

WEEPING WILLIE

DE-DER 397

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, 2016

NEWSLETTER



Listed below are our Association Officers. If you need information, please feel free to contact one of them.

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DUES PAID-2016

Mike Aloorn
Carolyn Aument
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Steven Austin
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Peter Cramer
Paul Cusato
Don Eertmoed
Bill Endter
Ronald Eroek
Gernie Fredrickson
Betty Gannon
Steve Gergens
Clarence Gray
Charles Hagee
Eugene Hawes
Will Hays
Richard Heller
Les Hill
Linda Hordh
Vincent Huml
Gary Intemann
Don Landwehr
Leroy Long
Ray Markley
Charles McFadden
Mackie McLoy
James McMurdo
Thomas Morrissey
Obie Murphy
O'Quin
Bill Owens
Gary Payne
David Parker
David Payson
Johnny Payton
Geraldine Pries
Lee Robinson
Frank Roche

DUES PAID 2016

Raymond Rott
Richard Scheeder
John Shanahan
Peter Silhan
Gene Strickland
Charles Tencer
Ross Thompson
Bill West
Tom West
James Winebarger
Leonard Wiseman
Ben Yonkofski



**WOULD YOU PLEASE SEND TO THOMAS MORRISSEY YOUR
EMAIL ADDRESS! PLEASE SEND TO THE FOLLOWING:
ADTOMORRISSEY@MSN.COM (small letters) OR MAIL TO HIM**

AT::

**3240 South 76th
Lincoln, NE 68506**

We have lost another shipmate.

Gary Fredrickson passed away on February 3, 2016. If you would like to send a card to the family, the address is below.

**Gerrie Fredrickson
1006 Simms Avenue
Council Bluffs, IA 51503**



Keep John Mauldin in your prayers. He is recovery from hip operation.
Cards can be sent to:

**John Mauldin
106 Chestnut Drive
Yukon, OK**



Keep Caroline Andersen in your prayers.

**When the people fear the government, there is tyranny.
When the government fears the people, there is liberty. ~ ~
Thomas Jefferson**

**"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we
falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed
ourselves." ~ ~Abraham Lincoln**

Your contributions are due now. If you have paid yours thanks so much, but if you haven't paid your contributions of \$20.00, this will be your last newsletter. We try to keep you up dated on our reunions, anything that might be newsworthy of the Navy or anything else.

If you want to continue to receive the newsletter and information, your 2016 contribution need to be paid by April, 2016. The contributions really help with office expense and miscellaneous things that might come up. We don't want to let the USS Wilhoite go by the way side.

BENEFITS FOR BLUE WATER VETS URGED

Senators called on VA in a September hearing to provide "Agent Orange benefits to sailors who served off the coast of Vietnam during the war. These so-called "Blue Water" vets are not currently eligible for VA benefits that relate to Agent Orange exposure, unlike sailors who served on inland waterways or troops who served onland.

Two bills pending in Congress - both called the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act-would change that. Both the Senate version, S681, sponsored by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D.N.Y.), would include Vietnams territorial seas as a qualifying area for Agent Orange benefits.

During the September 29 hearing: Gillibrand cited an Australian VA study that found its Vietnam War Blue Water Vets had been exposed to Agent Orange when the herbicide was found in Distilled seawater the sailors used on board.

A 2011 U.S. Institute of Medicine study did find higher rate of non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma - one of 14 conditions VA presumes to have been caused by Agent Orange exposure - in U.S. Blue Water Vets. However, researchers could not determine if it was caused by exposure to the herbicide. VFW Res 619 passed last July and supports extending presumptive service conditions to veterans suffering from toxic eposure.

2015 Wilhoite Association Minutes, Mobile, Alabama

- * Meeting was called to order by President Bill West (Doc) at 1603.
- * Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Doc.
- * Bill Endter moved and Bill Owens seconded the minutes be accepted with corrections..... passed.
- * A letter from the USS Slater Fund was sent to the Association thanking us for the Jack Gannon (Camp Mattatuck Volunteers) and Roy Camp Memorial.
- * A donation of \$100 was made to the DEHN (Destroyer Escort Historical Museum)
- * New officers were elected for the upcoming two year term.
 - President Tom Morrissey
 - Vice President Lee Robinson
 - Treasurer Frank Roche
 - Secretary Liz Kimball
- * Reunion for 2016 will be in New Orleans information has been sent with costs and Lodging.
- * 2017 Reunion will be in Dayton, Ohio planning has already started.
- * 2018 Reunion may be in Oahu. This is merely a suggestion and is only being brought up to see if the interest is there. So start thinking about it.
- * Treasurers Report: As of January 2014, balance of \$3,749.48
As of December 3, 2014 blance of \$4,046.45
- * Treasurers report was moved for approval by Gene Strickland and seconded by Gary Fredrickson. Motion passed.
- * The next section of the meeting was for changing the Wilhoite Association by laws and updating.
- * Article 1 Section 1 was changed to read: this organization shall be known as USS Wilhoite DER 397 Association. Moved by Lee Robinson and Seconded by Frank Roche. Passed.
- * Section 2 changed to read: This organization shall be independent of any other DE Association. Moved by Gary Fredrickson, Seconded by Frank Roche. Passed.
- * Article II Section 1 was changed to have female stricken the from the text. It now reads "To provide fellowship for shipmates, their wives or companions, at annual reunions. Moved by Tom Morrissey and seconded by Lee Robinson...passed.
- * Meeting adjourned at 1741.
Tom Morrissey - 2015 Secretary - USS Wilhoite DE/DER 397 Association

GO NAVY.....BY PAM RINGEL

This is just a few of the ones that she sent.

- * Then officers were professional sailors first. They commanded respect.
Now - Our top officers are politicians first. They beg not to be given a Wedgie.
- * Then - They collected enemy intelligence and analyzed it.
Now - They collect our pee and analyze it.
- * Then - If you didn't act right, they'd put you on extra duty until you straightened up.
Now - If you don't act right, they start a paper trail that follows you forever.
- * Then - Medals were awarded to heroes who saved lives at the risk of their own.
Now - Medals are awarded to people who show up for work most of the time.
- * Then - You slept in a barracks, like a soldier.
Now - You sleep in a dormitory, like a college kid.
- * Then - You ate in a Mess Hall or Galley. It was free and you could have all the food you wanted.
Now - You eat in a Dining Facility. Every slice of bread or pat of butter costs, and you can only have one.
- * Then - If you wanted to relax, you went to the Rec Center, played pool, smoked and drank beer.
Now - You go to the Community Center and can still play pool, maybe.
- * Then - If you wanted a quarter beer and conversation, you could go to the Chief's or Officers' Club.
Now - The beer will cost you three dollars and someone is watching to see how much you drink.

Elisabeth, March 1, 2016

I noticed your add for a reunion in the American Legion Magazine and wanted to send you a file. I have been sending it out to try and garner support for the Agent Orange Equity acts that have been introduced in the House and Senate. The attached file will show you how to contact your Representatives asking them to please co-sponsor this issue. It will only take a few minutes of your time and could impact the lives of many Veterans who served off the coast of Vietnam.

Hopefully, you are already involved in this very important issue. If not, I hope you will contact your representatives as well as forward the attached file to friends, relatives and co-workers asking for their support as well.

If you want to see the latest VA fiasco concerning our Vietnam Veterans, go to VNVETS.blogspot.com and read the article!

As of today, there are 304 co-sponsors for HR969 and 37 for S.681.

Thanks and good luck with your reunion.

Dennis L. Franklin

Vietnam Veteran 1965 – 1967

There is another partial article about this on page 3 of the newsletter.

VIETNAM VETERANS NEED OUR HELP!

There is a new bill that has been introduced that will help thousands of Vietnam Veterans in their fight for recognition to the exposure to Agent Orange. The House bill, H.R 969 and the Senate Version S.681 "The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015" has been presented and is currently under review. This bill is to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of the "Blue Water Navy" veterans who served in the **Territorial Waters of the Republic of Vietnam to Agent Orange.**

History: prior to 2002, any veteran who received the "Vietnam Service" medal was granted presumptive exposure to the 14 diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure. In 2002, the Veterans Administration changed the rules. It now required the veteran to have set foot on Vietnam soil or was on patrol on the inland waterways in order to qualify for presumptive exposure to the Agent Orange.

"

VIETNAM VETERANS NEED OUR HELP! (cont)

I am asking that you contact your Congressman and Senator asking for their support of this very important bill.

The process is pretty simple, just follow these steps:

On internet explorer, you need to type in, or click:<http://action.fra.org/action-center> this is for the Fleet Reserve Association "Action Center".

1. Scroll down until you find "Support Blue Water/Agent Orange Legislation, (H.R. 969/S.681)". Click on H.R. 969.
 - a. Scroll down and enter your zip code where it says "Take Action Now". Click on GO!
 - b. Scroll down and enter the requested information, i.e. Name and Sender Information
 - c. Confirm the box is checked that says "Remember Me". This will help you if you go back in at a later date for other updates.
 - d. Uncheck the box that says "Sign me up for the Action E-List."
 - e. Click Send Message.

This bill states "Blue Water Navy Veterans, but also encompasses Marines, Army, Coast Guard and Air Force personnel that were stationed aboard a Navy vessel in the Territorial waters of the Republic of Vietnam.

That's it! Thank you in advance for assisting our Veterans in getting this bill passed!

* When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty". ~ ~ Thomas Jefferson.

*"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." ~ ~ Abraham Lincoln



The Navy's newest Virginia-class attack submarine has a name: USS Utah.

The sub, SSN-801, is the last of a block of 10 ordered by the Navy in April 2014 from General Dynamics Electric Boat out of Groton, Connecticut, in a \$17.6 billion contract. That contract is the largest shipbuilding contract in Navy history, according to officials with Naval Sea Systems Command.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus presided over the naming of the Utah on Tuesday at a ceremony in Salt Lake City.

The Utah was named in honor of a state rich with Navy history, Mabus' staff said in a news release. That history includes Naval Supply Depot Clearfield, the world's largest naval supply center during World War II and an employer of some 8,000 civilians until its decommissioning in 1962.

The "801" designator also pays homage to the Utah's namesake, as 801 is the telephone area code for Salt Lake City.

The submarine is the second Navy vessel to bear the name Utah, following a battleship designated BB-31 that saw service in the Mexican Civil War and in World War I.

The Utah, which cost nearly \$2.7 billion to build, is scheduled for delivery to the fleet in 2023.

If you want to know more, go to military.com and scroll down until you find the USS Utah information.

HOW SMART IS YOUR RIGHT FOOT?

This is hysterical. You have to try this. It is absolutely true. I guess there are some things that the brain cannot handle.

You have to try this please, it takes 2 seconds. I could not believe this! It is from an orthopaedic surgeon..... This will confuse your mind and you will keep trying over and over again to see if you can outsmart your foot, but, you can't. It is pre-programmed in your brain!

1. While sitting at your desk in front of your computer, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.

2. Now, while doing this, draw the number '6' in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction..

I told you so! And there's nothing you can do about it! You and I both know how stupid it is, but before the day is done you are going to try it again, if you've not already done so.



Sweatshirts, Golf Shirts, and Caps



Cost of Golf shirt is \$20.00

Cost of Sweatshirt is \$18.00.

Color is Navy or White

Color is ash (Gray)

Sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

Sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

You can get Golf shirt with or without pockets.

You can order the following items from Bill West, 450 Old Furnace Rd, Tellico Plains, TN 37385 or call him at 423-261-2202 if you would like to have a Wilhoite shirt or ball cap. Ball Cap is \$10.00.

The mailing of anything will cost \$5.00. You need to send him a check for the shirt/cap plus \$5.00 for mailing. Be sure to tell him what size and color you want.

USS REAGAN

Seeing it next to the Arizona Memorial really puts its size into perspective...
ENORMOUS!



When the Bridge pipes 'Man the Rail' there is a lot of rail to man on this monster: shoulder to shoulder, around 4...5 acres. Her displacement is about 100,000 tons with full complement..

Capability

Top speed exceeds 30 knots, powered by two nuclear reactors that can operate for more than 20 years without refueling

1. Expected to operate in the fleet for about 50 years
2. Carries over 80 combat aircraft
3. Three arresting cables can stop a 28-ton aircraft going 150 miles per hour in less than 400 feet

Size

1. Towers 20 stories above the waterline
2. 1092 feet long; nearly as long as the Empire State Building is tall
- 3.. Flight deck covers 4.5 acres
4. 4 bronze propellers, each 21 feet across, weighing 66,200 pounds
5. 2 rudders, each 29 by 22 feet and weighing 50 tons

6. 4 high speed aircraft elevators, each over 4,000 square feet

Capacity

1. Home to about 6,000 Navy personnel
2. Carries enough food and supplies to operate for 90 days
3. 18,150 meals served daily
4. Distillation plants provide 400,000 gallons of fresh water from sea water daily, enough for 2,000 homes
5. Nearly 30,000 light fixtures and 1,325 miles of cable and wiring 1,400 telephones
6. 14,000 pillowcases and 28,000 sheets
7. Costs the Navy approximately \$250,000 per day for pier side operation
8. Costs the Navy approximately \$25 million per day for underway operations
Sailor's salaries included

FIVE RIDDLES

1. A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of raging fires, the second is full of assassins with loaded guns, and the third is full of lions that haven't eaten in 3 years. Which room is safest for him?
2. A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over 5 minutes. Finally, she hangs him, but 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy wonderful dinner together. How can this be?
3. What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and gray when you throw it away?
4. Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday?
5. This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious as to just how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so ordinary and plain that you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it. It is highly unusual though. Study it and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching.

Wojtek (Voytek) was a bear cub found in Iran in 1942 and adopted by soldiers of the 22nd Artillery Supply Company of the Polish II Corps.



Soldiers fed him with condensed milk from an emptied vodka bottle. The bear was subsequently fed with fruit, marmalade, honey and syrup, and was often rewarded with beer, which became his favourite drink. He also enjoyed smoking and eating cigarettes.



Over the long journey from Iran to Palestine, the bear quickly became the unofficial mascot of the 22nd company. The bear would sit around the campfire with the men, eating, drinking, and sleeping in tents with the rest of the soldiers.



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY IN WORLD WAR II



He enjoyed wrestling (obviously, no one had any chance with him) and was taught to salute when greeted. When the motorized convoy was on the move, Woytek sat in the passenger seat of one of the jeeps, hanging his head out of the window and shocking people walking on the street.



The problem, however, was that British High Command did not allow any pets or animals in their camp, so the Polish Army formally enlisted Woytek into their ranks. He was given the rank of Private (at the end of war, his rank was corporal), assigned a serial number, and from that point on he was included in all official unit rosters.



The Polish' Finest Hour of the war came in the battle for Monte Cassino. The campaign was proving to be one of the bloodiest battles of the Western Front, and the Poles were brought in to make the final push to capture the fortress. During the fighting, Woytek actually hand-carried boxes of ammunition, some weighing in at over 100 pounds, from supply tracks to artillery positions on the front lines.

ANSWERS TO FIVE RIDDLES

1. The third room. Lions that haven't eaten in three years are dead.
2. The woman was a photographer. She shot a picture of her husband, developed it, and hung it up to dry (shot, held under water and hung).
3. Charcoal, as it is used in barbecuing.
4. Sure you can name three consecutive days, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.
5. The letter E, which is the most common letter used in the English language, does not appear even once in the paragraph.



USS WASHINGTON

Tri-City Herald | Mar 02, 2016 | by Wendy Culvenvell

When Elisabeth Mabus steps on the podium Saturday to christen the USS Washington, she'll be armed with a basin of water from Puget Sound -- and a bottle of cheap California sparkling wine.

The USS Washington is the latest Virginia-class nuclear-powered fast attack submarine to come off the production line at Newport News, Va.. The \$1.2 billion boat has been under construction since 2011.

Organizers say they aren't intentionally dissing Washington's \$5 billion wine industry.

With a 10-figure price tag, it's safe to say the Navy and Newport News Shipbuilding don't need to cut corners on the ceremonial aspects of launching the new boat.

But in this case, the cheap stuff is the right stuff.

It's about optics, explained Christie Miller, the shipyard's manager of media relations.

If you want more information, on line military.com and scroll until USS Washington.

USS WASHINGTON (cont)

Cheap glass offers the best odds the bottle will break on contact and its contents will spray in a visually arresting fashion. That's so important that the shipbuilder, having found just the right brand for the job some years ago, won't reveal its name. It's proprietary, Miller joked apologetically.

"This particular wine bottle breaks easiest," she said.

Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries, laid the keel for the USS Washington in November 2014. As its sponsor, Elisabeth Mabus -- daughter of Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus -- chalked her initials onto a metal plate, which was then welded onto the boat. Her father gave the keynote speech for the occasion.

The USS Washington is the 14th in the Virginia-class line. It pays homage to the state and to the 35 Medal of Honor recipients dating to the Civil War who called Washington home.

All but two vessels are named to honor states.

The 377-foot submarine is capable of underwater speeds of up to 25 knots and can remain submerged for up to three months. It carries a crew of 14 officers and 120 sailors.

The Virginia line was designed for anti-submarine warfare and is a smaller, less expensive successor to the Seawolf-class submarine.

It has a dozen missile launch tubes and four torpedo tubes. It can launch 16 Tomahawk cruise missiles in a single salvo.