

100 LIFE MEMBERS and counting

# KNOX KNEWS

Editor: LT Steve Cross '67 - '68

## OUR HISTORY WON'T SAVE ITSELF!

*"It is only through shared stories and pictures that we live on and do not die."*

[www.ussfrankknox.com](http://www.ussfrankknox.com)

Summer 2024



***In this issue – FK 2024 REUNION - SAN ANTONIO TOURING – USS FRANK KNOX AWARDS - ON BOARD SALVAGE CREW –PASSING OF A FRIEND – CALL FOR REEF RUNNERS - TAPS - SHIPS STORE***

## NEW MEMBERS

**DUES ARE DUE:** Those paying dues annually \$30 for 2023 is greatly appreciated. Membership and Life Members continue strong. **ANNUAL DUES** – I hope you are planning to renew at \$30 per year, roughly half of our members support us by writing a check annually. Life Members make a one-time payment, then enjoy life time privileges payment free. (Checks and donations - send to Margaret Watson, 3421 NW Coronado ST., Corvallis OR 97330.) Our financial position is strong thanks to you.

Life Members now total 100. Almost half of our dues. The rest of our funding coming from our Annual White Elephant \$2035.00 and Veterans Day Auction [\$960.] FKRA remains well funded to continue our operations. Our major costs are Website maintenance, mail costs for our newsletter KNOX KNEWS. Our 80th Anniversary of the ship commissioning is in 2024. Ideas and concepts for this anniversary are welcome anytime.

Summer 2024



USS Frank Knox (DDR 742) Reunion Association  
 Harry Chandler, President: [hchandler64@gmail.com](mailto:hchandler64@gmail.com), 928-925-9490  
 Stephen Cross, VP Communications: [stephenross742@gmail.com](mailto:stephenross742@gmail.com), 619-922-9449  
[www.usfrancknox.com](http://www.usfrancknox.com)



"ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE" Orv Kreig

If you haven't already paid dues for 2024, in the words of Orv, "Dues are Due"

**2024 Membership Renewal, Life Membership & Membership Application**

It's that time of year again, to remind you the Membership Dues are due. We would appreciate you filling out the information below and sending it with your check to:

USS Frank Knox Reunion Association c/o Margaret Watson, Treasurer 3421 NW Coronado St., Corvallis, Oregon 97330  
 Tel: 541-757-8067 **PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO "MARGARET WATSON"**

Annual Dues Renewal: \$30	Lifetime Dues (one-time payment):	Age 60 – 69, \$300
		Age 70 – 79, \$200
		Age 80 – 89, \$100
		Age 90+ , Free

Membership dues include Master Roster (to be mailed out early March), newsletters and mailings, special pricing for the Reunion activities, and voting privileges on matters before the membership at the annual business meeting. Even if you are unable to attend the reunion, your dues will help support costs to maintain and preserve our USS Frank Knox Reunion Association - membership roster, website maintenance ([usfrancknox.com](http://usfrancknox.com)), mailings and to preserve our Mission Statement: "The USS Frank Knox Reunion Association conducts reunions and other meetings to foster camaraderie with the officers and sailors who served aboard the USS Frank Knox (DDR-742) during her 27 years of service in the US Navy. The Reunion Association will maintain a factual narrative of the ship and men who served aboard USS Frank Knox." If you have a special talent and would like to offer your assistance, help is appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL		
APPLICANT INFORMATION - JOIN		
Name:		
Date of birth (optional):	Wife/Companion:	
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Phone/s:	Rank when on board:	Years Served on Ship (mo/yr to mo/yr)
E-mail:		
--MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR CALENDAR YEAR INCLUDE: MASTER ROSTER, REUNION PRICING & NEWSLETTER--		
NOTES:		

**SAVE THE DATE: Early October 2024**

**Pack your bags!! We're going to San Antonio, TX for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual USS Frank Knox Reunion and celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Commissioning of the Knox in Fredericksburg.**

More details to follow. The reunion committee is moving forward with planning.

# USS Frank Knox DDR742 Reunion

**Sunday, September 29th-Thursday, October 3rd, 2024**

## **Holiday Inn San Antonio- Riverwalk**

Our hotel is located on the famous Riverwalk, within walking distance to many local “must see” sights like – The Alamo, San Fernando Cathedral, La Villita Historic Arts Village, Historic Market Square, museums, and restaurants galore!

Reserve your hotel room early [\$130.00 + tax per night] for a standard king or queen room– check in Sunday Sept 29. Checkout Thursday October 3rd. There is no cost to reserve your room. Reservation number – 210-224-2500 option 2. USS FRANK KNOX 2024 reservation block KNO. Cutoff date is September 6th. Reservations after that date are space available. Breakfast buffet is available at a reduced rate of \$20 per day.

San Antonio airport is less than 8.5 miles from the hotel. Shuttles are NOT available, to or from the hotel. Uber, Lyft and taxi service are best [\$16-\$25 one way].

Prices for the one-day tour, Monday Sept. 30th, to Fredericksburg and the National Museum of the Pacific War will be ready soon. The museum is fantastic. We’ll be dedicating a plaque to honor Frank Knox; honoring the 80th year of her commissioning. Tuesday is a free day to explore the amazing city of San Antonio.

Please make your travel plans early!





**USS Frank Knox (DDR-742) Reunion Association**  
 Harry Chandler, President & VP Membership: hchandler64@gmail.com  
 Stephen Cross, Vice President Communications: stephencross742@gmail.com  
**Website: www.ussfrankknox.com**



**REUNION INVITATION & REGISTRATION**

**34TH ANNUAL USS FRANK KNOX REUNION  
 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 3, 2024**



ATTENDEE INFORMATION			
Name:			
Date of birth (optional):		Wife/Companion:	
Address:			
City:		State:	ZIP Code:
Phone/s:		E-mail:	
**MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR CALENDAR YEAR INCLUDE: MASTER ROSTER, MEMBERSHIP CARD, REUNION PRICING & NEWSLETTER**			
EMERGENCY CONTACT			
Name of a relative not residing with you:			
Address:		Phone:	
City:		State:	ZIP Code:
Relationship:			

REUNION EVENTS – WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY			
<b>PLEASE NOTE REUNION DATES ARE: SUNDAY (CHECK-IN) 9/29/2024 TO THURSDAY (CHECK OUT) 10/3/2024</b>			
	\$ PRICE	QTY	AMOUNT
Monday 9/30 Bus Tour to Fredericksburg & National Museum of the Pacific War, dedication of plaque. Bus transportation and museum entry is included with your tour price. Lunch and exploring Fredericksburg on your own. (per person):	\$56.00		
Tuesday 10/1 Free day to meet up and explore the wide variety of sites and activities on and near Riverwalk.			
Wednesday 10/2 Mexican Buffet Banquet (per person):	\$41.00		
While we know you would like to attend all events, it isn't required that you sign up for everything. If it fits your schedule and budget, we're pleased. But don't feel you must attend all festivities and stay all 4 days. The main thing is to show up to the reunion and enjoy your friends and shipmates. The Business Meeting and Banquet are our primary events.			
Looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio, Texas!!			
<b>Non-Members &amp; Guests</b> please add \$10.00 per event per person ( <b>Member's</b> guests receive member pricing):	\$ 10.00		
** 2024 Association Membership Dues <b>if</b> not already paid will give you membership pricing on Reunion events. Family price:	\$ 30.00	→	
TOTAL ENCLOSED:			\$
<b>MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MARGARET WATSON</b>			
Please return this form with your payment to: USS Frank Knox Reunion Association c/o Margaret Watson, Treasurer 3421 NW Coronado St., Corvallis, Oregon 97330 Tel: 541-757-8067 <b>Make payable to Margaret Watson.</b>			
Questions: Contact Don Landers, Reunion Coordinator at 817-723-7654 (or e-mail d_landers@sbcglobal.net)			



## REUNION ITINERARY & ACTIVITIES



### Holiday Inn San Antonio-Riverwalk - Located on the famous Riverwalk

Reserve your hotel today. The reunion dates are Sunday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> (check in) through Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, (check out). **The banquet is on Wednesday Night.** The tour is on Monday. Tuesday is an individual exploring day in and around Riverwalk.

**It does not cost you anything to reserve your room (just a credit card to hold your room).** If you need to cancel your reservation, you may do so by 4:00pm two days prior to arrival (48 hours). \$130.00 per night reunion rate (+tax), standard king or queen room. Please call the hotel direct at 210-224-2500 (select option 2) to make your reservations **now** and lock in your rate. Be sure to tell them you would like to make reservations for the USS Frank Knox 2024 Reunion in September. **Give them the reservation block rate code: KNO.** Rates apply 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion (**pending availability**). If you prefer you may also book online (click on the link or copy and paste the following into your browser):

<https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=SATRW&PMID=99801505&GPC=KNO&cn=no&viewfullsite=true>

If you have questions or need help with the link, please do not hesitate to ask.

**Please note: Cutoff Date is September 6, 2024.** Reservations by attendees must be received on or before the **Cutoff Date**.

Reservations received after the cutoff date will be provided on a space available basis at the hotel's current selling rate.

#### Your stay includes:

- Complimentary fitness room and outdoor pool
- Business Center
- Complimentary Wi-Fi in meeting space and guestrooms.
- San Antonio airport is less than 8.5 miles from the hotel. **Shuttle is NOT available to and from airport.** At this time Uber or Lyft will be approximately \$16- \$25 one way.
- Restaurant & Bar onsite. Breakfast buffet available at a reduced rate of \$20 per person. Breakfast is not included in our room rate.

All meals, except the banquet on Wednesday evening, are on your own and at your own expense. There is an on-site restaurant and bar, and there are restaurants galore along Riverwalk.

**Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024:** Attendees arrive for 34<sup>th</sup> annual Frank Knox Reunion. Meet and Greet! Check into your room and then come to the Hospitality Suite to pick up your Welcome Packet and visit with shipmates.

#### Monday, Sept. 30, 2024:

8:30 am	Depart hotel for Fredericksburg and the National Museum of the Pacific War
10:00 am (ish)	Arrive at the museum, check in, and receive orientation
10:30 am	Plaque Dedication Ceremony then tour the museum
Noonish	Lunch and browse the town and/or return for more museum
3:00 pm	Depart museum with a tentative short stop in Luckenbach, Texas
5:00 pm	Arrive at hotel

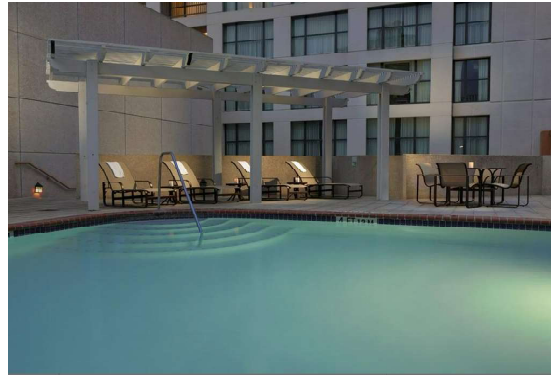


**Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024:** A full day of exploring San Antonio and the Riverwalk area on your own and/or spend time with shipmates in the hospitality room. Our hotel is located on the famous Riverwalk and within walking distance to many of the local sites; like: The Alamo, San Fernando Cathedral, La Villita Historic Arts Village, Historic Market Square, Museums, and restaurants galore!

**Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024:** After breakfast, we will meet in the hospitality room at 9:30 am for our **Annual Business Meeting** where we'll elect Board of Directors for 2024 and **select a location for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion**. Please come prepared to present your suggested **East Coast/Region** reunion location. We'll take a quick break and then begin our **Blind White Elephant Auction!** Please remember to bring your gifts (wrapped if possible and suitable for auction) and a full billfold as we raise funds for our association's coffers. Each year there are surprises, wine, and other great items from your shipmate's locale. When the auction is over, we will then have the afternoon on our own before dinner.

At 5:30 pm we plan to meet for a Group Portrait before our **Grand Buffet Banquet** at 6:30 pm. There will be a cash bar at the banquet. Following introductions and dinner, a special speaker will address the association.

**Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024:** Check out and farewell to all our friends and shipmates until fall 2025.



## Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> - 2024

**In Historic San Antonio, Texas** Our hotel is located on the famous Riverwalk and within walking distance to many of the local sites; like The Alamo, San Fernando Cathedral, La Villita Historic Arts Village, Historic Market Square, Museums, and more. Oh, yeah, and restaurants galore!

**Holiday Inn San Antonio-Riverwalk** Reserve your hotel today. The reunion dates are Sunday, Sept. 29th (check in) through Thursday, October 3rd, 2024, (check out). The banquet is on Wednesday Night.

**MONDAY, Sept 30** – Up early! to board our bus for a tour of the **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR** in Fredericksburg TX. The NMPW is a national treasure with hundreds of exhibits including a **B-25 aircraft**, Japanese **midget submarine** and the conning tower of a US fleet submarine. A **PT boat** is also on display. Certainly, a place to reflect and remember.

**PLAQUE DEDICATION** – A special plaque is in preparation to commemorate the USS FRANK KNOX and her war time crew and the complete history of her 27 years of U.S. service. Quite a few WWII plank owners (16) were active in the Association.



### Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

– Plans for a day exploring San Antonio area. With so much to see it should be another grand day. I'll share a couple of places my wife and I are planning on checking out. Share your plans so others know your thoughts. You'll likely find others thinking about the same or similar places.

### Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

– Annual Business meeting and site selection for the 2025 Reunion location. The always anticipated White Elephant Auction and the Annual Banquet Wednesday evening.

**Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Farewells until 2025! For those staying an extra day or two, Reunion rates apply three days before and after the reunion, (pending availability) so book early! Airport and Shuttle – The San Antonio Airport is less than 8.5 miles from the hotel. A hotel shuttle is NOT available to or from the hotel. At this time, UBER or LYFT are available – rate is about \$16 - \$25 one way.

Breakfast Buffet is available at a reduced rate of \$20/day per person. San Antonio is a very popular destination. Please make your refundable reservation as soon as possible for the hotel availability and FKRA planning. Cutoff date for reservations is September 6, 2024.

Questions? Reunion Coordinator Don Landers – ([d\\_landers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d_landers@sbcglobal.net) – phone 817-723-7654.)

## SAN ANTONIO TOURING –

REUNION SPECIAL – After a day long tour of the National Museum of the Pacific War (Nimitz Museum) enjoying a day on your own in San Antonio is about organizing your interests your interests.

The **Riverwalk** is rich with shops and places to eat and likely some art and craft shops as well. The inner 5 miles is likely your target for this excursion. Foot traffic along is light until noon, then pickup noon to 3. Busiest time is evening 6pm to 930pm.

**UNESCO Missions**, five total, will take some tour expertise. Check Grey Line or Hop on Hop off narrated tours to capture the Missions, architecture and historic Aqueducts Espada and Acequia.

**Pearl District** food and walking tour (munch and march) is a great way to cruise this section of the city. About \$44 pp to do this tour.

Art is alive in the **San Antonio Art museum** - \$17 for a two- hour timed slot to see art and samurai collections. Not far away is the Buckhorn Saloon and Texas Ranger Museum. \$22 pp.

**Brackenridge Park** is a district of the city and a 343-acre green space think Balboa Park in San Diego. This is a restful venue packed central park for an hour or an afternoon. A tour gives you transportation, local expertise and time management plus the sights you want to see. San Antonio is a historic location packed with all the sights and sounds of the Southwest.

## FRANK KNOX EXTERIOR PLANS

– This photo in the Chicago Sun-Times from April 1962 shows the first CO of FRANK KNOX receiving a scale model of the ship from a hobbyist. Thanks to Bill Atkinson we now have exterior plans for FRANK KNOX as built in 1944. Using these plans you can build your own ship's model. The plans were reproduced from the original set at Bath Iron Works, Bath Maine. They include detailed views of the ship's starboard side, top view of the ship and detailed plans for the armament, radars, depth charge racks and twin torpedo tubes. You can pair drawings with actual photos of the ship's equipment. Look for our progress reported in this newsletter and on the website [ussfrankknox.com](http://ussfrankknox.com)

We are on the lookout for more drawings, especially interior compartments, from the original ship's design as well as the first



Joseph Sojka presents his model of the destroyer USS Frank Knox to Capt. Joel C. Ford, who commanded the ship during World War II.

### CHICAGO BRIEFS

## Ship Model Serves As An Old Friend

Capt. Joel C. Ford, commander of the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, is tremendously proud of a newly acquired ship model.

To Ford, the model is more than an interesting knickknack. It is a scaled replica of the destroyer USS Frank Knox, which he commanded during World War II.

The model was made by Joseph Sojka, of 2301 S. 59th Av., Cicero, a design engineer. He worked on it for six months to make every detail perfect before presenting it to Ford.

Sojka, although never in the Navy, has been interested in ships since boyhood. In addition to making models, he also collects photos of Navy ships and information about them.

The destroyer Frank Knox was named for the publisher of the Chicago Daily News who died April 28, 1944, while serving as secretary of the navy.



upgrades to the ship completed at Mare Island shipyard, 1952 and 1961. Please support our work documenting the ship's design and history. Consider an annual membership, or donation, to Frank Knox Reunion Association. Your donation helps support conservation work.

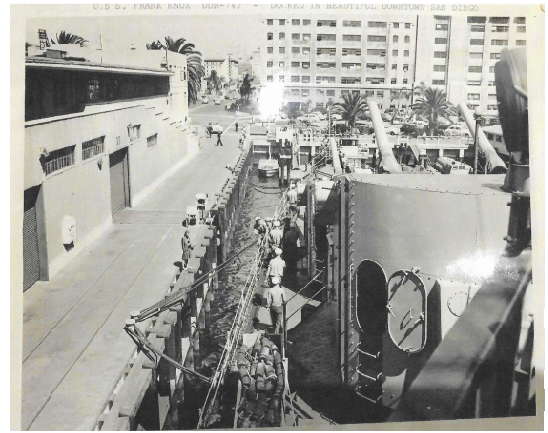


Photo shows the real USS FRANK KNOX alongside San Diego's Navy Pier, exactly where USS MIDWAY CV-41 Museum is moored today. MIDWAY is about to welcome the 20 millionth visitor since opening in June 2004. To visit USS FRANK KNOX you will have to dive 250-300 feet down near the Island of Crete in the Mediterranean Sea.

### **USS FRANK KNOX AWARDS – Background**

**U.S. NAVY “E”** – FRANK KNOX Nine “E” Awards. The original “E” award was titled Army Navy “E” Award, for excellence in War Production. The program began in July 1942, an honor presented to top performers of the civilian war industry. At the time, Frank Knox was Secretary of the Navy and head of the Wartime Production Board.

The Navy Unit Award ribbon began March 1976 to replace the old “E” sewn on the uniform of enlisted E1-E6 of ships winning the award. Ships began receiving Battle “E”s for best in squadron dating back to around 1957. Naval Construction (SeaBee) began the tradition in 1963. USS FRANK KNOX DDR 742 (and DD-742) was awarded 9 Battle “E”s. The criteria states “overall readiness of the command to carry out its assigned wartime tasks, and is based on a year-long evaluation.” The award “recognizes sustained fast and winning performance in an operational environment within a command.” In 1968 USS FRANK KNOX received the Battle “E” mid-year after returning from Vietnam duty earlier in the year.

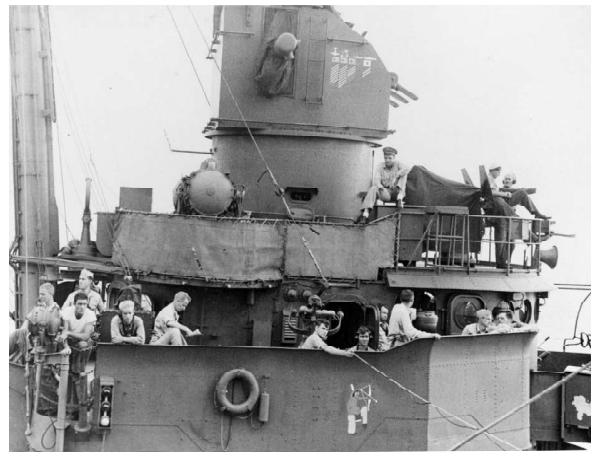
**MARJORIE STERRETT Battleship Fund Award** – Presented annually by the CNO to one ship in the Atlantic and one ship in the Pacific fleet. The recipient is the ship with the highest score in the annual competition for the Battle “E”. The award rotates among various type commands – carriers, submarines, amphibians etc. In 1963 FRANK KNOX received this honor. The fund award began in 1917 by the New York Tribune Association. The namesake, Marjorie Sterrett, was 13 when she wrote to the Tribune and offered her weeks allowance (ten cents) to “build a battleship for Uncle Sam.” Newspapers love stories like this; her February 4, 1916 letter inspired a lot of patriotism in America's youth before the U.S. entered WWI, April 6, 1917.

### **ARLEIGH BURKE FLEET TROPHY –**

Awarded to USS FRANK KNOX November 1968. The award is given annually to the ship, or air unit, demonstrating the greatest improvement in battle efficiency over the previous year. Two commands annually receive the award, one from each coast.

ADM Arleigh “31 kt” Burke, the award’s namesake, graduated from Annapolis June 1923 and was ordered to USS Arizona. His assignments were difficult and dirty but received much praise from superiors. Later he would make contributions in key warfare areas including battle efficiency, new tactical concepts and weapons systems.

By June 1943 Commodore Burke and DESRON 23 the Little Beavers; were assigned to Admiral Halsey’s task force. In November 1943, during the Battle of Cape ST George, the squadron engaged two enemy destroyers and three destroyer transports. In what was described by tacticians as “near perfect surface actions”, the squadron sank three enemy destroyers, and damaged one, without damage to themselves. In the period November 1943 – February 1944, the Little Beavers fought in 22 separate engagements and were credited with destroying one Japanese cruiser , nine destroyers, one submarine, several smaller ships, and approximately 30 aircraft. Burke is 4th in from the left, just left of the life ring.



Burke is 4<sup>th</sup> in from the left, just left of the life ring.

**SHIP OF THE YEAR – OUR NAVY MAGAZINE –** Our Navy Magazine recognized USS FRANK KNOX as “Ship of the Year” in the January 1964 issue following the ship’s recognition of the highest scores during the Battle Efficiency competition. Our Navy began publication in 1897 as bimonthly publication. The Ship of the Year may have started around 1960, however the history is unclear. A ship of the year was named annually to stimulate competition among units. Ship of the Year is a significant and unique award to add to a ship’s resume.

## **ON BOARD SALVAGE CREW –**

Special Certificate by USS Frank Knox Reunion Association awarded to officers and crew who volunteered to remain aboard following the grounding on Pratas Reef Sunday July 18, 1965. 95 officers and enlisted personnel volunteered to remain aboard to provide life support for the stricken destroyer during typhoon season. The initial 95 salvage volunteers shrank to around 34 personnel as salvage and foaming operations wound down. On Tuesday August 24th the ship was refloated and towed to Kaohsiung, Taiwan for initial dry docking and inspection. The officers and men invested everything to keep the ship alive and supporting operations. 155 crew were evacuated July 21, 1965, by HC-1 to USS MIDWAY CV-41.

Emergency diesel operations #2, and boiler #4 provided essential power for many operations. The transfer of steel and support equipment to the ship was managed by the boatswain's mates and other available personnel. These earned the title "On Board Salvage Crew" and our custom certificate to remember their trials and success and celebrate their success. Some, but not all, were invited to the "Royal Reef Runners" party a year later in Yokosuka. The party gathered celebrated the successful salvage of the ship. Sadly, some salvage personnel transferred to other units and missed the party. It was quite a party according to Roger Mullenix MM3 who attended.

## **PASSING OF A FRIEND –**

It is bad enough to lose Don Critz, QM3 and Ted Hallman. Now, word arrives that Kelly Goddard, YN2, the captain's bridge talker aboard USS GRAPPLE ARS-7, has passed away. GRAPPLE was one of the key salvage vessels assisting FRANK KNOX. He was on the bridge with the Captain of GRAPPLE from July 19, 1965 – August 24, 1965, relaying orders for almost every tow, storm and coordinated effort for the grounded destroyer. After grounding on July 18<sup>th</sup> at 0234 the arrival of two tugs, COCOA and MUNSEE, plus the salvage vessel USS GRAPPLE ARS-7, brought needed help and equipment to the scene. GRAPPLE's CO became on-scene commander. The Seventh Fleet Salvage Officer, LCDR Boyd, arrived around four hours later aboard the destroyer STRAUSS, to assume direction of the salvage operations. Goddard recalled the early conversations on the destroyer conversations between his commander and LCDR Boyd. The key question was how bad is it?

Bad is relative, however the typhoon rich South China Sea would play a major role in harassing the salvage ships, personnel and most of the well-intentioned plans made to salvage FRANK KNOX. The "school" solutions to salvage FRANK KNOX from Pratas Reef were damaged or interrupted by weather.

On the FRANK KNOX, the engineering personnel had to rely on the unflooded after fireroom and a leaking number 4 boiler and a good number 3 (for reserve) to provide steam to turbines and electrical generation. Number 4 was the steam generation source for the duration of the salvage. During boiler down-times the ship's emergency diesel was fired up and ran and ran and ran. Boatswain's mates handled all manner of heavy, bulky equipment and containers during foul weather, with few occasional calms. Starting July 26<sup>th</sup> the arrival of salvage equipment, steel material to strengthen the ship and many tons of foam materials to buoy and dewater the ship pushed their duties beyond anything they had experienced. Rigging and changing towing combinations required added work and skills. The motor whaleboat made endless trips near the dangerous reef, and once, a journey from FRANK KNOX to GRAPPLE for shelter during a typhoon. The return of the three-man crew took several days, The motor whale boat returned when seas calmed.

Despite terrible weather and backbreaking work, salvage personnel not part of the Frank Knox crew could return to their ships, clean sheets, hot chow, and freshwater showers. The KNOX crew had food transported by boat, or helo, (often cold), laundry was shipped out and back by helo. Many berthing compartments were flooded. Sleeping on open decks was almost a necessity to ease heat and humidity. Noise and operations continued, nonstop, to free the ship. Rest, or sleep if you were tired enough, was fitful and often interrupted.

Goddard drove 6 hours one way with his brother Butch, to visit with, and salute, the crew members of FRANK KNOX. Goddard joined a reunion program that included BTC Don Greer, BMCS Richard Swaney and BT1 Mike Haloski. Using Navy photos ,and the salvage report, the group spoke in detail about their experience. Their families heard and saw for the first time how exceptional their performance was. Goddard concluded "I have never seen such and outstanding crew and team work more deserving of recognition than these men."

Below is the note received announcing Goddard's passing.

Mr. Landers,

My name is Michael Goddard and I'm writing on behalf of my father, Melvin Kelly Goddard. I regret to inform you my father passed away on March 6. I want to thank you and the other crew members of the U.S.S. Frank Knox for the friendship and brotherhood you provided my dad. He was proud to have served and was very fond of the reunion event he attended a couple of years ago. I hope your auction was successful.

Respectfully,  
Michael Goddard

## NEW SHIP'S STORE ITEM –

Handsome 80th Anniversary Coin. Handsome Frank Knox Shield in full color with gold ship's image super imposed at the bottom. The ship's 17 Battle Stars ring the design against a black background.

Opposite side - The ship's two major awards ring the impressive awards list topped by the Combat Action Ribbon Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Citation and 9 Battle "E" Awards in gold over dramatic black background. A very special keepsake!

\$20 and available from our ships store!



## Call for Reef Runners

If you are one you know it. If not, few remain who remember the 38-day struggle named the “most dramatic and successful ship salvage in the 20<sup>th</sup> century”. Kelly Goddard’s Navy salvage ship USS GRAPPLE ARS7 was first to arrive to lend assistance. They served as on scene commander during the initial salvage phase. Goddard was the 2012 WV State Commander. He traveled to Wilmington NC “because I wanted to meet and talk with the men who lived aboard that stranded ship. It was rough on us; the typhoons were scary. It must have been hell on them for 38 days.”

A year after the salvage, a ROYAL REEF RUNNERS invitation was circulated in Yokosuka to men who served in the salvage fleet and support and to members of the On Board Salvage Crew living on the grounded destroyer. Living on board were: Don Greer BT3, Rich Huehn YN3, Mike Haloski BT3, Gary Platou SFSN, Lionel Price ENS, Bob Harp EM3, Gary Johnson ,EM3, Roger Mullinix FN, Ed Reid ENS, Darrel Hawk SFP3, Guy Stacy QM2, Rick Swaney BM3, Mike Loy LTjg, Veith LT, Darrell Patterson BM2, Marshall BM2, Jon Osborne, CSSN. There are at least 21 others who were on the ship when it was freed from the reef August 24, 1965. There are additional volunteers totaling 95 that remained with the ship at the end of the evacuation by helo to USS MIDWAY. All should be added to this list.

Please come forward with your story and photos. If you don’t your story dies with you. Frank Knox Reunion Association is here to help. 619-992-9449



Richard Huehn, Kelly Goddard,  
Don Greer Mike Haloski - Royal Reef Runners

# TAPS – Reporting To A New Duty Station

## List of Taps reported since the last newsletter:

Fair winds and following seas, gentlemen. From an Orv Krieg Newsletter: “May the lord fill our sails with fair wind, support our hulls in inviting seas, guide our hands upon the tiller toward pleasant places, and bring us home O Lord, to a safe and loving harbor.”

“We are destroyermen! Ready to sail and always can do. The first to arrive and the last to go.” Destroyerman’s Creed

**Don Critz**, SA1, aboard 8/59-11/61, 10/3/1939 – 2/28/2024 Prairie Home, MO

**James “Ted” Hallman**, aboard 10/61-12-64, SK1, 6/14/1938 – 4/24/2024. Orange Park FL.

**Kelly Goddard**, in company, aboard USS GRAPPLE, YN2, 7/18/1965 – 8/25/1965. 03/06/2024, Rainelle WV (West Va. State Commander VFW)

## Board Members

**Harry Chandler**,  
President & VP Membership  
(928) 925-9490 Email:  
hchandler64@gmail.com

**Steve Cross**, Ships  
Historian & VP Communications  
(619) 992-9449 Email:  
stephencross742@gmail.com

**Margaret Watson**, VP  
Finance  
(541) 757-8067 Email:  
mewatson1425@msn.com

**Don Greer**, Ships Store  
Mgr.  
(503) 789-9968 Email:  
dongreer1944@gmail.com

**Tom Soltis**, VP  
Website  
(630) 852-6404 Email:  
tsoltis1@comcast.net

**Don Landers**, VP  
Reunion Coord.  
Email: d\_landers@sbcglobal.net

**Joy Chandler**, Committee Member

**Sue Healy**, Committee Member

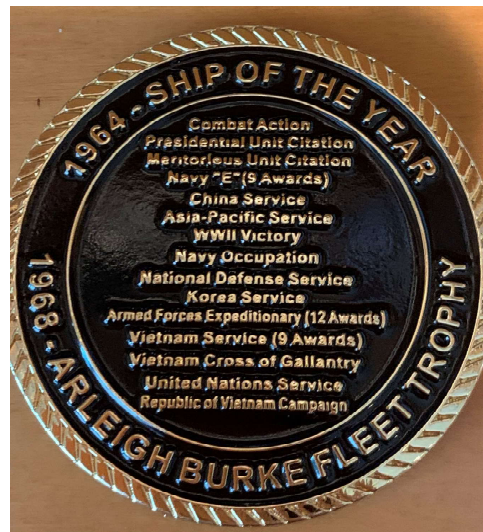
**Vaughan Kruger**, Committee Member

**Bill Atkinson**, Committee Member

## Life Member Certificate and Pin



## Commerative 80th Anniversary Coin \$20



Summer 2024



# USS Frank Knox Ships Store



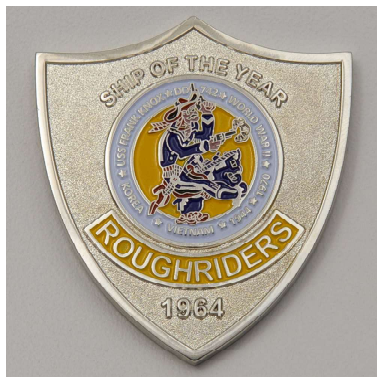
Baseball Cap \$20.00



Rough Rider Patch \$5.00



USS Frank Knox Shield  
Patch \$5.00



Ship of the Year Roughriders 1964 Medallion \$10.00



U.S.S. Frank Knox Ship's Medallion \$10.00

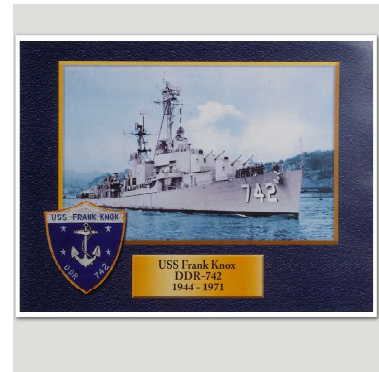




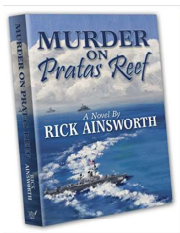
**License Plate Frame \$20.00**



**USS Frank Knox \$10.00**



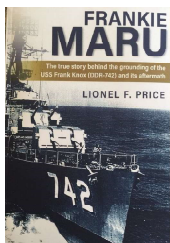
**Photo - Ship with shield patch and plaque \$5.00**



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Summer 2024

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REUNION ASSOCIATION  
3421 NW Coronado Street  
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