



# THE IRONMAN—A DOUBLE ENDER’S NEWSLETTER

**Membership Scorebox**

Current	35
Past Due	91
Snail Mail Ad- dresses Only	101
Email Address	425
Total Shipmates	1143

**Dues Notice!**  
Please be sure to check your mailing label or email notation. If it doesn't say **Current (plus year)** 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

## What You Can Find By Surfing The Net

For those of you with access to the internet, there is a wealth of information to be pulled up—if you know how to surf the web without getting in trouble. Just be aware that someone, somewhere out there is tracking every mouse-click. Regardless, here are some 1960’s results of asking questions that start to fill in the mosaic of the Iron Lady’s life at sea...

### From the USS Warrington (DD-843) decklog:

Warrington returned to Newport on 18 December (1964) and began almost two years of operations along the east coast primarily ASW training evolutions as well as occasional cruises to the Caribbean area for "Springboard" operations, gunnery drills, and refresher training. That duty ended late on 4 October 1966 when the destroyer stood out of Newport to deploy to the Far East. She transited the Panama Canal on 9 October, stopped at Pearl Harbor on 24 October, and arrived at Yokosuka, Japan, on 10 November. That same day, she headed for the Tonkin Gulf in company with Manley (DD-940) and Keppler (DD-766). On 21 November, she relieved Reeves (DDG-24) (*sic*) on "Traffic Cop" station off the coast of North Vietnam. Operation "Traffic Cop," soon to be redesignated Operation "Sea Dragon," was an ongoing patrol to interdict waterborne logistics to the insurgents in South Vietnam. After 13 days of "Traffic Cop" duty, Warrington put into Danang on 3 December before sailing later that same day for Kaohsiung, Taiwan. There she spent another 13 days undergoing a tender availability alongside

Isle Royal (AD-29) before getting underway for Hong Kong on the 19th.

### From the USS Collett (DD-730) decklog:

The first day of June (1967) found COLLETT once more enroute to Southern SAR station in the Tonkin Gulf, with the usual brief stop for fuel on June 3rd in Buckner Bay. Arriving in Danang Harbor on 7 June for briefings and SAR training, COLLETT reported to the USS REEVES (DLG-24) for duty. The REEVES and COLLETT arrived on South SAR station 9 June. COLLETT received her SAR turnover folder from USS ARNOLD J. ISBELL (DD-869) and remained on SAR station "riding shotgun" for the REEVES through 3 July. The month of SAR station was relatively quiet. Although ample opportunity for independent and dual ship training was taken advantage of, the period was generally tedious, boring and frustrating, as the tropical sun beat down on the COLLETT and REEVES patrolling their SAR station in the ripple-less waters of the Tonkin Gulf. Long hours stretched into long days, and days to weeks, with occasional underway replenishments, in-flight helicopter refueling, and Junior Officer tactical maneuvering drills between REEVES and COLLETT providing the main breaks in the routine. However, all the monotonous hours, days and weeks proved worthwhile on the second of July, when "Clementine 2", the REEVES' helicopter, successfully recovered a downed Air Force pilot from the jungle southwest of Vinh.

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## The President's Page—Spring Is In The Air



Greetings to the Reeves Association Family;

I'm sitting here on the first day of March hoping that my

opening line of **'Spring is in the air'** is a big hint to the weather gods that we've had enough winter for this year. March snuck in quietly this morning, and that usually sets us up for a rough exit. I really shouldn't complain, as it turned out to be an easy winter for the Mid-Atlantic States. We were fortunately just-south of all the heavy snow storms that slammed the Northeast, and very thankful that we didn't repeat the 90-plus inches of snow from last year. So the northern states get my thanks for being a better snow target. I'm going to stop with the weather talk before March decides to provide us with some late season sledding opportunities.

I guess the entire paragraph of weather whining means I'm struggling with an opening to association business. For the last few years I have used the first newsletter of the year to get everyone excited about attending the Annual Reunion. That normally gives me plenty of material, and I find myself trying to stay within the space provided for my column. I get to ramble on about the great reunion venue that was selected, the good deal we're getting on room rates, the terrific tours that are available, and the fabulous company that will be there to share it all with you. That won't work this time, because we decided at last year's business meeting that we're going to sit this

year out - without a reunion. No, this time I have to find creative talk to keep us alive as an organization until we can get together again in 2012.

This conversation is about the actions needed to sustain the association. First and foremost is membership, as members are the only asset of the association. We must generate enough interest to keep the members we have, and at the same time find a way to entice new members to join us. We are very fortunate in that we have an established core group of members that enjoy being part of the association, and value the friendships they have made at our reunions. I couldn't think of a better foundation for any group. Unfortunately, the number of the core group alone is not sufficient to sustain annual reunions, as the cost of putting on a reunion is not being met. I'm not trying to sound too "for profit" here by saying that money is a limiter, but we don't have the funding that allows us to put on quality annual reunions for a small group.

As discussed in the last newsletter, it was the pure volunteerism of Mike and Lorri Robertson that made the last three reunions happen. The first reunion in Longmont, CO was the product of Past-President Robert Lewis, and others. Pure volunteerism in these cases meant that the reunion planners used their own time and funds to solicit, find, qualify, and visit the sites to make sure the rest of us weren't surprised by a bad hotel deal. In every case I know that Mike and Robert had to be hoping that the effort was worth all the energy and expense that it took to accomplish. And....fortunately,

they have been able to pull off some memorable reunions. Now picture yourself in the same position, and after a few years you may also feel like the risk, expense, and trouble are more than you want to step up for each year. It boils down to maintaining energy and enthusiasm for a process that has moderate risk and low satisfaction.

Don't get this wrong. Mike has not backed away from the planners task, but he must be wondering just when the whole uncomfortable feeling of planning-at-risk becomes more fun. I got to spend some time with Mike this past November by inviting myself for a weekend visit to their new home in Spokane. I was in the upper left corner of the country on business, so it was easy to stop in and see how Mike and Lorri were doing in their new hideout. I was warmly welcomed to their home, and we got to spend some time discussing the affairs of the world over a few drinks and some wonderful meals. After resolving some important worldly issues (while also reducing Mike's supply of Single-Malt), we got around to where we were as an organization, and what we thought was needed to move it off the ground floor.

We believe the future of the association depends on our ability to draw new members. A larger member base would increase participation at reunions and give us a far better bargaining angle for everything we are trying to accomplish. More attendees will help us get into better hotels and tours, while reducing the costs for both. The reunions to date have been a good time for everyone who at-

*(Continued at Message on page 4)*

## Mail/eMail/Decklog From Our Shipmates —

### Lest We Forget the Other Reeves (DE-156/APD-52)...

I am James Flynn, brother of John F. Flynn, who is now 85, and in declining health. John served aboard the USS Reeves (DE-156), and later when re-named APD-52, [for] the entire war years. I just heard his stories when I escorted him to the doctors. I am the younger brother of this hero and I had never heard these stories, until the doctor asked him about his service record. The story that most sticks in my mind was when he told me that the USS Reeves actually sank a German U-Boat with depth charges. The sub never surfaced, but the wreckage floated to the surface. It was, he said, an unconfirmed sinking. I checked the U-Boat web site, and it is listed with at least 8 missing U-Boats in the area of the Atlantic where the USS Reeves was [operating]. He told me that he personally gave water to Pappy Boyington when [he was] rescued from the liberated Jap POW camps. Great stories.

*This was posted on our website Deck Log. Mr. Flynn has been thanked for his submission.*

*Charleston*

where history lives



### The First USS Reeves

#### USS Reeves (DE-156/APD-52)

was a *Buckley*-class destroyer escort of the United States Navy, named in honor of Warrant Officer Thomas J. Reeves (1895–1941), who was killed in action, while serving aboard the battleship *California* (BB-44) during the attack on Pearl Harbor. For his distinguished conduct to bring ammunition to anti-aircraft guns, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

The first *Reeves* was laid down by the Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Virginia, on 7 February 1943; launched on 23 April 1943; sponsored by Miss Mary Anne Reeves, niece of Chief Radioman Reeves; and commissioned on 9 June 1943, Lieutenant Commander Mathias S. Clark in command.



Following shakedown, *Reeves* returned to Norfolk and on 16 August got underway on her first transatlantic escort run, a slow convoy to Casablanca. Arriving at New York six weeks later, she underwent availability and further training, at Casco Bay, then returned to escort duty and for the next 12 months shepherded fast tanker convoys between New York and the United Kingdom. On 18 March 1944, after SS *Seakay* had been sunk, *Reeves* rescued 83 of the merchantman's 84 man crew. For heroism during that rescue, one of the escort's coxswains, E. E. Angus, was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal. The following day, *Reeves* took *Donnell* (DE-56) in tow after she had been torpedoed, stood by until relieved by tugs, then continued on carrying the damaged escort's more seriously wounded men.

Through D-Day and the summer of 1944, *Reeves* continued to escort fast convoys. On 23 September she completed her last Atlantic escort mission and entered the Philadelphia Navy Yard for conversion to a *Charles Lawrence*-class high speed transport.

Redesignated **APD-52** on 25 September, *Reeves* emerged from the shipyard on 23 December and after amphibious training, headed for the Panama Canal and duty in the Pacific. Arriving at Ulithi on 26 February 1945, she continued on to the Philippines in early March to rehearse for Operation Iceberg, the invasion of the Ryukyus.

On 26 March *Reeves* arrived off the Kerama Retto invasion area and, after initial duties as a standby ship for Underwater Demolition Team operations, shifted to anti-submarine and anti-aircraft screening duties. She served on that harrowing duty for 109 days interrupted only for a fast convoy to Ulithi and a brief availability in the Philippines. Detached 18 August, the APD delivered men, mail, and provisions to ships of the fleet, then sailed north to Japan. There, into October, she assisted in the repatriation of former POWs, then supported the United States Strategic Bombing Survey mission assigned to the Nagasaki area.

*Reeves* sailed for the United States on 26 November and, after stops in the Volcano, Marshall, and Hawaiian islands, arrived at San Diego on 23 December. Three days later she continued on, and, on 10 January 1946, she arrived at Boston to begin inactivation. Assigned to the Florida Group, Atlantic Reserve Fleet, she decommissioned on 30 July at Green Cove Springs, Florida where she remained until struck from the Navy List on 1 June 1960 and transferred to the Government of Ecuador for use as an electric generator plant.

*Source: Wikipedia*

## President's Message (continued from page 2)

tended. We have a good thing going, but we just need the involvement of more shipmates to make it sustainable.

So what are we doing about it? We have the website and newsletter spreading the word. We have refined our contact lists and improved our advertising techniques. We are working to establish a ship's store to offer Reeves specific items that you can't find any-

where else. We're planning for the 2012 reunion in Charleston. AND now we're reaching out to our membership to help us determine what is going to be the silver bullet that gets the organization on the right track to success.

What can you do? I believe that any combination of the following gestures may also be helpful; call an old shipmate and convince them to get involved, write a

short newsletter article to share some Reeves memories, tell us what you think may help get more attention, get current with your association dues, and plan on attending the 2012 reunion. Step up shipmates, we need your help.

Here's wishing you Fair Winds & Following Seas.... and maybe an early Spring

*Tom*

## 112th Congress—Agenda Update

Following is an estimated timeline of when important actions will occur in the first year of the 112th Congress:

\* Feb. 14: The president will submit his annual budget proposals to Congress. On this date we'll find out what the Pentagon will propose for military manpower levels, the 2012 pay raise, TRICARE fee levels and more.

\* Late March: Six weeks after the President delivers his budget to Congress, congressional committees are required to submit their "views and estimates" of spending and revenues within their respective jurisdictions to the House and Senate Budget Committees.

\* April: House and Senate Budget Committees draft and mark up concurrent resolution on the budget, which sets spending limits for the year. April 15 is the deadline for

completion of action on the budget resolution (though partisan and fiscal differences have precluded approval of a formal budget resolution in recent years, and that may prove true again in 2011.)

\* May: The House and Senate Armed Services Committees will likely begin work on the FY2012 Defense Authorization Bill 2011 including any changes that may be imposed by budget resolution spending limits.

\* May-July: Full House and Senate pass their respective versions of the defense bill.

\* July-October: House and Senate negotiators resolve differences between their respective versions.

\* October-December: Final Defense Authorization Bill passed by House and Senate and becomes law.  
*Source: MOAA Leg Up 21 Jan 2011*

## Senior's Bumper Stickers

- \*Cremation? Think outside the box.
- \* I'M Retired. I was tired yesterday, and I am tired again today.
- \* When I was younger all I wanted was a BMW. Now, I don't care about the W.
- \* We got married for better or worse. He couldn't do better and I couldn't do worse.
- \* I was always taught to respect my elders. Now I don't have anybody to respect.
- \* I asked my wife if old men wear boxers or briefs? She said Depends.
- \* I'm so old ... I don't buy green bananas.

Have you visited the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC, lately? You can get there online very easily. One of the many features includes NavyTV. There is an excellent conversation with Ernest Borgnine when he discusses his time onboard USS Lamberson (DD-119/DMS-2) during World War II. To find the video, go to

[www.navytv.org](http://www.navytv.org)

then click on NavyTV from the home page and then search for Borgnine.

While you are there, check out the many different conversations from many Navy veterans that have been saved for posterity.

And, don't forget about joining.

Visit: [TogetherWeServed.com](http://TogetherWeServed.com)

You'll find a lot of us there, with all the details about our service time.

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All comments, suggestions, submissions and criticism are welcome. My email is always open...

## Welcome to the East Coast—Our Next Reunion

At the Chicago Reunion, it was decided that the association would change reunions to a bi-annual schedule. The size of the association and expense of travel was a deciding factor. Sticking to the goal of bringing a reunion to a region close to you, the East/West/Central plan was reaffirmed. Thus, the next reunion in 2012 will be held on the East Coast. The majority response has been Charleston.

Charleston had a large Naval Base before BRAC that is now closed. However, Charleston still has a tremendous amount to offer. It has been rated as the second most popular destination spot in the U.S., edged out by San Francisco by less than one percentage point.

For the Navy side, there is the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum. Tour the USS Yorktown,



USS Yorktown at Charleston's Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum

USS Clamagore, Medal of Honor Museum, Cold War Submarine Memorial and the only Vietnam Support Base Camp in the U.S. Its history you can touch.

History buffs have access to Fort Sumter, Magnolia and Boone Hall plantations, Middleton Place and Drayton Hall, just to mention a few of very many.

There are many hotels very near the airport, so shuttle service will be



Middleton Place on the Ashley River, Charleston

available. If there is a large enough registration for tours, there will be tours arranged for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

There are some dinner cruises available — can be set up if there's enough interest.

And, of course, we are looking for a hotel rate around \$80 per day.

Every piece of correspondence we receive tells us that this is an exciting place to visit.

Having been personally stationed in Charleston in the late 70's and early 80's, this is a new and revitalized town. First of all, look at the Cooper River Bridge photo above...it's not the same bridge from the forecandle or bridge of a destroyer back when—before BRAC.



New Cooper River Bridge



Down to the Battery. The place that Sherman forgot in his march to the sea.

If you are a Civil War history buff, this is the place to visit. Ft. Sumter was the opening act of the War Between the States.



And there is so much more to be seen and experienced in Charleston.



One of the oldest colonial cities, (Charles Town, 1670) Charleston offers a glimpse of our colonial past, the battle to keep us together as a young nation, and the reservoir of our earliest heritage.

Join us for Reunion 2012 in one of our earliest seaports.

## Net Surfing (cont)

On the fourth of July, the 191st anniversary of the Republic's birth, COLLETT and REEVES left SAR station and headed for one of the most popular liberty ports in the Far East: Hong Kong. Arriving in the British Crown Colony on July 6, COLLETT's crew spent an interesting and memorable six day visit that few would ever forget.

### The VA-116 Saint's:

July 23, 1966: [Commander Wynn F. Foster](#), the Saint's commanding officer, was personally hit by antiaircraft fire over Vinh, North Vietnam; Commander Foster suffered the loss of his right arm. Using only his left hand, Commander Foster piloted his crippled Skyhawk to sea and ejected, where personnel of the United States Ship Reeves (DLG-24) rescued him. Commander Foster was awarded the Silver Star for his actions. Please see the [SOURCES PAGE](#) for information about obtaining Captain Foster's book recounting the action.

## New Navy Logo

This is the newest Navy Logo that has been approved by our Department of the Navy. In fact, this is just the



lead logo in a whole series that stretched from the Navy Veteran (you) to your future son, grandson or great-

## Financials

### USS Reeves Association

#### 2011 Income Statement YTD

Income	
Reunions	\$0
Program	\$912
Total Income	\$912
Expense	
Advertising	\$27
Newsletters	\$0
Supplies	\$0
Reunions	\$0
Total Expense	\$7
Net Income	\$878

#### 2011 Assets Statement YTD

Cash Assets	\$3,374
Liabilities	\$0
Net Equity	\$3,374

## News Sources

You may notice that the past few issues of this newsletter have carried veterans' information. At the urging of our shipmate, Eric Wenzel (our Recording Secretary), we are providing extracts from Veteran's RAO Bulletins that are published twice monthly by Lt. James "EMO" Tichacek, USN (Ret) Associate Director, Retiree Activities Office & U.S. Embassy Warden Ba-guio City RP

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

[http://post\\_119\\_gulfport\\_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html](http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html)

*Jim is probably a member of every veterans association that is currently active. And, his bulletin is the most informative of any I have seen. There are examples of his reporting throughout this edition of the newsletter. Ed.*

### 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.

### Veterans Benefits

This editor normally doesn't push anything from Military.com. They seem to be selling a lot.

However, there is now a benefit "calculator" for all of us veterans that is a pretty good list of anything and everything for which you might be entitled.

Check out

<http://benefits.military.com/reg/Veterans-Benefits.do>

to see if you have covered all your bets and bases.

Michael

grandson or grand-daughter (it hurts to say that!). Regardless, I'm downloading it and printing it on something that Staples can laminate for a buck. Maybe I'll find a website or two to paste it into.

What do you think? Like it? Or not? The old email or snail mail address is always open. I'm told that it makes for a great dashboard addition.

If you are looking for the link to the website, it is:

[http://www.navy.mil/view\\_ggsingle.asp?id=455](http://www.navy.mil/view_ggsingle.asp?id=455)

There is also a copy of the image on our website with all the possible variations at

<http://ussreeves.net/newsletters/NAVY%20Logo.pdf>

## E-Mail Tracker Programs

Any time you see an email that says "forward this on to '10' (or however many) of your friends", "sign this petition", or "you'll get bad luck" or "you'll get good luck" or "you'll see something funny on your screen after you send it" or whatever --- it almost always has an email tracker program attached that tracks the cookies and emails of those folks you forward to. The host sender is getting a copy each time it gets forwarded and then is able to get lists of 'active' email ad-

resses to use in SPAM emails or sell to other spammers. Even when you get emails that demand you send the email **on if you're not ashamed of God/ Jesus** --- that is email tracking, and they are playing on our emotions. These people don't care how they get your email addresses - just as long as they get them. Also, emails that talk about a missing child or a child with an incurable disease "how would you feel if that was your child" --- email tracking. Ignore them and don't participate!

You can do your Friends and Family members a GREAT favor by sending this information to them. You will be providing a service to your friends. And you will be rewarded by not getting thousands of spam emails in the future!

Do yourself a favor and **STOP** adding your name(s) to those types of listing regardless how inviting they might sound! Or make you feel guilty if you don't! It's all about getting email addresses and nothing more.

## VA Eligibility

VA Health Care Myths: Rumor mills are permanent fixtures in schools, offices and wherever people congregate, and most of the time they're pretty innocuous. But myths and rumors that deal with health--in this case Veterans health--are a serious matter that can prevent qualified Vets from seeking the care they both need and deserve. Many have come up in the comments section at

<http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/?p=586>,

and others I hear from the guys in my old unit. The myths won't die unless they are addressed publicly and clearly, so we present you with the most common we hear, and the straightforward answers they need.

Myth Number One - I wasn't injured in the service, so I'm not eligible for VA health care. Status: False -

One of the most common myths revolves around eligibility for health care at VA. Many think that you have to first establish a disability rating before you can start to make appointments, see doctors and receive medication. That is not the case. If you served in the military, even during peace time, and were honorably discharged, you likely qualify for VA care. Even if you don't meet those requirements, special circumstances might apply, like Vietnam service, exposure to Agent Orange and household income. The best way to find out if you qualify is to submit an application for health benefits. You can fill

one out online or at a VA Medical Center. If you are an Iraq or Afghanistan Veteran, there are special combat Veteran benefits from VA, like temporary access to dental care and guaranteed access to Priority 6 for five years (unless you are eligible for a higher priority group). See the priority enrollment groups here. Also, if new regulations are established regarding health benefits, VA will automatically reassess your case if it's on file.

*[This is a partial extract from [http://post\\_119\\_gulfport\\_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html](http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html) article source: Vantage Point Alex Horton article 18 Nov 2010 ++]*

*The complete article is worthwhile reading. Ed.*

## National Parks

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has announced that National Park Service officials will waive admission fees on 17 selected dates throughout 2011 to encourage all Americans to visit a national park this year. With 394 national parks throughout the country, most Americans live within a few hours of a park, making them places for easy and affordable vacations any time of the year. Many national park concessions also will offer discounts on fee-free days, saving visitors money on food, lodging, tours and souvenirs.

For more information, visit the National Park Service web-

site: <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm>

Following are the fee-free days in 2011:

- \* January 15-17 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday weekend)
- \* April 16-24 (National Park Week)
- \* June 21 (First day of summer)
- \* September 24 (Public Lands Day)
- \* November 11-13 (Veterans Day weekend)

[Source: Military.com Veterans Report 17 Jan 2011 ++]

## Good Advice On Building Our Association

Received your newsletter and wanted to make a few comments and suggestions. I know how it feels to receive comments and suggestions from someone that isn't really active in your association, but I think I can possibly help you out with your strategic process for increased membership and reunions.

I think I have told you in the past, I was on in 68-69 when USS Reeves (DLG 24) returned from its 30 month deployment then was decommissioned in May 1969 at the Bath Iron Works. I then was transferred to USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) and on 3 June 1969 was in that fatal collision with HMAS Melbourne (R 21). I am currently the Vice President of our association.



### Building the Association

When I became active we had about 120 members. Our membership then covered those shipmates from the 40's, 50's and 60's. As all associations, there is a sunset effect on membership. We wanted the association to continue and thrive so we modified our By-laws to allow membership to those that wanted to join the association, not just shipmates. We titled these members as "Second Watch Members". These members enjoy all the privileges as "Shipmates". Of course our membership increased somewhat in the next following years.

Our next step was to purchase from the Navy archives all the Muster Roles for 1945 to 1969. This is

somewhat costly as it is about \$ 75.00 a CD. Each CD will cover a number of years, about 5 or 6 per CD. Figure spending what you paid out in advertising. Advertising gets you a small return. This will get you the names of every shipmate. Let me warn you, this is a very tedious task. You will need to find someone that likes researching and creating a data base. This is not a small task, but very rewarding. Consider it will take someone a year to complete. The Muster Roles show the onboard and off of every shipmate. Problem is you have to find the first on and the last off. Every time a shipmate goes on leave, goes to school, TAD etc. they are reflected on the Muster Roles. Our Historian took on this task, took him over a year to locate 4,300 shipmates.

The next step we did was purchase a search contract from a web search site, we used Intelius. There are a number of sites, I think they all search the same records. We made the mistake of buying 4,000 searches, all had to be done within a year. We only did about 500. If you decide to start researching addresses, let me know and I can direct you on what I would do different.

Next step is to get people in geographic areas to start the phone, mail, e-mail process on the addresses you obtain. This is the step we are currently working on. We now have 240 members, in the last two years we had 30 shipmates pass away so you can see we still are seeing a positive response.

### Reunions

I sensed disappointment about attendance at the reunion. This too will take time, it grows with increased membership. Our last reunion had about 190 attendees (that's about 90 members). We had it in San Diego, the week before yours. We too used

to spend a lot of personal time and our own money to research and select locations. Consider joining RFN (Reunion Friendly Network). I can send you information if you think you are interested. You will find all the information about how to select, contract and conduct a reunion. The good thing about belonging is a majority of the grunt work is done for you. Take for example your next reunion location either Charleston or Jacksonville. We did ours in Charleston, actually it was at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Pleasant. You can't get any closer to Patriots Point then staying at the Holiday Inn. They host reunions almost every week so they have everything down to science. We have done 18 reunions since 1992. We have tried to keep close to areas that offer military attractions, ships, etc. We do more then we should to make sure our members have the best time possible. Some times I think we do too much. The one thing I was told years ago was to not start skipping years. We have a reunion every year. **Once you start skipping or let members hold their own regional reunions you are doomed. People by nature break into groups, once you do this they will have the tendency to form their own events and association.** The size of the reunion is not the necessary measurement of success, its the quality of the people.

Anyhow, hope this helps.

Steve Kraus  
Vice President  
USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) Assn  
"Lest We Forget"

*[Steve was an SM2 who served on Reeves during the first forward deployment.]*

You can read about the Frank Evans at:

<http://www.ussfee.org/>

## RAO Tricare Update

Tricare User Fee Update 56: Once again the subject of increasing TRICARE costs has hit the news - the latest proposal being offered by the bipartisan Debt Reduction Task Force, co-chaired by former Republican Sen. Pete Domenici and economist Alice Rivlin.

One of the stated goals of the bipartisan task force is to reduce the cost of military health care by imposing greater cost-sharing on TRICARE beneficiaries. The rationale is that the program was originally designed so that retiree's premiums would cover 27% of the total cost of TRICARE. The program fees have not increased since TRICARE replaced CHAMPUS in 1995; in today's dollars retirees are only covering 11% of the program cost.

The task force report states that active duty personnel and their dependents use less than half (42%) of TRICARE's total cost, pay no premiums or co-pays. Thankfully for this group, the Task Force decided to focus exclusively on retirees and their dependents, for whom benefits have expanded without a significant change in cost-sharing.

The task force report lays out a plan that would raise working age retiree premiums, cost-shares and co-pays so that working-age retirees would once again cover the 27% of TRICARE costs as was part of the original plan. Increasing the fees seems to make sense from a purely economic point of view. In addition,

Medicare-eligible retirees using TRICARE for Life as a supplement to Medicare would be required to begin paying minimal cost sharing amounts under the plan. Based on the language of the report this cost-share increase is to maintain equity among retirees – both between different cohorts of military retirees and between military and the wider community of seniors that also faces higher costs.

Some retirees could see their TRICARE premiums increase by as much as \$2,000 a year. Tom Philpott recently offered a glimpse at what future premiums, cost-shares and co-pays would look like based on the panel's suggestions.

A married retiree with less than \$20,000 in annual retired pay would pay \$730 in year one, \$900 in year two. These larger incremental raises would stop in year five when the yearly fee would hit \$1260 an increase of \$800 a year.

Those with retired pay of \$20,000 to \$40,000 would pay more. The highest enrollment fees, for those drawing more than \$40,000 in retired pay, would top off in year five at \$2460, or \$2000 more than they pay now.

Fees for outpatient visits would more than double, to \$28.

Working-age retirees using TRICARE Standard plan or TRICARE

Extra would be charged an enrollment for the first time of \$150.

Pharmacy co-pays in TRICARE retail network – now \$3 for generic, \$9 for brand-name drugs on formulary and \$22 for non-formulary drugs – would be reset at zero for generic drugs, \$15 for brand names on formulary and \$45 for brand names off formulary.

It seems each year the subject of increasing TRICARE out-of-pocket expenses comes up, and of course ensuring TRICARE sustainability is vital. But the members of so-called debt reduction panels need to remember that eligibility for TRICARE benefits is not based on age, income, or employability – these benefits are earned through service and commitment to our nation's defense.

To compare the above proposed rates with the present rates refer to [www.military.com/benefits/tricare/tricare-co-pay/tricare-cost-co-pay-schedule](http://www.military.com/benefits/tricare/tricare-co-pay/tricare-cost-co-pay-schedule).

You are encouraged to let DoD and your elected officials know how you feel about these cost cutting proposals. One easy way to do this is to go to

<http://www.capwiz.com/military/issues/alert/?alertid=19823501>

and forward a pre-formatted editable message to your legislators. [Source: *Military.com November Terry Howell article 22 Nov 2010 ++*]

## VA Tinnitus Care Update

Scientists from the University of Texas announced in the scientific journal *Nature* that they have found a way to treat chronic tinnitus.

Tinnitus, a chronic ringing in the ears is the most common service connected disability for enlisted Air Force retirees and veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The VA pays approximately one billion dollars (\$1 billion) a year for service connected disability payments for tinnitus.

Doctors believe that over 23 million Americans suffer from some degree of this condition including 10% of seniors

and a whopping 40% of veterans. The scientists believe that it is caused by the brain failing to adjust to nerve damage caused to exposure to loud or continual noise. Michael Kilgard, the co-author of the study said: "Brain changes in response to nerve damage or cochlear trauma cause irregular neural activity believed to be responsible for many types of chronic pain and tinnitus. We believe the part of the brain that processes sounds- the auditory cortex-delegates too many neurons to some frequencies and things begin to go awry."

The treatment (so far successful in

rats) electronically stimulates the Vagus nerve (which runs from the brain to the abdomen) while playing a high pitched tone. Human clinical trials are expected to start in the next several months. This technique called VNS is already used to treat approximately 50,000 people with epilepsy or depression.

If the trials are successful this would be the first treatment that would eliminate rather than just mask tinnitus.

[Source: TREA Washington Update 14 Jan 2011 ++]

## Ruminations from the Inland Northwest

It can be said that retirement is restful. It isn’t. It can also be said that retirement is the last path traveled. It isn’t. I went out at eight this morning and threw wet snow and snow clods and other such cold stuff from the end of my driveway, where Spokane County deposited more than I deserved. Of course, I had a new snow thrower from the PX at Fairchild AFB. It liked to climb over the snow—not through it, as I would have liked.

There’s too much to get done—and there’s too many tomorrows to get through.

Aside from the snow (lots), planning for the first Christmas in Spokane (unlike Virginia), and the sensation

that there’s probably an office somewhere out there where I’m supposed to be—at this very moment—life is really, really different.

Tom Bailey dropped by for a weekend visit, drank some wine, ate Lorri’s breakfasts, visited our local “bistro” and drank a modest amount of my Scotch. It was a real wakeup, personally.

There’s a lot to be done and seen that we haven’t gotten to, yet. Just because we retreated into the shadow of Mt. Spokane and parked the truck in a warm, dry garage doesn’t mean that we have to retire from life ... yet!

So, where to from here?

Well, there’s a trip up Route 2 to

Priest Lake, or a jaunt over to Kettle Falls and Lake Roosevelt. Maybe, just maybe, we could take an hour and one half jog up Route 395 to Paterson, BC, and check out the Canadian Cascades.

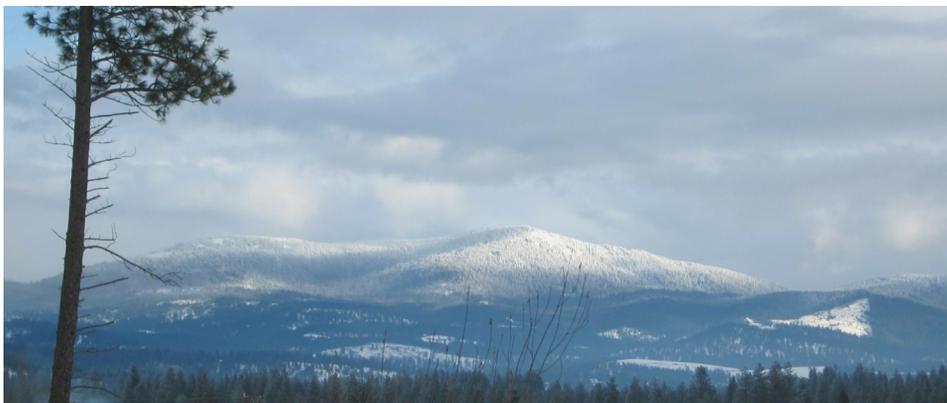
That might mean getting our Washington driver’s licenses upgraded to include our U.S. Citizen status. That’s a lot cheaper than buying a current passport from the State Department via the Post Office.

Maybe, after Christmas, a road trip north might be in order. As I told Lorri, keep an overnight bag packed so that we can just take off anywhere, anytime. Obviously, I’m not a practitioner and she’s not a believer, yet.

By the time we all get to Charleston, Jacksonville, Orlando or where ever, I expect to have pictures—for anyone who has the patience to look at them. In the meantime, we’ve found one of those ConFAM things for reunion planners next October in Warwick, RI. Plan on it: the 2015, 2016 or later reunion will be in Warwick (which is a really great place to get together—been there, done that and have the T-Shirt.

Don’t leave a old guy any space to fill in the newsletter. Anything is fair game and I love to fill empty space.

Mike



My Mt. Spokane on a fine winter’s day... (I took this shot, using my wife as a tripod. Don’t ask.)

## Medicare Part B Update

The Military Retiree Health Care Relief Act of 2011 (H.R.238), was introduced in the 112th Congress by Representative Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO-08).

The bill would restore a long broken promise relating to free life time health care by amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit to military retirees and their spouses/widows for premiums paid for coverage under Medicare Part B. Veterans are encouraged to contact their legislators and request they actively support this bill and urge their colleagues to do the same.

One method to accomplish this is to access the USDR Action Alert site [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=23523796&queueid=\[capwiz:queue\\_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=23523796&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id]) and forward the editable message provided to their representatives. [Source: USDR Action Alert] *Published in the RAO Baguio Veterans Information Newsletter, 1 Feb 2011*



## Have You Heard?

An old prospector shuffled into the town of El Paso, Texas leading an old tired mule. The old man headed straight for the only saloon in town, to clear his parched throat. He walked up to the saloon and tied his old mule to the hitch rail. As he stood there, brushing some of the dust from his face and clothes, a young gunslinger stepped out of the saloon with a gun in one hand and a bottle of whiskey in the other.

The young gunslinger looked at the old man and laughed, saying, "Hey old man, have you ever danced?" The old man looked up at the gunslinger and said, "No, I never did dance... never really wanted to." A crowd had gathered as the gunslinger grinned and said, "Well, you

old fool, you're gonna' dance now," and started shooting at the old man's feet. The old prospector, not wanting to get a toe blown off, started hopping around like a flea on a hot skillet. Everybody was laughing, fit to be tied. When his last bullet had been fired, the young gunslinger, still laughing, holstered his gun and turned around to go back into the saloon. The old man turned to his pack mule, pulled out a double-barreled shotgun, and cocked both hammers.

The loud clicks carried clearly through the desert air. The crowd stopped laughing immediately. The young gunslinger heard the sounds too, and he turned around very slowly. The silence was almost deafening. The crowd watched as the young gun-

man stared at the old timer and the large gaping holes of those twin barrels. The barrels of the shotgun never wavered in the old man's hands, as he quietly said, "Son, have you ever kissed a mule's ass?" The gunslinger swallowed hard and said, "No sir.....but I've always wanted to."

There are two lessons for us all here:

1. Don't waste ammunition.
2. Don't mess with old people.

[Source: RAO Bulletin]

[http://post\\_119\\_gulfport\\_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html](http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html)

## Another Sign of the Times

The U.S. Navy was the first branch to give the Good Conduct Medal, starting in 1869. The U.S. Air Force didn't start giving a separate Good Conduct Medal until 1963, although it was first authorized in 1960. Until 1963, USAF personnel received the U.S. Army's version of the Good Conduct Medal. The Air Force decided to quit giving the Good Conduct Medal in 2006 because they felt that **good conduct is expected among its airman**, thus making the medal inappropriate. Air Force personnel who won the medal are still authorized to wear it.

*Leave it to the Air Force... They must've never made a port call in Olongapo. Ed.*

## Has Anyone Noticed?

Even though the Bush tax cuts were extended for two years and the employee-portion of the Social Security deduction has been suspended for one year, FITW taxes have increased by about 2% on an unchanging income.

## Internet News

Of the 200 million websites worldwide (stats courtesy of Glenn Beck's new "faction" novel *The Overton Window*), we now occupy two real websites: [USSReeves.com](http://USSReeves.com) and [USSReeves.net](http://USSReeves.net). Most shipmates are probably familiar with the .net site as it has been in operation since just after the first reunion in Longmont, CO.

Recently, shipmate Jon Acord (76-78) turned the .com site into a mirror image of the .net site. Thanks, Jon.

Also, shipmate Victor Maxwell (ETNSN, 71-74) has established a Facebook group site (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=243690108827>)

that has more photographs (with pop up captions by Vic and George), comments and a growing list of members. Right now, there's an ongoing dialogue between Victor, George McHaley (FTG2, 70-72) and John Joyner (Info TBD).

Take a look and join the group. Get into the conversation...



Liberty Call...early 70's, probably Hong Kong '72.

From Vic Maxwell's Facebook site,



**Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

StreetAddress 1 \_\_\_\_\_

StreetAddress 2 \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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@comc.asl.mil](mailto:michael.d.robertson@comc.asl.mil)  
<http://www.ussreeves.net/association.html> (hyperlink)

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