



# THE IRONMAN—A DOUBLE ENDER’S NEWSLETTER

## Membership Scorebox

Current	22
Past Due	144
Snail Mail Addresses Only	285
Email Address	467
Total Shipmates	3,222

### Dues Notice!

Please be sure to check your mailing label or email notation.

If it doesn't say **Current** above your name at the top of the label, you should renew your annual dues. To reach the greatest number of shipmates, we will publish the complete Association newsletter to any valid email or snail mail address. Your dues payments make this possible.

## Punchbowl Is Not At Capacity

*USS REEVES* was first homeported at Long Beach in 1964. She was forward deployed to Yokosuka 1966-1967. After returning to Long Beach, she was moved to Bath, ME, in 1968 to undergo a major AAW upgrade. Once recommissioned in 1970, REEVES moved to the Hawaiian Islands from 1971-1980, and 1989-1993. When not at Pearl, she was forward deployed to Task Group ALFA in Yokosuka, Japan. Due to spending more than 20 years of her active service life west of buoy **Papa Hotel**, generations of crew members have a close association with Oahu and the Punchbowl. This important article follows:

For more than two decades, word was that the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl was at capacity for in-ground burials. The grand veterans cemetery atop an extinct volcanic cinder cone was established in 1949 and contains 29,342 grave sites for burial of caskets, 3,994 for in-ground cremated remains and 11,380 spaces in columbarium walls for inurnment of cremated remains, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, which oversees Punchbowl. But the reality is, Punchbowl has 99 open in-ground grave sites — information never shared by the VA with local veterans service organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion or the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd veterans clubs, officials said. Those organizations could have spread the word to their members around the nation that some Punchbowl graves were open, officials said. The graves have become available through the ongoing disinterment and identification of Korean War "unknowns," families relinquishing plots and the removal of dead trees on the cemetery's grounds, which has freed up burial space.

these casketed gravesites were not made known to us," said William Thompson, president of the 442nd Veterans Club, in a 31 DEC letter to Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki. The veterans group said it had no idea, until recently, that the grave sites were open. Thompson added that it "seems that such information has been deliberately withheld from us and other veteran organizations" by the VA and that former cemetery Director Gene Castagnetti, who retired 30 SEP, was prevented by higher-ups from disseminating news of the graves' availability. "I am certain that the families of recent veterans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team who have died would have chosen one of these open casketed gravesites had they known of this," Thompson, 89, said in the letter. Castagnetti declined to comment on the situation.

The 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team of mostly Japanese-Americans, many from Hawaii, became the most decorated units for their size in Army history in World War II for valor at a time when the nation questioned their loyalties. Most of the surviving nisei veterans, some of whom live on the mainland, are in their upper 80s and 90s. Brad Phillips, West Coast director of the VA's National Cemetery Administration, said word of the grave openings was passed to Oahu funeral homes over the summer but to no one else. "Our thought was that broader communication in the (veterans) community would have led to a misperception that the cemetery was open to all burials — which wasn't in fact the case," Phillips said. What is generally known to still be available at Punchbowl are "niches" for cremated remains. "At the time, also, we felt that the local demand for the grave sites would quickly overcome the available sites," Phillips

*(Continued on page 8)*

"We are puzzled and disturbed that

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## The President's Page—Onward to Portland



Greetings to the Reeves Association Family:

The "polar express" winter of '14 has kept most of us trying to stay warm though this has to be one of the most brutal

winters in recent memory, and it's only January. I guess Mother Nature has re-aimed her jet stream to get us caught up for the last few years of mild winters. Come on springtime!

The only advantage that the weather has right now is that I'm inclined to look forward to warmer weather and fun things to do in the New Year, which brings me right up to Portland for the 2014 Reeves Association Reunion. The plans are made and the dates are set for our next opportunity to get the Reeves Family back together for our west coast tour. Our in-house staff of highly trained reunion planners has assured me that this is going to be one of the best reunion venues we've ever had, and the accommodations are exactly what we need to enjoy our stay in Portland.

While it may seem that month of October and the City of Portland are both pretty far away, let me assure you that it's right around the corner from a planning perspective. This is the ideal time to start that planning process. Take a look at your year and pencil in our dates in to get the process started. Talk to you significant other and get them thinking towards hanging out with us in October. Contact

some of those shipmates you haven't seen in years and get them interested. It's never too early to get started, particularly when thinking in terms of air fares. Airlines provide fairly good discounts for early ticket purchases, and even those fortunate enough to have a surplus of airline miles to burn can get far better deals by ticketing early.

Read up on Portland and all she has to offer. You'll find that it has plenty of good local restaurants, tax-free shopping, and lays claim to being "home to more craft-breweries than any other city on earth". Locals call it "Beervana". Portland is located right on the Columbia River, and is only a 35 minute drive from the very scenic Columbia River Gorge. The Columbia River valley is known for its many excellent wineries, which Mary and I had a chance to check out a few years ago. It's beautiful country with plenty of things to see and do. Our favorite was the "Maryhill" winery. Check it out on line and you'll see why.

As far as logistics go, Mike has included an entry form to get you started on the registration process. We really don't need that information back yet, but it does give you a good idea of the dates, times, and costs associated with the reunion for planning purposes. We really want to make this our best reunion yet, and we've got our work cut out for us to make it better than our past reunions.

Okay, I'm all done with the sales pitch.

On a more somber note, I'd like to say something about the loss of one our most

memorable association members, and Reeves plank owner. As you'll read further into this issue, you'll see the memorial for Ronald "Red" Redfield. Ron actually passed away in September, but none of us were aware of it until we received a Christmas card back from his sister notifying us of his passing. Her message included the memorial letter that was in the local paper, and a note from her saying that Ron spoke of his Reeves shipmates all the time, and was very proud to be part of our association. Red has been to all of our reunions, and has proven to be a true friend and shipmate to everyone he engaged. You could just tell that there was no place in this world that Red would rather be than with his Reeves shipmates.

He was part of the Reeves legacy for a long time, first as part of the commissioning crew in 1964, and later as the deck chief on the USS Oldendorf (DD972) when they went with the Reeves to Quindao China in 86. The Oly was outboard of us and both crews struggled to erect large entertainment tents that completely covered both fantails. Chief Red worked with both deck crews to get the tents rigged and functional for the big CINCPACFLT hosted party on the two fantails. I mention it because Red always enjoyed bringing that story up at the reunions. He obviously loved his ties to the Reeves, and we were his shipmates and chosen family. We all lost quite a friend with his passing.

Godspeed Red

*Tom*

## Remembering Payday in 1962 -

We used to "let it ride" on the books (just draw off what you wanted to have until the next pay day). The Pay lines started with a pay list showing the entire crew and how much money they had coming, you would then fill out your "pay chit" with the amount you wanted to draw, then you got into the pay line. Officer with a sidearm 45 cal.1911 stood next to the line watching over the Disbursing Clerks, 1st one took your chit, compared it to the pay list, noted how much you were drawing, handed it to the next DK who counted out the cash and then handed the cash and the chit to the

last guy who counted, compared, then gave you the money. When you left the pay line you might head to the post office to buy money orders to pay your bills (or send some home to Mama). There were always guys with "wheel books" (little green covered note books) waiting to receive their cash they had loaned at rates of \$5 for \$7, \$10 for \$14. The slush funds ran throughout the Navy.. Finally, the guys with the wheel books who used to stand a watch or take a duty day were waiting for their pay (\$5.00 a duty day seemed about right). Good news was that, even after that gaunt-

let, there always seemed to be a few bucks for liberty..... if you could get your liberty card. [Source: Old Antarctic Explorers Assn | Henry Storm | 3 Jan 2014 ++]

Enlisted military pay chart for less than 2 to over 6 years of service.

Pay Grade	Years of Service				
	Less than 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6
E-7	206.39	236.00	236.00	250.00	260.00
E-6	175.81	200.00	200.00	225.00	235.00
E-5	145.24	180.00	180.00	205.00	210.00
E-4	122.30	150.00	160.00	170.00	180.00
E-3	99.37	124.00	124.00	141.00	141.00
E-2	85.80	108.00	108.00	108.00	108.00
E-1	83.20	105.00	105.00	105.00	105.00
E-1 with less than 4 months of service	78.00				

1958-1962 Pay Schedule

## Mail/eMail/Decklog From Our Shipmates —

HR543

This bill passed the House. Going to the Senate for vote. If approved and signed by Pres. the Blue Water Vets might have a shot for disability. My advocate is a bit negative because this a Defense bill and the VA will not approve. I do not see it this way. There is about 174,000 Blue water vets left. This Nation needs to know this. Do you know if Paul Richmond has heard about this? Take care Tony Borba (70-71)

*Ed: Paul's on it as best he can. At the moment, he's working five cruisers.*

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Hi, I need a little info for the VA medical staff.

I served on the Reeves 1966-68.

I need the date that we visited Hong Kong... might have been a 3 day visit... Most likely it was in 1967 but I am not sure.

Thanks for your help.

Cruiser Mann (66-68)  
727 504 0176

[Box10460@gmail.com](mailto:Box10460@gmail.com)

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Michael,

I hope all is well. My name is Peter Leotsakas I served on the Reeve from 1983-1985. I was a MM3 when I transferred to the USS England CG-22.

I am unable to locate my name on any of the rosters.

Can you please look into this and get back to me, if there is and documentation you may

Need please let me know.

Thank you,

Peter Leotsakas MM2

*Ed: Peter has been added to the roster and email list.*

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Michael,

I was aboard the USS REEVES from 14 July 67 until 5 April 69. I was a GMM3 in the TE division. I've got a couple of questions that you might have heard from others aboard the ship during that time,

and you might have an answer or two or perhaps can ask for input in your next newsletter.

I feel blessed that at 65, I am only dealing with high blood pressure, high cholesterol and type 2 diabetes, but all three are controlled with medication. I have attempted to connect these three with my stay aboard the USS REEVES and the USS Long Beach, both spent time in the Tonkin Gulf running search and rescue. The VA has declined my claims because I did not show signs while in the Navy (I don't remember having any physicals after boot camp) except for my departure and I don't remember how intense that physical was. I also did not see a doctor during my first year after discharge, and I'm sure you understand at 21-22 yrs of age, who the heck is thinking about a doctor unless something very major happens. So, did we ever get close enough to land to be considered brown water rather than blue water, if so the desalination of our drinking water and the water we used for showering was exposed to Agent Orange which was not filtered out? Are there any other guys that were aboard the ship during this time that have cancers and related issues that I have? Thanks for whatever help you can assist with.

William C. Thompson (67-69)

*Ed: We have recently started up a campaign to get the REEVES on the Agent Orange list. Keep an eye on our progress in issues of this newsletter.*

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Michael,

I believe those of us on the Reeves for 72-73 WESPAC were exposed to Agent Orange. Remember getting up in the morning and going to the fantail to relax before watch, and seeing large amounts of an "oil" sheen all over the deck. Being in Engineering I thought we may have had an oil leak somewhere in the boiler rooms. Checked out - no. Thus, my thought it was the chemical Agent Orange that drifted over our ship, and exposed us all.

I filed a claim with VA in May 2007 for this exposure, as I now have Type II Diabetes, and no genetic markers making myself predisposed for it. Please add me to any mailings on this subject, or adding my name to the VA list for expo-

sure. Thank you for what you do it is well received.

Mark Wadlow (72-76)

*Ed: There's more...*

Michael,

Sorry for a short turnaround email, but wanted to respond to your request for funds for the endeavor of researching the Reeves exposure to Agent Orange to get the VA to recognize the claim. Please let me know how I can do that, donate, and it might be a good idea to add to the web page as well.

After completely reading the web page on Agent Orange exposure I wanted to add that we in "M" Division were the ones who made the "fresh water" for the ship. This entailed all the testing of the water for salinity content, and when the ship went on "water hours" we in the Engine-room never lacked shower water. We use to fill up a 1 1/2 gallon bucket from the evaporator to take our complete shower. Look forward to hearing back from you.

Aloha, Mark Wadlow

*Ed: Somehow, Mark managed to retire to Kihei, HI, just north of Wailea-Makena, due west of Haleakula caldera on the south shore of Maui. I'm truly envious!*

*I am only asking for funds to help pay for Paul Richard's trips to the Navy Archives in Washington D.C. Several ship's associations and individuals have stepped up to the plate to support this effort. I've committed us to helping Paul with his research efforts for the REEVES. So far, Paul doesn't want any help until he is successful in getting REEVES on the approved DOD/VA Agent Orange list.*

*To help with the cost of research and gathering documents, you can send a check to the USS Reeves Association, memo to the Agent Orange Fund. It will be put aside for our strictly accountable research costs.*

*See update article on Page 8 of this newsletter.*

## Was 2013 Vet's High Water Mark?

As it came to a close, 2013 seemed to leave a kind of high-water mark on the wall of more than a decade of steady, impressive gains to military and veterans' pays and benefits. Will those gains now begin to recede? The military this month is getting its smallest annual pay raise in 50 years — 1 percent versus 1.8 percent needed to match private sector wages. No big deal, pay officials contend. Military pay still exceeds earnings for 90 percent of civilians of like age and education level, thanks to the string of raises that, starting in 2001, exceeded private sector wage growth. Also, recruiting is strong, and average housing allowances rose 5 percent Jan. 1. Military careerists and younger retirees got a harder hit in December when the first "bipartisan" budget in years included a cap on annual cost-of-living adjustments for retirees below age 62, starting in January 2016. Projected savings — \$6.3 billion over just the first decade — helped Congress ease automatic defense spending cuts set for 2014 and 2015.

But advocates for military folks worry the COLA cap signals that lawmakers, who continue to oppose tax increases or cuts in more popular entitlement programs, no longer view military compensation promises as sacrosanct. "The COLA (cap) is huge," said retired Army Col. Robert F. Norton of Military Officers Association of America. "Because contrary to public assertions from the president, the chairman of the joint chiefs, (Defense Secretary Chuck) Hagel and leaders on Capitol Hill, this retirement cut is a hit on currently serving career members." Initially praised for shaping a modest budget deal on deadline, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., the leaders of their budget committees, saw their

package swiftly enacted before most lawmakers realized that the military COLA cap would spark a firestorm of protests.

Worried lawmakers immediately held news conferences, sponsored roll-back bills or issued news releases promising to replace the COLA cap with an alternative. Even Ryan and Murray agreed the cap at least should be modified before it takes effect in 2016 to spare 100,000 veterans who have been medically retired by their branch of service. Ryan, however, defends the COLA cap in general, saying the idea came from the Department of Defense and only modestly trims a generous retirement plan that provides, on average, 40 years worth of inflation-protected annuities in return for 20 years of service.

Veterans affairs committees also came up short in 2013. Most years, around Veterans Day, Congress has passed a new package of initiatives to strengthen veteran benefits and services. In 2013, the only noteworthy law enacted was no bigger than a rounding error. For nearly 20 years, Congress has saved taxpayers a little money on inflation adjustments to VA disability compensation and survivors' indemnity and dependency compensation by requiring that, after the yearly COLA is applied, new VA pay rates get rounded down to the nearest dollar. The rounding didn't happen in 2013, thanks to Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. When a veterans' COLA of 1.5 percent took effect Dec. 1, compensation charts showed cents as well as dollars, a gesture that added an average 49 cents to monthly payments. Sanders had hoped to achieve much more. On Dec. 18, he tried to get the full Senate to approve by

unanimous consent a mammoth package of new benefits and services for veterans and surviving spouses. The Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013 (S 944) cleared his committee in July. This day, Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., put a hold on the bill.

Coburn explained his reasons two days later in letter to Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Senate minority leader. One more expansion of veterans' health and education services can't be justified, Coburn said, given that the Department of Veterans Affairs can't administer all benefits previously enacted or keep all past promises made to veterans and their families. He also argued that S.944 isn't fully paid for with budget offsets elsewhere, as proponents claim. And some offsets identified won't save money for years while near-term VA spending, already up 58 percent since 2009, would climb by at least another \$77 million and "likely much more," he said. "At a time of runaway deficits and a crippling national debt, it is inappropriate to add even one dime to our national debt," Coburn added. One key initiative of S.944 would force states to grant in-state tuition at state-run colleges and universities to recently separated veterans using GI Bill education benefits, a move Coburn sees as violating state rights. The House, as well as Coburn, must agree to any new gains. Coburn seems set against, even pointing to "needless" recent deaths of three veterans at the VA hospital in Augusta, Ga., for lack of timely, promised care. "It is shameful for Congress to claim credit for providing new benefits while old promises are forgotten" and "heroes" die as a result, Coburn wrote. [Source: The News Tribune | Tom Philpott | 4 Jan 2013 ++]

## Ship's Store Update

In past issues, we have started advertising mail order items available from the Association ship's store on Page 9. Due to the number of shipmate's who renew annually and support our activities, we can't

really maintain a large supply of embroidered shirts and photographs. While we keep a limited supply of XL sizes on hand and can ship immediately, please allow two weeks to have embroidered items spe-

cial ordered and shipped. Photos and challenge coins are readily available.

We will increase inventory as the treasury can afford it.

## Our Next Reunion: Portland, Oregon

The venue has been selected and the hotel chosen. We will be meeting and staying at the Sheraton Airport Hotel in Portland. The hotel is a short ride from the airport arrivals using a hotel-provided shuttle.



Our reunion dates are October 9-Oct 13, 2014. (Arrival on 9 Oct, departure on 13 Oct). We have negotiated a room rate of \$99 per night, including a three-day rate extension for early arrivals and departures. A block of rooms have



On the Willamette River...

already been set aside for our group. Contact the Sheraton at 508-281-2500 for reservations. Be sure to include your group information of USS REEVES REUNION to receive the block rate.

Reunion activities organized by the association are included in the one-time registration fee of \$110 per person. This includes the hospitality room, beer/wine/soda/snack refreshments throughout the reunion, the Welcome Reception on Friday and the banquet on Sunday.

Due to tour diversity found in the Portland area, there will be a single scheduled reunion activity – the Portland Spirit Cruise Dinner offered on Saturday evening on the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. A separate sign-up is required on the

registration form as it is not included in the reunion registration fee.



Portland has been described as America’s most European city. If that means a great walking city with tons of public transportation, a progressive atmosphere that celebrates the arts, a culture of great food, artisan coffee, beer and wine and neighborhoods chock full of shops selling handmade clothes, crafts and furniture, then we’d have to agree.



Mt. Hood east of Portland

As fantastic as Portland is to spend time in, it’s one of the easiest cities to spend time outside. The mountains, waterfalls, wine country and other assorted outdoor goodies Oregon is so famous for are all a short drive away.

Heeding the call of the “Women’s Auxiliary” at the 2012 reunion, Portland is a perfect base for wine and vineyard tours west of Portland.



Multnomah Falls at the Columbia Gorge

So much to do, so few days to do it all!

Our reunions aren’t large enough to guarantee full buses and interest in certain venues. The requests for tour opportunities already exceed the days of the reunion.

We are going to set up a “tours” table in the hospitality room where those with and those without transportation can band together for their mutual tour destinations.

These can include easy drive day trips to Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens. A trip to Mt. St. Helens could include visits to the observation platforms at the Forest Learning Center and the Johnson Ridge Observatory.

This activity was discussed by Tom Bailey in the last newsletter.

So, if your tour destination is the vineyards on Mt. Hood, the 30 different breweries in downtown Portland, the Columbia at Astoria, or the Cheese Factories at Tillamook, there are destinations aplenty and shipmates looking for the same places.

Meet and coordinate in the Hospitality Room over a cool brew, a glass of wine or a soda/pop.

**Pre-Reunion Cruise....**

We have received information from the Portland Spirit Cruise people that they are planning a 2014 cruise on the Columbia River from Portland to Astoria on October 8th



This is a full day narrated cruise to the mouth of the Columbia, with a continental breakfast, a full buffet lunch and bus transport back to Portland. For us, it will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the waters explored by the Lewis & Clark Company, and the fishing grounds of many native tribes before Capt Cook arrived 1792.

See the reunion registration form.

## Financials

### FY 2014 Operating

#### Income

Dues	\$220
Donations	\$252
Interest	\$0
Ship's Store	\$231
Cost of Goods	-\$139
Total Income	\$563

#### Expense

Advertising	\$0
Newsletters	\$374
Postage/Delivery	\$21
Program Expenses	\$500
Total Expense	\$896
Net Income	-\$332

### FY 2014 Assets

Cash Assets	\$3,664
Liabilities	\$0
Net Equity	\$3,664

### Charitable/Educational Objectives

The USS Reeves Association is an educational, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization registered with the Internal Revenue Service, FEIN 86-1163983. For that purpose at the 2010 business meeting, it was recommended that future excess funds be used for donations and scholarships as determined at business meetings starting in 2012.

### Shift Colors

To receive the Navy's Shift Colors newsletter via email send the following information to

[Mill\\_ShiftColors@navy.mil](mailto:Mill_ShiftColors@navy.mil) -- First name; Last name; E-mail address; Title (Mr., Mrs., rank, etc.); and Military affiliation (retiree, surviving spouse, veteran, other). There is no longer any funding for hard copies to be printed and mailed. To receive Shift Colors it does not matter whether or not you're retired, active duty, a veteran, a surviving spouse, or just someone who's interested in receiving the newsletter.

## Grassroots Advocacy Needed

In 2013, the VFW Action Corps generated well over 100,000 messages to every congressional office on critical issues like the budget, tuition assistance, military awards, healthcare and the new retiree COLA penalty, but more still needs to be done. Of tremendous assistance to the VFW's national legislative work is the grassroots advocacy provided by veterans and veterans' advocates who reside in every state and congressional district of all 535 members of Congress. In 2014 we

must remain vigilant and remind Congress that cutting any benefits earned by veterans, service members and their families is not acceptable. Pass the word for others to join Action Corps and help us to create and protect those benefits, as well as to defeat those proposals we deem detrimental to veterans, service members and their families. Join Action Corps today at <http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm>.

[Source: VFW Washington Weekly 3 Jan 2014 ++]

## TRICARE Stateside Centers to Close 1 APR

TRICARE Service Centers are customer service outlets that are operated by TRICARE regional contractors. They are usually located in military hospitals and clinics. TRICARE military health plan service centers will end administrative walk-in services in the United States on 1 APR, Pentagon officials said 13 JAN. Because our overseas areas are unique, walk-in service at TRICARE Service Centers in all overseas areas will continue. While the 189 facilities will stop taking walk-ins, beneficiaries can accomplish any administrative task online or by phone, said Pentagon spokesman Army Col. Steve Warren. "The change will not – let me repeat that – will not affect any TRICARE medical benefit or health care service," Warren emphasized. "What it will do is allow the department to save \$250 million over the next five years, allowing TRICARE to invest in more important services." Fifty percent of the visits to the centers are for in- and out-processing and requests to change primary care providers, and the rest involve billing-related questions, officials said.

The Defense Department spends roughly \$50 million a year on these services, and this type of customer service can be handled more efficiently by phone or online, they added. TRICARE gets about 38,000 hits per day on its website. Officials have run tests to ensure the website and call center can handle the expected increase in volume. The TRICARE

service centers have been around since the 1990s, and contractors staff them, Warren said. "This is being driven by the fact that technology has gotten so much better," he added. Customers who need the type of assistance that was being done in these walk-in service centers can quickly and efficiently receive help online or via phone, he said. Beneficiaries can get more information and sign up for updates at <http://www.tricare.mil/tsc>. The North, South and West regional contractors provide customer service for all plans except TRICARE For Life (TFL) and the US Family Health Plan (USFHP).

*(You may notice that this newsletter and other publications are now filled with these "closing" notifications. This is all part of the Administration's and DOD assault on the 2014/2015 and beyond Defense Budgets as expendables to finance social engineering.)*

### This newsletter is published by:

The USS Reeves Association  
15709 N Sycamore St  
Mead, WA 99021

Newsletter Editor -  
Michael Robertson  
Phone: 509-315-8107

E-mail: [michael.d.robertson@comcast.net](mailto:michael.d.robertson@comcast.net)  
All comments, suggestions, submissions and criticism are welcome. My email is always open...

## 10 Myths on Working Retail Jobs

Working retail during the holidays, or during any transitional period, comes with some advantages. The work is usually relatively easy to find, and it can provide a boost to your income while you attend school or look for another job. However, it's important to understand the reality of the industry. The Guardian reported 10 myths about working in retail which are covered below:

**1. Most retail workers are young people who don't need the money.** In reality, the average age for retail workers is 37 years old. Furthermore, they're usually contributing a large portion of their household's total finances.

**2. Retail workers are unskilled.** According to the Guardian, 28% of retail workers have earned some college credits and 15% hold a degree. Employers are also reporting that they want employees who have both hard and soft skills, including the ability to use technology to understand and facilitate online shopping.

**3. Most retail workers are working temporarily so they can be promoted or find a job in another industry.** Although the retail industry experiences a higher turnover rate than many others, many retail workers do stay in their job for the long-run. They typically stay with their employers, but will switch to other companies if the pay is particularly bad or they aren't receiving satisfactory scheduling.

**4. Retail work is meant to be entry-level.** Despite the qualifications needed for most

retail work, it effectively cannot serve as a stepping-stone to every individual. While many people do use it as a financial stop-gap or combine retail experience with other qualifications to hop industries, it is unlikely that every person out of the roughly 15 million currently employed will transition.

**5. Retail jobs are good because the environment is safe and climate controlled.** Despite a handful of positive aspects to retail work, many component pieces required for job satisfaction are missing. The Department of Labor reported that the median wage for retail work is \$9.53 for sales associates and \$9.13 for cashiers. While this may be viable for many, 15% of retail workers currently live below or near the poverty line.

**6. If retail workers ever encountered legitimate issues, they could easily approach their employer for a raise or report them to the government for infractions.** There are a few legal paths for retail workers to take when it comes to fighting for their rights. However, effectively it is very difficult to take them. The Guardian reports that studies show employers will frequently penalize, punish, and harass workers who legally protest or organize, and that asking the government for assistance is a lengthy and difficult process.

**7. Most retail workers prefer part-time work.** Although part-time work can be advantageous for employees who have other obligations, most of them aren't able

to influence or change their schedule. Reportedly 13% of retail workers working part time would take more hours if they could get them.

**8. Most retail workers are lazy.** Every industry and place of work has its share of workers who aren't up to standard, but that doesn't mean everyone else is too. Many retail workers report enjoying the work itself and want to do well. Some companies impose very strict policies which make it difficult for workers to actually engage with customers, rather than pushing

**9. Raising retail worker salaries would mean increased costs for consumers.** While it sounds logical that increased retail worker earnings would translate to large price hikes, studies show otherwise. According to a study from Berkley, if Walmart paid every employee \$12 an hour instead of the minimum wage and 100% of the cost was passed to consumers, prices would only increase by about \$0.46 per shopping trip. Further actions could be taken, such as decreasing the pay of executives.

**10. Most retail workers want to work holidays for increased pay.** Retail companies are not legally required to offer increased pay for holiday hours. Although many of them bill holiday working hours as voluntary, since many workers simply need more money they're more likely to take what they can get.

[Source: Military.com | Job Hunting | Dec 2013 ++]

## Plank Owner "Red" Redfield Passes



BMC Ronald L. "Red" Redfield passed on 18 September 2013 in Billings, Montana. Red was a charter member of the USS Reeves Association and attended every reunion, including the 2012 Reunion in

Charleston.

Red was born in Spokane, WA, on 1 Jul 1941. He joined the Navy in late-1958 or early-1959. His first ship was the Fletcher-class USS WEDDERBURN (DD 684) where he probably served from 1959-1963. He then reported to the USS REEVES (DLG-24) in Bremerton, WA, in 1963/1964 as part of the pre-

commissioning crew. He was a BM3 when the ship was commissioned on 15 May 1964, and served onboard until transfer in 1967.

Red retired from the navy as a Chief Boatswain's Mate (BMC). He subsequently moved to Billings, MT, in 1992 where he remained until his passing in 2013.

## Punchbowl Is Not At Capacity (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

said by phone from California. That thought was bolstered, he said, by a smaller number of in-ground grave sites — 52 — that were available in May. Phillips also said the notification to funeral directors was more than the VA had done in the past.

There was no rush to secure open grave sites — perhaps because the veterans groups didn't know about them — and as the number of available graves has grown, so has the controversy. "We ask that you take immediate and firm steps to correct the present situation," Thompson said in his letter to Shinseki. "A hallowed ground such as the (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) should not operate in secrecy or become someone's personal domain."

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono and U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, two of Hawaii's congressional delegation members, were informed and also started asking questions. "Punchbowl serves as a memorial to honor those men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces, and those who have given their lives in doing so," Hirono said in a statement. "If more gravesites are made available, people should be aware." She said her office has urged the National Cemetery Administration to advertise the availability of in-ground sites "more broadly, and in the

coming weeks, we hope to coordinate with the NCA to help share this information."

Gabbard, an Iraq War veteran, sent a letter dated 3 JAN to Joan Mooney, assistant secretary for congressional and legislative affairs with the VA, in which she noted the concerns being raised and asked the agency to conduct a review of the process used to select veterans for burial at Punchbowl. Gabbard also asked for additional information, including the guidance used by the National Cemetery Administration to determine the number of in-ground sites reserved at Punchbowl for active-duty service members killed in action. Phillips said the VA is reviewing the in-ground graves issue. "We are working with the congressional delegation on perhaps expanding our outreach, and we should be completed with that soon, with possibly a new outreach strategy for the Punchbowl," Phillips said. "I'm not sure what the strategy will be."

Several years ago, when the Iraq and Afghanistan wars were at their height, casualties from those conflicts occasionally received in-ground casketed burials at Punchbowl using the handful of graves that became available as a result of efforts by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command to identify Korean War veterans buried as "unknowns" at the cemetery. Those identified individuals often were reburied by families in their

hometowns. JPAC, as it's known, has stepped up those efforts and now exhumes between four and eight sets of Korean War remains a month from Punchbowl, an official said. The military command, based at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, would like to exhume and identify more than 330 crew members who died on the battleship USS Oklahoma on Dec. 7, 1941, and are also buried as unknowns.

Of the 99 in-ground graves that are now available, 63 would accommodate a full-casket burial, Phillips said. The remaining 36 represent 3-by-3-foot plots for cremated remains, he said. Phillips confirmed that approval for use of the in-ground sites has to come through him or the National Cemetery Administration's central office — rather than from Punchbowl's director. But he said there is no "special consideration" given to Iraq or Afghanistan veterans.

Special burial accommodations are made for service members killed in action, however. "It is our policy to provide a burial site for all of the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who were killed in action at the cemetery of their choice — even if it's a closed (to additional burials) cemetery," he said. "These members have given their last measure of devotion, and they deserve this honor." [Source: The Honolulu Star-Advertiser | William Cole | 6 Jan 2014 ++]

## Agent Orange Update

On the gridiron, progress is often measured in inches. Working with the VA, progress seems to be measured in steps, one forward, two back.

In the last year, we have received many emails from REEVES shipmates who have been diagnosed with diseases that are directly attributable to Agent Orange, except for one issue—REEVES was assigned to the "blue water" segments of Task Force 75 (Surface) and Task Force 77 (Air) during deployments to the South China Sea and Tonkin Gulf.

REEVES spent more than 24 hours at

anchor in Danang harbor for briefings at "Monkey Mountain" in early July 1966—maintaining small boat operations during the entire visit.

It has been reported that REEVES had a second visit to Danang for the same purpose in 1971 upon arrival in the Tonkin Gulf op-area. That has not been documented yet.

Researcher Paul Richmond, Historian for the USS WILLIAM V PRATT (DDG 44), has taken on responsibility for gathering and disseminating ship's log and roster data for several ship's that spent time on

the three SAR stations in Tonkin Gulf. To date, we have received personnel logs for shipmates who deployed in 1966. It is very probable that shipmates who went ashore in Danang are included in those rosters.

We need to obtain copies of the deck logs for 1966 as well as other conclusive information to prove REEVES eligibility for VA Agent Orange benefits. Once we have established eligibility, we will need to present complete documentation and per-

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Ship's Store

1960's (\$10) + s/h



1967—Entering Sydney Harbor

1970's (\$10) + s/h



1975—Departing Pearl Harbor

1980's (\$10) + s/h



1985—Enroute Yokosuka from Australia

1990's (\$10) + s/h



1992—Seattle Sea Fair Festival

Reunion ball caps (\$10 each) + s/h

2009—San Diego

2010—Chicago

2012—Charleston



Challenge Coins (\$14) + s/h



Mousepads (\$10) + s/h



Golf Shirts (\$20) + s/h (2XL/3XL-add \$2)



T-Shirts (\$15) + s/h (2XL/3XL-add \$2)



## USS Reeves Association – Ship's Store Order Form

Item	Description	Qty	Price	S/H	Total
Photo					
Ball Cap					
Mousepad					
Challenge Coins					
Golf Shirt					
T-Shirt					
				Total	

**Shipping and handling:**

Shipping is via USPS Priority. Please add the following for each item to cover the association's packaging and postage costs:

Photos: \$1 per photo

Ball caps: \$2

Mousepads: \$1

Challenge Coins: \$2 for 1, \$.50 for each additional coin

Shirts: \$2 per shirt

Shipping Label
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City, State, ZIP:
Phone:
Email:

Send order to: USS Reeves Association  
 c/o Michael Robertson  
 15709 N Sycamore St  
 Mead, WA 99021

## Agent Orange Update

*(Continued from page 8)*

sonal confirmation of the presented evidence.

The VA is not going to take any effort to search for eligible commands for

inclusion in VA Ship's List. VA will help determine qualifying service in Vietnam after you file a claim for compensation benefits. - See more at:

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp>

Paul makes visits to Washington, DC, to gather information. We need a REEVES coordinator to work with Paul. Please contact me if you are interested in helping us to successfully finish this chapter in the ship's history.

## The Zippo Lighter Story

In 1932 George G. Blaisdell invented the Zippo lighter in his garage. He wanted to design a lighter that was sturdy and that you could light in the wind using one hand. He named his windproof lighter after the word "zipper" because he thought it sounded "modern". The first Zippos were square cornered and formed from rectangular brass tubing with the top and bottom pieces soldered to the hollow tubing to form the lid and bottom of the case. The hinge was soldered to the outside and the lighter was chrome plated. It sold for \$1.95 and came with a lifetime guarantee. The original design called for a shiny metallic nickel-plated case, but with WW II came shortages, including the brass and chrome used for Zippo lighters, so porous steel coated with black paint was used instead. The result was a black, crackled paint job, so today's collectors refer to these rare models as "black crackle" lighters.

From 1943 through 1945, Zippo lighters, with that distinctive click they made when flipped open, were available only to Military personnel at U.S. Army exchanges and naval ship stores around the world. Soldiers liked to personalize their Zippos by scratching the surface of the lighters with their names, places they'd been, messages to loved ones or simple pictures. The lighter was so popular that it was named "the GI's friend", and after the war, the vets came home to civilian life as dedicated Zippo customers. The company's archives are filled with letters from GIs detailing the services a Zippo lighter was called to perform, such as heating rations in a helmet, lighting campfires, sparking fuses for explosives, hammering nails and even signaling to fellow soldiers

with the famous Zippo click. On several occasions, a Zippo lighter in a shirt or pants pocket even saved a life or prevented a wound by deflecting enemy bullets or shrapnel. It would be nice to say that George Blaisdell sent all his lighters to the military because he was super patriotic, but that was only part of it. George, being the smart guy that he was, didn't want the Zippo Manufacturing Plant shut down for the war's duration as "unnecessary to the war effort" or refitted to make parachutes or fatigue caps. By working with the government, he could keep his factory at full production levels.

Blaisdell became "Mr. Zippo" with the help of war correspondent Ernie Pyle, who hung out with the front line troops in England, Italy, Sicily, Africa and later in the Pacific. Pyle's columns dealt mostly with the civilian soldiers and their day-to-day lives. Blaisdell enjoyed the column and sent the correspondent a Zippo lighter with Pyle's signature engraved on the side. He sent 50 more for Pyle to give away, even though as George wrote in his letter, "You probably know nothing about the Zippo lighter." Fact was, Pyle knew all about the Zippo, as did every other American GI. "If he only knew how soldiers coveted them! Why, they're so popular I had three of them stolen from me in one year," wrote Pyle in his column. He finished the column by giving Blaisdell his nickname: "The fifty other lighters went like hot cakes. I found myself equipped with a wonderful weapon for winning friends and influencing people. All fifty-one of us were grateful to Mr. Zippo." The tradition from WW I of decorating lighters with coins and crude engravings, or "trench art" continued on the Zippo in WW II. The

GIs soldered coins or unit insignia to them or even scratched or engraved maps and names of places they had been to personalize their prized Zippos.

According to collectors, over 200,000 Zippos were used by GIs in Vietnam. The Zippo played a part in almost every daily activity. The shiny top provided a handy mirror and the lighters flame warmed their food at meal time. GIs kept salt in the bottom cavities, called canned bottoms, of their Zippos, to replenish lost body salt. Other legendary Zippos were used to transmit signals or even provided a shield against enemy bullets. Staff Sergeant Naugle, who was saved because he was able to signal his position to the rescue helicopter, had a Zippo in his hand. Among men that had a close call with death, one of the luckiest was Sergeant Martinez, who kept a Zippo in his chest pocket. A bullet struck his chest, only to be stopped by his Zippo. This was reported in Life magazine and also appeared in various advertisements attesting the Zippos finest attributes

Zippos were also used in military operations, where Marines and Soldiers would spray gasoline over the area to burn enemy compounds and dwellings. A soldier would usually carry a Zippo in the chest pocket of his jungle fatigues. Some would insert one in the camouflage band of the helmet or put one into the magazine pouch of an M-16. Alcohol, diesel oil and even gasoline were substitutes for lighter fluid when this was not available. Zippos were made of tough stuff! Zippos were also used as IDs and canvasses. Post Exchanges in Vietnam carried a large amount of Zippo lighters, which explains the reason why there were so many Zippos in

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Should Congress Reverse Pension Cut?

One of the best things Ronald Reagan did as president was to revamp federal pensions. Reagan foresaw the problems that unaffordable public benefits would cause over time — the same problems now afflicting many cities and states — and was determined to act. As a result, most federal workers hired after 1986 look forward to a very modest pension, one that is significantly reduced for people leaving before age 62. But one big group was largely untouched by Reagan's overhaul: members of the military. They are still on a plan so generous that it allows them to retire in their late 30s or early 40s and collect a pension, with cost-of-living increases, for the rest of their lives. This is accompanied by lifetime health coverage whose premium, \$460 per year for a family policy, has not risen since 1995 even as costs for everyone else have skyrocketed.

In last month's bipartisan budget deal, Congress made some defensible trims in military pensions, prompting a howl of complaints from veterans groups. They protest too much. Way too much. The military pension system is not only extremely generous, it is also counterpro-

ductive. It drains defense money from today's troops and weapons. And while the system encourages some people to consider the military who otherwise might not, it also encourages them to leave early, taking their first-rate training to go double-dip by moving into a civilian government job. In any case, they can collect pensions — intended as old-age protection — in the prime of their working lives. The deal, crafted by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-WA) would not alter those basics. After 20 years of service, regardless of age, a military retiree can expect a pension equal to 50% of final pay, with an additional 2.5 percentage points for each year of service beyond 20. 40% of servicemembers have never seen a combat zone.

The "cuts" come in the form of a reduction in cost-of-living adjustments, or COLAs, by 1 percentage point each year until age 62. At 62, the full COLA would come back, and pensions would shoot up to where they would have been had the full COLA been in effect from the start. For example, a first sergeant retiring now

at 40 with 20 years of service would collect a pension of \$24,828. By the time he or she reached 61, it would have risen to \$39,507, and now would rise to \$32,464. The following year, it would be \$40,496 under both formulations, and would receive the full COLA thereafter. This approach would save taxpayer money and help reach budget targets. It also would discourage people from leaving early after the government has invested so much in them. The change would also make military pensions less wildly out of line with most Americans' experience. Private-sector pensions, to the extent that they exist at all, are routinely scaled back or frozen in ways much more dramatic than these changes.

Certainly, protecting veterans impaired by their service is a different sort of issue. But the current system rewards all equally, including the 40% of servicemembers who have never seen a combat zone. If Congress doesn't have the fortitude to stand by even this small tweak in military pensions, it doesn't bode well for the far bigger, tougher budget decisions that loom ahead. [Source: USA Today | Editorial | 1 Jan 2014 ++]

## The Zippo Lighter Story

*(Continued from page 10)*

Vietnam. By this time, Zippo merchandise quickly found its way onto the black market. Soldiers were able to buy brand new Zippos without having to go to the PX store. Vietnamese craftsmen would engrave anything from pictures to phrases onto the Zippo. The most popular motif engraved on a Zippo was the map of Vietnam.

The Zippo company has produced more than 325 million lighters since its founding in 1934, so there are plenty to go

around. Today the company produces several lighters for all the branches of the services and for all the specialty units such as SEALs and Rangers. Every Navy ship has had its own lighter that includes a picture of the ship, its name, and its number. Zippos commemorate leaders and Battles of WW II, the Wartime surrenders, the Civil War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm and the more recent Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

[Source: [www.windsweptpress.com/zippo.htm](http://www.windsweptpress.com/zippo.htm) & AL France Newsletter | Harold Ratzburg & David N. Greaux | Jan 2014 ++]

## Valuable News Sources

As I have said before, the semi-monthly RAO Bulletin is an invaluable source of USN/DOD news for this newsletter. I strongly recommend every Veteran subscribe to this informative and timely source:

Lt. James "EMO" Tichacek, USN (Ret)  
Editor/Publisher RAO Bulletin

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Email: [raoemo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:raoemo@sbcglobal.net)

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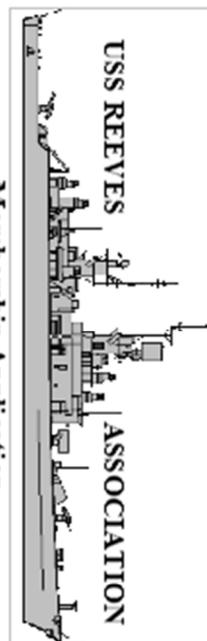
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I served on the USS REEVES (DLG-24/CG-24) as a \_\_\_\_\_ (rate/rank) from 19\_\_\_\_ to 19\_\_\_\_.

Membership in the Association includes the right to vote and hold elective office. It also includes receiving a newsletter, email updates and further privileges as to be determined by the Board of Directors.

Dues Per Year: **\$20.00**

I also wish to support the goals of the Association which is the building of a membership that will increase interest in bi-annual reunions, as well as the establishment of a newsletter and other means of communicating our activities with all Reeves shipmates. I am making an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

I enclose my check or money order in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
 I am interested in helping the Association grow and become successful. I wish to serve on a committee, provide other assistance or have an interest as follows:

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Mail application to:

USS REEVES (DLG-24/CG-24) ASSOCIATION  
 15709 N Sycamore St  
 Mead, WA 99021

For further information call or email Michael Robertson at 509-315-8107, fax 703-740-9161

More details online at: [michael.d.robertson@comcast.net](mailto:michael.d.robertson@comcast.net)  
<http://www.usreeves.net/association.html> (hyperlink)

at <http://www.usreeves.net/association.html>