was often referred to as "The Night Spot" for the surrounding areas.

In 1933 they started serving "all you can eat chicken and waffle dinners" for 50 cents and is now is in its fourth generation of family operation.

Complete story: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/oakhurst-tea-room-somerset>



USS RICH - DD/DDE-820



2017 Reunion Events and Activities

Monday, May 1, 2017

- + 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: Breakfast Buffet)
- + 2300 Hospitality Suite secures

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

- + Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner on your own (Hotel guests: Breakfast Buffet)
- + 0700 Hospitality Suite opens
- + 0830 Depart Hotel:Falling Water+Flight 93 Mem+Quecreek Mine+Oakhurst \$72.50/person
- + 1130 Depart Hotel:Flight 93 Mem+Quecreek Mine+Oakhurst \$57.50/person
- + 1900 All Tours return
- + 2300 Hospitality Suite secures

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

- + Breakfast & Lunch on your own ((Hotel guests: Breakfast Buffet)
- + 0700 Hospitality Suite opens
- + 1400 Depart for Fort Ligonier \$5.00/person
- + 1630 Return from Fort Ligonier
- + 1700 Light Dinner (Cost included in your registration)
- + 2000 Annual Auction in Hospitality Suite
- + 2300 Hospitality Suite secures

Thursday, May 4, 2017

- + Breakfast on your own (Hotel guests: Breakfast Buffet)
- + 0700 Hospitality Suite opens
- + 1000 Annual Business Meeting
- + 1700 Cocktail Hour Cash Bar
- + 1745 Banquet & Entertainment (Cost included in your registration) Cash Bar
- + 2300 Hospitality Suite secures.

Friday, May 5, 2017

- + Travel Day—No Planned Activities (Hotel guests: Breakfast Buffet)
- + Shipmates departing during the day +
- + Hospitality Suite secures 1300
- + God Speed

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Ramada - Ligonier

218 West Loyalhanna St Ligonier PA 15658 Phone:724-238-9545 Fax:724-238-9803

Price/Availability Expires March 31, 2017

Std:1 Queen or 2 Queens =\$105 Dlx:1 King or 2 Queen w/Sleeper sofa =\$119
Suite: 1 King, Sleeper sofa, kitchen,whirlpool tub=\$139

USS RICH ASSOCIATION 2017 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, Life Members and guests of 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 FULL TOUR: Falling Water+Flight 93 Mem+Queecree Mine+Oakhurst ___ @ \$/72.50ea= _____
SHORT TOUR: Flight 93 Mem+Queecreek Mine+Oakhurst ___ @ \$57.50/ea= _____
 TOUR: Fort Ligonier ___ @ \$5.00/ea= _____
Sub Total _____

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

Sub Total "A" _____
 Sub Total "B" _____
 Sub Total "C" _____

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)

Service Officer's Notes

from Chuck Weber RVSO, Association VSO



Info on Obtaining Veteran's ID Cards

On July 20, 2015, the president signed into law the Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015. This act allows Veterans to apply for an identification card directly from VA. The VA identification card will allow Veterans to demonstrate proof of service for discounts at private restaurants and businesses.



It should be noted that the identification card is different from a Veteran Health Identification card or a DoD Uniformed Services or retiree ID card. As such, the VA identification cards cannot be used as proof of eligibility to any federal benefits and does not grant access to military installations.

When available, Veterans will be able to request an ID card from VA for a fee. VA is currently making plans to implement the new law in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible while protecting Veterans' personal information. **We estimate that VA will be able implement the program in 2017. The cost of each card has not yet been determined.**

In the meantime, Veterans who would like an identification card that displays their military service do not have to wait until VA implements the new law. You have several options:

- You can access and print a free Veterans identification proof of service letter through the joint VA/DoD web portal, eBenefits. This serves as proof of honorable service in the Uniformed Services, as defined in laws about the Department of Defense (DoD). Veterans can get a free eBenefits account by going to <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>.

- Your driver's license or state identification card can carry a Veteran designation. This option is currently available in 49 states, along with Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. We expect the 50th state, Washington, to offer this service in August 2017. Veterans wanting more information should contact their state department of motor vehicles or state department of Veterans affairs at <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>.

- Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care can obtain a free Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC). For more information, please go to <http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/vhic/index.asp>.

- Veterans who have retired from military service can receive an identification card from DoD. For information on obtaining or renewing such a card, please contact your nearest DoD identification card facility. You can find the location of these facilities through this link: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj/site>.



Peace Through Power

By Lawrence Ingham (RM3 1968-68)

October 15, 2016 will be a day in our nation's history that our enemies will not soon forget.

Through the combined efforts since 2003 of two Presidents, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations, many civilian contractors and Bath Ironworks in Maine the USS Zumwalt (DDG 1000) was created.

The 15,000 ton, 600 foot long vessel is the most technologically advanced warship in the world. It cost \$4.4 billion to build and its 144 member crew is the most well trained and equipped fighting team in the U.S. Navy.

The commissioning of the ship was witnessed by over 4,000 people, including the daughter and granddaughter of Admiral Bud Zumwalt. The ceremony included speeches by naval officers and civilian dignitaries. The event took place at Pier 4 in the Port of Baltimore during the Fleet Week celebration.

The Zumwalt will be joining the Pacific Fleet soon and will augment our current compliment of naval vessels in order to protect our interests in the Far East. She will guard against any acts of aggression by North Korea and China in the area.

Two additional DDGs are under construction and will be similar in design to the Zumwalt. One will be the USS Lyndon Johnson.

My wife Andrea and I were fortunate to attend the commissioning and wanted to share the experience with our new neighbors in Cinnamon Woods, my shipmates from the USS Rich (DD820) and others.

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	Comparison	
	Zumwalt	Rich
Length	600'	390'
Beam	81'	41'
Draft	27'+	19'
Displacement	15400 tons	2400 tons
Crew	148	336



USS RICH - DD/DDE-820



Personnel Changes

October 2016



Crew Reporting Aboard

(None Reported)



Piped Ashore - Deceased

(None Reported)

September 2016



Crew Reporting Aboard

Gregory Calafiore	Dale G	MM3	76-77	Cannon Falls MN
Brown	Matthew J	GMTSA	76-66	Avon-By-The-Sea NJ
Mannion	C J	LCDR	76-77	Milwaukee WI
Aikens	James H	EM1	76-77	Hollidaysburg PA
	Larry A	MS1	76-77	



Piped Ashore - Deceased

Fedders	Roger D	TM3	76-77	Passed 03 Jul 10
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August 2016



Crew Reporting Aboard

(None Reported)



Piped Ashore - Deceased

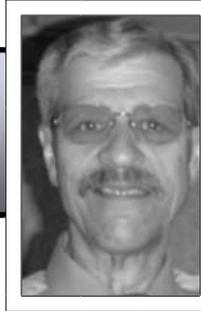
Krohn	Robert A	FN1	46-49	Passed 04 Jul 16
Bowen	Alfred	TOR3	46-49	Passed 03 Aug 16
Szydlowski	Terrance	MM2	63-65	Passed 13 Aug 16

Plank Owner



Dunnigan's Corner

"Where the old sailors come for a good laugh"



A clearly inebriated woman, stark naked, jumped into a taxi in New York City and laid down on the back seat. The cab driver, an old Jewish gentleman, opened his eyes wide and stared at the woman. He made no attempt to start the cab.

The woman glared back at him and said, "What's wrong with you, honey? - Haven't you ever seen a naked woman before?"

The old Jewish driver answered, "Let me tell you sumsing, lady. I wasn't staring at you like you tink; det would not be proper vair I come from."

The drunk woman giggled and responded, "Well, if you're not staring at my boobs or ass, sweetie, what are you doing then?"

He paused a moment, then told her..."Vell, M'am, I am looking and I am looking, and I am tinkling to myself, Vair in da hell is dis lady keeping de money to pay for dis ride?"



The Department of the Navy is now assigning females to quarters on submarines.

Addressing boat sailors at Groton, SUBLANT advised, "The female sleeping quarters will be out-of-bounds for all males. Anybody caught breaking this rule will be fined \$20 the first time."

He continued, "Anybody caught breaking this rule the second time will be fined \$50. Being caught a third time will cost you a fine of \$100. Are there any questions?"

At this point, a Master Chief stood up in the crowd and inquired: "How much for a season pass?"

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken." She said I wasn't funny; but she couldn't have been right, because everyone else laughed.

My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal. I told my dad what happened, and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals very much. I do, too. Especially chicken, pork and beef. Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office.

I told him what happened, and he laughed, too.. Then he told me not to do it again.

The next day in class my teacher asked me what *live* animal was my favorite.

I told her it was chicken. She asked me why; so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken. She sent me back to the principal's office. He laughed and told me not to do it again.

I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am.

Today, my teacher asked me to tell her what famous military person I admired most.

I told her, "Colonel Sanders."

Guess where the f.... I am now...

Another Dave Evans (BT2 58-62) Masterpiece





8926 Phylliss Ave—Sarasota FL 34231

