



Est. 2002



**Dave Bader** – President  
**Bob Slovey** – Secretary  
**Rick Erisman** – Historian

Website: [www.tbone1156.com](http://www.tbone1156.com)

## NEWSLETTER

Issue # 105

An 1156 Communications Publication

April-May-June 2019



### *Navy Blue Angels 2019 Schedule*



This year, the Navy Blue Angels have 35 confirmed shows on their schedule, in conjunction with Navy Week.

They began the season March 16 at Naval Air Facility El Centro, Calif., and will end with the traditional homecoming in Pensacola, Fla., on November 8-9.

#### **April**

6 · 7 Lakeland, Fla. | Sun 'n Fun Air Show  
13 · 14 NAS Corpus Christi, Texas | Wings Over South Texas  
27 · 28 MCAS Beaufort, S.C. | MCAS Beaufort Air Show

#### **May**

4 · 5 Fort Lauderdale, Fla. | Ford Lauderdale Air Show  
11 · 12 Joint Base Andrews, Md. | Joint Base Andrews Air Show  
18 · 19 Cape Girardeau, Mo. | Cape Girardeau Regional Air Festival  
22 Annapolis, Md. | U.S. Naval Academy Air Show  
25 · 26 Scranton, Pa. | Northeastern Pennsylvania Airshow

#### **June**

1 · 2 Oklahoma City, Okla. | Star Spangled Salute Air Show

8 · 9 Smyrna, Tenn. | Great Tennessee Air Show

15 · 16 Ocean City, Md. | OC Air Show

29 · 30 | Davenport, Iowa | Quad City Air Show

#### **July**

6 · 7 Kansas City, Mo. | KC Downtown Air Show

13 Pensacola Beach, Fla. | Pensacola Beach Air Show

20 · 21 Duluth, Minn. | Duluth Air and Aviation Expo

27 · 28 Grand Junction, Colo. | Grand Junction Air Show

#### **August**

3 · 4 Seattle, Wash. | Boeing Seafair Air Show

17 · 18 Chicago, Ill. | Chicago Air and Water Show

24 · 25 New Windsor, N.Y. | New York Air Show

31 Greenwood, Nova Scotia, Canada | Air Show Atlantic

#### **September**

1 Greenwood, Nova Scotia, Canada | Air Show Atlantic

7 · 8 Chesterfield, Mo. | Spirit of St. Louis Air Show

21 · 22 NAS Lemoore, Calif. | Central Valley Air Show

28 · 29 MCAS Miramar, Calif. | MCAS Miramar Air Show

#### **October**

5 · 6 Sacramento, CA | California Capital Air Show

12 · 13 San Francisco, Calif. | San Francisco Fleet Week

19 · 20 Fort Worth, Texas | Fort Worth Alliance Air Show

26 · 27 Jacksonville Beach, Fla. | Jacksonville Sea and Sky Air Show

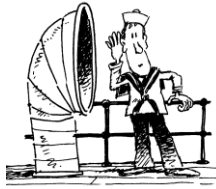
#### **November**

2 · 3 Moody AFB, Ga. | Thunder over South Georgia

8 · 9 NAS Pensacola, Fla. | Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show

SOURCE: Navy Office of Information

# T-BONE TALK



By **John "Bill" McCartney, LT(jg),**  
Supply/Disbursing Officer (6/61-6/63),  
LCDR, (SC) USN (Ret.)

*Charleston, S.C.*

Greetings from Charleston. Still kicking around for an 88-year-old – a little slower though. Frances and I both turned 88 in 2018 and we celebrated our 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary this past September.

Not too much activity for these aching bones but we are so fortunate to have 12 of our great-grandchildren here in Charleston. Also, two live in Savannah and two are in Myrtle Beach. We got to see all of them this past Christmas. All growing up so fast – range in age is from 18 years down to one year.

Always enjoy the Newsletter and look forward to it. Sorry we haven't been able to attend the reunions, but you understand. Enjoy reading articles on **Gary Augustine**. I can remember our Med cruise in 1962 – Gary and I walked a thousand miles in the ports we hit. Enjoyed the "cruise"!

Your reunion in Providence, Rhode Island should be nice in 2020. My thoughts (if I am still around) will be with you and wish I could make it.

Hope you have a great 2019 – our best wishes to the "crew".

## *14<sup>th</sup> LST 1156 Reunion*



**July 29- August 2, 2020 Providence, R.I.**



**CHARLESTON, S.C. (March 2, 2019)**

The crew of the Navy's newest littoral combat ship, USS Charleston (LCS 18), brings the ship to life during its commissioning ceremony. LCS 18 is the sixteenth littoral combat ship to enter the fleet and the ninth of the Independence variant. It is the sixth ship named for Charleston, the oldest and largest city in the U.S. state of South Carolina.

### *Fiscal Year 2020*

***'Recruit, Retain, Reclaim!'***



**FY '20 (6/1/2019 - 5/31/2020)**  
**Annual Dues (\$25.00)**

***Send to:***

**Dave Bader  
102 St. Andre  
Worthington, OH 43085**

**Checks payable to:**

**USS Terrebonne Parish (LST 1156)  
Association**



**Est. 2002**



## What? Huh?



By **Heather Vaught, Au.D., F-AAA**  
*Doctor of Audiology*

*Delaware, Ohio*

Do you have to ask your family and friends to repeat themselves? Do you listen to the television at a louder volume than your loved ones?

Do you find yourself withdrawing from social events because you can't hear what is going on? You are not alone. Approximately 38 million Americans have a significant degree of hearing loss.

The first step to better hearing is to formally evaluate the problems that you are having. The best route for this is through an audiologist.

Audiologists are the primary healthcare providers who diagnose and treat disorders related to hearing and balance. The appointment will last approximately one hour and will include several types of evaluations.

The audiologist will test your ability to detect sound, your brain's ability to interpret sound, and the overall function of your ear (checking that the parts move and work the way they should). Some will also evaluate your ability to understand speech in noise or take extra measures if you have tinnitus (ringing in the ears).

Once you have measured your hearing loss then you can discuss with the audiologist what an appropriate solution might be for you. Some patients may want to take a "wait and see" approach while others will be ready to adopt technology right away.

It takes the average patient seven to ten years to act on their hearing loss once they notice something is wrong. Would you wait that long if it was any other sense that you were missing out on?

To find your closest audiologist, check your state's academy of audiology or visit [www.HowsYourHearing.org](http://www.HowsYourHearing.org).

*Dr. Heather Vaught is affiliated with Ascent Audiology & Hearing, Delaware, Ohio. She received her Au. D. from Ohio State University. Dr. Vaught's professional interests include diagnostics (including electrophysiology), hearing aids, assistive listening devices, and aural rehabilitation. She works on weekends at rotating hospitals on the newborn hearing screening team.*



### ATLANTIC OCEAN

**Deck Force Sailor fires an M500 shotgun as Gunner's Mate Seaman observes during a live-fire exercise on the flight deck of the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) during the Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 4 composite training unit exercise (COMPTUEX). COMPTUEX is the final pre-deployment exercise that certifies the combined Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group's and 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit's abilities to conduct military operations at sea and project power ashore through joint planning and execution of realistic training scenarios.**

### Worth Repeating

*"Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently."*

-- Dr. **Maya Angelou**, poet, educator, historian, and best-selling author.



## An Early Look at Clemson's Freshman Class



Hartsville, S.C.

**David Mackenzie "Mac" Cranford**, grandson of shipmate **Gene "Cranny" Cranford**, BM3, ('68-'71), has received a preferred walk on scholarship to play football with Clemson University this fall.

In high school Mac played center and offensive tackle at Hartsville High School.

The Red Foxes, a perennial power in high school football, won their fourth consecutive region championship last year. Mac was an offensive star on the team during his high school years.

Last year, Mac attended a spring football camp at Clemson and was approached by Clemson University Head Coach **Dabo Swinney** and Offensive Line Coach **Robbie Caldwell** and offered him one of seven preferred walk on positions for 2019.



Mac had his first official visit at Clemson in January where he and his family were invited to Clemson's campus to meet with all the coaches and staff and tour the football facilities followed by supper at Dabo's home. The following day Mac had a photo shoot at Clemson's Football Facilities where this photo with

Coach Swinney was taken.

BM3 "Cranny" said "Maxine and I are proud of Mac's achievements and we are excited about the opportunity for him to attend Clemson and to be able to play Division 1 level football in the ACC. We are a very proud 'Papa' and 'Gan'. Go Tigers!"

Clemson has won two of the past three national titles, and the Tigers will likely be the favorites to win it all again in 2019, when Mac enters the program.



PACIFIC OCEAN (Feb. 21, 2019)

**Boatswain's Mate directs a Japan Self-Defense Force amphibious assault vehicle in the well deck of the amphibious transport dock ship USS Somerset (LPD 25) during Exercise Iron Fist 2019. Exercise Iron Fist is an annual, multilateral training exercise where U.S. and Japanese service members train together, share techniques, tactics and procedures to improve their combine operational capabilities.**

### Worth Repeating

- *Wake up with a feeling of hope in the morning;*
- *Work hard during the day; and*
- *Sleep with gratitude at night.*

- **Yasuyuki Uruma**, CEO  
Elliott Group  
Jeannette, Pa.

# The Remarkable Raymond Brackett



**Lt. Cmdr. Raymond Brackett**



Submitted by LT(jg) **Don Howell** ('67-'69)

*Bohannon, Va.*

In retirement, former U.S. Ambassador **Michael B. Smith** spends his Mondays – “1 to 5 in the afternoon, my tour of duty” – prowling Preble Hall, the U.S. Naval Academy Museum in Annapolis, Md. There, he offers visitors his perspective on the branch of service whose history is anchored in the Massachusetts town where his grandfather, **Raymond Osgood Brackett**, made a name for himself as a World War I veteran, business leader, community builder, coach and member of The American Legion’s founding generation.

Smith never met his grandfather, but he knows his legacy through journals and news clippings. “He was an extremely intelligent man – a jack-of-all-trades who could do anything.”

Brackett’s story is inextricably woven into the fabric of the early Navy and Marblehead, Mass., where Revolutionary War patriots set sail for independence in 1775 as a “militia of fishing ships,” Smith says.

An accomplished sailor in a town full of mariners, Brackett entered World War I as a Navy reservist and quickly rose from lieutenant to lieutenant commander. He commanded USS *Lakeview*, a converted freighter transformed into a minelayer that also hauled cargo and troops to and from England, Scotland and France.

Brackett was in France in 1919 after the armistice and may have attended the Paris Caucus when The American Legion was formed that March, Smith says. “He was probably the only one there who spoke fluent French.”

When Brackett returned from Europe for the final time after the war, he ceremonially steamed *Lakeview* into Marblehead Harbor so his father could see his ship, the largest vessel to cruise into the inlet since *Constitution* took refuge from the British in the War of 1812.

After discharge, Brackett and his friends founded American Legion Post 32 in Marblehead, which still exists today.

In 1921, Brackett was elected as one of five national American Legion commanders

Whether by design or not, Brackett was a perfect fit for his role in the two-year-old American Legion. Following the national convention in 1921, France’s Marshal Ferdinand Foch – commander of Allied forces in the war – joined other world leaders by dedicating the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, Va., before setting off on a cross-country trip to see and thank the nation that had sent its sons and daughters to fight in France.

“It was essentially a victory tour,” Smith says. The French-fluent Brackett served as a translator and official photographer for the American Legion-led journey.

Smith cherishes the scrapbook of photos that has been handed down to him from his grandfather. In it, Foch, Brackett and others are seen traveling the country by rail, through Pittsburgh, Chicago, St. Paul, Minn., and Spokane, Wash. – stopping along the way to greet Indian chiefs, loggers in Idaho and to simply walk the tracks.

The tour passed through Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, the rim of the Grand Canyon and New Orleans before the French leader returned home.

After the trip, Foch gave Brackett a monogrammed cigarette case, which Smith keeps among his grandfather’s effects, including handwritten journals detailing his trans-Atlantic wartime voyages.

“They are very explicit,” Smith says. “Each entry always has the longitude and latitude.”

SOURCE: The American Legion Magazine

*Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brackett, decorated for war service by the governments of France and Belgium, was a founding member of The American Legion.*



*For Your Health*

## Food Trends to Watch



By **Beverlee Keels**, CMA (AAMA),  
Associate Member



*Columbus, Ohio*

It's time to usher in the latest food trends that are hitting restaurants and grocery store shelves. With more of us paying attention to the environment *and* our health, food manufacturers are responding by offering more innovative, plant-forward foods that are better for people and the planet. Get ready for seaweed, algae, fungi and other plant-based edibles that will delight your taste buds this year.

Here's a sneak peek at the healthy trendsetters:

### Seaweed

Tired of kale? Seaweed is here to help ... and dazzle your palate with rich flavors and nutrients. Seaweed is low in calories and fat and provides several essential nutrients including vitamins A and C, B vitamins, fiber, iron, iodine, zinc and magnesium. A fixture in Asian cuisine for centuries, seaweed has been growing in popularity in the U.S. and is now poised to be the next trendy superfood. In fact, some estimates project that seaweed will surpass kale-based snacks in 2017.

Wondering how to infuse seaweed into your diet? This year ditch the greasy potato chips and opt instead for a tasty seaweed snack. Annie Chun's Organic Roasted Nori Snacks have 25 to 30 calories per serving compared to 150 to 160 calories in most fried chips.

### Blended Burgers

A good burger is always on trend, but with more emphasis on healthier, sustainable eating, top chefs are reinventing the burger to be eco-friendlier ... and delicious!

The **James Beard** Foundation's Blended Burger Project calls for chefs across the country to blend at least 25% fresh chopped mushrooms into a burger patty.

Blended burgers combine finely chopped mushrooms with meat, creating a burger that's tastier, healthier, and more sustainable than all-meat burgers.

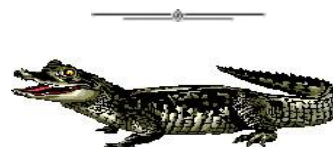
So far, the blended burger has been adopted by some of nation's most creative and adventurous chefs and the food service industry. In addition to restaurants, many leading universities and public schools offer blended burgers on their menus too.

### Pasta

After years of slipping sales during the height of the low-carb craze, pasta is back on the plate in 2017 – and it's better than ever. Based on Google data search trends, more consumers are buying, preparing, or ordering pasta in all its forms, including rigatoni, tortellini, penne, fusilli, and linguine.

Pasta can be a healthy and earth-friendly choice because it's a key component of the Mediterranean diet, which is considered the gold standard for healthy eating, and it has a small environmental footprint. Since pasta is made from semolina, a protein-packed wheat variety, a 200-calorie cup of cooked pasta has 6 grams of protein and a low glycemic index to help keep you fuller, longer.

Associate Member, **Beverlee Keels** is a Certified Medical Assistant, at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, Ohio. She is a member of the American Association of Medical Assistants.





# A T-Bone Mystery on Display at Houma RMM



By **Mart Black**, Associate Member, AICP, TPCG  
Director, Coastal Restoration & Preservation

*Houma, La.*

It has long been said that the Regional Military Museum is a “work in progress.” This has been repeated to every visitor by our docents during museum tours. This “work in progress” aspect has been seen in our two expansions to date and the work currently underway on our second-floor library and third floor space.

In addition, our curator, Ms. **Jane Thomas**, and her staff which sometimes includes interns from the History Department at Nicholls State University, work diligently to make the RMM relevant, interesting and worthy of a return visit. Hence, new exhibits are added from time to time and current ones are refreshed to achieve these objectives.



The T-Bone’s exhibit at the RMM was recently enhanced with information provided by Shipmate, **Thomas “Monty” Billings, Jr., LT(jg)**, Engineering Officer, *USS Terrebonne Parish* 1967-70, regarding the LST 1156 original brass Commissioning Plaque and the Quarterdeck Bell which were both donated to the RMM by Monty. How he came to be in possession of these artifacts has been “lost to history.” Nevertheless, he did provide additional information about them which

secures their provenance as genuine artifacts from the *USS Terrebonne Parish*.

During an inspection of voids within the T-Bone during an annual inspection, the plaque was discovered in such a void. Due to the excessive amount of grime and oily residue covering the plaque, duly attested to by all present, it was decided that the plaque needed to be removed and given a thorough cleaning.

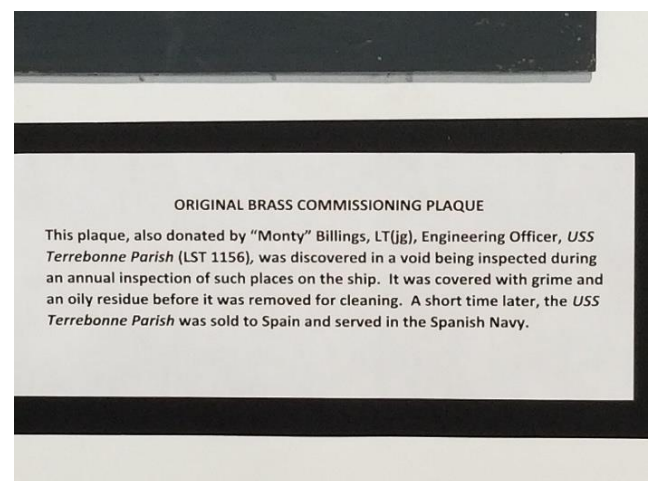
Shortly thereafter, the T-Bone was sold to Spain for service in the Spanish Navy, minus the Commissioning Plaque. Apparently, Spain had no need for it.

As often happened during the life of a naval vessel, it underwent overhaul. During such an overhaul of the *USS Terrebonne Parish* in the late 1960s in Norfolk the Quarterdeck Bell was found to need cleaning, having endured the hardships of weather at sea.

It was removed for sandblasting and painting and looked great when the job was finished. Someone, however, apparently forgot to return it to its location on the Quarterdeck. But such things might be easily overlooked during an overhaul.

Once again, through the generosity of one **Monty Billings**, the Quarterdeck Bell has been ensconced in the Regional Military Museum, replete with a lanyard woven courtesy of Shipmate **Gene “Cranny” Cranford, BM3**.

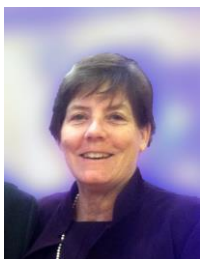
Small informational plaques (as shown below) have been added to the T-Bone exhibit in the RMM to provide this information to visitors. Many thanks to Monty and Cranny.



# Distance Support

*A World of Support at Your Fingertips*

## A New Season



By Rev. **Dorothy Fox**, Associate Member, Chaplain

*Flushing, N.Y.*

A new and glorious season is coming. Spring is coming and so too is Easter. Everyone looks forward to Spring. It is a time of new beginnings. It brings new life in colorful flowers blooming, new birth to animals, trees budding and a new freshness in the air.

### Song of Songs 2:11-12

*1. "The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the Earth, the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land".*

The days are longer, and we find ourselves feeling happy and hopeful. The dark, dank, drab days of winter is over.

Easter is coming: the triumph of Jesus over death and death over our sins, this is a time to be joyous.

I'm looking forward to a new

season too. I currently have my house on the market, with buyers eager to attend my open house. I have received offers - even one willing to pay all cash for the house.

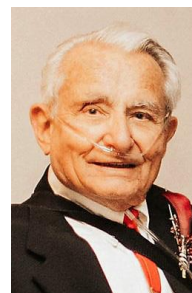
All this change can be exciting and challenging at the same time. Next will be to find accommodations. I'm looking to downsize and move to a condo or co-op, no more shoveling snow or mowing the lawn. All I need is a small garden area for flowers, herbs and veggies.

What changes are you anticipating this coming spring?

A new season is coming and let's keep our eyes forward to the cross - no looking back.

Rev. **Dorothy Fox's** column provides Association members with a single place to learn about spiritual support, or request, distance support services. She can be contacted by e-mail at [RevDFox@aol.com](mailto:RevDFox@aol.com), by phone or text at 718.762.7895, (C) 917.334.5500. Rev. Dorothy is the widow of shipmate and Association Chaplain, **George Fox**, FT3. ('59- '61).

## IN MEMORIAM



**PETE DeWOLF, ET3, ('55-'57)**

1936 – 2019

**ASSOCIATION TREASURER**

(2002 – 2004)

**LST 1156 ASSOCIATION MEMBER**

(2002-2019)



**U.S. Navy's ongoing mission:**

**Maintaining the freedom of the seas.**





# AWAY - NOW HEAR THIS

## Houma RMM Displays Get Boost with Crew's Help



By **Rick Erisman**, RM3, Ship's Historian

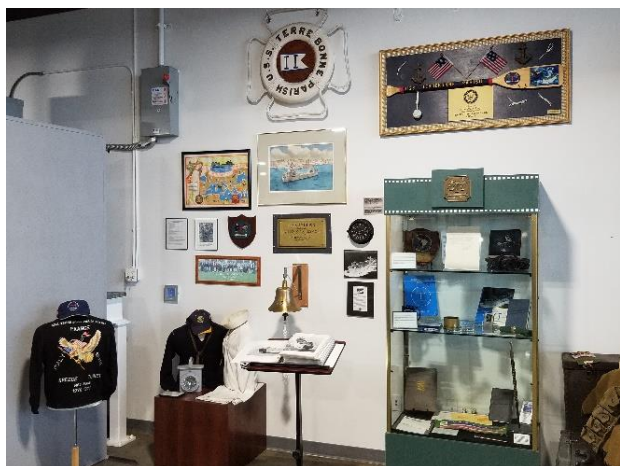


Photo by Mart Black, AICP

The Regional Military Museum expanded display highlights the history of the ship and its mission with an eye-catching layout of artifacts donated by shipmates.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

In the last issue of the newsletter, Associate Member **Mart Black**, AICP, brought us up to date on the expansion of the T-Bone display at the Regional Military Museum in Houma, and its being moved to a more prominent location within the RMM.

He also mentioned one of the most recent additions to the T-Bone's collection from *Plankholder*, **Bob Addington**, GM3 ('52-'54). They include a letter from Commanding Officer, Lt. Cmdr **H.L. Porter**, welcoming aboard new arrivals, and Thanksgiving and Christmas menus listing the

tasty fare enjoyed by the T-Bone's crew on those two holidays.

Mart's feature story reminded me that we haven't previously provided a list of shipmates and their donations in the newsletter. I thought it might be a good idea to provide readers with a description of the other artifacts and memorabilia on display and include who may have donated them to the museum.

I think you'll agree that many of the artifacts are quite unique and provide museum visitors with a very personal look at the life of the ship from those who served aboard the T-Bone. What follows is a partial listing of shipmates and their donations. My next column will include others not included below:

- **Dave Belt**, ETN2, 1970-1971 "T-Bone" Zippo lighter & radio headset boom mike.
- **Gary Benson**, YN2, 1956 *Away All Boats* VHS video.
- **Chester Bentley**, EN2, 1950's Med Cruise ship's photo lampshade.
- **Monty Billings, Jr.**, Lt(jg), 1969 Original Brass Commissioning Plaque and Ship's Quarterdeck Bell.
- **Ed Bobal**, BM3, NAVPERS 1948 *Navy Training Course* study booklet for *Boatswain's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class and Chief Petty Officer*; 1947 *Boot Camp Recruit Guide*; 1946 *Basic Navy Training Course* manual on *Basic Machines*; 1946 *Blue Jackets* manual; USNI 1942 *Manual of Practical Knots and Splices*.
- **Steve Brillhart**, QM3, and **Gene Cranford**, BM3, Navy foul weather jacket, and marlinspike.
- **Mark Christensen**, CSSA, 27 1966 Carib Cruise photos.
- **Gene Cranford**, BM3, 1969, Woven lanyard for Ship's Quarterdeck Bell; and handmade display board honoring all LST 1156 officers and crew.
- **Gary Crossland**, RM2, 1957 Ship's Thanksgiving Menu; 2/25/59 Ship's Plan of the Day; 5/19/59 Tee Pee News Red "S"; 8/25/59 Tee Pee News Tender Time; 7/59 Operation Inland Seas Pass; 7/59 Navy Pier Pass.
- **Robert I. Dietrich**, Donor, *Away All Boats* by Kenneth Dodson.
- **John DiPofi**, DC3, 2 Ship's logo Zippo cigarette lighters; Ship's insignia shoulder

(Continued on Page 10)

patch; Ship's stationery and envelopes;  
Tango Mike Bravo Club No. 075  
Membership card; Zale's Jeweler's National  
credit card.

- **Bob Edwards**, Lt(jg), 1967 Ship's photo Valetta, Malta; 1967-1968 Med Cruise photo CD; 1967-1969 "T-Bone" Zippo lighter; 10/69 Ship's Commissioning Pennant; 1969 Ship's 3"-50 shell ashtray; 1969 Ship's brass plaque.
- **Rick Erisman**, RM3, 1969 *Blue Jacket's Manual*; 1970-1971 Ship's Welcome Aboard pamphlet; Carib 1-70 Cruise book; 2/2/70 Ship's Familygram; 4/25/70 Change of Command Ceremony; Med 3-70 Cruise book; 1970 Port Visit pamphlet Halifax, Nova Scotia; 1970 Ship's Command History; 1972 Panama Canal information pamphlet; 3/2/71 Ship's Plan of the Day; 4/14/71 Ship's Plan of the Day; 10/29/71 Decommissioning Ceremony program; 1971 Ship's Command History; 1970 *Petty Officer 3 & 2* manual; 1967 *Radioman 3 & 2* manual; 2002-2008 Ship's Historian notebook.
- **Frank Jarema**, ENS, 7/59 Operation Inland Seas Cruise booklet; 1959 Operation Inland Seas Certificate.
- **Rich Kunz**, SN, 1966 Ship's Command History; 1/3/67 Ship's Plan of the Day; 5/31/67 Ship's Familygram; 7/24/67 Ship's Familygram; 1967 Ship's Command History
- **Ron Lewis**, RD2 1959-1969 Ship's brass plaque.
- **Dennis McCarthy**, LCPL, USMC, Official USMC Swagger Stick; and Certificate presented to LCPL McCarthy by Mike Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Commanding Officer in recognition of LST 1156 Med Cruise 1/62 – 6/62.
- **Alan Miller**, RD3, 9/63-3-64 Med cruise place mat map; 1959 Ship's brass plaque.
- **Don Miller**, SN, 1958 Ship's Thanksgiving Menu; 2/59 MSO refueling video; 7/59 Operation Inland Seas video and CD; 1/19/2007 artifact donations CD video with Rick Erisman [posted on Facebook "T-Bone" 1/15/2018].

*More to come in our next issue....*

## Opinion / Forum

# Budget Cuts Impact USNA Mission



Submitted by LT(jg) **Don Howell** ('67-'69)

Bohannon, Va.

Is this any way to run a military training academy? The U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis is falling apart.

Pipes leak and mold is growing on walls.

Offices have been condemned and the plumbing system is overloaded. Infrastructure has degraded so badly that a 2018 report from the Naval Audit Service says the school's ability to train future naval officers might be threatened.

Auditors say that the conditions are so bad that midshipman might be in danger and the school's accreditation status is at risk.

Between fiscal years 2012 and 2015, the

academy's renovation budget fell from about \$35 million to less than \$5 million and its maintenance budget declined from \$35 million to \$25 million. In 2016 the Navy spent more than \$226 million developing and rolling out yet another uniform change.

The latest – is a woodland patterned uniform, to be worn by sailors on gray ships that sail the ocean blue. We wonder if Navy leadership can't see the forest for the trees.

SOURCE: Richmond Times



# Personal Impressions

By Sue Carney, Ph.D.



*Frederick, Md.*

Parenting is exhausting, for different reasons at different stages. With newborns, sleep deprivation is the obvious reason. Now that our kids are 6, sleep is much better, and they can dress themselves, brush their teeth (kind of), make their beds (sometimes), and help out with a number of other household tasks to ease our load (somewhat).

What is exhausting now, however, is the constant stream of questions. This is not a new thing; both **Johnny** and **Michaela** have been in this phase for years now. I hate to complain about or discourage it, because their questions do show that they are thinking and listening. But, being endlessly barraged, from the time they awake until the time they fall asleep, really starts to wear on us.

Some days I do wish I could declare a moratorium on questions. Often, they might be drawing or coloring a picture; this may seem innocuous, except that this activity is usually accompanied by "What color should I make this?", or "What should I draw next?", or "Do you like light pink or dark pink?" This might be followed by "Where is <insert any tiny toy that hasn't been seen/thought of in weeks>?" While we are driving, it might be "What does that <insert dashboard feature here> do?", or "How fast are the wheels spinning?", or "What direction is that airplane

going?" If I get up from where I might be sitting, it is "Where are you going/what are you doing, Mommy?" or "What are we having for dinner?"



Some of their questions make me laugh. Johnny has a fascination with Ancient Egypt, pyramids, and mummies. He chose a beginner chapter book from the library about **Howard Carter** and **Lord Carnarvon** and their discovery of **King Tut's** tomb.

About halfway through the book, just after they had finally found the tomb, Johnny interrupted me to ask, "What if there are no mummies left when I am an Egyptologist?" And some make me realize how much they might worry about things that they talk about at school or hear elsewhere – "How does a fireman know how to get to a fire?", "How does the flu make your body sick?", "Are there any gunmen in our neighborhood?", or "Don't you wish that nothing would ever have to die?"

I'm sure the day will come when they stop talking to us so much, so I do my best not to get too frustrated not to get many moments free from decision-making, fact-searching, and worry-easing. But it is not easy!

*Dr. Sue Carney is the daughter of deceased shipmate LT (jg) John Carney, former LST 1156 Engineering Officer ('68-'71). She is an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Biology at Hood College in Frederick, Md.*

## NAVY

*Proud Tradition.... Honorable Service*

*Extraordinary Courage*





## The Order of Neptune



By Sarah Hughes, MBA

Dayton, Ohio

My grandfather, **Chris Zigler**, just celebrated his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. We were talking about his time in the Navy and he shared with me some tales about his time on the USS Sangay (AE-10) during World War II. Life on the ammunition and mine carrier was a bit different compared to the other ships during the war.

The USS Sangay was given its tongue-and-cheek name after the volcano in Ecuador. It would have been equivalent to a

volcanic eruption if the ship would have been hit. The sailors slept on hammocks right above the mines. Due to the heavy amount of ammunition and mines that the ship carried, the USS

Sangay always sailed a half a day behind the rest of the fleet in case they were hit, as the Navy did not want to lose the entire fleet. The pure number of explosives the USS Sangay carried on the ship could have easily flattened a major city.

The Navy, like all branches, has its own set of sacred traditions and rich history. One thing I found surprising was the Navy's Equator Crossing ritual, also known as, the *Order of Neptune*.

The *Order of Neptune* has been a tradition for several Navies around the world, including the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and the United States.

The Order of Neptune divides the ship into two groups; in the U.S. Navy, it is the “shellbacks” and “pollywogs”. The shellbacks are the seasoned equator crossing sailors while the pollywogs are the

new sailors who have never crossed the equator.

While there are various degrees of shellbacks, such as a *Golden Shellback*, which is the title given to a sailor who has crossed the equator at the International Date Line, a shellback is given the “authority” to initiate a pollywog into King Neptune's court.

The Order of Neptune is two days of festivities/hazing, essentially embarrassing the pollywogs for the entertainment benefit of the shellbacks.

These activities range from making the pollywogs do silly things such as wear a uniform inside out and sing a goofy song. They also have more physical tasks such as beating them with fire hoses and crawling across the ship deck. Also included are some unpleasant traditions like consuming an inedible breakfast. My grandfather's meal consisted of sausages in dirty water served in a bed pan.

Finally, the initiation into King Neptune's Royal Court is concluded with the dunking of pollywogs into the tub of salty sea water. After the pollywogs are finished with initiation, they have earned the title of a trusty shellback.

*Sarah Hughes, MBA, is a third-year medical student at Saint James School of Medicine, interested in Family Medicine and Gastroenterology. Her hobbies are traveling with her husband, playing with her two beagles, running a cooking blog, [www.drcupcake.org](http://www.drcupcake.org) and cheering on the Columbus Blue Jackets and Cincinnati Reds.*



### 14<sup>th</sup> LST 1156 Reunion



**Mark Your Calendars NOW!**



**July 29-August 2, 2020**

# Pickett's Charge



By *Paula Johnson, Historian*

*Waterford, Mich.*

It was the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg - July 3, 1863. It was sweltering at midday - 87 degrees. Approximately 12,500 Confederate troops,



under the command of Major General **George Pickett**, lined up against 6,500 Union soldiers, under the command of Major General **George Gordon Meade**.

Several battles took place in Gettysburg over the 3-day period of July 1 -3, 1863. One of the most famous - or infamous - was that of Pickett's Charge. **Robert E. Lee** ordered an infantry assault at the center of the Union lines on Cemetery Ridge, commanded by Major General **Winfield Scott Hancock**. Lee's plan was to take the network of roads located at Cemetery Ridge at the Union's weakest point. This plan was not approved by Lee's second in command, **James Longstreet**.

A massive artillery bombardment by the Confederates was planned prior to the attack but was mostly ineffective.

Approximately 300 guns, equal numbers on both sides, were involved. Confederate shells often overshot the Union infantry. Smoke from the cannonade concealed much of the battlefield. Inferior shell fuses delayed detonation. When Union cannoneers overshot their target, they often hit soldiers of the infantry waiting in the woods near Seminary Ridge causing significant casualties before the charge began. At this time, ammunition was running dangerously low.

Plans for this event went awry right from the start: poor communications between Lee, Longstreet and Pickett being the primary problem.



Pickett's men, mostly Virginians, along with the men under **Isaac Trimble** and **Johnston Pettigrew** formed a line, which stretched about one mile. They marched toward the Union line where heavy Union artillery fire and fences slowed their progress and resulted in a high number of casualties. The line decreased to about a half-mile as the Confederates neared the Union line. Union artillery attacks from the left and right added to the carnage. As Union reinforcements arrived, the Confederates began to turn back, as there were no senior officers left to call a formal retreat. The infantry assault lasted less than one hour.

Confederate casualties were about 50% or 6,000 men. Union casualties were about 1,500. Pickett's division alone suffered 2,655 casualties. Of his 40 field grade officers, 26 were killed, wounded or captured. Lee assumed responsibility for the disaster, stating that it was "all my fault". Pickett never forgave Lee for ordering the charge. Lee later told Pickett to get his division ready for a defensive assault, Pickett supposedly replied, "General, I have no division".

That same day, **Ulysses S. Grant** accepted the surrender at Vicksburg. The two Union victories on July 3, 1863 are considered to be the turning point of the Civil War in favor of the Union.

Years later, when asked why the charge at Gettysburg failed, Pickett replied, "I've always thought the Yankees had something to do with it".

**George Pickett** surrendered with Lee's army at the final battle of the Civil War at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865. He returned to civilian life as an insurance agent and farmer in Norfolk, Virginia. He died on July 30, 1875 and is interred at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

*Paula Bernadotte Johnson is the daughter of deceased association member, LT (jg) **Louis Bernadotte**, USNR. LT Bernadotte served on the coastal transport vessel, USS APC 36 in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater during World War II.*

## USS Nimitz (CVN 68)



The Nimitz class is a class of ten nuclear-powered aircraft carriers in service with the United States Navy. The lead ship of the class is named after World War II United States Pacific Fleet Commander Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who was the U.S. Navy's last living fleet admiral.



USS Nimitz photos by Jim Harris, CWO, USN, (Ret.) – Makakilo, Hawaii



Guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) escorts a merchant ship during Lucky Mariner 19 exercises. Lucky Mariner 19 is an annual exercise designed to practice command and control during periods of increased tension to protect the free flow of commerce.

### *An 1156 Communications Publication*



Published quarterly, and is the official publication of the USS Terrebonne Parish (LST 1156) Association.



### **NEWSLETTER STAFF:**

Editor, David Bader, [redab36@wowway.com](mailto:redab36@wowway.com)  
Contributing Writers, research and articles  
written by various Association members & guests.

LST 1156 Association Officers:  
David Bader, JO2, President  
Bob Slovey, YN3, Secretary  
Rick Erisman, RM3, Historian  
Rev. Dorothy Fox, Chaplain

Larry Adcock, RD2, Chaplain Emeritus  
1933-2010  
Bill McKnight, CSSN, Vice-President Emeritus  
1932-2012  
Fred Langford, EM3, Membership Chair  
Emeritus 1934-2014  
Rev. George Fox, FT3, Chaplain Emeritus  
1937-2017  
Pete DeWolf, ET3, Treasurer Emeritus  
1936-2019

Nick Gardner, QM3, E-mail Coordinator  
Mark Allen: Webmaster - *Red Bank Web*