

MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.



SEA SERVICES SCUTTLEBUTT

October 2018

A message from the President

Greetings,



John Cecil

Summer is over, kids are back in school, Highlands County's winter guests are slowly returning, and visitors to the Museum are on the increase. Upcoming events such as Fred's "Nights at The Sea Service Museum" (see article below), and the Veterans Day and WWI Commemoration Ceremony should ensure that we easily pass 1,000 visitors to the Museum this year.

Fred Carino, our Curator, continues to make improvements throughout the Museum. You must tour the Museum to appreciate all Fred and his helpers have accomplished. Veterans Day, 11 November 2018, would be an excellent time to tour the Museum following the Veterans Day and World War I Commemoration Ceremony outside the Museum. You will not want to miss the impressive display commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

At 1400 (2:00 PM), 11 November 2018, The Veterans Council of Highland County will present the Veterans Day and World War I Commemoration Ceremony in front of the Museum. The ceremony will honor all Veterans and mark the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. This year's ceremony will pay special tribute to Korean War Veterans. There will be covered seating available for more than 200 attendees. The guest speaker will be Sebring native Brigadier General Bobby Lee, U.S. Army retired. Following the ceremony, the Museum will hold an open house with free guided tours of the Museum.

Hope to see you on Veterans Day.

John

Military Sea Services Museum
1402 Roseland Avenue, Sebring,
Florida, 33870 Phone: (863) 385-0992
E-Mail: navmargrd@gmail.com

Hours of Operation
Open: Wednesday through Saturday
Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Web site: <http://milseasvcmuseum.org/>

A Salute From Some Creative Sailors Celebrating the U.S. Navy's 197th Birthday. 13 October 1972

Watch Section Two at the Naval Communications Station, Keflavik, Iceland, felt the urge to communicate its feelings to the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) on this 197th anniversary of the birth of the United States Navy. They put their poetic talents to work and came up with the following ode which they transmitted to Admiral Zumwalt. Their message and CNO's reply are included here as part of the White Falcon's salute to the Navy Birthday.

Admiral E. R. Zumwalt
Chief of Naval Operations
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

**The thirteenth is a special day;
You have made it better in every way.
As CNO, you are really out of sight;
You have improved our morale, as well as our might.
Happy Navy Birthday**

Wilson	Kozlowski	Hesse	Hiatt
Goyer	Savins	Torbert	Swish
Red	Hubble	Tank	Parks
Rose	Sasher	Fisher	Ray
Popovich	Hawk Eye	Tuff Terry	Higgs
Keysor	Steele	Garretson	Spurlock
Dearman	Mezie	Daniels	Felty
Forsyth	Gregg	Spindler	Guy
Ferren	Parks	Budlong	

The Super Squids of Section Two

From: CNO
To: NavCommSta Keflavick Iceland

1. Super Squids of Section Two; it is I who is grateful to you. You sit in lonely duty and cold; yet serve with high morale, I'm told. Happy Navy Birthday.

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., Admiral, U. S. Navy, Chief of naval Operations.

Thank you Lou Mezie, RMC(AC), USN (Ret) for this piece of history.

(Lou wrote that in the middle of the North Atlantic serving as Communication Watch Officer at Naval Communication Station, Keflavik, Iceland, during a slow mid-watch and bored, we decided to show our support for the Chief of Naval Operations by sending him a telegraph. To our surprise, he answered.)

Did You Know That

Neil Armstrong flew 78 combat missions as a Naval Aviator during the Korean War. In 1951 he ended up on Korean soil after his plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire and he had to eject. Eighteen years later, 20 July 1969, he landed on the moon---the first person to walk on the moon---his words "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

"Nights at the Sea Services Museum"

Who: Military Sea Services Museum

What: *"Nights at the Sea Services Museum"* - Have you ever wondered how history might have been altered had just one battle gone the other way? For most of us armchair historians, studying the military history of the United States is usually a solitary pursuit. Now, however, using the resources of the Museum Library and the internet, our organization will host informal discussion groups on topics that should stimulate analysis through reading and research by participants and perhaps lead to a better understanding of historical events. Propounding your own theory on why things worked out the way they did or debating how this or that leader made the right or wrong decision should make good grist for the discussion mill stone.

Where: The setting will be the Museum Library where coffee and light refreshments will be served free of charge. Address: 1402 Roseland Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870 (one mile east of Sebring High School).

When: The topics for Winter 2018-19 with dates and times listed are as follows:

October 24, 2018; 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **The Battle of Pearl Harbor – What If?**

November 28, 2018; 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **"I Shall Return" – The Competing War Strategies of MacArthur and Nimitz in the Pacific Theater of Operations**

December 19, 2018; 4 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **The Battle of Midway – The Importance of Intelligence & Cryptology**

January 23, 2019; 4 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Korean War - Hot Campaign of the Cold War?** Reference: *The Coldest Winter* - America and the Korean War by David Halberstam.

February 20, 2019; 4 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Vietnam – Containment or Catastrophe?**

March 20, 2019; 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. **The Cold War – Who won?**

For additional information and a list of reference material for each discussion, please contact the museum at 863-385-0992.

Come on out and enjoy a lively discussion at **The Military Sea Services Museum**, *"Where history comes alive!"*

Memoriam

We are saddened by the passing on 22 August 2018 of William H. Earle, Sr., age 91. William was a U.S. Navy World War II submarine veteran. He retired from Public Service--Law Enforcement. William and his wife Darlene were long-time life members of the Museum. Darlene's membership continues. There will be memorial services for William at Whispering Pines Baptist Church. Pastor will contact us with additional information at a later date.

We are also saddened by the passing on 2 October 2018 of Earl J. Fassler, age 90. Earl was a U.S. Army Veteran, worked as a brick mason, and retired as a painting contractor. Earl's wife Nancy is a long-time, faithful supporter of the Museum. Memorial services for Earl were held on Sunday, 14 October 2018.

Tales of an Asia Sailor



[BM3 Boy Howdy](#)

by [davisg022](#)

Boy "Howdy" Jenkins made Third Class Boatswain's Mate.

After being assigned to run the Paint Locker and his excellent performance there, the CO decided that Boy Howdy should be a BM3. When he discovered that Boy refused to take the test because he was happy as the Leading Seaman and purveyor of paints and brushes, he called Boy to his cabin and asked why he didn't want to be a Petty Officer. Boy explained that he was happier as a senior Seaman than he would be as a junior BM3.

The Captain said, "I could make you unhappy as a Seaman if you refuse to take the next test."

"How could you do that, sir?" asked Boy



"Well I could move you from your sinecure in the paint locker or I could restrict your liberty. How would you feel if I restricted you until the test next month and if you weren't selected for advancement curtail your liberty, so you could study for the next test in six months?" the Skipper replied. "You are a good man and you know deck operations as well or better than the Petty Officers you work for. I need you in a position to supervise and train the new men."

"But Captain, you know I would get in trouble on liberty and you would probably bust me."

"Seaman Jenkins, I admit that is a possibility and something we may have to face. Promise me you will take the test and try, and I won't curtail your liberty. I need your knowledge and expertise as a leader and trainer, not as just a doer. Think about it until tomorrow and let me know what you decide. You are dismissed."

Boy went down and unlocked the paint locker, moved an empty bucket upside down on deck just outside the door and lit a smoke. The BMC came down the ladder and asked, "Boy, what did the Old Man want?"

"Ah, he wants me to take the test for Third next month. He said he might restrict me if I don't take it and make BM3. Can he do that, Chief?"

"Yeah, he's the Captain. If you don't make Third he can make life grim for you. He could send you Mess Crankin' or since you are undesignated, he could move you to the Fireroom as a BT. If I was you, I would do my damndest to make Third. What are you gonna do?" the Chief asked.

"Well, I guess I'll try to make Third. I don't want to go Crankin' and I damned sure don't want anything to do with the snipes." Boy said accepting that which must be.

Tales of an Asia Sailor- Cont'd

The Chief said, "Good man. Well, time for coffee. Stop by the CPO Mess after dinner and I will give you some study materials that will help you," the Chief said as he went forward.

Boy didn't see the Chief give a thumb up to the Captain looking down from the starboard wing of the bridge.

[davisg022](#) | July 6, 2018

Thank You CDR Eugene "Doc" Savage, USN (Ret). Boy can I relate to this story. CWO4 jumped all over my you know what. He recommended me for third class. I didn't take the test. You x@#x\$%@x@#\$ when I recommend someone for advancement he dam well better take and pass the test. Luckily he recommended me six months later. Learned my lesson took test every time recommended which resulted in promotion to Master Chief in 13 and 1/2 years.---- Thank You Chief Warrant.



New Exhibit to Open at the Museum

The Military Sea Services Museum will open a new exhibit on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 to especially commemorate the contributions of American veterans of World War I. The exhibit features genuine uniforms of U.S. Navy sailors Matthew White and Frank Rider as well as that of Army soldier John Pahl. A replica uniform of a United States Marine will also be on display. Moreover, five panels containing artifacts and memorabilia from the "War to End All Wars" have been prepared including items from Captain Charles B. Fowler, U.S. Army. Several period books about World War I will be on display including a complete bound edition of "Stars and Stripes," the official newspaper of the U.S. military, covering the years 1917 and 1918.

The exhibit will be in the Museum Flag Room October 31 through November 11, 2018 during normal open hours which are noon until 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. It will also be open for viewing on Sunday, November 11, 2018 immediately following the 2 p.m. Veterans Day Ceremony on the premises. The Museum is located at 1402 Roseland Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870 (one mile east of Sebring High School on Kenilworth Blvd.) and is a Section 501.c.3 non-profit with the mission of preserving the history and traditions of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Admission to the museum is always free, however donations are always accepted. Come on out and enjoy a look back of our nation's history from a hundred years ago at the Military Sea Services Museum, "Where history comes alive!"

A Truck Stop Story

If this doesn't light your fire, your wood is wet!

I try not to be biased, but I had my doubts about hiring Stevie. His placement counselor assured me that he would be a good, reliable busboy. But I had never had a mentally handicapped employee and wasn't sure I wanted one. I wasn't sure how my customers would react to Stevie.

He was short, a little dumpy with the smooth facial features and thick-tongued speech of Downs Syndrome. I wasn't worried about most of my trucker customers because truckers don't generally care who buses tables as long as the meatloaf platter is good and the pies are homemade.

The ones who concerned me were the mouthy college kids traveling to school; the yuppie snobs who secretly polish their silverware with their napkins for fear of catching some dreaded 'truck stop germ'; the pairs of white-shirted business men on expense accounts who think every truck stop waitress wants to be flirted with. I knew those people would be uncomfortable around Stevie so I closely watched him for the first few weeks...

A Truck Stop Story (cont'd)

I shouldn't have worried. After the first week, Stevie had my staff wrapped around his stubby little finger, and within a month my truck regulars had adopted him as their official truck stop mascot.

After that, I really didn't care what the rest of the customers thought of him. He was like a 21-year-old in blue jeans and Nikes, eager to laugh and eager to please, but fierce in his attention to his duties. Every salt and peppershaker was exactly in its place, not a breadcrumb or coffee spill was visible when Stevie got done with the table.

Our only problem was persuading him to wait to clean a table until after the customers were finished. He would hover in the background, shifting his weight from one foot to the other, scanning the dining room until a table was empty. Then he would scurry to the empty table and carefully bus dishes and glasses onto his cart and meticulously wipe the table up with a practiced flourish of his rag.

If he thought a customer was watching, his brow would pucker with added concentration. He took pride in doing his job exactly right, and you had to love how hard he tried to please each and every person he met.

Over time, we learned that he lived with his mother, a widow who was disabled after repeated surgeries for cancer. They lived on their Social Security benefits in public housing two miles from the truck stop. Their social worker, who stopped to check on him every so often, admitted they had fallen between the cracks. Money was tight, and what I paid him was probably the difference between them being able to live together and Stevie being sent to a group home. That's why the restaurant was a gloomy place that morning last August, the first morning in three years that Stevie missed work.

He was at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester getting a new valve or something put in his heart. His social worker said that people with Downs Syndrome often have heart problems at an early age so this wasn't unexpected, and there was a good chance he would come through the surgery in good shape and be back at work in a few months.

A ripple of excitement ran through the staff later that morning when word came that he was out of surgery, in recovery, and doing fine.

Frannie, the head waitress, let out a war hoop and did a little dance in the aisle when she heard the good news.

Bell Ringer, one of our regular trucker customers, stared at the sight of this 50-year-old grandmother of four doing a victory shimmy beside his table.

A Truck Stop Story (cont'd)

Frannie blushed, smoothed her apron and shot Bell Ringer a withering look.

He grinned. 'OK, Frannie, what was that all about?' he asked..

'We just got word that Stevie is out of surgery and going to be okay.'

'I was wondering where he was. I had a new joke to tell him. What was the surgery about?'

Frannie quickly told Bell Ringer and the other two drivers sitting at his booth about Stevie's surgery then sighed: 'Yeah, I'm glad he is going to be OK,' she said. 'But I don't know how he and his Mom are going to handle all the bills. From what I hear, they're barely getting by as it is.' Bell Ringer nodded thoughtfully, and Frannie hurried off to wait on the rest of her tables. Since I hadn't had time to round up a busboy to replace Stevie and really didn't want to replace him, the girls were busing their own tables that day until we decided what to do.

After the morning rush, Frannie walked into my office. She had a couple of paper napkins in her hand and a funny look on her face.

'What's up?' I asked.

'I didn't get that table where Bell Ringer and his friends were sitting cleared off after they left, and Pony Pete and Tony Tipper were sitting there when I got back to clean it off,' she said. 'This was folded and tucked under a coffee cup.'

She handed the napkin to me, and three \$20 bills fell onto my desk when I opened it. On the outside, in big, bold letters, was printed 'Something For Stevie'.

'Pony Pete asked me what that was all about,' she said, 'so I told him about Stevie and his Mom and everything, and Pete looked at Tony and Tony looked at Pete, and they ended up giving me this.' She handed me another paper napkin that had 'Something For Stevie' scrawled on its outside. Two \$50 bills were tucked within its folds. Frannie looked at me with wet, shiny eyes, shook her head and said simply: 'Truckers!!'

That was three months ago. Today is Thanksgiving, the first day Stevie is supposed to be back to work.

His placement worker said he's been counting the days until the doctor said he could work, and it didn't matter at all that it was a holiday. He called ten times in the past week, making sure we knew he was coming, fearful that we had forgotten him or that his job was in jeopardy.

I arranged to have his mother bring him to work. I then met them in the parking lot and invited them both to celebrate his day back.

Stevie was thinner and paler, but couldn't stop grinning as he pushed through the doors and headed for the back room where his apron and busing cart were waiting.

A Truck Stop Story (cont'd)

'Hold up there, Stevie, not so fast,' I said. I took him and his mother by their arms. 'Work can wait for a minute. To celebrate you coming back, breakfast for you and your mother is on me!' I led them toward a large corner booth at the rear of the room.

I could feel and hear the rest of the staff following behind as we marched through the dining room. Glancing over my shoulder, I saw booth after booth of grinning truckers empty and join the procession. We stopped in front of the big table Its surface was covered with coffee cups, saucers and dinner plates, all sitting slightly crooked on dozens of folded paper napkins 'First thing you have to do, Stevie, is clean up this mess,' I said. I tried to sound stern.

Stevie looked at me, and then at his mother, then pulled out one of the napkins. It had 'Something for Stevie' printed on the outside. As he picked it up, two \$10 bills fell onto the table.

Stevie stared at the money, then at all the napkins peeking from beneath the tableware, each with his name printed or scrawled on it. I turned to his mother. 'There's more than \$10,000 in cash and checks on that table, all from truckers and trucking companies that heard about your problems.. 'Happy Thanksgiving.'

Well, it got real noisy about that time, with everybody hollering and shouting, and there were a few tears, as well.

But you know what's funny?

While everybody else was busy shaking hands and hugging each other, Stevie, with a big, big smile on his face, was busy clearing all the cups and dishes from the table.....

Best worker I ever hired.

Plant a seed and watch it grow..

If you shed a tear, hug yourself, because you are a compassionate person.

Thank You CDR Eugene "Doc" Savage, USN (Ret) for this heartwarming story.

Anniversaries

12 Oct 1492. Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas.

13 Oct 1775. U.S. Navy established. The Continental Congress established the Continental Navy by authorizing the procurement, fitting out, manning and dispatch of two armed vessels to search for munitions ships supplying the British Army in America. All together the Continental Navy numbered some 50 ships with about 20 warships active at its maximum strength over the course of the War for Independence. Today, the U.S. Navy is the most powerful Navy in the world. Happy 243rd birthday U.S. Navy!

1 Oct 1880. John Philip Sousa appointed leader of the Marine Band.

Anniversaries (Cont'd)

27 Oct 1922. U.S. Navy Day established by the Navy League of the United States. The League selected October 27th to celebrate Navy Day because it was the birthday of President Theodore Roosevelt, a naval enthusiast.

26 Oct 1944. The U.S. Navy defeated the Japanese in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. The Japanese Navy was rendered virtually powerless.

11 Oct 1968. Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo mission, launched from Kennedy Space Center with astronauts Wally Schirra, Donn F. Eisele and R. Walter Cunningham aboard. They spent 10 days and 20 hours in space and orbited earth 163 times.

23 Oct 1983. A truck pulled up to the four-story U.S. Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. Seconds later, the Hezbollah suicide bomber inside the truck detonated explosives equal to 12,000 pounds of TNT. The Marine Barracks collapsed killing 241 Americans, 220 Marines, 18 Sailors, and 3 Soldiers. This was the deadliest terrorist attack on Americans before 11 September 2001, and the deadliest single day for the U.S. Marine Corps since Iwo Jima.

13 Oct 1987. The United States Navy Memorial opened in Washington, DC.

12 October 2000. The USS COLE (DDG-67) attacked by Al Qaeda terrorist using a small boat laden with explosives in the harbor at Aden, Yemen. Seventeen USS COLE crew members were killed and 39 were wounded. The USS COLE was severely damaged, but was repaired and returned to service.

7 Oct 2001. Afghanistan War began. Operation Enduring Freedom

10 Nov 1775. U.S. Marine Corps established. Captain Samuel Nicholas working out of Tun Tavern in Philadelphia formed two battalions of Continental Marines as Naval infantry. Since then, the U.S. Marine Corps served in every American conflict. Today, the U.S. Marine Corps is the world's dominant practitioner of amphibious warfare. Happy 243rd birthday U.S. Marine Corps.

11 Nov 1918. World War I ended at 1100 (100 years ago). On the first anniversary of the end of World War I, President Wilson declared November 11th, Armistice Day. However, it wasn't until 1938 that Armistice Day became a federal holiday. At that time the holiday was to promote world peace and to honor the service of members of every military branch. In 1954, Congress, working under President Eisenhower, changed the name of the holiday to Veteran's Day to include soldiers who fought in World War II and the Korean War. Today, Veterans Day is a day to honor all veterans for their patriotism and honorable service.

12-15 Nov 1942. Naval Battle of Guadalcanal. A Japanese taskforce led by two battleships set out to demolish U.S. Marine held Henderson Field and its aircraft. Two U.S. Navy task groups led by Rear Admiral David Callaghan and Rear Admiral Norman Scott intercepted the Japanese warships before they could range Henderson Field. During three nights and two days of fighting, the Japanese lost 2 battleships, 3 destroyers, 11 transport ships, and 64 aircraft. The U.S. Navy lost 2 light cruisers, 7 destroyers, and 36 planes. The Japanese failure to neutralize Henderson Field and to put appreciable reinforcement troops and supplies ashore was a significant U.S. strategic victory. Within a month, the Japanese Navy and Army abandoned Guadalcanal. Admirals Callaghan and Scott were killed during the battle. They are the only two U.S. Navy Admirals to be killed in a surface engagement.

Anniversaries (Cont'd)

13 Nov 1942. During the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, the light cruiser USS JUNEAU (CL-52) was hit by a torpedo fired from the Japanese sub I-26. Approximately 115 of USS JUNEAU's crew survived the explosion. Because of uncertainty about the number of Japanese ships in the area, rescue attempts did not begin for several days. Due to losses from exhaustion, exposure, and shark attacks, only ten sailors were rescued from the water eight days after the sinking. The five Sullivan brothers from Waterloo, Iowa, were among the 687 men lost.

Quotable Quotes

Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.

---President Harry S. Truman

An Army is a team. It lives, sleeps, eats, and fights as a team. This individual heroic stuff is pure horse shit.

---General George S. Patton, Jr.

I've received many honors and I'm grateful for them; but I've already received the highest award I'll ever receive, and that has been the privilege and honor of serving very proudly in the United States Navy.

---Rear Admiral Grace M. Hopper

Regardless of facts and figures, one single message prevails: whether called a leatherneck, sea soldier or gyrene, it was the individual Marine and his rifle that made the Corps what it remains to this day, one of the world's elite fighting forces.

---Gordon L. Rottman

The story of the Coast Guard at war is replete with incidents which, in combat or otherwise demonstrated consummate skill, great devotion to duty, and heroism worthy of special mention in any wartime history of the Service.

---Malcom F. Willoughby

The enduring responsibility of the United States Air Force is to provide strategic deterrence for the Nation and fly, fight and win as an integral part of the Joint Team. Together with our brothers and sisters in arms, we underwrite the national strategy of defending the Homeland and assuring allies, while dissuading, deterring and defeating enemies.

---General Norton A. Schwartz

Welcome Aboard New Members

On 12 September 2018 Anthony L. Gibson signed up for a one-year membership. Anthony is a retired U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer (BMC) and is now a U.S. Coast Guard civilian employee in Saint Petersburg, FL. Anthony lives in Tampa, FL.

On 22 September 2018 Jefferson (Ken) and Brenda Steel became the Museum's newest members signing up for a one-year membership. Ken was a U.S. Navy Aviator and is retired from Deerfield Fire and Rescue. Brenda is also retired. Ken and Brenda live in Sebring, FL.

A very hearty welcome aboard to our new members! A sincere thank you to all our members for their continued support. Without member support, the Museum would not be able to pay its bills and would have to close the doors.

Tales of an Asia Sailor



[A GREAT EVENT! NEVER FORGET!](#)

by [davisg022](#)

A GREAT EVENT! NEVER FORGET!

Story provided by Paul Reuter

An incident took place at sea on 14 September 2001, just a few days after the attacks on New York and Washington.

In the time leading up to 11 September 2001, the USS Winston S. Churchill was in port in Plymouth, England, where it was moored next to the SMS Lütjens of the German Navy.

During their time in port together, the officers and crews of the USS Churchill and the SMS Lütjens had combined for a number of events in the generous spirit of friendship and brotherhood.

After the attacks, however, the USS Churchill immediately got underway to perform a number of drills while waiting for further orders.

On board the USS Churchill an Officer (Ensign) sent an email to his dad and his dad in turned sent it to the local newspaper. Below is a portion of that email:

Dear Dad,

Well, we are still out at sea, with little direction as to what our next priority is.

The remainder of our port visits, which were to be centered around max liberty and goodwill to the United Kingdom, have all but been cancelled. We have spent every day since the attacks going back and forth within imaginary boxes drawn in the ocean, standing high-security watches, and trying to make the best of our time. It hasn't been that fun I must confess, and to be even more honest, a lot of people are frustrated at the fact that they either can't be home, or we don't have more direction right now.

We have seen the articles and the photographs, and they are sickening. Being isolated as we are, I don't think we appreciate the full scope of what is happening back home, but we are definitely feeling the effects.

About two hours ago the junior officers were called to the bridge to conduct Shiphandling drills.

We were about to do a man overboard when we got a call from the LUTJENS D-185, a German warship that was moored ahead of us on the pier in Plymouth, England.

While in port, the USS WINSTON S CHURCHILL and the LUTJENS got together for a sports day/cookout on our fantail, and we made some pretty good friends.

Now at sea they called over on bridge-to-bridge, requesting to pass us close up on our port side, to say good-bye.

We prepared to render them honors on the bridge wing, and the Captain told the crew to come topside to wish them farewell.

Tales of an Asia Sailor- Cont'd

As they were making their approach, our Conning Officer saw through her binoculars and announced that they were flying an American flag.

As they came even closer, we saw that it was flying at half-mast.

The bridge wing was crowded with people as the Boatswain's Mate blew two whistles- Attention to Port- the ship came up alongside and we saw that the entire crew of the German ship were manning the rails, in their dress blues.

They had made up a sign that was displayed on the side that read "We Stand By You."

Needless to say there was not a dry eye on the bridge as they stayed alongside us for a few minutes and we cut our salutes.

It was probably the most powerful thing I have seen in my entire life and more than a few of us fought to retain our composure.

It was a beautiful day outside today. We are no longer at liberty to divulge over unsecure e-mail our location, but we could not have asked for a finer day at sea.

The German Navy did an incredible thing for this crew, and it has truly been the highest point in the days since the attacks.

After the ship pulled away and we prepared to begin our man overboard drills the Officer of the Deck turned to me and said "I'm staying Navy."

[davisg022](#) | September 11, 2018

Thank you CDR Eugene "Doc" Savage, USN (Ret) for this reminder that the Navies of the free world will support one another when one's country is attacked.

A Little Humor Compliments of FRA Branch 126

I recently called an old engineering buddy of mine and asked what he was working on these days. He replied that he was working on "Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum and steel under a constrained environment."

I was impressed until, upon further inquiry, I learned that he was washing dishes with hot water under his wife's supervision.