

# USS BRISTOL DD 857

## VETERANS ASSOCIATION

### Late Summer 2011 Newsletter

## DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR OUR REUNION IN DALLAS, 6 - 9 OCT 2011



### What do our officers do for the reunion?

Our association's Secretary, Marty "I'll go to the reunion even if it's in a phone booth" Walsh sampling an after breakfast treat while touring the Canadian Rockies. Photo taken at Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada.

You can count on Marty to give you a blow by blow of the various restaurants in any of the reunion venues. Often, Marty and his good buddy, Duane Haugan, get together for a pre-reunion reunion. Duane took on the dauntless task of putting together the reunion book. Since Duane took over this massive project, he has been doing a job worthy of the Meritorious Service Medal.

Tony Molnar, our Treasurer, keeps track of all association funds and maintains a database of our members. Tony has been instrumental in the association's website creation.

**Contact the Reunion BRAT if you have not received the registration form. Or, contact me and I will make sure that you get a mailing from the BRAT: Edward C Lynch**

**5 Bridle Way, Whiting, NJ 08759-5167, 732-716-0889,  
[edwardclynch1@verizon.net](mailto:edwardclynch1@verizon.net)**

Our President, Doug Lippert, manages negotiations with our reunion coordinator, The Reunion BRAT. Doug's second in command is Paul Ratcliffe. Paul is a licensed locomotive engineer and volunteers at Train Town USA, PA. What a hobby!

Don Tanner is our Master-at-Arms. Don and his partner, Clyde VanWie, sell the 50/50 tickets as well as the prize table raffles. These sales, by the way, are a big part of our finances.

Our Historian, Shirley Clark, has spend endless hours and days compiling photos, memorabilia, etc, and created volumes of binders for you perusal.

Ed Lynch, Newsletter Editor, does the newsletter.

Lest we forget: the members' wives contribute an enormous amount of energy toward the success of our reunions. I would need to issue a special newsletter to thank all of the individual wives who really get themselves involved in our reunions.

Join us in Dallas for a rollicking good time. Our Shipmate, Charlie Weaver, has informed the Texas Rangers to "allow us across the Texas border". Charlie is a member of the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club. You may see Charlie on his "hog" when you arrive.

See you in October!

# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

**Senior Exercise:** Stretching to increase your flexibility and freedom of movement will help you do more of the activities you enjoy. Here are a few basic stretching exercises from the National Institutes of Health:

Before you start, follow these safety tips:

☒ Check with your health care provider to make sure these stretching exercises are safe for you.

☒ Always warm up before stretching exercises by doing some easy walking or arm-pumping first, or by doing stretching exercise after endurance or strength exercises.

☒ Mild discomfort or a mild pulling sensation is normal, but stretching should never cause pain, especially joint pain. If you feel pain, stop at once and consult your health care provider.

☒ Never bounce into a stretch -- make slow, steady movements to help your muscles stretch naturally.

**Tricep Stretches:** lengthen muscles in the back of the upper arm

- 1) Hold one end of a towel in your right hand.
- 2) Raise and bend right arm to drape towel down back. Keep your right arm in this position and continue holding onto the towel.
- 3) Reach behind your lower back and grasp bottom end of towel with left hand.
- 4) Climb your left hand progressively higher up towel, which also pulls your right arm down. Continue until your hands touch, or as close as you can comfortably go.
- 5) Reverse positions.
- 6) Repeat 3 to 5 times each session. Hold stretch for 10 to 30 seconds.

**Double Hip Rotation:** stretch the outer muscles of hips and thighs. Important: If you have had a hip replacement, do NOT perform double hip rotation exercises without permission from your surgeon.

- 1) Lie on floor on your back, knees bent and feet flat on the floor.
- 2) Keep shoulders on floor at all times.
- 3) Keep knees bent together and gently lower legs to one side as far as possible without forcing them.
- 4) Hold position for 10 to 30 seconds.
- 5) Return legs to upright position.
- 6) Repeat toward other side.

**Cell-Phone Radiation Scams:** The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has published tips on how to avoid cell phone radiation scams at . [http://www.devicewatch.org/reports/cellphone\\_scams.shtml](http://www.devicewatch.org/reports/cellphone_scams.shtml). The agency's warning was made in response to the proliferation of devices that are claimed to absorb electromagnetic emissions from mobile phones. Its warning document states: There is no scientific proof that so-called shields significantly reduce exposure from these electromagnetic emissions. In fact, products that block only the earpiece-or another small portion of the phone-are totally ineffective because the entire phone emits electromagnetic waves. What's more, these shields may interfere with the phone's signal, cause it to draw even more power to communicate with the base station, and possibly emit more radiation. A few reports have suggested that mobile telephone use is related to the development of certain brain tumors. The World Health Organization's International Agency on Research on Cancer recently classified mobile phone use as a 'possible carcinogen' based upon inconclusive epidemiological findings. At <http://www.cancer.gov/newscenter/pressreleases/2011/IARCcellphoneMay2011> their report can be read However, mobile phones produce very small amounts of non-ionizing radiation and no mechanism is known by which such radiation can cause brain tumors. The largest and most important study to date has reported that overall, cell phone users have no increased risk of the most common forms of brain tumors-glioma and meningioma. In addition, the study revealed no evidence of increasing risk with progressively increasing number of calls, longer call time, or years since beginning cell phone use. [Source: Consumer Health Digest #11-18, 23 Jun 2011++]

- 7) Repeat 3 to 5 times on each side.

**How Much Should You Stretch, and How Often?**

☒ Stretch after you do your regularly scheduled strength and endurance exercises.

☒ Do each stretching exercise 3 to 5 times at each session.

☒ Slowly stretch into the desired position, as far as possible without pain, and hold the stretch for 10 to 30 seconds.

☒ Relax, then repeat, trying to stretch farther.

☒ If you can't do endurance or strength exercises for any reason, and stretching exercises are the only kind you are able to do, do them at least 3 times a week, for at least 20 minutes each session.

☒ Remember that stretching exercises, by themselves, don't improve endurance or strength.

[Source: About.com | Senior Living Sharon O'Brien article 5 Jul 2011 ++]

## VA Cemetery Texas Update 03:

Some Houston veterans and volunteer groups are accusing Department of Veterans Affairs officials

of censoring religious speech at Houston National Cemetery. In one example cited in documents filed in federal court, cemetery director Arleen Ocasio reportedly told volunteers with the National Memorial Ladies that they had to stop telling the families, "God bless you," at funerals and that they had to remove the words "God bless" from condolence cards. The new allegations of "religious hostility" by VA and cemetery officials follow on the heels of a controversy over a prayer in Jesus' name by Pastor Scott Rainey at a Memorial Day service in the cemetery. U.S. District Judge Lynn N. Hughes ruled 26 MAY that Ocasio couldn't stop Rainey from using the words "Jesus Christ" in his invocation. Attorneys with the nonprofit Liberty Institute, which represented Rainey, filed an amended complaint this week after allegedly finding other instances of religious discrimination by cemetery officials against members Veterans of Foreign Wars District 4, The American Legion Post 586, and the National Memorial

# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Ladies, a volunteer group that attends funerals of fallen service members.

The complaint accuses VA of "a widespread and consistent practice of discriminating against private religious speech" at the cemetery. According to court documents, Ocasio banned members of the groups from using certain religious words such as "God" or "Jesus," censored the content of prayer, and forbade the use of religious messages in burial rituals unless the deceased's family submitted the text to her for prior approval. Court documents also describe the closure of the cemetery's chapel after Ocasio's appointment as director two years ago. "The doors remain locked during Houston National Cemetery operating hours, the cross and the Bible have been removed, and the Chapel bells, which tolled at least twice a day, are now inoperative," the complaint reads. "Director Ocasio only unlocks the Chapel doors when meetings or training sessions are held at the building. Furthermore it is no longer called a chapel but a meeting facility." Founder of Houston National Memorial Ladies, Cheryl Whitfield, said, "It's just unfair that somebody would ask us to take God out of our vocabulary. I could've kept my mouth shut and let things happen, but when it comes to standing up for your belief in God and giving comfort to the families, I don't want to regret not saying anything. We all had to stand up for what we believe in." A standing-room only crowd jammed a federal courtroom in Houston 29 JUN for a status conference on the case. [Source: Houston Chronicle article 29 Jun 2011 ++]

The Department of Veterans Affairs on Thursday said that invoking the name of God or Jesus is not only allowed, but common at VA National Cemeteries across the country. Local veterans and volunteer groups have accused VA officials of censoring religious speech — including the words Jesus and God — at Houston National Cemetery. "VA values and respects every veteran and their family's right to a burial service that honors their faith tradition," Keith Ethridge, director of VA's National Chaplain Center, said in a statement. "VA employs nearly 1,000 chaplains who, every year, preside over thousands of religious burial services, representing veterans of all faiths." Among the allegations raised in a federal civil suit against VA is a claim that Cemetery director Arleen Ocasio did not allow volunteer honor guards to recite prayers at funerals without approval of the deceased veteran's family. The catch, according to the suit, was that the honor guards couldn't get approval because they were forbidden from providing optional texts to the families for consideration. Cemetery guidelines released by VA on 30 JUN appeared to confirm that VA's National Cemetery Administration does not allow volunteer honor guards to submit any texts to veterans' families for review.

Such a policy is an unconstitutional prior restraint on speech, said Hiram Sasser, director of litigation for the Liberty Institute, a nonprofit that filed the suit. "In this case they're telling private citizens that their speech is banned, and they're banned from even talking to the families and letting the families even know that there are options, religious or not religious," Sasser said. A memo released by VA on 30 JUN was sent to all VA cemetery directors on 1 NOV 07, by William Tuerk, undersecretary for Memorial Affairs at the time. It states that cemetery employees, including VA-sponsored volunteer honor guards, "shall not provide texts of any such recitations to the deceased's survivors for consideration." Ocasio was told to enforce this policy. Similar language is used in a

document titled, "Houston National Cemetery Honor Guard Guidelines." It is signed by Ocasio and dated 15 MAR.

Neither the NCA memo nor the Houston National Cemetery guidelines ban the words God or Jesus. They do list some limitations on texts, but those limitations do not include religious language. "VA will not accept for reading any texts that would, as determined by the cemetery director, have an adverse impact on the dignity and solemnity of a cemetery honoring those who served the Nation," the guidelines say. "Among the texts that would not be read would be those that are obscene, racist, are 'fighting words,' or are coarse, abusive or politically partisan." Ocasio's guidelines for honor guards in Houston permit a veteran's family to request a member of the clergy to conduct a brief religious service, which may include a reading from scriptures or a brief prayer. The guidelines state that military honors at funerals should consist only of the "core elements" of flag folding, presentation of the flag to survivors, playing of Taps and a rifle salute. Any additions can be made only at the request of the veteran's family.

The latest allegations of religious hostility at Houston National Cemetery add fuel to a controversy that first erupted last month over Pastor Scott Rainey's prayer in Jesus' name at a Memorial Day service. U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes ruled 26 MAY that the government couldn't stop Rainey from using the words "Jesus Christ" in his invocation at the cemetery. Hughes issued a temporary restraining order to prevent VA from censoring Rainey's prayer. Liberty Institute, which filed that suit on Rainey's behalf, amended it Monday to include additional allegations of religious discrimination by cemetery officials against American Legion Post 586, Veterans of Foreign Wars District 4 and the National Memorial Ladies, a volunteer group that attends funerals of fallen service members. The controversy shows no signs of letting up, especially now that lawmakers have jumped into the fray. U.S. Rep. Ted Poe, R-Humble, sent a letter to VA Secretary Eric Shinseki, asking for an investigation and calling for Ocasio's termination if the allegations against her are true. Congressman Gene Green, D-Houston, whose father is buried at a VA National Cemetery, also voiced his concern. In a statement Green said freedom of speech and religion is a constitutional right that veterans buried at all national cemeteries fought for and defended. I believe all faiths should have the freedom to honor our Veterans, and it is unacceptable for the government to try to deny that right," Green said. [Source: Houston Chronicle Lindsay Wise article 30 Jun 2011 ++]

Several Houston-area military veteran groups filed a lawsuit against Houston National Cemetery, alleging that director Arleen Ocasio has been stamping out religious speech at the cemetery's military funerals. Specifically, members of groups like the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, as well as cemetery volunteers, claim they were not allowed to use words like "God" and "Jesus" during ceremonies or in condolence letters. For those wondering whether this could be an issue in Abilene, a visit to the Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene offers a pretty clear piece of evidence. A large painting, depicting servicemen and women of all branches, covers one of the walls in the administrative building. At the top of the painting are the words, "In God We Trust, United We Stand." In his office just next to the mural, cemetery director Clint Lynch offered a straightforward explanation of his policies, which mirror those of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The families of the deceased ultimately have the final say as to the religious content of their loved one's service. "If the family wants a minister, they get a minister. If they want bagpipes, we provide them bagpipes," Lynch said. Houston, he said, is Houston. *Continued on page 22*



# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

**Chiefs, CPO's or chief petty officers.** A very important part of the crew. Chief's were/are the senior enlisted aboard a destroyer, many say they are the ones who really run the ship. Aboard a 692 class destroyer, as built, the chief's were split forward and aft, as the plans show. After CPO quarters was simple, a bunk room with six bunks and a small head (bathroom). Forward was the chief's pantry, lounge and mess, along with berthing for 12. In later 692's and the new 710 class, all CPO's slept forward. The early 692's used a part of CPO berthing forward to house the 5" practice loading machine, a tool used to train sailors how to quickly and safely feed ammo and fire the 5" guns, necessitating splitting the chief's berthing.



The open door leads into the CPO pantry. Just to the left is the door to the forward head (bathroom). The large piping at top is the ship's firemain, the valve is a 5" angle stop valve, # 2-40-2.



Same vestibule as the previous two. Looking aft. The water tight door leads to the mess decks, louvered door to the left is a cleaning gear locker. 5" fire main overhead.



Ladder going up to main deck from vestibule where fwd head and door to CPO pantry is. Above is the 5" fire main.



Looking forward. The open hatch goes down to the 5" loading machine, which a few years later, and on all 710 class, became exclusively Chief's berthing. The water tight door all the way forward leads to the Bosun Locker and Windlass room. Notice the 9 coathooks above, these can be seen in all berthing areas throughout the ship.

# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## Chiefs, CPO's or chief petty officers continued



Looking aft. From left to right, the 5" barbette which houses the upper handling room, the water tight door leads to the chief's pantry (kitchen), on the deck is the Dredger(manufacturer's name) type hoist for 5" ammo to be brought up from the ammo stowage rooms, and one of two mess tables with wood benches where the chiefs ate their meals. Notice the entertainment radio.



Same area as previous photo, except the opposite view. Looking forward in the chief's messroom. The white area on the left is the port side of the ship's hull. The white "feet" on the bottom are the ship's individual frames. As is with most compartments on a Navy ship, the overhead (ceiling) is crowded with wireways, piping and ventilation ductwork.



Port side looking forward. Two mess tables, scuttlebutt and lockers.



Similar view, at top left is shoring, 5" x 5" timbers to help fill in holes below the waterline in the event of battle damage or any damage.

# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## CPO Pantry



The chief's had their own cutlery, dishes, sink, refrigerator (reefer) coffee and messcook, but ate the same food as the other enlisted men.

## CPO Head Forward



Short story about the time that Senior Chief O'Shell told me, "Hey Sonny, I thought I had to fart, but shit." I had just secured from Special Sea Detail, gone below to change into dungarees and made it back to the Supply Office. The Senior Chief told me that he had some rectal surgery that involved the sphincter muscle and that passing wind may or may not occur. Anyway, he went to Chief's Quarters to change his skivvies. Just after he left, the Captain called asking for the Senior Chief. I told the Captain the he went to "defecate". I believe that I heard a little chuckle.



## USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

**Medal of Honor Awardee**

SEATTLE – President Barack Obama will award the Medal of Honor to a Washington state-based Army sergeant who lost his hand in Afghanistan when he tried to toss an enemy grenade away from himself and two colleagues.

Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Arthur Petry will be the second living, active-duty service member to receive the nation's highest military decoration for actions in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars. Last year, Obama awarded a Medal of Honor to Staff Sgt. Sal Giunta, also for actions in Afghanistan.

Petry was being recognized for courageous actions during combat operations against an armed enemy in the eastern Afghan province of Paktia in May 2008, the White House statement said. The 31-year-old native of Santa Fe, N.M. will receive the medal in a ceremony July 12, a White House statement said Tuesday.

"It's very humbling to know that the guys thought that much of me and my

actions that day, to nominate me for that," Petry told the Army News Service.

Officials at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the base south of Seattle where Petry works with injured Rangers returning from deployment, referred calls to Army headquarters. A spokesman at headquarters did not immediately return calls seeking comment Tuesday.

According to the Army News Service, Petry was serving with the 75th Ranger Regiment when he was wounded during a rare daylight raid to capture a high-value target. Petry was clearing the courtyard of a targeted compound with Pvt. 1st Class Lucas Robinson when they came under fire. A bullet pierced both of Petry's legs, and he and Robinson took cover by a chicken coop. As Sgt. Daniel Higgins arrived, a grenade was thrown from the other side of the coop, landed about 30 feet away and exploded, wounding Higgins and Robinson.

A second grenade landed even closer to the three wounded Rangers — just a few feet away. Petry grabbed it and tried to toss it away, but it exploded in his hand.

"If not for Staff Sgt. Petry's actions, we would have been seriously wounded or killed," Higgins later wrote in a report cited by the Army News Service.

Petry placed a tourniquet on his own right arm before reporting that he had been wounded again and that the firefight was ongoing. Two other soldiers, Staff Sgt. James Roberts and Spc. Christopher Gathercole, came to their aid. Gathercole was shot and killed by an enemy firing from another part of the courtyard; Higgins and Robinson returned fire and killed him.

Petry enlisted in the Army in September 1999, the White House statement said. He completed multiple combat tours totaling 28 months of deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. Previous decorations include two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart and three Army Commendation Medals.

# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## Ports of Call *by Dave Lincoln*

*As I read about the travels of the Bristol in the '60's, I am unimpressed (actually envious) for the ports of call on THIS side of the Atlantic"*

*Bristol's travels in the early '50's were somewhat different, in that we had a 6 month assignment with the 6th Fleet every year. Unfortunately only one year did we complete our assignment, due to chewing up the starboard shaft ( and 60 feet of pier in Londonderry, (reported in detail in an earlier newsletter).*

*Back to the theme "Easy Liberty. We were in the Portsmouth (England) dry-dock and shipyard for about 2 months. In that period, many of the white hats and officers chose to develop very tight Anglo relations . Some others chose other pursuits ...like S P duty and chumming with British Navy personnel in their "wet" wardrooms.*

*On one of these visits, I got talking to a Lt with pocla knowledge who asked if I enjoyed shooting ducks."Of courses said the gin".*

*"O K," he says " tomorrow morning I 'll pick you up at 430 am and we'll go get some shooting'., February, cold, raining, and dark. We buzz out 30 minutes on his motorbike, put on rubber boots, arm ourselves, and spend 2 hours slogging thru knee-muck tidal marsh!! Ugly hardly covers it . Needless to say , we came back to the dock at noon time , wet, weary and thirsty.*

*While my shipmates were enjoying their new-found friendships, all I had for my efforts was a well worn British Navy ' duffle*

*coat" which my new friend had pressed on me, and which I treasured for years.*

*So much for easy Ports of Call*

*D. Lincoln, "GUNS", 1952-55*

**Beirut, Lebanon liberty** *by Manny Calimquim*

*Ed,*

*I remember I had a picture taken with Lewandouski during one of those liberty parties somewhere in the Mideterranean. I think it was in Beirut, Lebanon during the time it was still peaceful and us sailors still wear our uniform on liberty. I also was in early liberty with Don Marcus where we both were grabbed by ladies from from bars and menfolks around the area yelled at them women to lay off of us . It was pretty evident they knew what we were looking for. It was very embarrassing that me and Marcus ended up watching the movie "Spartacus" with English sub titles. If I can find the pictures, I sure would like to bring them during our upcoming reunion.*

*Manny C*

**New York Yankees, Yankee Stadium, 1965** *contributed by Ed Lynch*

*The weather was warm that day. John Koltes (our Disbursing Clerk) wanted to get his then fiance, Shirley, something special because Shirley was coming to New York to visit John. John hailed from Minnesota. So, John and I set off for Manhattan to get something special.*

*We found ourselves on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Ave of the Americas) and in the vicinity of Radio City Music Hall (49<sup>th</sup> St). As we were passing the Music Hall, a "hawker" approached us and asked us if we wanted to see a live TV show at CBS. We didn't have anything better to do so we accepted. CBS Corporate (Black Rock) is located on 52<sup>nd</sup> St & 6<sup>th</sup> Ave just a couple of blocks away. However, the CBS studios are located on 57<sup>th</sup> St and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, about ¾ of a mile away.*

*We didn't go more than a few paces from the "hawker" when a well dressed lady approached us and asked us if we would like to see and Yankee game that same night. We said "Sure", and accepted the tickets. Off we went to 163<sup>rd</sup> St and River Ave in the Bronx. In those days, the subway fare was fifteen cents. What a deal!*

*The subway ride was uneventful. For that matter the game was pretty boring since the Yanks and their opponents didn't do any hitting. About half way through the game, John and I decided to beat it back to the ship.*

*While we were waiting for the subway, which was an elevated station overlooking Yankee Stadium, we could hear the roar of the crowd as the Yanks started banging hits one after another. We weren't Yankee fans anyway. I can't remember whether the Yanks won that night. It was nice to see baseball stars like Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris up close even though we weren't fans.*

*I guess we got back to the ship okay because I wouldn't be writing this tid bit. Don "Seaweed" Marcus has plenty of subway tales to tell. He availed of the many free USO deals and made good use of them.*



## USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

**Korean War Veterans.** Albert Hujdich was born in August 1929. His father and uncles had emigrated from Austria-Hungary, as that country disintegrated in the wake of World War I. Hujdich's father joined the American Army as a non-citizen in 1921 and emerged after his two year enlistment "... proud to be an American." When World War II began Hujdich, who was in the eighth grade, saw his cousins and uncles going off to war in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. Not knowing how long the war would last, he decided to join the Marine Corps when his turn came to enter service. Hujdich quit high school in his senior year in 1946 as soon as he turned 17, secured the necessary permission to enlist from his reluctant mother, and joined the Marines, even though by that time the war was over.

Al Hujdich stands on the right in this photo. I worked with Al when we served together in the New Jersey Army National Guard. Al used to tease me about being in the navy. He would always ask why there were port holes on navy ships. Ask me at the reunion for the



answer. Al belongs to the Marine Corps League and visits the VA Clinic in Brick, NJ with donuts, bagels, etc. for the patients.

Hujdich reported to boot camp at Parris Island in September, 1946. All of his instructors were World War II veterans, and they were hard on the new recruits. Following boot camp, he was assigned to E Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He had initially enlisted for two years but extended his enlistment another two years in order to serve on embassy duty in Europe. He served three and a half months in the US Embassy in Rome, and spent the rest of his two year assignment in London. His work at the embassy involved general security duty and diplomatic mail pickup, as well as looking "spit-shined" for the ambassador at ceremonies. When on duty, the Marine guards were armed with Model 1911 .45 caliber automatic pistols. According to Hujdich, not all embassies had Marine details at the time, but the extensive Communist activities in Italy at the time had mandated a higher level of security than in other countries. Because of the Communists, Marines were required to wear civilian clothes when in public outside the embassy in Rome.

Hujdich returned to the US in February, 1950, and was stationed at Great Lakes Marine Barracks. When the Korean War broke out in June, all personnel still in the service had their enlistments extended one year "for the convenience of the government." Since he thought he was stuck for a year anyway and was probably going to Korea, Hujdich reenlisted for six years with several friends and received a \$360 reenlistment bonus. He recalled that they agreed "We're probably not gonna come back, let's get the 360 bucks – at least we can have a few beers before we go over..."

Hujdich, now a corporal, felt lucky that a lot of the Marine reservists activated to fill out the First Marine Division were World War II combat veterans, who had combat experience. He was sent to a camp in California where active duty and reserve Marines were integrated and briefly trained before going to Korea. He then shipped out to Kobe, Japan, in a fourteen day trip in an old troop transport, with "...no portholes or air holes or nothing... sleeping six or seven high," and constantly smelling diesel fuel. The highlight of each day at sea was standing in line to eat. He recalls that with breakfast, lunch and dinner he was "almost in line all day long," and that the Navy got to eat first.

Hujdich's ship landed in Japan just as a typhoon hit. During the storm the Marines had to unload the ship and then reload it in "combat load" fashion, with ammunition on top and only with necessary combat supplies. All extra clothing and personal baggage was stored in Japan. Once reloaded, the ship headed for Inchon. In July, after the North Koreans had invaded South Korea and were driving south, American forces had rushed to the peninsula from Japan without proper supplies or training. They had been pushed back to Pusan, where they had held on and built up their forces and were now ready to counterattack. As part of that counterattack, General Douglas MacArthur ordered the Marines to land behind the North Korean lines at Inchon and advance to recapture the South Korean capital, Seoul.

Hujdich recalled that the Marines were not told where they were going until they were at sea. The invasion was timed on the tricky tides of Inchon Harbor, and Hujdich's outfit was not scheduled to go in until 5:00 PM. He remembered that "...we were just looking forward to having steak and eggs like supposedly you get before you make the beaches. Some of the guys who were lucky in World War II did; we did too. Yeah I got a piece of rubber steak and a couple of eggs, and that was the last warm meal for a while."

Once preparations for the invasion were complete, Hujdich noted that "we were anxious to go in." "You just wanted to go," he said. "First off you get disgusted aboard ship anyway, and you want to go on land... not only that... as you're riding around. You just don't come off the nets and go into the ship and then go right into the beach. You've got to get into that LCVP [Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel], and get into a pattern until the rest of the ship is unloaded. So you're out there circling for 45 minutes – sometimes an hour. And, mind you, you got a jacket on that stinks – a kapok jacket, that's supposed to be your lifesaver. We had no vests, bulletproof vests then in the '50s. And your equipment, you're loaded prepared because you don't know how long it will be before they bring you any rations or anything else, ammunition. So you're really loaded, and you're riding around in the choppy seas there waiting until everybody's loaded and then they give the word, you know, "hit the beach," and then they peel off and start making it for the beach. And at Inchon, because of the sea wall, we had ladders. It wasn't like some of the World War II landings where it was a sandy beach, naturally with the enemy shooting. We didn't get much. When we were coming in we heard a couple rounds, then you knew it was for real. But we were lucky; we didn't lose nobody coming in."

# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## Korean War Veterans continued

Once ashore the Marines of the First Division broke out of the Inchon beachhead and moved on Seoul, the South Korean capital, in order to liberate it from the North Koreans. Hujdich recalls that he "felt good" and that his training had prepared him well for combat, and that he was "wide awake... and looking for the enemy." He recalls that his unit pushed through a farming area first, with a lot of "grass, mud huts, thatch huts" but knew they were approaching Seoul when they encountered concrete buildings. His company's objective was the train station, which still stands today. Every intersection had sandbagged fighting positions, initially erected by the South Koreans and taken over by the North Koreans. The Marines moved from building to building, subjected to sniper fire. Hujdich remembered that "you really had to watch your step" in urban fighting. Most of the population remaining in the city were older people, but among them were some North Korean infiltrators dressed in civilian clothes.

By this time Hujdich was a squad leader, but stated that he was not well informed on the grand strategy of the war. He and his fellow Marines did know, however, that they were part of a pincer movement, with the other arm of the attack striking north out of Pusan, and that the North Koreans were on the run. The retreating enemy broke up their units, faded into the civilian population, hid from American air power during the daytime and moved at night.

In October, 1950, following the capture of Seoul, the First Marine Division returned to Inchon. Hujdich's company boarded an LST [Landing Ship, Tank] with a Japanese crew. Eating C-Rations suspended by a coat hanger into a can full of hot water to heat, they, along with the rest of the division, slowly made their way down one side of the Korean peninsula and up the other to Wonsan. Wonsan Bay had been heavily mined by the North Koreans, however, and it took ten days, while the Marines circled outside the harbor, for the Navy to clear enough mines for a landing. According to Hujdich, Bob Hope and his USO entertainment troop landed before the Marines. Once ashore the Marines, supplemented by army troops, began to

drive towards the Yalu River, the border between North Korea and China.

The roads north were "snaky" and intended for oxcarts, not heavy trucks and tanks, which often slid off into ditches. As the Marines approached the Chosin Reservoir, they moved to the left, or west, with the Army advancing to the right or east of that body of frozen water. The general feeling among the Marines was that they had the enemy "on the run" and would be "home by Christmas. In October, however, the Chinese began to enter the war. On Thanksgiving Day, as the Chinese army closed in around them, the Marines received their last hot meal, brought to the field in "thermos burners." [Mermite cans?]. It was so cold that the turkey gravy and stuffing coagulated while they were eating.

The Marines at Chosin were soon not only fighting the penetrating, intense cold, but also large numbers of Chinese soldiers. Shortly after Thanksgiving the army units to the east of Chosin were overrun, and the Marines surrounded. In response, the Marines began to fight their way south out of the Chinese encirclement. They could not take their "shoe pac" boots off for fear they could not get them back on again and C-Rations froze so solid that they could not be pried out of their cans. The ground was so hard that the Marines could not dig foxholes, and piled up frozen dead Chinese soldiers for cover from enemy fire. The weather was brutal to the Chinese as well as to the Americans, and Hujdich remembered seeing enemy prisoners with their hands turned black with frostbite. Fighting all the way, the First Marine Division successfully withdrew south to the port of Hungnam where ships awaited to take the division back to South Korea.

During the withdrawal, Hujdich was evacuated to Japan with wounds and frostbite injuries. When he returned to the First Marine Division in January, 1951, the division was fighting along the 38th parallel line near the current border between North and South Korea. He was still serving in Korea that April, when President Harry S. Truman relieved General Douglas MacArthur from command and replaced him with General Matthew B. Ridgeway. Hujdich recalled that his feeling, in retrospect, was that

MacArthur, although a talented commander, was a bit of an "egomaniac." He remembered that when MacArthur was replaced by Ridgeway there was no ill effect on the morale of the troops on the line. He said that they knew Ridgeway was "a proven soldier," and that the troops "felt comfortable with him."

Albert Hujdich came home from Korea in October 1951, with five years left on his enlistment. The Marine Corps asked him where he wanted to be stationed and he said he wanted to either go back to London, to Japan, or to Armorer's school. Instead, he was assigned to recruiting duty in Pittsburgh. The recruiting station did not meet its quota, and he was transferred to Camp Lejeune after six months. Over the next few years Hujdich rose to the rank of staff sergeant and married. His wife was not particularly happy with military life, so he left the Marines after ten years of service and became a construction worker, and then a mailman in Trenton, New Jersey. He thought of going back into the military at one time, but did not, because the Marines would not promise to station him in the New Jersey area. He did join the army reserve and then the New Jersey National Guard, from which he eventually retired. He also joined the New Jersey State Police, retiring after twenty-three years of service.

Based on his experiences in the military and in Korea, Hujdich recalls that the war did stop the spread of Communism to South Korea, which is now a prosperous nation, which was a good thing. He thinks one of the greatest attributes of the United States is that people have emigrated here from all over the world and get along with each other in a democratic and prosperous society, and that is a good thing as well, but he feels that the military, and those who serve in it, are not always appreciated as much as they should be by the American public.

Please send me your experiences at: [edwardclynch1@verizon.net](mailto:edwardclynch1@verizon.net), or, by mail at: Edward C Lynch

5 Bridle Way

Whiting NJ 08759-5167



# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

**Old Glory Fights Back** *contributed by Ray Storey*



American Flag: \$25  
Cigarettes: \$2  
Cigarette Lighter: \$2.50

Catching yourself on fire because you  
burned a muslim. PRICELESS

Seal Team 6.....

*Contributed by Ray Storey*



Imagine the look  
on Bin Laden's  
face when these  
guys came  
through the door...



# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## MEMORIAL DAY ~~The Story Of the poppy!

Contributed by Joe Kelsey



The story of how the Poppy became an international symbol of remembrance.

The association of the red poppy — the Flanders Poppy — with battlefield deaths as a natural symbol of resurrection and remembrance derives from the fact that the poppy was the first plant to grow in the churned up soil of soldiers' graves in the area of Flanders during the First World War.

It was verses by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian Medical Officer, which began the intriguing process by which the Flanders Poppy became immortalised worldwide as the symbol of remembrance:

### In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the  
poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row  
on row  
That mark our place; and  
in the sky  
The larks, still bravely

singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns  
below.

We are the Dead. Short  
days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw  
sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and  
now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with  
the foe:  
To you from failing hands  
we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold  
it high.

If ye break faith with us  
who die  
We shall not sleep, though  
poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

General John A. Logan  
We cherish too, the Poppy  
red  
That grows on fields where  
valor led,  
It seems to signal to the  
skies  
That blood of heroes never  
dies.

## Every Friday At The Pentagon Contributed by Gary Hults



### Mornings at the Pentagon

By JOSEPH L.  
GALLOWAY  
McClatchy Newspapers

Over the last 12 months, 1,042 soldiers, Marines, sailors and Air Force personnel have given their lives in the terrible duty that is war.

Thousands more have come home on stretchers, horribly wounded and facing months or years in military hospitals.

This week, I'm turning my space over to a good friend and former roommate, Army Lt. Col. Robert Bateman, who recently completed a yearlong tour of duty and is now back at the Pentagon.

Here's Lt. Col. Bateman's account of a little-known ceremony that fills the halls of the Army corridor of the Pentagon with cheers, applause and many tears every Friday morning. It first appeared on May 17 on the Weblog of media critic and pundit Eric Alterman at the Media Matters for America Website.

"It is 110 yards from the "E" ring to the "A" ring of the

Pentagon. This section of the Pentagon is newly renovated; the floors shine, the hallway is broad, and the lighting is bright. At this instant the entire length of the corridor is packed with officers, a few sergeants and some civilians, all crammed tightly three and four deep against the walls. There are thousands here.

"This hallway, more than any other, is the 'Army' hallway. The G3 offices line one side, G2 the other; G8 is around the corner. All Army. Moderate conversations flow in a low buzz. Friends who may not have seen each other for a few weeks, or a few years, spot each other, cross the way and renew.

"Everyone shifts to ensure an open path remains down the center. The air conditioning system was not designed for this press of bodies in this area.

"The temperature is rising already. Nobody cares. "10:36 hours: The clapping starts at the E-Ring. That is the outermost of the five rings of the Pentagon and it is closest to the entrance to the building. This clapping is low, sustained, hearty. It is applause with a deep emotion behind it as it moves forward in a wave down the length of the hallway. Continued on next page

# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION



*"A steady rolling wave of sound it is, moving at the pace of the soldier in the wheelchair who marks the forward edge with his presence. He is the first. He is missing the greater part of one leg, and some of his wounds are still suppurating. By his age I expect that he is a private, or perhaps a private first class.*

*"Captains, majors, lieutenant colonels and colonels meet his gaze and nod as they applaud, soldier to soldier. Three years ago when I described one of these events, those lining the hallways were somewhat different. The applause a little wilder, perhaps in private guilt for not having shared in the burden ... Yet.*

*"Now almost everyone lining the hallway is, like the man in the wheelchair, also a combat veteran. This steadies the applause, but I think deepens the sentiment. We have all been there now. The soldier's chair is pushed by, I believe, a full colonel.*

*"Behind him, and stretching the length from Rings E to A, come more of his peers, each private, corporal, or sergeant assisted as need be by a field grade officer.*

*"11:00 hours: Twenty-four minutes of steady applause. My hands hurt, and I laugh to myself at how stupid that sounds in my own head. My hands hurt. Please! Shut up and clap. For twenty-four minutes, soldier after soldier has come down this hallway - 20, 25, 30... Fifty-three legs come with them, and perhaps only 52 hands or arms, but down this hall came 30 solid hearts.*

*"They pass down this corridor of officers and applause, and then meet for a private lunch, at which they are the guests of honor, hosted by the generals. Some are wheeled along. Some insist*

*upon getting out of their chairs, to march as best they can with their chin held up, down this hallway, through this most unique audience. Some are catching handshakes and smiling like a politician at a Fourth of July parade. More than a couple of them seem amazed and are smiling shyly.*

*"There are families with them as well: the 18-year-old war-bride pushing her 19-year-old husband's wheelchair and not quite understanding why her husband is so affected by this, the boy she grew up with, now a man, who had never shed a tear is crying; the older immigrant Latino parents who have, perhaps more than their wounded mid-20s son, an appreciation for the emotion given on their son's behalf. No man in that hallway, walking or clapping, is ashamed by the silent tears on more than a few cheeks. An Airborne Ranger wipes his eyes only to better see. A couple of the officers in this crowd have themselves been a part of this parade in the past.*

*"These are our men, broken in body they may be, but they are our brothers, and we welcome them home. This parade has gone on, every single Friday, all year long, for more than four years..*

## Displaying the Flag

As a patriotic gesture after the tragedy of September 11, 2001, Bodger Seeds, planted a Floral Flag in Lompoc, California. It had been 50 years since they have planted such a flag. It was planted in January 2002 and was in full bloom on July 4, 2002. There have been four Floral Flags planted by Bodger Seeds in Lompoc during the last century: 1942, 1943, 1945, 1952. All of the flags were comprised of Red, White and Blue Larkspur flowers. Some of the flags were planted in a background of White Larkspur. Either the 1943 or the 1945 flag was a 'wavy' flag that was a failure. The first Floral Flag was planted a week after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 1941 and was in bloom during the early summer of 1942.

That flag was 455 feet long and 260 feet high, equaling 2.75 acres. It was planted in a 9 acre field of White Larkspur. The Stars were 10' x 10' and the Stripes were 22 feet wide. It was estimated to contain 200,000 Larkspur plants. The 1952 Floral Flag was planted with Stripes of varying widths so that the flag would retain proper perspective from the top of Lookout Point, approximately 1/4 mile to the south. This Flag was 7 acres square: 550 feet long and 540 feet wide. The Stripes were 33 feet wide on the south end of the flag and became progressively wider to a maximum of 53 feet wide on the north end of the flag.

This 2002 Flag was the first to have 5 pointed floral Stars. All previous flags had square blocks of White Larkspur for Stars. First the blue field (210 ft X 296 ft.) was planted. Once the Blue Larkspur plants began to sprout, a 24 foot metal frame in the shape of a 5 pointed star was placed precisely where each Star would be. The Blue Larkspur plants within this frame were removed and White Larkspur plants were planted in their place. This was repeated 49 more times to make 50 Stars. There were 5 rows of 6 Stars and 4 rows of 5 stars staggered in a way that makes the stars evenly spaced from one another. The flowers are grown by seed companies. The Floral Flag is 740 feet long and 390 feet wide and maintains the proper Flag dimensions, as described in Executive Order #10834. This Flag is 6.65 acres and is the first Floral Flag to be planted with 5 pointed Stars, comprised of White Larkspur. Each each Stripe is 30 feet wide. This Flag is estimated to contain more than 400,000 Larkspur plants, with 4-5 flower stems each, for a total of more than 2 million flowers. You can drive by this flag on V Street south of Ocean Ave. in Lompoc, CA. It's a beautiful place, close to Vandenberg AFB. Between the fields where the flag is planted, there are 9+ miles of flower fields that go all the way to the ocean.

The developer of the Floral Flag had been in existence since 1890, and in Lompoc since about 1925. For many years they dominated the national flower-seed industry. In May of 2009, John Bodger and Sons sold off its flower and seed division, called Bodger Seeds, to German company Benary. Along with the sale came ownership of Bodger's facilities in Lompoc and Chile. With the global economic situation, Benary decided they had too many global facilities, and needed to scale back. The Lompoc Valley facility was closed 9 APR 2010 and the Floral Flag no longer exists. [Source: <http://forums.christiansunite.com/index.php?>



# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## World War II United States Maritime Service



Maxwell Joseph McCann,  
Lcdr, USMS, along with fellow  
survivors of the torpedo attack.

The hand written message in the photo says “  
Cairo - April 28, 1944. Survivors of SS Meyer  
London. Torpedoed in Med Sea off Lybia Apr  
14, 1944. The survivors were rescued by a  
British destroyer and safely transported to Cairo.



### U.S. Maritime Service: the Forgotten Service

"The United States shall have a merchant marine...[to] serve as a naval or military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency...[and] should be operated by highly trained and efficient citizens of the United States and that the United States Navy and the Merchant Marine of the United States should work closely together to promote the maximum integration of the total seapower forces of the United States...

"The Secretary may establish and maintain a voluntary organization for the training of citizens of the United States to serve on Merchant Marine vessels of the United States to be known as the United States Maritime Service...and to prescribe the uniform of such service and the rules governing the wearing and furnishing of such uniform....The ranks, grades, and ratings for personnel of the United States Maritime Service shall be the same as... for the personnel of the United States Coast Guard." Merchant Marine Act of 1936.



# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

In 1938, when a second World War was imminent, President Franklin D. Roosevelt realized that winning the war would require many ships to carry war supplies to the fronts. He ordered mass-production of Liberty ships and established the U.S. Maritime Service (USMS) to train the men needed to operate these ships. Joseph P. Kennedy, (father of President John F. Kennedy) was appointed as the first Chairman of the new Federal Maritime Commission in 1937 during which he laid the groundwork for the U.S. Merchant Marine. Kennedy became the United States Ambassador to Great Britain in 1938. Retired Admiral Emory Scott Land, USN, succeeded Kennedy as Chairman, and who also headed the War Shipping Administration. Admiral Land is the genius who put together the ship production, training of the men in the USMS, and operation of the vast fleet.

The U. S. Maritime Service was set up in 1938 under provisions of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936. Its purpose is to train officers and men for an adequate Merchant Marine. From July 1, 1941 to March 1, 1942 jurisdiction was under the U.S. Maritime Commission. From February 28, 1942 the U. S. Coast Guard, under Executive Order 9083, administered the training under the direction of the U.S. Maritime Commission. In July 11, 1942, Presidential Executive Order 9198 transferred operation of the Maritime Service to the War Shipping Administration, Admiral Emory Land, Administrator. A Division of Training was established under Admiral Land. USMS basic and advanced training bases were built across the nation: Port Hueneme, California (dedicated Aug. 30, 1941 to 1942); Avalon, California (Dec. 1942 to

Oct 1945); Sheepshead Bay, New York (Sept. 1942 to Feb. 28, 1954); U.S. Navy officers. Many of its first recruits in 1938 were from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). St. Petersburg, Florida (Nov. 1939 to March 31, 1950); Officer training school Fort Trumbull, Connecticut (Jan. 1, 1939 to May 1946); Training station Government Island, Alameda, California (Sept. 1938 to Feb. 6, 1943); Officer training school Alameda, California (Feb. 6, 1943 to Jan. 31, 1954); Basic Training and later Radio operator school Hoffman Island, New York (Sept. 7, 1938 to Oct. 1945); Radio operator school Gallups Island, (Boston Harbor) Massachusetts (July 1940 to Oct. 1945); Huntington, New York, Radio Training Station.



**All night Lifeboat "cruise" in New York Harbor**

The USMS was first established under the Coast Guard and later supervised by caught up in the patriotic fervor of the time, came forward to serve in the fledgling U.S. Maritime Service. There were 37 Official U.S. Government Recruiting Offices set up around the country. Radio and newspaper ads brought in the thousands of young patriotic men, as young as 16 years of age, from every State who answered their country's call to serve. Some Offices were located next to Navy and Coast Guard Offices. Many men were

sent to the USMS by U.S. Navy and Coast Guard recruiters who said, "That's where your service is needed." The USMS was the only racially integrated service of the time. African-Americans.

Thousands of active and retired mariners, Navy, and Coast Guardsmen were pressed into duty to serve as administrators and instructors in the U.S. Maritime Service. They believed then, and still believe today, they joined a uniformed, armed service! Many of these were cheated out of service and retirement time. [They are still seeking veteran status from the Air Force Secretary. The USMS was an official U.S. Government organization, while the WASPs and most of the other groups who received veteran status were either under contract to the Government or unofficial organizations. WASP instructors and women who failed the training program received veteran status.]

The USMS took over 250,000 raw recruits and turned them into fighting mariners. They taught them operation of anti-aircraft guns and cannon. They taught navigation, engine operation and maintenance, and deck operations aboard training vessels that operated in hazardous waters subject to mines and attack by German and Japanese submarines.

The United States Maritime Service trained men for the U.S. Merchant Marine, and U.S. Army Transport Service to transport supplies and personnel in the largest fleet of freighters, tankers, and transports in history to bases all over the world for U.S. and Allied forces. Men at the fronts depend on this important service for bombs, gasoline, shells, ammunition, food, guns, vehicles, planes, medicine, and other materials for warfare.

# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

The ships of the U.S. Merchant Marine and U.S. Army Transport Service were on the frontline as soon as they left their docks and harbors. The enemy mined some harbors, and submarines and raiders waited for their prey outside of the harbors, especially on the East and Gulf coasts of the United States.



When the huge Sheepshead Bay Training Station, in Brooklyn, N.Y., was opened in 1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent his personal greetings,

"It is with a feeling of great pride that I send my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the officers and men of the new U. S. Maritime Service Training Station at Sheepshead Bay, New York. Ten thousand apprentice seamen in training at one station is a magnificent achievement, and the entire country joins me in wishing you every success and in paying tribute to you men of the Merchant Marine who are so gallantly working and fighting side by side with our Army and Navy to defend the way of life which is so dear to us all." [emphasis added]

Roosevelt Praises Maritime Service, New York Times, December 13, 1942

The photo (above), taken in 1943, shows Lindell Jenkins [1925-2000] of Texas, at age 17, in his U.S. Maritime Service uniform.

U.S. Navy Air Transport flew approximately 250 USMS personnel each month between Miami, Fla., and Panama Canal Zone. War Shipping Administration Press Release

"Self-improvement is the Patriotic Duty of Every Merchant Seaman" stated the War Shipping Administration in a pamphlet encouraging mariners to take Upgrade courses at U.S. Maritime Service schools.

The USMS Training Bases were disbanded in 1954, the servicemen sent home with a "release from duty" to be all but forgotten by the country they served. Today federal agencies act as if the branch never even existed. The U.S. Maritime Service disappeared in the dust bins of the National Archives. [The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and the State Maritime Academies are still part of the U.S. Maritime Service.]

----->

## The Sinking of the SS Meyer London

SS Meyer London was a 7210 ton Liberty Ship completed in 1944 at the Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyards, Inc, Baltimore, MD.

On 16 April 1944, Meyer London was attacked and sunk by U-407, commanded by Hubertus Korndorfer (U-407 sunk 19 Sep 44 by allied destroyers in Med). Meyer London was a member of convoy UGS-37, Philadelphia - Norfolk (24Mar44) - Abadan, Iran. She carried 7800 tons of general military stores and a deck cargo of crated aircraft.

At 1820 hours on 16 April 1944, U-407 fired a spread of three torpedoes at three overlapping steamers in convoy UGS-37 about 17 miles off Derna and heard two detonations. The Meyer London in station #12 and Thomas G Masaryk in station #23 were hit by one torpedo each.

Meyer London, commanded by Fred Harry Rylander, was struck by the torpedo on the port side at the #5 hatch below the after magazine. The explosion blew a large column of oil and water over the stern, demolished the gun crew quarters, injured the men standing watch on the after gun,

blew off the screw and rudder and left the fantail hanging at a 15 degree angle. The ship, now out of control, nearly collided with the other torpedoed ship missing by only 20 feet. The eight officers, 37 crewmen and 27 armed guards (the ship was armed with on 5 inch, one 3 inch, and eight 20mm guns) abandoned ship in four lifeboats, were picked up after an hour by HMS LaMalouine (K46) commanded by Lt W A Ives, RNR, and taken to Port Said and Alexandria. The badly damaged ship sank by the stern at 1935 hours.

Thomas Maxwell Winters, Lcdr, USMS, survived the sinking along with all his shipmates that fateful evening in April 1944. Lcdr Winters continued to served in the USMS until 1954 when the USMS seemed to disappear.

In the 1960s, Masters Mates and Pilots Union, of which Winters was a member, could not find many of its membership who wanted to ship out to Vietnam. Winters in his sixties by then volunteered. This would be his last voyage as Chief Engineer in merchant vessels. While in Vietnam he hooked up with some of the GIs and sailors in port and got an autographed N65 field jacket similar to the type that our shipmate, Charlie Weaver, wore.

Sadly, the family did not receive a casket flag from the VA when Winters died. Winters belonged to a generation of Americans who did what they did for their country for no other reason but that they loved our country. They didn't ask for any for recognition. They just did it.

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the might ocean deep,  
Its own appointed limits keep.

Oh hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!

Amen!

# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION



## Bravo Zulu (Well Done) Shipmate

## World T.E.A.M. Sports

## Soggy Saturday for Face of America

April 2011



Riders line up behind the Hyatt Regency Washington for the start of the 2011 Face of America. Photograph by Richard Rhinehart.

The cancellation of the afternoon segment is a first for the Face of America. The previous five editions of the ride had experienced only minor weather problems, including light rain in 2010 and extreme heat the previous year.

The day's activities began with a group breakfast at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, the host hotel for the event. Susan Powell, Miss America 1981, provided a rousing rendition of the National Anthem. Brief remarks of praise and encouragement from General James E. Cartwright, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, followed, and the riders were off.

Owing to concerns about the expected rainfall, the ride began at the Hyatt this year, rather than Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the Capitol. From the Hyatt, participants cycled past iconic Washington monuments, such as the Iwo Jima Memorial. Unfortunately, by time the ride reached the first rest stop at Montgomery Fire Station #30 in Potomac, the rain had begun. As the rain increased, riders began having difficulties on the wet pavement.

En route to the second rest stop in Poolesville, Maryland, problems began. One group through no fault of their own took an incorrect turn, and spent several miles on the wrong route. Slick road conditions led to falls by other riders. As the rain increased, riders began reaching the Upper Montgomery Fire Station in search of not only food, but warmth and an

opportunity to get away from the soaking precipitation.



The Upper Montgomery Fire Station was crowded with more than 400 riders.

Despite some interest in completing the first day's route, the overwhelming concern for riders' safety, particularly with increasing thunderstorms and lightning, encouraged the directors to make the decision to cancel the afternoon leg.

For a great majority of the participants, both disabled and non-disabled, the decision was welcomed with relief. No one wanted to be the first to drop out of the ride and abandon the goal of working together as a team, one of the primary purposes of the Face of America ride.

Like all World T.E.A.M. Sports events, the Face of America ride is an opportunity to support our nation's military in an inclusive two-day ride. Riders of all ages and abilities, from across the country, participate. Funds raised through the Face of America ride are used to pay for the participation of disabled soldiers, and help fund future inclusive events.



# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## Flag Lowering Ceremony

by Ed Lynch

I just want to share with you and experience that my wife, Anne, and I had 26 June 2011. We drove 100 miles or so to be part of a flag lowering ceremony held every evening at sunset from Memorial Day to October.

26 June 2011, ceremony held in memory of a WWII veteran who died in 2008. The veteran was a Gunner's Mate who served as Armed Guard on merchant ships on two trans Atlantic trips. Later, this veteran served aboard a cruiser and was present in Tokyo Bay for the surrender of Japan.

The veterans family was present for the ceremony that included the veterans wife, sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. One of the great-grandchildren played taps at the conclusion of the national anthem. The young lad had difficulty in the beginning, but persevered and was able to play Taps without fault.



Marvin Hume and his daughter, Kathy, conduct this ceremony every night during the Summer. Before the ceremony began on the night that we attended, Kathy Hume went about the flag pole area picking up refuse and swept the concrete pad on which the flag pole is secured. You will see Marvin Hume wearing the blue baseball cap in the next photos.

Marvin Hume (with ballcap) instructs family in procedure of properly folding the flag.

The tradition began immediately after Hume bought the Sunset Beach souvenir shop in 1973.

"The old owner flew a flag over the beach and asked me if I would mind continuing to do so. I said, "...I'd be honored."



The family helps fold the flag. At the right of the photo above stands the great-grandson, bugler.



Hume got the idea to fly a casket flag and put an ad in a local paper.

"You know how many times I ran that ad? Once. That's all. People just kept coming and word spread and we've never been without one. Right now we're booked till the end of this year, and all through next year."

Some families mark birthdays or death anniversaries with the ceremony.

"It becomes a tradition, and sort of a family reunion for these folks," Hume said. The casket flag of Army Capt. Brian Faunce of Bensalem, Pa., has flown over Sunset Beach every Sept. 18 since 2004, the one-year anniversary of his death in Iraq.

His mother, Judy, struggled to find words to express her gratitude to Hume.

"What Marvin does is so ... I don't know ... I have to compose myself ... it's just so wonderful," Judy Faunce said. "I've nominated him so many times for Charles Gibson's 'Person of the Week' (on ABC Nightly News). Marvin deserves to be honored."

There were about 250 people standing at attention either saluting or covering their hearts on 26 June 2011, to honor our



flag and to honor the memory of another veteran.

After the family completed folding the flag. They presented the flag to the veteran's wife. The best part of the ceremony was the fact that everyone present properly displayed decorum for the ceremony. Those present saluted or crossed their heart with their right hand. Anne and I thought that this was a tremendously rewarding experience.

# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## Military Trivia by Manny Calimquim

While the C-5 was turning over its engines, a female crewman gave the G.I.s on board the usual information regarding seat belts, emergency exits, etc.

Finally, she said, 'Now sit back and enjoy your trip while your captain, Judith Campbell, and crew take you safely to Afghanistan '

An old Master Sergeant sitting in the eighth row thought to himself, 'Did I hear her right? Is the captain a woman? '

When the attendant came by he said 'Did I understand you right? Is the captain a woman?'

'Yes,!' said the attendant, 'In fact, this entire crew is female.'



'My God,' he said, 'I wish I had two double scotch and sodas. I don't know what to think with only women up there in the cockpit.'

'That's another thing, Sergeant,' said the crew member, 'We No Longer Call It The Cockpit'

'It's The Box Office.'

## Tom Lewandowski updates Dave Olsen photos from last newsletter



hi again Ed,

*I just realized that the photo of "Big Dave" Davis on page five shows him wearing a blue chambray work shirt, not a t-shirt as I had thought. I guess the camera flash made it appear that way. Also, the photo captioned "just a bunch of guys having a good time" has Shelby Barnes on top and I can't tell who the "victim" is but I'm sure that's my arm helping to hold him down. In the upper right photo, from left to right is: Gary Marts, Dave Olsen, Eddie MacArthur, and Kent Lindblad. Hope the info is useful.*

TomD

## Do you know what happens when the military instructors find out that you work for the phone company?

by Ed Lynch

While serving in the New Jersey Army National Guard, I was a student in Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course. Part of the course involved a field training exercise (FTX).

When the instructors found out that I worked for the phone company, they made me the radio telephone operator (RTO). They were also short of weapons. So, they also had me carry all the extra ammo.

The photos below show me carrying the AN-PRC-77, weighing 13.75 pounds, extra batteries, which weighed a couple of pounds each and, eventually extra 7.62mm blank ammo for the M60 machine gun.



No! I didn't complain, but I sure was tired. The morning after this photo was snapped I went to breakfast (no not McDonald's) in the pouring rain. There was a cover over the messing facility in the bivouac area. That's the day I learned to drink coffee black. You see, those packets of creamers were so old that it looked like cakes of cement.

Ed Lynch



# USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

## VIETNAMESE IMMIGRANT

*Contributed by Earl "Charlie" Weaver*

It looks like we did some good after all! On Saturday, July 24th, 2010 the town of Prescott Valley, AZ, hosted a Freedom Rally. Quang Nguyen was asked to speak on his experience of coming to America and what it means. He spoke the following in dedication to all Vietnam Veterans. Thought you might enjoy hearing what he had to say:

35 years ago, if you were to tell me that I am going to stand up here speaking to a couple thousand patriots, in English, I'd laugh at you. Man, every morning I wake up thanking God for putting me and my family in the greatest country on earth.

I just want you all to know that the American dream does exist and I am living the American dream. I was asked to speak to you about my experience as a first generation Vietnamese- American, but I'd rather speak to you as an American.

If you hadn't noticed, I am not white and I feel pretty comfortable with my people.

I am a proud US citizen and here is my proof. It took me 8 years to get it, waiting in endless lines, but I got it and I am very proud of it.

I still remember the images of the Tet offensive in 1968, I was six years old. Now you might want to question how a 6-year-old boy could remember anything. Trust me, those images can never be erased. I can't even imagine what it was like for young American soldiers, 10,000 miles away from home, fighting on my behalf.

35 years ago, I left South Vietnam for political asylum. The war had ended. At the age of 13, I left with the understanding that I may or may not ever get to see my siblings or parents again. I was one of the first lucky 100,000 Vietnamese allowed to come to the US. Somehow, my family and I were reunited 5 months later, amazingly, in California. It was a miracle from God.

If you haven't heard lately that this is the

greatest country on earth, I am telling you that right now. It was the freedom and the opportunities presented to me that put me here with all of you tonight. I also remember the barriers that I had to overcome every step of the way. My high school counselor told me that I cannot make it to college due to my poor communication skills. I proved him wrong. I finished college. You see, all you have to do is to give this little boy an opportunity and encourage him to take and run with it. Well, I took the opportunity and here I am.

This person standing tonight in front of you could not exist under a socialist/ communist environment. By the way, if you think socialism is the way to go, I am sure many people here will chip in to get you a one-way ticket out of here. And if you didn't know, the only difference between socialism and communism is an AK-47 aimed at your head. That was my experience.

In 1982, I stood with a thousand new immigrants, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and listening to the National Anthem for the first time as an American. To this day, I can't remember anything sweeter and more patriotic than that moment in my life.

Fast forwarding, somehow I finished high school, finished college, and like any other goofball 21 year old kid, I was having a great time with my life. I had a nice job and a nice apartment in Southern California. In some way and somehow, I had forgotten how I got here and why I was here.

One day I was at a gas station, I saw a veteran pumping gas on the other side of the island. I don't know what made me do it, but I walked over and asked if he had served in Vietnam. He smiled and said yes. I shook and held his hand. The grown man began to well up. I walked away as fast as I could and at that very moment, I was emotionally rocked. This was a profound moment in my life. I knew something had to change in my life. It was time for me to learn how to be a good citizen. It was time for me to give back.

You see, America is not a place on the map, it isn't a physical location. It is an ideal, a concept. And if you are an American, you must understand the concept, you must buy into this concept, and most importantly, you have to fight and defend this concept. This is about Freedom and not free stuff. And that is why I am standing up here.

Brothers and sisters, to be a real American, the very least you must do is to learn English and understand it well. In my humble opinion, you cannot be a faithful patriotic citizen if you can't speak the language of the country you live in. Take this document of 46 pages - last I looked on the Internet, there wasn't a Vietnamese translation of the US Constitution. It took me a long time to get to the point of being able to converse and until this day, I still struggle to come up with the right words. It's not easy, but if it's too easy, it's not worth doing.

Before I knew this 46-page document, I learned of the 500,000 Americans who fought for this little boy. I learned of the 58,000 names scribed on the black wall at the Vietnam Memorial. You are my heroes. You are my founders.

At this time, I would like to ask all the Vietnam veterans to please stand. I thank you for my life. I thank you for your sacrifices, and I thank you for giving me the freedom and liberty I have today. I now ask all veterans, firefighters, and police officers, to please stand. On behalf of all first generation immigrants, I thank you for your services and may God bless you all.

Quang Nguyen  
Creative Director/Founder  
Caddis Advertising, LLC

Notice that he referred to himself as an American, NOT Vietnamese - American.

How good it would be here in America if all of the immigrants---no, EVERYONE--- felt like Quang Nguyen.



## USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

### Did you know there is symbolism in the folding of the American Flag?

Have you ever noticed the Honor Guard pays meticulous attention to folding the American Flag correctly? Each fold has a special significance and symbolism.

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered in to the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on mother's day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God we Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the sailor and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

From *The Flag Folding Ceremony*, U.S. Air Force Academy

Thanks to Cloud Family Association, 508 Crestwood Dr., Eastland, TX 76448.

Thanks to  
Gary  
Hults for  
this article.

## USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION



Photo above taken at our reunion in Milwaukee. "Moose" telling a little tale of "torpedo juice".

Leo was born on September 15, 1923 and passed away on Saturday, June 11, 2011.

Leo was last known to be living in San Diego, California.

**Sangiolo, Leo G**

**Nickname** Moose Rate TMC Division Ord Repair

**Spouse** Spouse Deceased Hometown Monponsett, MA

**Ship** USS BRYCE CANYON (AD-36) Years From 1956 Years To 1957

**Civilian Occupation** Retired from Teaching

**Special Hobbies** Gold

**Favorite Memory** Making Chief while aboard

**Worst Memory**

**Children 2 Grandchildren 2**

*Continued from page 3*

Lynch said his main goal is to "ensure as much dignity as possible" through funeral services. Whether the family opts for a religious or secular memorial isn't his decision to make. "I'm not there to provide any comments," Lynch said. "I'm there to help the family through the military portion of the service." The U.S. Department of Defense provides memorial details — the military personnel who fire rifles, play taps and present a folded flag to the family — for active-duty funerals in Abilene. Dyess Air Force Base supplies personnel for Air Force and Marine funerals. 25

The Army sends in a detail from Fort Hood, while the Navy brings one in from Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo. Those details are augmented locally by the Veterans Honor Guard, which features a host of American Legion and VFW members volunteering their time to perform ceremonial rites at military funerals throughout the Big Country. Ralph Rodriguez is a Vietnam veteran, the commander for District 8 of the VFW, and one of the local honor guard's organizers.

He said the use of the word "God" has never been an issue in and around Abilene, and he certainly hopes it never will be. Rodriguez noted that it's pretty difficult to avoid it when the American Legion's motto is, "For God and Country." "Even in the Pledge of Allegiance, it's 'one nation under God,'" Rodriguez said. "And that's what we are." Rodriguez was just in Houston for a VFW convention, in fact. Tempers were riding high about the issue out there — "It kind of made me angry, too," Rodriguez said — but he said he's cautiously optimistic about the matter getting settled. Rodriguez said the local Honor Guard assembles on a voluntary basis for each funeral. He's been involved with it for more than a decade, and said he sees the rites as a small token of gratitude for the services troops have rendered. "If we can't give a little of our time for them, what else can we give?" Rodriguez said. "They gave everything for their country." [Source: Abilene Reporter News Jeremy Goldmeier article 6 Jul 2011 ++]

### TAPS

Leo "Moose" Sangiolo, Plank Owner, 87,  
11 June 2011