

# WEEPING WILLIE

## DE-DER 397

October, November, December 2016

# NEWSLETTER

Ahoy Shipmates and Wives:

For those that missed the reunion in New Orleans, I think it turned out really good. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fellowship and get-togethers.

The newsletter for July, August and September, I brought to reunion. For those that did not go to reunion, I have mailed to you. At reunion if you did not get one, let me know and I will send to you. Everyone should be getting this one.

At the business meeting it was discussed about raising the dues to \$25.00. We have not raised the dues in several years. The 2017 dues are due now (\$25.00) and I have listed the ones that have already paid on the inside of this page. Your dues helps us keep the Wilhoite newsletter going (even if is late sometimes) and anything that else that also comes up that needs to be taken care of. Frank does a great job of keeping us up to date on everything. For those that have already paid, yours will stand as is.

Liz



**Listed below are our Association Officers.**

**If you need information, please feel free to contact one of them.**

President: Tom Morrissey  
Address: 3240 South 76th  
Lincoln, NE 68506  
Phone:402-483-6889  
Email: tommorri2010@hotmail.com

Vice President: Lee Robinson  
2382 County Rd 207  
Brookeland, TX 75931-5202  
Phone:409-698-9332/409-656-6063  
Email: bjr3645@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Frank Roche  
Address: 411 Miller Street  
Luzerne, PA 18709  
Phone:570-287-3992/690-3566  
Email:frank3971033@verizon.net

Secretary: Elisabeth Kimball  
1205 W Olrich Street  
Rogers, AR 72756  
Phone: 479-280-2776  
Email: sailingaway1987@gmail.com

Chaplain: John Caldwell  
Address: 610 Saddle Ridge Ave  
Durham, NC 27704-1237  
Phone: 919-471-4513  
Email: bcaldwell@nc.rr.com

Historian: Bill Endter  
Address: 109 Larkspur Lane  
Locust Grove, VA 22508  
Phone: 703-323-8297  
Email: eendter@cox.net

**DUES PAID-2017**

Gene Aittala  
Mike Alcorn  
Carolyn Aument  
Ed Compton  
John Dutchuk  
Bill Endter  
Ronald Ercek  
Steve Gergens  
Eugyne Hawes  
Leroy Long  
Peter McKallagat  
Obie Murphy  
Tom West  
Leonard Wiseman



We just found out that Darlene Cagle, wife of Dick Cagle(a long time member of our Association) has passed away around the middle of October, 2016. If you would like to send a card, send to the following:

The Cagle Family  
1747 Rost St. # 8  
La Crosse, WI 54601-2189

We have lost another friend of Bob Gray and The USS Wilhoite Association. Stan Satterfield passed away this November. If you would like to send a card to Bob Gray, send to the following:

Bob Gray  
3551 Valley Rd  
Meridian MS 39307

The USS Wilhoite Association sends out their condolences to these families.

If you know of anyone that is sick or have passed on, please let me know I will send a card.

\*\*\*\*\*

**As one of our great presidents said.**

**"I believe with all my heart that standing up for America means standing up for the God who has so blessed our land. We need God's help to guide our nation through stormy seas. But we can't expect Him to protect America in a crisis if we just leave Him over on the shelf in our day-to-day living."  
Ronald Reagan**

## **With Thanksgiving coming up the USS Wilhoite Association would like to wish each and every one a very HAPPY THANKSGIVING.**

Our modern, national celebration of Thanksgiving can be attributed to the efforts of Sarah Josepha Hale, a woman who became a widow in her 30's and wore black the rest of her life to outwardly demonstrate the loss she continued to mourn. I think that is a good place to start with a review of what it really means to have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Hale grew up in New England, where an annual festival of thanksgiving was regionally celebrated. This tradition followed in the lead of the Pilgrim Fathers and Founding Fathers. We know about the feast of 1621. Fewer may be aware that presidents Washington, Adams and Madison all designated days of thanksgiving for the new nation, but it lacked permanence and such declarations were at the whim of the office-holder. For the most part, the idea of setting aside a day every year to thank God for the bounty and blessing He provided remained a practice of the northern states.

Following the death of her husband, Ms. Hale became a very influential voice in American 19th century life as the editor of Godey's Lady's Book. It was with this platform that she began her personal crusade to see Thanksgiving become a nationally-recognized celebration. It took many years and Ms. Hale engaged a number of presidents before her entreaty to President Lincoln two months after the Battle Gettysburg achieved a result. In the midst of a bloody war and six days after Ms. Hale wrote to him, President Lincoln encouraged all U.S. citizens to set aside the last Thursday in November...as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens." Our day of thanksgiving was born in our nation's darkest hours and was championed by a woman who suffered a tragic loss, and President Johnson followed Lincoln and continued the annual practice. Congress ultimately designated Thanksgiving as a national holiday in 1870, and in 1941 set the official date of Thanksgiving as the fourth Thursday of November.

Thanksgiving allows us to take time to stop and appreciate the acts of divine providence in our lives. There should certainly be joyful celebration - the Pilgrim's feast lasted three days - but I encourage all Americans to make it about more than just turkey, football and Black Friday shopping. Remember the genesis of this day and those who celebrated it before. Happiness for them was demonstrated with an attitude of gratitude. As your family gives thanks to God for the blessings He has given us, I encourage you and yours to do the same. **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



## GOD BLESS OUR PRECIOUS HEROES.

### Van T Barfoot died...

Remember the guy who wouldn't take the flag pole down on his Virginia property awhile back?

You might remember the news story several months ago about a crotchety old man in Virginia who defied his local Homeowners Association, and refused to take down the flag pole on his property along with the large American flag he flew on it. Now we learn who that old man was.

On June 15, 1919, Van T. Barfoot was born in Edinburg, Texas. That probably didn't make news back then. But twenty-five years later, on May 23, 1944, near Carano, Italy, that same Van T. Barfoot, who had in 1940 enlisted in the U.S. Army, set out alone to flank German machine gun positions from which gunfire was raining down on his fellow soldiers. His advance took him through a minefield but having done so, he proceeded to single-handedly take out three enemy machine gun positions, returning with 17 prisoners of war.



And if that wasn't enough for a day's work, he later took on and destroyed three German tanks sent to retake the machine gun positions.

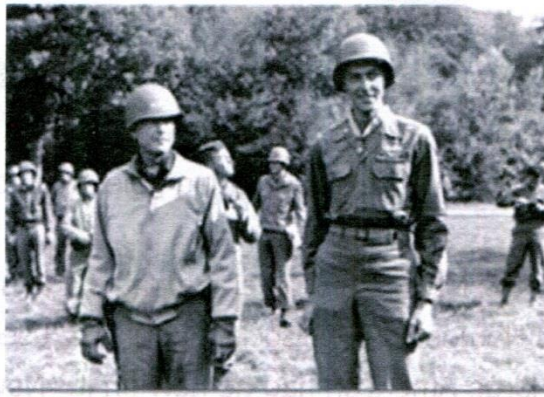


That probably didn't make much news either, given the scope of the war, but it did earn Van T. Barfoot, who retired as a Colonel, after also serving in Korea and Vietnam, a well deserved Congressional Medal of Honor.



Sergeant Van Barfoot, later promoted to second lieutenant, earned the Medal of Honor while serving with L Company, 157th Infantry Regiment. (Courtesy of 45th Infantry Division Archives)

from "The Book of Heroes" with permission of Eason Wallstone



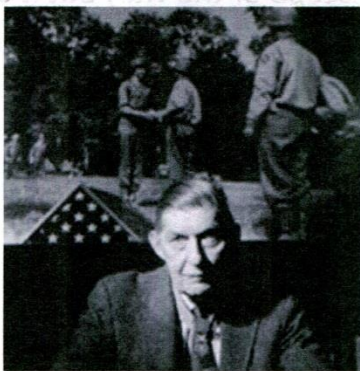
What did make news...Was his Neighborhood Association's quibble with how the 90-year-old veteran chose to fly the American flag outside his suburban Virginia home. Seems the HOA rules said it was OK to fly a flag on a house-mounted bracket, but, for decorum, items such as Barfoot's 21-foot flag pole was "unsuitable".

Van Barfoot had been denied a permit for the pole, but erected it anyway and was facing court action unless he agreed to take it down.



Then the HOA story made national TV, and the Neighborhood Association re-thought its position and agreed to indulge this aging hero who dwelt among them.

"In the time I have left", he said to the Associated Press, "I plan to continue to fly the American flag without interference." As well he should. And if any of his neighbors had taken a notion to contest him further, they might have done well to read his Medal of Honor citation first. Seems it indicates Mr. Van Barfoot wasn't particularly good at backing down.



**WE ONLY LIVE IN THE LAND OF THE FREE BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE! AND, BECAUSE OF MEN & WOMEN LIKE VAN BARFOOT!**



U.S.S. WILHOITE DE/der 397

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 12/31/2015

BALANCE AS OF 12/31/2014

\$ 4,046.76

DEPOSITS

2015 Contributions	\$ 975.00	
Reunion	7,691.00	
Hats	30.00	
50-50	105.00	
TOTAL	\$8,801.00	
		<u>+8,801.00</u>
		\$12,847.76

EXPENSES

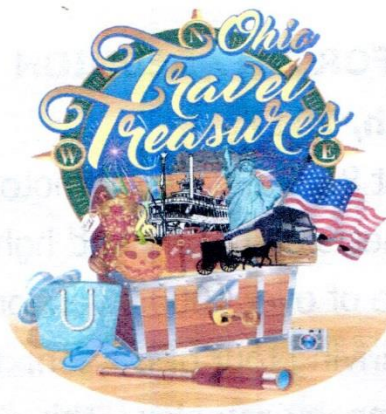
Web Hosting	\$ 199.95	
Memorials (Camp, Gannon)	100.00	
Reunion T-Shirts	267.00	
Color Guard	100.00	
Misc Expenses (Beer, soda, etc)	185.75	
Bank Fees	36.00	
Newsletters	900.26	
Hats	54.62	
Bay City Tours	6,983.00	
Holiday Inn--Mobile	979.88	
Reunion Refunds	560.00	
TOTAL	\$10,366.46	<u>- 10,366.46</u>

balance as of 12/31/2015

\$ 2,481.30

FRANK ROCHE      TREASURER

*Frank Roche*



**AGENDA FOR 2017 REUNION IN DAYTON, OH**  
**OCTOBER 2ND THROUGH 5TH, 2017**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 2ND**

After checking in – register at the hospitality room enjoy meeting and greeting shipmates and at 6:00 p.m. enjoy a Complimentary reception. Remember to bring something from your state. It does not have to be expensive. We will have drawings at our banquet.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3RD**

**Signifies Walking Required**



**8:45 a.m.** Plan on boarding bus for the History of Flight at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

Departure with tour guide sharing history and highlights en route to Air Force Museum.

9:30 a.m. - Arrive at the Museum the largest of its type in the world. This newly enlarged facility traces the history of flight from early ballooning to space travel. The museum features more than 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles and thousands of artifacts amid more than 19 acres of indoor exhibit space. There is also an IMAX theater, cafeteria and large gift shop. Lunch on your own at the cafeteria. Be sure you have a photo ID or driver's license

2:00 p.m. Departure back to hotel.

**7:00 p.m. Memorial Service in Hospitality room.**



## **AGENDA FOR 2017 REUNION (cont)**

### **Wednesday - October 4th, 2017**

Please be in front of hotel at 8:45 a.m. Load motor coach at 9:00 a.m. Your guide will enlighten guests on history and highlights throughout the Dayton area. The birthplace of over 1000 inventions.

9:30 a.m. - Departure for driving tour of Dayton. Some of the places of visits is the Wright cycle company complex. This structure also represents the site where Orville and Wilbur Wright first became actively interested in the idea of flying. Next stop at the Korean Memorial... This site was dedicated in memorial to Korean War Veterans.

11:30 a.m. Departure for lunch at the Engineers Club...after lunch we will visit Esther Price and inside the distinctive gold box tied with red ribbons are chocolates celebrated for their high-quality ingredients and unsurpassed taste. Watch the video on how they make these delicious treats and then taste test.

2:30 Depart and return to the hotel.

**Business Meeting at 4:00 p.m.**

### **Thursday - October 5th.....Free Day**

**Pictures at 5:30 p.m. and Banquet at 6:30 a.m.**

**(Be sure to bring something from your state.)**

**Entertainment and drawings.**

**God Bless each and everyone and God Bless America!**

**Wishing you all safe travels!!!**

**See you in Arizona in 2018!**

**USS WILHOITE  
DAYTON, OHIO  
OCTOBER 2 THROUGH OCTOBER 5, 2017**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City St Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_

.....

Host Hotel           The Crown Plaza Dayton  
                          33 East Fifth Street  
                          Dayton, Ohio 45402  
                          Telephone Number: 800-689-5586  
                          Be sure to tell them you are with USS Wilhoite Reunion  
                          Rate will be \$109.00 per night

Reunion Activity Package will be \$170.00  
Number that will be attending: \_\_\_\_\_

A deposit of \$100.00 per person will be due May 1, 2017  
Final will be due on September 15, 2017

Make checks payable to USS Wilhoite  
                          Mail to USS Wilhoite  
                                  % Frank Roche  
                                  411 Miller Street  
                                  Luzerne, PA 18709

Questions, please call Elisabeth Kimball at 479-280-2776 or email me at:  
[sailingaway1987@gmail.com](mailto:sailingaway1987@gmail.com).

**SEE YOU IN DAYTON, OHIO.....SMOOTH SAILING**

You will find the itinerary on website: [www.usswilhoite.org](http://www.usswilhoite.org)



## **INTEREST IN GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Here's food for thought. You know Gary Fredericksen passed away in February. He was very active in 'Connections' an area agency on aging in Council Bluffs, IA. September of 2016 was the first annual Gary Fredericksen Memorial Golf Tournament. Tom and Addie Morrissey went. It was a nice event. We didn't golf, but did enjoy the day. Anyway, this got her to thinking. We've kept in touch with Geri. I know there are golfers in the Wilhoite Association. Addie has sent notes to several shipmates about the tournament.

The tournament will probably held in September at the Bent Tree Gold Club in Council Bluffs. Breakfast and lunch are provided. There is a 'snacky' meal after golfing. There was a silent auction. I'm not sure what the entry fee is. It's a Shotgun Start and the teams of four use the best ball format.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **TRIVIA QUESTIONS (Answers elsewhere)**

Where was Annie Moore, the first immigrant processed at Ellis Island in 1892 from?

- 1) Ireland    2) Germany    3) Russia    4) Poland

In the Bible John The Baptist lived on wild honey and what?

What kind of wood was Noah's Ark made from?

What year did the Dow Jones Industrial Average break both the 4000 and 5000 marks?

# Minutes of our Business meeting

September 16, 2016

New Orleans, Louisiana

Those in attendance were the following: Doc West, John Mauldin, Ray Rott, Steve Gergens, Thom West, Lee Robinson, Art Pohl, Tom Morrissey, Frank Roche, Bill Owens, David Payson, Pete Silhan and Mike Alcorn.

The meeting was brought to order by President Tom Morrissey.

Minutes from 2015 was read by Elisabeth Kimball. They were accepted as read.

Treasurer report was given by Frank Roche. They were accepted as read.

Old Business: Report was given on the Dayton, Ohio activities. It will be posted on website when finished. Discussed the Oahu, Hawaii trip and decided not to pursue. It was decided on Arizona for 2018. Connie Mauldin will be in charge. It was also discussed on having hosting again and I'm not sure what was decided on this.

New Business: Talked about our By-Laws again and was decided to raise dues to \$25.00. We have not raised them for several years. Also suggested that we have a poster board posted at registration desk with names, phone numbers and email addresses. There was another name that was not on our deceased list and needs to be added. It was Jim Yeaney.

Adjourned at 10:30

Elisabeth Kimball

Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

## Answers to Questions

- 1. When EllisIsland officially opened on January, 1, 1892 the first passenger processed through the new world-famous immigration station was an Irish girl Named Annie Moore. The 17-year old was traveling with her two younger brothers, Anthony and Phillip on the S.S. Nevada. The ship departed from Ireland on December 20,1891.**
- 2. John the Baptist lived on wild honey and Locusts**
- 3. Noah Ark used Gopher Wood**
- 4.1995**



## **A Sailor's Christmas**

**Twas the night before Christmas, the ship was out steaming,  
Sailors stood watch while others were dreaming.  
They lived in a crowd with racks tight and small,  
In a 80-man berthing, cramped one and all.**

**I had come down the stack with presents to give,  
And to see inside just who might perhaps live,  
I looked all about, a strange sight did I see,  
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.**

**No stockings were hung, shined boots close at hand,  
On the bulkhead hung pictures of a far distant land.  
They had medals and badges and awards of all kind,  
And a sober thought came into my mind.**

**For this place was different, so dark and dreary,  
I found the house of a Sailor, once I saw clearly.  
A Sailor lay sleeping, silent and alone,  
Curled up in a rack and dreaming of home.**

**The face was so gentle, the room squared away,  
This was the United States Sailor today.  
This was the hero I saw on TV,  
Defending our country so we could be free.**

**I realized the families that I would visit this night,  
Owed their lives to these Sailors lay willing to fight.  
Soon round the world, the children would play,  
And grownups would celebrate on Christmas Day.**

**They all enjoyed freedom each day of the year,  
Because of the Sailor, like the one lying here.  
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,  
On a cold Christmas Eve on a sea, far from home.**

**(cont on next page)**



## **A Sailor's Christmas (cont)**

The very thought brought a tear to my eye,  
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.  
The Sailor awakened and I heard a calm voice,  
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice."

"Defending the seas all days of the year,  
So others may live and be free with no fear."  
I thought for a moment, what a difficult road,  
To live a life guided by honor and code.

After all it's Christmas Eve and the ship's underway!  
But freedom isn't free and it's sailors who pay.  
The Sailor say's to our country "be free and sleep tight,  
No harm will come, not on my watch and not on this night."

The Sailor rolled over and drifted to sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.  
I kept watch for hours, so silent, so still,  
I watched as the Sailor shivered from the night's cold chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold dark night,  
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.  
The Sailor rolled over and with a voice strong and sure.  
Commanded, "Carry on Santa, It's Christmas, and All is Secure!"

**HONOR, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT**

**THANKS TO ALL YOU VETERANS FOR PRESERVING OUR  
FREEDOM**

**THE USS WILHOITE ASSOCIATION WISHES TO YOU ALL A  
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**AND**

**A VERY HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR IN 2017**

**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR**

