

THE IRONMAN—A DOUBLE ENDER’S NEWSLETTER

Membership Scorebox

Current	43
Lifetime	5
Past Due	137
Snail Mail Addresses Only	265
Email Address	482
Total Shipmates	3.621

2106 Reunion Site—San Antonio, Texas

Plan on attending our biggest and best reunion yet at the El Tropicano Riverside Hotel in downtown San Antonio. We will be alongside the historic Riverwalk and a short distance from the Downtown San Antonio Mercado District.

This is a really difficult time for setting up reunions around the Riverwalk area. Now is the season for conferences, conventions and professional gatherings. Pressing ahead with the expressed membership desire from the Portland reunion that we gather river-side in San Antonio, we have worked with the El Tropicano Hotel to get the best room rate in the Downtown/Riverwalk area for early October. Thankfully, the El Tropicano wants to provide a military reunion venue.

tel was filled with another military reunion.

As the hotel is on the westside of Riverwalk, it is located on the Museum Reach at the original Hugman Dam. El Tropicano Riverwalk hotel is perfectly situated at the beginning of this serene 1.3 mile of stretch of the Riverwalk. Museum Reach meanders north and ends at the renovated Pearl Brewery area featuring outstanding local restaurants, shops, weekend Farmers Market, outdoor concerts and the acclaimed Culinary Institute of America.

Along Museum Reach you will encounter a Lock & Dam system, San Antonio Museum of Art, River Taxi’s, Bike and Jogging Trail, art installations including Bruce Lipski’s F.I.S.H., and natural preservation areas of native wetlands.

Take a Trolley, River Taxi, or walk to the South and encounter the traditional Riverwalk area, 1.2 miles walking on the Riverwalk and .7 miles by street level. Enjoy the many restaurants and shops in this area and of course the famed Alamo. Grab a Trolley and visit Market Square or explore the King William Historical District as well.

This is really important—there is regular transportation from the hotel to anywhere in the Riverwalk area.

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.

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In fact, when Woodie and Claire Stegall were conducting a site visit with our sales representative. The ho-

The President's Page



Greetings to the Reeves Association Family; Springtime is finally upon us, and like most of you, we're more than happy to be done with winter.

Spring weather here in Southern Colorado turns out to be quite the guessing game, as we're never quite sure what the day will bring. The local quote is "if you can't have four seasons in one day, why bother." A few days here lately have proven they weren't kidding. We're ready for summer.

Right now we'd like to turn our attention to the upcoming Reeves Association reunion. Wait, that's not until October 2016 right? Yep, we're talking 2016. Turns out what seems like a long way off is really "right now" in terms of making important decisions. Mike Robertson, our esteemed reunion organizer, has been working towards the venue for our next reunion since he unpacked from our last reunion. Mike developed the RFPs (Request for Proposals) early to get our specs out to all the hotels in the San Antonio area. We were fortunate to have some help from our association brothers in Texas, who stepped up to advise and assist Mike on the San Antonio scene.

Finding hotels with the right combination of location, services, amenities, and low per-night rates is always the challenge. This proved

to be especially true in San Antonio, as we were educated that room rates in the River Walk area are quite a bit higher than we had in mind. Who knew? We had a number of hotels decline the opportunity to host our reunion, as they were probably above our expectations for room rates. Six hotels did respond back to us with offers to consider. Out of those six proposals, we did manage to find that one hotel that seemed to be right where we wanted to be, had a rate we could live with, provided breakfast, met our entertainment needs, and was willing to negotiate. Score!

Mike has provided more information on the hotel and the selection process in his article on Page 5, which is complete with pictures. I guess the reason I brought it up... was to point out to you just how fortunate we are to have someone willing to devote the time and energy required to make the reunion venue search work for all of us. I don't know about you, but one of the last things on my mind over the last six or seven months was the room rates and amenities in San Antonio for a date some 18 months in the future. Mike and Lorri have **once again** outdone themselves.

As to other association business, things are also moving along as smartly as can be expected in a non-reunion year. We could use a little help from the membership on a few issues that are regularly featured in our newsletter. You'll notice that we're still working on items of interest to many of our brothers. One

topic that has stayed on point is that of Agent Orange. Many of the DLG crew members were onboard the Reeves (and other ships) during a time in the Vietnam War when exposure to Agent Orange was a very real possibility. Now, many years later, many Vietnam Era Veterans are experiencing health issues from their exposure to Agent Orange. The Ironman Newsletter is proud to be an information and/or education source for veterans who may be experiencing health issues. If you have any information that could be helpful to this cause, please pass it along to us. If you have family or friends that may have been exposed during their time in Vietnam, please pass our articles along to them.

The other issue that would help us with keeping our newsletter readable and enjoyable is some story input from our members. We know everyone has a few favorite Reeves stories that the rest of us would like to hear. Why not write them down and share them. We fully realize that while most every sailor may be a proficient teller of sea stories, not all of us are writers. We can help with that. Just jot down your favorite story and send it along. We'll be happy to edit your raw material into something more printable, and then share you best Reeves story in the Ironman. You'll get the story credit, and we have more material for our newsletter. Win, win!

Here's wishing you Fair Winds and Following Seas!

//tom

This newsletter is published by:

The USS Reeves Association
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E-mail: michael.d.robertson@comcast.net
All comments, suggestions, submissions and criticism are welcome. My email is always open...

Life Memberships

At the 2014 reunion in Portland, shipmates voted for a Life Membership. After researching various Associations, it was decided that the US Navy Cruiser Sailor Association's plan was best for the USS Reeves Association. Monies for life membership are placed in an interest-bearing account and not mixed with operating funds. The schedule is simple:

Age	Amount
< 50	\$500
<60	\$400
<70	\$300
<80	\$200
=>80	\$100

We already have five life members.

Emails, Etc.

Mike,

Attached is an article I would like to submit for the next installment of the REEVES newsletter. You can use the email subject as the article title. (*See page 4 of this newsletter.*)

I am coming up on my final year with the Council, and I sure would like for my replacement next year to be a fellow REEVES crew member.

Thanks, Eric Wenzel

Mike

Charles and I were out shopping this afternoon and Charles was wearing his USS Reeves shirt. We walked passed the HHGregg store and there was a gentleman standing there with his cell phone. He looked up and noticed Charles' shirt. He said to him "did you serve on the Reeves". Well, of course, that got our attention and we walked over to him. He said 'my ship bombed your ship'. He was on the Midway when the Reeves was hit. He said he had a shirt made that said "Midway 1, Reeves 0". His division head told him to never wear that in his line of sight.

Just extremely interesting that this would happen in Tampa!

Nancy Elkins

All

I have received a thank you letter from Ms Megan Lynn Johnson of Utica, MS. She is the 2015-2016 recipient of the MARY CAMILLE CARUNCHIO Endowed Scholarship at Delta State University. She writes "This scholarship money will greatly assist me by easing the financial burden as I complete my senior year at Delta State University. Upon graduating from Delta State, I plan to enroll

in medical school with my ultimate goal being to become a pediatrician".

If you would like to view the scholarship's summary please visit the following link at Delta State:

<http://www.deltastate.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/biological-and-physical-sciences/sci-schol/>

Don

All

I saw the following item in this week's Fleet Reserve Bulletin

Internet Explorer Must Be Updated for DFAS The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has announced that effective 21 April 2015, myPay users who access their accounts through the Internet Explorer web browser must have Internet Explorer version 8 or higher in order to access their accounts. Earlier versions do not have the necessary security protocols, and attempts to log on with earlier versions of Internet Explorer will be denied.

For more information go to: <http://paycheck-chronicles.military.com/2015/04/16/news-from-dfas/#ixzz3Xsmtdvgr>.

Don

From FRA Weekly Newsletter

The Defense Health Agency, Office of Program Integrity has received a significant number of contacts from TRICARE beneficiaries concerning unsolicited attempts by "call centers" to encourage them to provide personally-identifiable information and health information so that they (the callers) can allegedly provide prescribed cream medications to the TRICARE beneficiary.

TRICARE and its contractors never call and ask for personal information or health information. Beneficiaries should be wary of unsolicited attempts by any entity asking them for personal or health information, either by phone or in person.

For more information, visit www.health.mil/News/Articles/2015/04/10/TRICARE-Beneficiaries-%20Appropriations

Just trying to find out if there are any other Reeves shipmates who were on the Reeves during her Nam cruise in 72-73 who may be experiencing any of the diseases associated with Agent Orange and who may have possibly filed any VA claims. I have come down with two of the diseases associated with Agent Orange and am now in the process of filing a VA claim. In talking with several VA reps and also the DAV it sounds like it's going to be a rather discouraging process. Let me know if there are any out there and if you have had any luck with a VA claim.

Robert M. York

My mom dug these out of storage~



Aaron Hightower

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY RETIREE COUNCIL

The Secretary of the Navy established the Retiree Council to: (1) consider issues of significant importance to retired military personnel and their family members; (2) to facilitate interaction between Department of the Navy leadership and the Navy-Marine Corps retired community; and (3) to facilitate participation in other aspects of the Retired Activities Program. In accomplishing these objectives, the Council may review the effectiveness of current programs and policies affecting retirees. The Council may make recommendations to the Secretary concerning improvements to benefits, privileges, other assistance to retirees, quality of life and morale aspects of the retired community, and any other matters relating to retired personnel. Members of the Retiree Council are strongly encouraged to make themselves available to assist host commands located in their geographic area to plan and conduct Retiree Seminars/Appreciation Days. They are also encouraged to volunteer in local RAOs and RLOs.

There are 22 Retiree Council members and two Co-Chairmen. Eighteen of the members are from the Navy, and six are from the Marine Corps. The Council is evenly split between officers and enlisted personnel (nine of each for the Navy; three of each for the Marine Corps). Membership on the Council is normally for three years with an annual reappointment. About one-third of

the membership rotates off of the Council each year (usually 7 to 9 members). Applicants are needed from all regions of the country. However, the Council is in dire need of a representative from the WEST-PAC Region, specifically Japan.

Selectees are recalled annually to active duty for one week and issued temporary active-duty orders. The government will pay for travel and lodging expenses. The Council normally convenes sometime in August at the Admiral Gooding Center, Washington Navy Yard.

The deadline for submitting an application is 30 September 2015. This gives you plenty of time to consider it, discuss it with your family, and to make a decision. If this is something that would interest you, follow the instructions below and submit a one-page resume' and attach a 2x2 photograph (head and shoulders) in the upper left hand corner. The one-page resume' must include:

- Basic contact information (mailing address, phone number(s), email address(es))
- One paragraph highlighting your military career, including highest rank achieved, military specialty, total years active duty, total years of Reserve service (if applicable), service entry date, and retirement date
- One paragraph highlighting post-military civilian career to in-

clude current civilian position held and number of years spent in civilian career;

- Education to include degree (s) and field of study; and
- Include any involvement with military/retiree associations and organizations.

The completed resume' should be submitted (snail mail) to:

Mr. Jim Stone
5720 Integrity Drive
Bldg 457, Room 202
Millington, TN 38055

All applications first are reviewed by the Navy and Marine Corps. Once the Navy and Marine Corps have determined the most qualified candidates for each vacancy, each Service sends a nomination package to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs). There, all of the nominations are reviewed, and once the final selection is made of the slate of new members, an official appointment letter is drafted. This normally happens at the end of the calendar year prior to the year in which the new Council members will begin their service. Each new member will be notified by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) of their selection.

Shipmate Eric Wenzel

West Nile Virus

West Nile virus didn't evaporate with California's drought, say officials who report 2014 was a record high year for the mosquito-spread ailment. They remain concerned for 2015 as dryness exacerbates the problem instead of abating it. In 2014, 47 states and the District of Columbia reported West Nile virus infections in people, birds or mosquitoes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says. Overall, 2,122 cases in people were

reported to the CDC. Of these, 1,283 (60 percent) were neuroinvasive (such as meningitis or encephalitis) and 839 (40 percent) were non-neuroinvasive. Most people will develop no symptoms; about 1 in 5 infected people will develop a fever with other symptoms. A few—less than 1 percent of those infected—will develop a serious, sometimes fatal, neurologic illness. No medications can treat West Nile, and no vaccine can prevent it, according to

the CDC. So CDC experts advise that you reduce the risk of infection by using insect repellent and wearing protective clothing to prevent mosquito bites. To keep mosquitoes away, install or repair screens on windows and doors, and regularly empty standing water from flowerpots, gutters buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires and birdbaths. [Source: MoneyTalksNews | Jim Gold | May 04, 2015 ++]

Reunion 2016: San Antonio, Texas

Back at the Portland Reunion in October 2014, our shipmates selected San Antonio as our 2016 reunion site.

In a search of all of San Antonio venues, dealing with the CVB, and a conversation with HotelPlanners for the hotels alongside the River Walk and elsewhere in San Antonio in 2015, only one was able to accommodate us at a reasonable rate in the place we'd really like to be: [El Tropicano River Walk Hotel](#).



El Tropicano Pool

We received six proposals from hotels throughout the San Antonio area: airport, Western Hills, northern suburbs, etc. Many hotels declined to submit a proposal as they couldn't meet our RFP criteria. Room rate was the overriding but unstated reason for disinterest.

Only two River Walk hotels provided a proposal. An in-depth search on the Tivago website was very informative.

Before suggesting San Antonio, we didn't know just how expensive any accommodations along the River Walk would be. It was a very rude awakening. Without exception, daily room rates varied from \$150 to over \$300 per day, even in October, our preferred meeting month. And, as we found out, there is no such thing as complimentary transportation from the airport to

downtown hotels—or complimentary parking on the hotel properties.

In the proposal from El Tropicano, several problems were overcome. The largest was an acceptable daily room rate. The next was the daily complimentary breakfast. This was followed closely by no charges for the hospitality and banquet rooms, or setup and daily service fees. And lastly, the hotel agreed to participate in our Friday welcoming reception. Basically, the hotel was willing to negotiate.

Since there is so much to do on the River Walk, and the nearby Downtown and Old Town (Mercado) areas, only one day trip is planned—to the National Museum of the Pacific War (Admiral Nimitz Museum) in Fredericksburg. During the visit to Fredericksburg, there will be a memorial service to remember our



Admiral Nimitz Museum

shipmates who have already passed.

There will be more information in future issues of the newsletter.

San Antonio tours depart the hotel regularly and cover all sites of interest. The most complete city tours are the all-day Ultimate Trolley Tour and the Grand City Highlights Tour.

As there are no plans for a dinner cruise, evenings are free to explore the many restaurants

throughout the area. As done at past reunions, there will be a Welcome Reception in the Hospitality Room with hosted bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres on Friday evening.



La Villita Restaurants

Thursday and Saturday evenings will be free to explore the culinary delights along the River Walk and in the Mercado.

For those who feel more agile and adventurous, there is the Ultimate San Antonio Segway tour of the downtown tour highlights. That would be a memory worth a million pictures.

Set aside the dates 9 October 2016 through 12 October 2016 to meet with many shipmates at the El Tropicano River Walk Hotel in downtown San Antonio. Many of our 50+ Texan shipmates are already planning a big Texas welcome.



The Alamo

Financials

FY 2015 Operating

Income

Dues	\$2121
Donations	\$145
Reunions	\$0
Ship's Store	\$114
Cost of Goods	\$77
Total Income	\$2306

Expense

Advertising	\$108
Newsletters	\$299
Postage/Delivery	\$116
Reunion Expenses	\$500
Total Expense	\$1128
Net Income	\$1178

FY 2015 Assets

Total Assets	\$7437
Liabilities	\$11
Net Equity	\$7426

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 -- 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.

Iwo Jima Reflections

Marshall Harris from Elk River, Minnesota enlisted in the Marine Corps after he graduated from high school early because of World War II. Harris participated in several campaigns throughout the Pacific including Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. Harris served as a machine gunner and radio operator with the 2nd Armored Amphibian Tank Battalion. While at Tinian, Harris was standing on top of his tank when a mortar hit and knocked him off of his tank and into the water. Harris landed on a bed of coral rock, which he said, cut him to shreds. Harris spent two-to-three weeks in the hospital recovering. "I was afraid they'd get a replacement for me in the tank. I didn't want to lose my crew. In the middle of the night I walked out of the hospital and got a ride in a jeep. I met back up with my crew and they called me 'the ghost of the 2nd armored' because they were all tanned and I was as white as a ghost."



Harris was part of the 68 tanks that hit the black, sand beaches of Iwo Jima at the beginning of the battle. "A lot of the tanks got stuck trying to climb a rise and had to be abandoned. We were catching small arms fire all night long so anything that wasn't armored plat-

ed was all smashed up. Our tracks were shot off, so it couldn't be steered very well in the water. We got a reserve tank after the first day." The first night after the first wave, Harris' tank circled around the backside of Mount Surbachi to fire at targets of opportunity. "When it got dark, we'd see a muzzle blast, but before the gunner could get his sites on it the light was gone. We used phosphorus to light up the area. We don't know if we hit anything at night. It was pitch dark."

Harris could see the assault on the beach as his amphibious tank floated in the water around the backside of Mount Surbachi. "The Japanese were firing from Mount Surbachi and from a hill about a quarter mile away. The hill was the base for the Japanese commander, Gen. [Tadamichi] Kuribayashi. It was a 350-foot hill loaded with artillery. They were all shooting down on the beach area. The Marines were caught in crossfire. It was slaughter. There was no place to hide. I felt so sorry for those guys. They walked into death. We knew fear and we were scared. It was a different kind of fear. We weren't afraid of dying."

Marshall Harris served in the Marine Corps from June 1943 to November 1945. After Harris spent about 30 days on Iwo Jima the war was over for him and his crew. They left Iwo Jima aboard a landing craft vehicle and headed back to Maui, Hawaii on a troop ship. "We just did what we had to do, what 18, 19 year-old kids could do."

[Source: Defense Media Activity—Marines | Melissa Karnath |

Ship's Store

Ships Photos (\$10) + s/h



1968— Entering Sydney Harbor



1985—Yokosuka from Australia



1975—Departing Pearl Harbor



1992—Seattle Sea Fair Festival

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

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

Mousepads (\$10) + s/h

Ship—DLG 24 Ship—CG 24



Challenge Coins (\$14) + s/h



Ball caps (\$10 each) + s/h

2009—San Diego

2010—Chicago

2012—Charleston

2014—Portland - Sold out



USS Reeves Association – Ship's Store Order Form			
Price	S/H	Total	Description
		Total	

Shipping and handling:

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

Photos: \$2 per photo

Ball caps: \$3 each

Mousepads: \$3 each

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

Shirts: \$3 per shirt

Shipping Label

To:

Address:

City, State, ZIP:

Phone:

Email:

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

Landmark Ruling of COA for Vet Claims—Agent Orange

The Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims has made a landmark ruling that will help many Navy and Coast Guard vets who have been classified as Blue Water Sailors. The case was *Gray vs McDonald* and was decided on April 24, 2015. This will greatly benefit many Viet Nam Navy veterans effected by Agent Orange. In it they declared that the Harbors of Danang, Cam Ranh Bay, and Vung Tau must now be classified Brown water instead of Blue water. Basically the court said these ports were classified as deep-water but should have been classified as being in the spray area and not by the fact that large vessels could enter them. The VA must now declare all vessels that entered these harbors as dioxin (AO) exposed and compensate the sailors on them that have presumptive diseases that are recognized as having their genesis in AO exposure.

In regard to service in mouth of rivers, such as minesweepers, the court said that even the VA Secretary declared that there is no definite boundaries of a river mouths, therefore they cannot just make a decision by “flipping a coin” as to what vessels were exposed and which were not. The court further stated that inland water service cannot be limited to the ships that are on their “official” ships list. The emphasis should be on the likelihood of exposure to herbicide and that the fact that a large river’s brown water plume can extend far out to sea. It stated that the use of “mouth” and “borders” around Viet Nam may extend well beyond the physical land mass of a river and the VA’s current interpretation of the code of Federal Regulations that cover this area are “arbitrary and capricious”.

To put the icing on the cake, the court ruled that the VA’s reliance on the IOM’s (Institute of Medicine) 2011 report on dioxin exposure is unacceptable because the IOM was “too general and inconclusive in nature”. This means that the VA’s rating system cannot conclusively contend that some offshore vessels were NOT contaminated by AO. Finally, the court ordered the VA to redraw its lines and rules as to what are the 7 proper boundaries and “exercise its fair and considered judgment to define inland waterways in a manner consistent with the regulations with emphasis on the probability of exposure”. In essence they said the present methods are patently unfair.

This ruling should bode well for sailors and Coast Guardsmen who sailed and flew into areas that should have been considered contaminated long ago. However, for all vets who may have a claim in the works, the regulations are going to have to be promulgated by the VA and they must decide if they wish to honor past claims as they may look at this as new rules that did not apply when the original case was denied. The VA can be very obtuse about how they honor a change of the code of Federal Regulations. They also have a right to appeal this to the U.S. district Court but that is very doubtful.

Synopsis prepared by:
Mike Day
Veteran Service Officer
Catholic War Veterans USA

Alternative Interpretation.

The Executive director of the Vietnam Veterans Blue Water Na-

vy Organization offered a different take to the conclusions of VSO Mike Day regarding the Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims ruling. He wrote:

The CAVC did in fact say that the current VA definitions for “inland water” and “river mouths” were thrown out because there was ambiguity and unreasonable logic involved; and no basis in the definition that referred to the regulation that requires connection to “sprayed exposure to herbicide” rather than to any geographical descriptions used by the VA. However, the Court did not specify what that definition should be and offered no direction on how the VA should solve their problems. They did not say whether any harbor was inland or blue water, but they invalidated the VA’s past approach to naming them one or the other. They instructed the VA to remove the ambiguity in previous determinations and to submit new definitions but they did not say how soon to do that or how many chances VA would receive to get it right. Essentially, the Court did nothing but remove the groundwork the VA established.

So there was no direction given about what the status a port or harbor had and no definition currently exists for what constitutes the ‘mouth of a river.’ There was no direction about how things “must now be classified.” The Court left all of that completely wide open. That leaves many avenues open for CLAIMS that state a ship was in an “inland harbor” or “at the mouth of a river” based on the creativity of whoever is writing up the claim. There are currently no guidelines that claim raters can fall back on. If

(Continued on page 9)

Agent Orange (cont)

the old rules are used, the claim is a CUE.

My suggestion is that the emphasis of any rationale for exposure to herbicide that occurred within a harbor or bay be based on an exposure that resulted from herbicide that contaminated the bay or harbor by aerial spraying, either directly into the harbor (and there is evidence that Da Nang

Harbor was sprayed by Ranch Hand Operations), or into water that fed into the harbor from rivers. River mouths could extend out into the South China Sea by virtue of the plume created by the discharge water of the river into the sea. In some satellite pictures that can be seen to be measured in kilometers or, in the case with the Mekong River, hundreds of kilometers. At

present, there is no directive for the VA raters to halt the adjudication Blue Water Navy claims, but that may be the VA's next step.

John Paul Rossie,
Executive Director
Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association

More Agent Orange...

Here at the Association, we have been focused on getting the ship on the Danang visit list for the Reeves indoctrination visit on 7-8 July 1966 for more than a couple of years. We have been working with other groups who are experiencing the same frustrations and inabilities to move ahead.

Before any shipmate can begin to file an Agent Orange claim the Reeves must be on the VA's Agent Orange Ship List. We have photo copies of the deck logs for those dates when Reeves was anchored in Danang Harbor.

No one can move ahead with any claim until Reeves is published on the VA exposure list. I believe the simplest way to achieve that is to simply provide notarized copies of the deck logs for 7-8 July 1966. Those have yet to be obtained.

We need a shipmate to focus on this singular issue—getting the ship on the list. That will mean getting the notarized copy of the

deck logs from National Archives. This entails perseverance in calling the clerks at the National Archives, and sending for the documents. The Association will pay for the notarization and postage costs for these documents.

The documents must then be submitted with some sort of covering documentation to the VA. And this is just to get the ship on the list.

This is the first hurdle: The ship had to anchor in the inland waters of Vietnam—thus the above article—and we know it did. A shipmate had to actually set foot ashore on the soil (dirt) of Vietnam within the inland water boundaries where Agent Orange and a couple of other herbicides had been deployed—and we know they did.

Now, it appears, we have to prove the ship was in the inland waters of Vietnam at the time. The Court of Appeals says it is so, but without the means of proof to real-

ly make it so.

So, we need help. The VA and the Government are waiting for all of us to pass. This is a job that takes some dedication, a lot of faith, and a sprinkle of faith in a disappearing system.

Please contact me,
michael.d.robertson@comcast.net.

Also, read the fine print:

Exception: Blue Water Veterans with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma may be granted service-connection without showing inland waterway service or that they set foot in Vietnam. This is because VA also recognizes non-Hodgkin's lymphoma as related to service in Vietnam or the waters offshore of Vietnam during the Vietnam Era. - See more at:

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/blue-water-terans.asp#sthash.EvQtp47y.dpuf>

Last Agent Orange Note

Lorri and I went to a Garden Show here in Spokane recently. We met with an Air Force and Army couple at one of the eat's areas. It was an interesting lunch.

As we were all the same age, the conversation moved from services to the VA, Vietnam, and Agent Orange. There was a strong push by this couple to get registered with the VA for the whatever, just

in case. Watching the news on the VA, this may be a lengthy endeavor. But then, I'm retired. Just bring a book or two to the Spokane VA and plan to spend a lot of time.

Lyme Disease

Blacklegged ticks spread Lyme disease, the CDC says. Symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue and a skin rash called erythema migrans. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart and the nervous system. The CDC reported 27,000 confirmed Lyme disease cases in 2013, the latest figures available, and suspected 9,000 more. The harsh Northeast winter's snowpack this year made a blanket protecting the region's ticks from severe cold rather than killing them off. That means a tougher Lyme disease season ahead, health officials say.

Ticks aren't just in forests and fields, Ralph Garruto, head of the tick-borne disease program at New York's Binghamton University, told The AP. "We're finding plenty of infected ticks in built environments, places like city parks, playgrounds, work campuses, college campuses. What makes the problem worse is that people don't perceive of these environments as risky," Garruto said. Avoid tick bites by staying away from wooded and bushy areas with high grass and leaf litter and wear repellent containing 20 to 30 percent DEET on your skin and 0.5 percent permethrin on clothing. Bathe or

shower as soon as possible after coming indoors to wash off ticks and more easily find any left crawling on you. Parents should check their children; pet owners, their furry friends.

The symptoms of Lyme disease depend on the stage of the disease. You may first notice symptoms weeks to months after the tick bite. If the disease isn't treated, it may progress from mild symptoms to serious, long-term disabilities.

- In the first stage, you may have a rash (erythema migrans camera.gif) at the site of the tick bite. You may also have a lack of energy or a headache and stiff neck. Sometimes people have no symptoms at this stage. If you don't have symptoms during stage 1, your first symptoms may be those found in stage 2 or 3.

- In the second stage, symptoms may include memory problems and pain and weakness in the arms and legs.

- In the third stage, symptoms may include swelling and pain (like arthritis) in the joints, not being able to control facial muscles, and numbness and tingling in the hands, feet, or back.

The type of antibiotic your doctor gives you and the number of days you take it will depend on your symptoms and the stage (early or later) of the disease. Talk to your doctor if you have any questions about your antibiotic treatment. Antibiotic treatment for early Lyme disease is effective, and symptoms usually go away within 3 weeks of treatment. The earlier antibiotic treatment is started after infection, the faster and more completely you will recover. If Lyme disease isn't diagnosed and treated until later problems arise, it may take you a long time to get better. Or you may need more treatment. If the disease gets worse, treatment options include:

- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as aspirin or ibuprofen. These are usually helpful for symptoms of arthritis that can occur with late Lyme disease.

- Antibiotics. These may be used for achy joints caused by chronic Lyme arthritis. But joints that have been badly damaged by Lyme arthritis may take a long time to get better, or antibiotics may not improve symptoms.

- Long-term antibiotics. These are commonly used to treat nervous system problems such as tingling and numbness or conditions such as meningitis.

- Antibiotics plus other treatments. These are used to help people who develop serious heart problems, such as severe irregular heartbeat or pericarditis, from Lyme disease. But these problems are extremely rare. Heart problems may start getting better on their own, even before antibiotics or other treatment has started.

People with partial facial paralysis as a result of Lyme disease may improve on their own without more treatment. Even after successful treatment for Lyme disease, you can get it again. So it is important to continue to protect yourself against tick bites. [Source: MoneyTalksNews & WebMD | Jim Gold | May 04, 2015
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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:

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**"If ye break faith - we shall
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PROVERB**



Master Chief Charlie

A bad command climate survey may have sunk the career of a San Diego cruiser skipper, but then there was that deal with the goat. When investigators began peeling back the onion on cruiser Lake Erie earlier this year, they started hearing stories about Master Chief Charlie, a four-legged visitor who occasionally appeared on the ship and even made at least one Pacific voyage. Master Chief Charlie, an adopted pygmy goat that enjoys granola bars, served as a mascot for the Lake Erie. He bleated at command picnics and family events, according to a source with direct knowledge of Charlie's handling. The source requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the handling of a naval animal. "Charlie was the unofficial face of Lake Erie," the source said. "He's always a big hit with the kids."

When Capt. John Banigan, the cruiser's commanding officer, agreed to take Master Chief Charlie along for the ship's homeport shift from Hawaii to San Diego, he unwittingly ran afoul of California's regulations on transporting domesticated goats into the state. Banigan was removed 27 APR from his post as the cruiser's CO; an investigation into the command's climate remains ongoing. Violating "California's domestic pet entry laws" is one of the points of the investigation that led to Banigan's relief, two official sources confirmed. Banigan, 49, declined a request for comment through a spokesman.

Here's how it all went down. It started as a joke in 2012 by Lake Erie's then - Command Master Chief Jack Johnson, who told the Erie's chief selects they should get a goat as a mascot, a play on "goat locker," a slang phrase for the

chief's mess. Then - Electronics Technician 1st Class (chief select) Darren Wilkes told Navy Times then that Johnson never really guessed they'd have followed through on it. "We were initially thinking of getting a stuffed goat or something to hang in the mess," Wilkes said. "But we decided to get him a real live goat. We thought he'd get a kick out of it." So, sure enough, the CPO selects acquired a newborn pygmy goat, which sported a white coat with black and brown spots. They issued him a tiny blue - and gray Navy working uniform goat vest



with a Lake Erie command crest patch midway down the back. At the time Master Chief Charlie was christened "Jack" after the master chief. Navy Times was unable to determine when the goat's name was changed to Charlie. "It's amazing how such a little guy like that has brought us all together, tighter than we originally were," Johnson told Navy Times.

Well, the chiefs earned their anchors and the goat was kept on now-Chief Wilkes' ranch, making the occasional appearance at ship events. Fast forward to September 2014. The ship is departing Hawaii on a homeport shift to San Diego. The chief's mess didn't want to depart Hawaii without its mascot. So they decided to make the week-long transit across the Pacific Ocean to

San Diego with Master Chief Charlie tied up on the aft missile deck. "It's a pretty long transit and every time we'd walk by I'd be thinking, 'Man, this goat is going to die,'" the source said. But Master Chief Charlie, like a true old salt, braved the wind and waves and made it to his new sunny SoCal home. When officials began reviewing Lake Erie's command climate survey, it appears they were not amused to discover Charlie's big Pacific voyage, which may have violated some Navy regs. To be sure, there is no specific regulation that prohibits the boarding of livestock on Navy ships, said a Navy official with direct knowledge of the investigation who spoke on background to discuss interstate goat transfers.

According to California's department of food and agriculture website, goats entering the state have to be examined by a veterinarian within 30 days before moving, be tagged or micro-chipped, and the owners issued a permit. The laws are similar for cats and dogs, though it's unclear what the laws are governing enlisted pet pygmy goats. Master Chief Charlie is in good health and spirits, said the Navy official who was unable to provide the goat's location as of 30 APR. The official also declined to say whether anyone else on the ship was under investigation, as part of the command climate probe or for the Master Chief Charlie affair. Charlie, 3, could not be made available for comment. On 1 MAY, a prankster seemingly amused by the ordeal established the Twitter handle @MChiefCharlie, which quickly garnered close to four dozen followers. His bio states "I'm a four-legged sailor yearning to return to the vast seas."

Source: NavyTimes | David Larter | April 30, 2015 ++



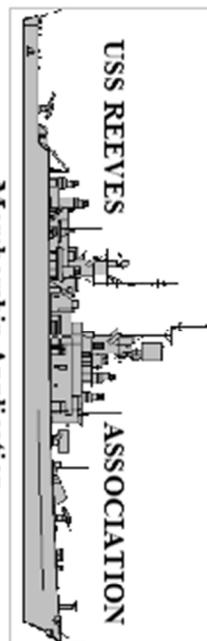
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