



GEM STATE GEMS

Gem State Branch 382

Fleet Reserve Association

www.fra382.org

June 2017

News from the Branch

President:

Well shipmates, another month has come and gone.

The May meeting brought a lot of news and upcoming events for Memorial Day celebration. In addition to the many events normally scheduled there was a ceremony to dedicate 3 headstones of Civil War veterans at Fort Boise cemetery, May 29th.

We have been working on our grounds. The overflow parking lot has been mowed and sprayed for weeds along with the ground south of the parsonage (which will be planted into grass). All other areas have been sprayed for weeds and fertilized. Thanks to all who have helped keep our branch home looking good.

A reminder of the Northwest Regional Convention in Fife, WA, August 25th and 26th. All forms and information are on our website (www.fra382.org). Be sure you sign-up early.

Our July 8th meeting will be followed by a joint picnic with VFW Post 3465. Bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.

Congratulations to your Branch officers who were installed at our May meeting. A listing of all officers is on our branch website.

In Loyalty, Protection & Service,
Bill Hall,
President Branch 382

News from the Branch Vice

President:

With heavy hearts we mourn the passing of Shipmate Alan Streicher, who passed away on 7 May 2017. We had just initiated Alan into Branch 382 in March. Though we didn't get to know him well, he will be sorely missed. Please mention his family and loved ones in your prayers.

Kudo's and a tweet on the Bosn's pipe for Shipmate Bettencourt and Shipmate Hunt who in the past quarter renewed their membership in the FRA and have become life

members. We now have 20 life members in the Branch. Well done.

We had a great attendance at the May Branch meeting. It was good to see so many of you out with us on a Saturday morning. Let's keep our attendance up during the summer months.

When we were going through some of the old files in the office, Shipmate Hall found a poem that I would like to share with everyone. It has been around for long time; I have found reference to it going back to the 1950's. It is very appropriate to the FRA and to all aspects of everyday life. I hope you like it and adds to your life.

DO YOU JUST BELONG

Are you an active member?
The kind who would be missed?
Or are just contented
That your name is on the list.

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock?
Or do you meet in private
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along,
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belongs?

Do you work on committees?
To this there is no trick.
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?

Please come to the meetings often,
And help with hand and heart.
Don't be just a member,
But take an active part.

Think this over, members,
You know what's right from wrong.

Are you an active member,
Or do you just belong?

I hope to see you all at our next monthly meeting on 10 June at 1000 hours. Keep well and safe.

In Loyalty, Protection, and Service
Dan Hunt, Vice President

News from the Unit President:

Forever Yours Anniversary lunch for Art and Pat Myers (1W) will be on Monday, June 5th at noon at the Home.

Tues., June 13th is "Fishing at Stan's" starting at 10:00 am. Fishing supplies are provided and elk chili is served for lunch. Location: Juniper Ranch in Middleton.

Wed., June 14th at 7:00 pm is the Flag Day ceremony in the cafeteria. Wear your uniform.

Sun., June 18th is Father's Day. A BBQ and floats will be provided.

Wed., June 21st is the Twin Falls Fishing Trip with Pocatello home. We provide ice to pack the fish in to bring them home. Buses load between 7 and 8 in the morning. Bbq will be served.

Fri., June 30th is the first Hawk's game. A veteran and an airman will throw the first pitch.

Tues., July 4th is the Independence Day Parade and Elks picnic at the home afterwards.

Sat., July 22nd is the Snake River Stampede Matinee for the veterans. Volunteers needed.

Melanie LeBlanc

Branch and Unit Events:

June

10 – Branch and Unit Meeting. Meeting starts at 10 AM.

14 – U.S. Flag Day

July

04 – Fourth of July

08 – Branch and Unit Meeting. Meeting starts at 10 AM.

Branch Birthdays:

June

01 – Charles Cavaiani

03 – Roy Cagnacci

12 – Stephen Loop

17 – Kevin Brown

18 – Wayne Burian; William Lechtenberg

20 – Ronald Jennings

28 – Marie Givens

30 – Rick Lane; David Odom

July

01 – John Cook

03 – John Jones

06 – Ruth Dake-Heyob

07 – D.N. Ekunlowa

09 – James Yarrington

11 – Fred Wagner

12 – Thurman Plumlee

17 – Wayne Moberg; Joseph Privette

19 – William Heintz

This Day in Naval History:

June 4, 1942 - The Battle of Midway begins. During that morning, after sending planes to attack the U.S. base at Midway, Japanese carriers are fatally damaged.

June 6, 1944 - Allied forces land troops on Normandy beaches for the largest amphibious landing in history, Operation Overlord (D-Day).

June 14, 1777 - The Continental Congress adopts the design of present U.S. flag of 13 stripes and 13 stars.

June 19, 1944 - The largest aircraft carrier action in World War II, the Battle of the Philippine Sea begins.

Some Marine Humor:

The "old" and "new" Marine Corps.

There has been a considerable amount of speculation and lots of time spent attempting to determine exactly when the "Old Corps" ended and the "New Corps" began. I shall endeavor to end the speculations, innuendos and rumors for all time.

After extensive research, which included trips to the National Archives, the Marine Corps Historical Center at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, DC, and many hours spent on the website of the United States Marine Corps, History & Museums Division, I finally discovered the answer.

No. It was most certainly not when "the crucible" began in boot camp. It was not when the Eagle, Globe & Anchor emblem switched from the double "banner" in the eagle's beak to the one "banner" design of today. Nor was it when young Marines in Korea were being led by salty WW II vets. Alas, it also was not the switch from the M-1903 Springfield to the M-1 Garand nor even the switch from the boarding cutlass to the Mameluke sword.

Here is the coveted answer:

In 1775, as you all know, the Marine Corps was formed at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia.

In the beginning they announced that any new recruit would get a free tankard of rum.

Unfortunately, they didn't get as many recruits as they wanted, so they announced that from now on, all recruits would get TWO tankards of rum.

A Marine in the back ranks yelled, "We didn't have it that good in the Old Corps!"

LITTLE KNOWN AMERICAN AND NAVY HISTORY

FOR THOSE WHO EITHER LIVED OR VISITED HAWAII AND ESPECIALLY BEEN TO PEARL HARBOR...SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT KNOW!

DID YOU KNOW....that the ashes of a baby girl, the daughter of a Chief Petty Officer is buried in the remains on board the USS Utah at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii?

Beneath the waters of Pearl Harbor, 58 sailors, who died when the USS Utah was sunk by Japanese fighter planes on 7 December 1941, silently guard the remains of a shipmate: the ashes of a baby girl, Nancy Lynne Wagner.

Chief Yeoman Albert Thomas Dewitt Wagner had been waiting for a chaplain to be assigned to the USS Utah, hoping for a proper burial ceremony at sea for his daughter, Nancy when the USS Utah went out on maneuvers. An urn carrying Chief Wagner's daughter ashes was in his locker in the USS Utah's Chief's quarters. But the surprise attack changed everything on 7 December 1941. Chief Wagner was among those who survived the bombs that day, but he was not able to rescue his baby's ashes. Divers did go down about two weeks after the attack and tried to enter the quarters to retrieve the ashes but the ship was too badly damaged for the divers to enter the ship.

Chief Wagner had another daughter, Mary Dianne Wagner.....twins to the daughter that is on board the USS Utah.

Mary stated in an interview years later;

"I don't think there is a better tribute to my twin sister than to have all those wonderful and brave men guarding her. It would have been wonderful if she had lived, but since she did not, I feel nothing but pride and pleasure that she is in such magnificent company. I could have not asked for anything better than for her to be tenderly, carefully looked after by America's finest."

Nancy Lynne and Mary Dianne Wagner were born prematurely on 29 August 1937 in a hospital in Makati in the Philippines. Nancy lived only two days and Mary pronounced dead three times...It was four months before Chief Wagner and his wife could take Mary home.

Before Chief Wagner passed away, he made several trips to Hawaii and Ford Island, where the rusting remains of the USS Utah can still be seen today. Back then, there was no pier or any monument to the sunken warship resting off the north shore of Ford Island.

The USS Utah monument, a concrete pier and memorial slab were built near the sunken ship and dedicated in 1972. Chief Wagner never saw the finished monument.

Also out of the 58 Sailors still entombed on board the USS Utah.....there is only one Chief entombed on board the ship, Chief Water Tender Peter Tomich. Chief Tomich was on duty in a boiler room. As Utah began to capsize, he remained below, securing the boilers and making certain that other men escaped, and so lost his life. For his "distinguished conduct and extraordinary courage" at that time, he posthumously received the Medal of Honor. His Medal of Honor was on display at the Navy's Senior Enlisted Academy (Tomich Hall).

Later, the decoration was presented to Chief Tomich's family on the USS Enterprise aircraft carrier in the southern Adriatic city of Split in Croatia, on 18 May 2006, 64 years after US President Franklin D. Roosevelt awarded it to him