

The 820 Newsletter



The Official Publication of the USS Rich Association
Volume 24, Number 1

On the Internet: www.ussrich.org
Feb-Mar-Apr 2017

Ligonier is Waiting for Us. You Coming?

If you've reserved your room and sent your registration, you can go directly to the *right side* of Page 2.

If you already decided you'll not be attending the 2017 Reunion in Ligonier, you can go directly to the *LEFT side* of Page 2, read it and give things another thought.

For those of you who cannot attend the reunion, please know we'll miss you and think about you not only while we're there, but afterward as well. This pretty much leaves those who are still undecided.

Despite Ligonier being a very small town (pop. 1573 [2010 census]) there are some very interesting things to do and see. Here are the top eleven:

1. Fort Ligonier "A must for history buffs"
2. Idlewild & Soak Zone "So fun", "What is going on?"
3. Ligonier Country Market "Vendor Market"
4. Fat Daddy's Place "Nice Hometown Tavern"
5. Ligonier Beach "Great Pool and bar"
6. Ligonier Valley Railroad Museum "Choo choo."
7. Laurel Mountain Ski Resort "Ski like the rich..."
8. Curiosity Shop "One Of My Favorites"
9. Ridgeview Golf Club "Better golf close by"
10. Ligonier Theater "Live performances"
11. Bull's "Nightlife!"

Please, although it made the list, it is quite unlikely there will be snow skiing available during our visit. Also note, Fort Ligonier is one of our optional tours. There is lots of American History in this community.

Let's talk Affordability

In addition to the obvious joys and benefits of a reunion, for many of us being on fixed incomes, cost is a major factor. Meals for example.

Our Hospitality Suite maintains a full beverage bar (including alcohol) during your entire stay. There are continuous types of snacks and refreshments, some of which are furnished by attending shipmates who bring products indigenous to their home state. And, of course, there are the ever-present Hog Dogs. Lots of them.

This year, two of the evening meals are included; a light snack supper on Wednesday and the traditional Banquet Buffet will be on Thursday.

Translation: Your \$65/person Registration Fee essentially includes Lunch, Dinner and all beverages while the hotel provides Breakfast all the days you are there!

Perhaps this brings cost a new prospective and provides the incentive for you to get busy and plan to attend.



Ramada - Ligonier
Price/Availability Expires March 31, 2017
Tour Signup Deadline
Friday, March 27, 2015

Saying Goodbye

Mail Call! Tin Can Sailors Magazine

Oct-Nov-Dec 2016

Dear Editor:

Reflections: It's difficult to believe so many years have passed since I stepped off the Quarter Deck.

Subsequent reunions have always been well attended and organized.

When the inevitable embellished sea stories surface, it's fun to watch our wives' faces rolling their eyes and smiling, having heard these tales before.

All the night partying has changed to most of us retiring early, shifting into "jammies".

White hair has replaced white hats and taking on some "ballast" making thoughts of getting into blues an impossibility. However, the eighteen-year-old within is alive and well.

Ranks are thinning and saying goodbye each year bittersweet. Our bonding is as strong as ever, all of us proud to have served in the real Navy as destroy-er men.

Carl P. Sigona, MM3 USS Borie (DD704) + USS Hunt (DD674)

Welcome Home

On Election Day, my wife and I stood behind a couple in line, and as people in Ocala are prone to do with strangers, we started a conversation.

The man had on a Vietnam Veteran ball cap. I asked if he had been "in-country," and he said "Yes. I had been relatively safe off-shore in the South China Sea." He'd been a player down on the field; I'd been a spectator up in the stands.

When the couple were called to go present their ID and pick up their ballots, the man turned to me and said: "Welcome home, brother." I hesitated for a moment, then repeated the words back to him, wondering where the time had gone; wondering if I should have called him "brother."

Several weeks later I was walking near a man in a supermarket parking lot. He wore a ball cap with the red, green and yellow Vietnam medal insignia. I called over to him as my Election Day friend had done to me. He stopped, turned and walked over to me, a smile on his face. We shook hands. I felt good. I think he did as well.

We should continue saying to those men and women wearing an armed forces cap: "Thank you for your service;" just as we should say to our first responders and police officers: "Thank you for doing what you do." We should not let these expressions fade away.

So, when thanking that Vietnam vet, you might consider adding: "Welcome home", or "Welcome home, brother."

Those are words that were never heard.

Because those are words that were never spoken.

You can speak them now.

It is not too late.

(Hank Davis (LTjg 1959-61))

The 820 Newsletter



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You may contact us on the Internet at shipsoffice@ussrich.org or snail mail to Ship's Office, 8926 Phyliss Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34231.

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Restoration Complete

I am afraid there has been some exaggeration about the condition of the USS Rich golf cart. True, she was having difficulties navigating the back areas of the Szabo property. So much so that at a time when shipmate Henry was riding she just refused to go further. Although we urged her on she just gave a few guttural groans.

Unfortunately there were no tow craft in the area and she was returned to her berth by "push power." Our analysis proved to be of no help particularly since we had no idea what the hell was wrong with her. Shipmate Henry and his bride left and I sought help. Could she be saved? Or, at age 22 was it time to pass to the next stage of her career, the junk yard or burial at sea? A distress call was made and the treatment was a new air filter, fuel line hoses, shake and clean the carburetor (the heart of my old friend) and noted that she might need a new snubber. Result after the payment she made one great run and then refused to go further. Was she really done? Another distress call and service charge even waived. Her battery checked out, her starter was rebuilt, brake shoes replaced and a new snubber. Good to go. Naw. One great run, brakes worked fine but again she refused to continue to do any chores for me. Another distress call was made because now she even refused to try to start and go for even a short journey. No service charge but she got a new igniter to spur her on and a new limiter so she won't go too fast. What a happy cart.

She now loves to go out roaming but did get carried away the other day when coming up the drive. Instead of going around the corner she went straight towards the garden veering off the course I had set after she hit an ice flow. There she was drifting about until first mate Sue arrived to help get her back on course. Picture below with some of her crew. She is alive and well as much as a 22 year old golf cart can be in 14 degree weather. Yes, that is snow and now I am going to build a fire and watch the playoffs. Glad we have put that to rest.



USS RICH - DD/DDE-820

Ratings Restored

WASHINGTON – The Navy is scrapping its decision to eliminate dozens of enlisted sailors' job titles, including many that end in "man," after hitting an onslaught of opposition from the force.

The decision to drop long-held traditional titles and instead refer to sailors by their rank was announced in September and signaled a sharp cultural shift for the Navy. Three months later, after hearing persistent complaints and questions from sailors around the world, Navy leaders are going back to the drawing board.

Adm. John Richardson, the chief of naval operations, said in a memo that modernizing the job ratings or titles was designed to give sailors more flexibility in training and assignments. Switching to names more understandable to the civilian world, Navy leaders argued, would make it easier to get jobs once sailors left the service. But after hearing angry feedback from thousands of sailors, Richardson said Navy leaders believe they can find a way to provide better job flexibility without dropping the titles. "We have learned from you, and so effective immediately, all rating names are restored," he said.

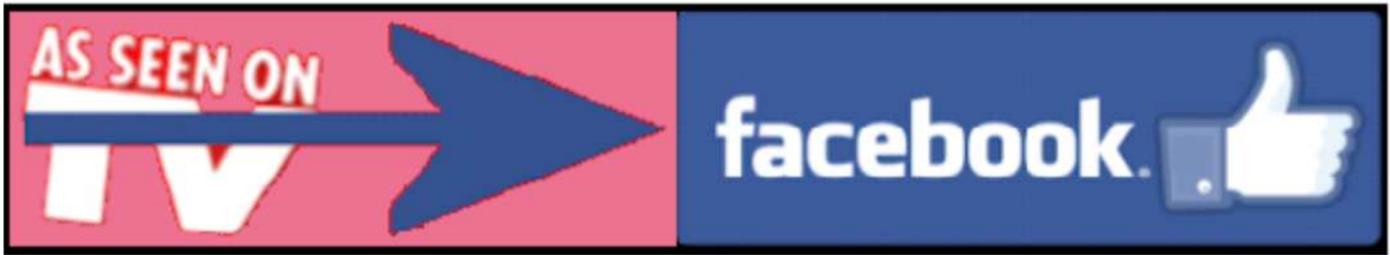
Richardson outlined what he called a "course correction" in the memo, saying the Navy will continue to review ways to update the names. "Modernizing our industrial-age personnel system in order to provide sailors choice and flexibility still remains a priority for us," he said. "We will need to tackle the issue of managing rating names." The Navy called for a review of the titles in January, shortly after the Pentagon ordered that all combat jobs would now be open to women. The idea was to eliminate titles such as "chief yeoman," "corpsman" or "boatswain's mate" — titles steeped in tradition but difficult for the public to translate or understand.

Under the plan, sailors would be known by their ranks, such as petty officer or chief. And job titles would be made more gender-neutral. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, who pushed the plan, said at the time that he wanted titles to better convey the job a sailor is doing. For example, few civilians know what a hospital corpsman does, Mabus said in a June interview. A corpsman could be called a medic or an emergency medical technician, much like "messman" was previously changed to culinary specialist, he added. Sailors, however, protested the decision, launching a White House petition and gaining some support from Capitol Hill. They said that while they liked the idea of more flexibility, they wanted to hold onto their traditional titles. It's unclear now whether the move to make titles gender neutral will continue.

Richardson said that sailors who want to provide input can email their ideas to: NavyRatingMod.fct@navy.mi

Source: Associated Press: Dec. 20, 2016





Let us begin by stating this is *not* an advertisement for Facebook. This *is* an advertisement for the USS RICH Association which is *located* on Facebook. Confused? Read on.

Many of you are members of the Facebook virtual community but more of you are not. This is likely due to the various incorrect statements and or statement that are made by unqualified people. In truth, Facebook is a large, safe and friendly Internet site.

While many do use Facebook to maintain contact with friends and relatives... especially grandchildren, many folks are not aware of the special “communities” that reside on Facebook. They’re called “Groups”

You will be amazed at the number of different types of Groups that are available. Like books in a library, not all subjects will be of interest to everyone. Below is a partial list of Groups which may be of interest to you:

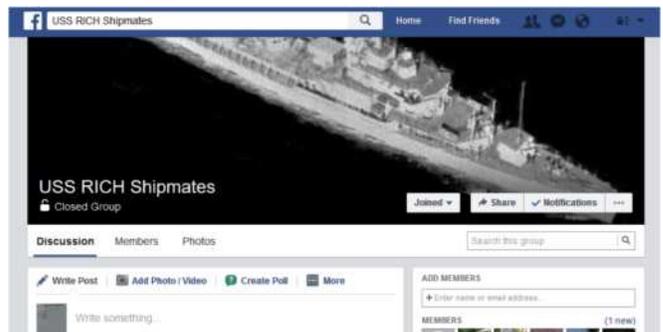
- US Navy Veterans
- U.S. Navy Destroyer Veterans
- UNITED STATES NAVY VETERAN Navy Veterans
- US Navy Cold War Veterans
- US Navy Veterans Forum
- US Navy Vets
- Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Assn
- Tin Can Sailors
- Cold War Military Veterans
- Brotherhood of U.S. Military Veterans
- Veterans Military Compensation Benefits
- U.S. MILITARY VETERANS
- Military Veterans Wall Of Honor
- Military Veterans RV Community
- USS RICH Association
- USS RICH Shipmates



Whoa! Did you check the two at the bottom of the list? That’s us!

The USS RICH *Association* Group is an open, general interest group that everyone on Facebook may see and read. The USS RICH *Shipmates* Group is a member only group which requires approval to be a member. When you apply for [free] membership the Group Admins must approve the request. Shipmates Jerry Dunnigan (BMSN 65-67) and Marshall K DuBois (SH2 62-66) are the Admins and either will quickly approve your membership.

The purpose of a Closed Group is to provide a location for any shipmates to virtually meet whether they are members of the Association or not. Open Groups permit anyone to participate in the conversation and/or create new topics for discussion. Both groups are supplements to our website at www.ussrich.org.



11 Interesting Facts About the U.S. Navy

(Abridged for space)

Founded on October 13, 1775, by an order of the Continental Congress, the U.S. Navy is the largest navy in the world, and it is steeped in lore and tradition. Presidents, astronauts, artists, and athletes have worn its uniform, and untold thousands have lived by the words engraved on the Naval Academy chapel door: “Non sibi, sed patriae,” or: “Not for self, but for country.” Here are eleven things you might not know about the Navy.

1. The Navy’s birthplace is in dispute.

Beverly, Massachusetts, and Marblehead, Massachusetts, have long argued over which was the birthplace of the Navy. Other cities vying for recognition as the birthplace of the Navy include Philadelphia, PA; Whitehall, NY; and Providence, RI. The Navy takes no position on its place of origin.

2. All submariners are volunteers.

Most attack submarines in the U.S. Navy are 33-feet wide and about the length of a football field. There are no windows, there is no night and day, you have fifteen square feet of living space and no privacy—and there’s a nuclear reactor right behind you. They don’t just let anyone in a submarine. Those serving on submarines are among the most highly trained personnel in the military.

3. How does the Navy name its ships?

In 1819, the United States Congress placed the Secretary of the Navy in charge of naming ships—a power he or she still enjoys. Generally, names are compiled by the Naval Historical Center based on the suggestions from the public, sailors, and retirees, and from naval history. The Chief of Naval Operations formally signs and recommends the list to the Secretary. Ships named for individuals are christened by “the eldest living female descendent” of that individual. Commissioned ships are prefixed with USS, which stands for United States Ship.

4. The Navy SEAL Trident is sometimes called the “Budweiser.”

The trident worn on the uniforms of Navy SEALs is officially designated as the “Special Warfare Insignia,” but it is sometimes called the “Budweiser,” named in part for the Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) course, the grueling twenty-five week special warfare school.

5. Why was TOPGUN founded?

The United States Navy Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor program—previously called the United States Navy Fighter Weapons School, but more popularly, “TOPGUN”—was founded during the Vietnam War. The Navy was concerned by the poor performance of its air-to-air missile attacks against the North Vietnamese and ordered an evaluation of its combat aviation program. Inadequate crew training was decided to be at fault, and TOPGUN was established, where pilots would engage in realistic dogfight training against aircraft comparable to the enemy of the day.

6. You’ve heard of a few people who know the words to Anchors Aweigh.

• Neil Armstrong flew armed reconnaissance as a Naval aviator during the Korean War.

• There’s a good argument to be made that Robert Heinlein’s literary universe was influenced by his time at the United States Naval Academy, from which he graduated, and his time on the USS Lexington and USS Roper.

7. NCIS isn’t just a TV show.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is a federal law enforcement agency operating from 140 locations in the world. Special agents for the largely civilian organization are charged with criminal investigations (obviously), counterterrorism, and counterintelligence. It was founded as the Office of Naval Intelligence.

8. If not for the Navy, James T. Kirk would have been captain of the USS Yorktown.

In the original pitch for Star Trek, the ship we know as the USS Enterprise was called the USS Yorktown. Gene Roddenberry renamed it in part for the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier whose maiden voyage was in 1962. The seafaring Enterprise was (and remains) the longest vessel in the U.S. Navy. Roddenberry felt that the starship at the heart of his series would have had a similar standing as the aircraft carrier, and a new Enterprise was christened.

9. In the Navy, there are no walls or bathrooms.

The Navy has a rich lexicon established by millennia of naval tradition. Ships don’t have walls, they have bulkheads. The mess deck is where you eat food, the deck is where you walk. The head is where you’ll find a toilet. The rack is where you sleep. Birds take off from the bird farm or, rather, planes take off from an aircraft carrier.

10. SEAL Team Six has an outlaw past.

When Richard Marcinko founded SEAL Team Six (so named because there were only two other SEAL Teams, and he wanted the Soviets to think the number was much larger), he did so quickly and effectively. Because the unit was so cloaked in secrecy, the best decisions weren’t always made about spending and training. Marcinko, a combat hero and visionary, went on to found a unit called Red Cell (designed to test military units, tactics, and security) and would later spend time in federal prison for defrauding the government. The present name (that we know of) for SEAL Team Six is the Naval Special Warfare Development Group.

11. The first admiral in the Navy was David Farragut.

Even if you’ve never heard the name, you know his words, allegedly spoken at the Battle of Mobile Bay: “Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!” (It’s unknown whether he spoke those exact words—different accounts give slight variations.) He was commissioned into the U.S. Navy at age nine. His adoptive father, Captain David Porter, probably had some hand in this. At age twelve, Farragut fought in the War of 1812. Though he was born in Tennessee, he remained steadfastly loyal to the Union during the Civil War, and after he seized the city of New Orleans, was promoted to Rear Admiral—a rank created specially for him by Congress. President Lincoln later promoted him to Vice Admiral (Farragut would later be a pallbearer at Lincoln’s funeral). Following the war, he was made the first Admiral of the Navy.

Complete article-
<http://mentalfloss.com/article/13040/11-things-you-might-not-know-about-us-navy>

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
- + 1600 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+Quecreek Mine+Oakhurst _____ @ \$/72.50ea= _____
SHORT TOUR: Flight 93 Mem+Quecreek Mine+Oakhurst _____ @ \$57.50/ea= _____
 TOUR: Fort Ligonier _____ @ \$5.00/ea= _____
Sub Total _____

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>>>>> Mail your check payable to the <<<<<<
USS RICH Association
 and mail 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" _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

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

**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



Change or Correct Records

How to change or correct Navy records:

In order to make any corrections, changes or additions to your Navy records or to your DD214, including the addition of the unit awards made to crewmembers of RICH, go to:

http://www.jag.navy.mil/legal_services/documents/DD149.pdf

and download the form. Complete and mail the form and include any evidence that you have for the request.

If your DD214 does not include your award of any of Rich's medals, I recommend that you reference on the DD149 form the following CNO Notice: **OPNAVNOTE 1650, 09B13/2U517396, 18 September 2002** – which authorizes, and provides the dates of award of, the various awards for service on USS RICH as shown below:

OPNAVNOTE 1650, 09B13/2U517396, 18 September 2002

RICH DD 820

AWARD	START DATE	END DATE	P-CMD
AEM	17-JUL-1958	11-AUG-1958	F
	02-NOV-1962	18-NOV-1962	C
CAR	02-DEC-1972	03-DEC-1972	
		05-DEC-1972	
		16-DEC-1972	
		24-JAN-1973	
MUC	18-MAY-1969		
VSM	12-MAY-1968	31-MAY-1968	
	04-JUN-1968	06-JUN-1968	
	13-JUN-1968	28-JUN-1968	
	29-JUL-1968	06-SEP-1968	
	19-SEP-1968	02-OCT-1968	
	25-NOV-1972	22-DEC-1972	

Online Exchange Closer

The Department of Defense will expand access to more than 16 million eligible veterans to shop online at military exchanges with reduced prices. Peter K. Levine, acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, signed a memorandum Wednesday announcing the benefit expansion, effective Veterans' Day November 11, 2017, giving Congress the required 30 days' notice before actions begin to implement the plan.

Months of preparation are needed to make e-shopping portals more robust and to allow the Defense Manpower Data Center time to create software for verifying veterans' status against the Department of Veterans Affairs records.

Several million veterans are already eligible to shop in exchanges-on base or online-because they are active or reserve component retirees, or 100-percent disabled from service-connected injuries or ailments, or Medal of Honor recipients.

A major reason for the change is the hope of increasing revenue at exchanges to help offset troubling declines due to the drawdown of active duty forces, base closures and the end of military tobacco discounts. Higher net earnings are expected to boost exchange dividends that support on-base morale, welfare and recreational activities.

Source: FRA NewsBytes, 20 JAN 2017



[with thanks to Capt Ed Whelan for story source]



For the Ladies

During labor, the pain is so great that a woman... can almost imagine what a man feels like when he has a cold.

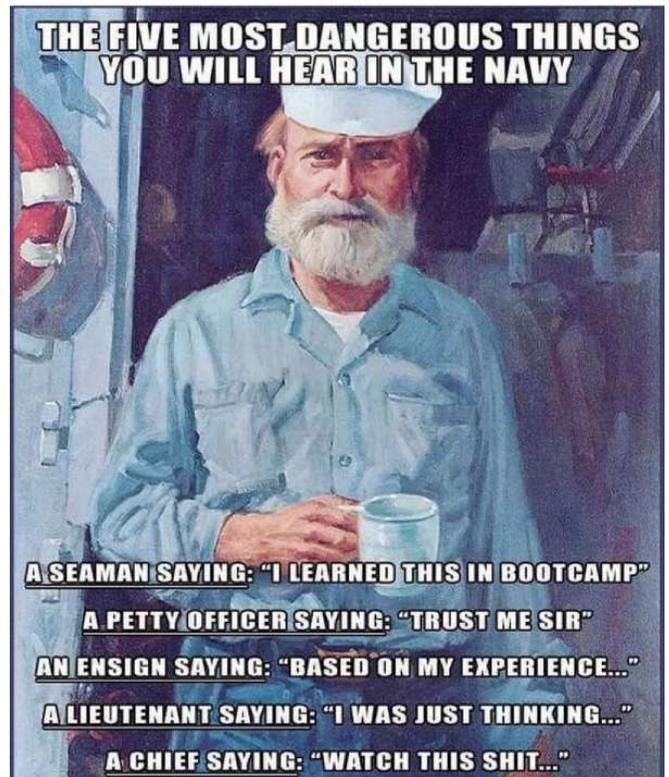


OMG, I'm rich!
 Silver in the Hair
 Gold in the Teeth
 Crystals in the Kidneys
 Sugar in the Blood
 Lead in the Ass
 Iron in the Arteries
 And an inexhaustible supply of Natural Gas.

I never thought I'd accumulate such wealth

USS RICH - DD/DDE-820

For the Guys



"If you can't stop drinking by 5 to get a shower and be at muster by 7, you shouldn't have gone out to the bar in the first place"



Personnel Changes

January - 2017				
Hess	Randell	ENFN	76-76	Grampian PA
Laranang	Larry	MS2	76-76	San Diego CA
Marcinko	Thomas	EMFN	76-76	Buckeye AZ
Desgrange	Charles	BTFA	76-76	McClure OH
Alston	Don	FN	76-76	Philadelphia PA
Bell	Malcomb	MMFN	76-76	Rices Landing PA
Grubb	Jacob	GM	76-76	Eddington PA
Feldhahn	William		76-76	Passed 23 May 13
December - 2016				
Fedorshak	Mark F	MM3	76-76	Zion Grove PA
Leitner	Bruce A	MM2	76-76	St Petersburg FL
Scott	Richard A	BT3	55-57	Passed 09 Jan 16
Menosky	Jack J	DC2	53-54	Passed 08 Jun 16
Turner	Jasper G	RD2	58-62	Passed 03 Dec 16
Buth	Lleyellyn G	HT3	76-76	Passed 03 Oct 06
Coleman	Darold	SHSN	51-55	Passed 16 Apr 16
Gardner	Jerry L	CSSN	49-51	Passed 25 Jun 15
November - 2016				
Hoberg	Raymond J	MIDN	61-61	Virginia Beach VA
Lessmueler	Robert J	SA	76-77	Cathlamet WA
Wentway	Charles	FP2	54-57	Passed 01 Nov 16
Glatz	Michael J		76-76	Passed 14 Sep 16
Vorhies	Ray	IC2	48-51	Passed 20 May 16
Epling	Robert C	GMG3	66-68	Passed 18 Oct 16
Rohrbach	Richard S	SK3	68-70	Passed 22 Nov 16



Dunnigan's Corner

"Where the old sailors come for a good laugh"

Doug Smith is on his deathbed and knows the end is near. His nurse, his wife, his daughter and two sons, are with him.

He asks for two witnesses to be present and a camcorder be in place to record his last wishes, and when all is ready he begins to speak:

"My son, Bernie, I want you to take the Mayfair houses.

"My daughter Sybil, you take the apartments over in the east end."

"My son, Jamie, I want you to take the offices over in the City Centre.

"Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the banks of the river."

The nurse and witnesses are blown away as they did not realize his extensive holdings, and as Doug slips away, the nurse says, "Mrs. Smith, your husband must have been such a hard-working man to have accumulated all this property".

The wife replies, "The jerk had a paper route."



(From Dave Evans, (BT2 58-62)

One day my housework-challenged husband decided to wash his Sweatshirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to me,

"What setting do I use on the washing machine?"

"It depends," I replied. "What does it say on your shirt?"

He yelled back, "University of Oklahoma."

And they say blondes are dumb...



(From Larry Dixon, (RD3 65-67)

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life. As a bagpiper, I play many gigs.

Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

As I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

(From C. Calhoun, USCG (Ret)





8926 Phyliss Ave—Sarasota FL 34231

