

From the Bridge.....AUG 07.....

Our regular monthly meeting of 11 JUN 07 was conducted at Hometown Buffet at 1100. We went into dry dock for the months of JUL & AUG and will be underway again at 1100 on 10 SEP at Hometown Buffet, 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd. located on the west side of Scottsdale Rd just south of McDowell Rd. We have reserved the back room at Hometown for our meetings through DEC 07 and, as always, for the second Monday of each month.

NOTE: Guests and wives are always welcome to attend our meetings. Wives, ex-GI's and active GI's are invited to join the association and are eligible to hold office. We are a family organization of 44 members.

Welcome new members who have recently joined us: Russell Dix, DD 862; Joe Dixon, DD 709; Darrell Fields, AD 28; Ed Klemm, DD 847; Del Krause, DDE 847; Tom Roell, DD 779; Arnold Tropf, DD 805. Our sincere apologies if anyone has been overlooked.

We look forward to having Joanna Burgan, retired USAF, meet with us on 10 SEP along with her father, a visiting Oregon resident, who served aboard USS Doyle DD 494 present at the Normandy invasion and sister ship of member Larry Smith's USS Frankford DD 497. As we know, Frankford took the lead in going close ashore, actually scraping bottom at Omaha Beach to fire at enemy guns that were making the beach a killing zone. Doyle and other tin cans in the squadron followed suit eventually silencing the enemy fire, which allowed the invasion on Omaha Beach to continue successfully. This will be a reunion of sorts for these two sailors. We're proud of our WW II members.

Webmaster Mel Kowal DER 386 won't be in town to show segments of Victory at Sea for the SEP and OCT meetings, however we have a guest speaker for SEP, Mr. Joe Johnson author of the book *Baby of Bataan*. Mr. Johnson enlisted in the army at age 14 in 1940, (he was a big kid), ordered to surrender at Corregidor Island he became a POW at age 15 and was released at war's end in Japan at age 18 after surviving numerous prison camps and two Japanese Hell Ships traveling from the Philippines to Japan. Mr. Johnson will speak of his experiences as a POW of the Japanese. His book is well written, is most interesting and inspiring and a true profile in courage.

The membership voted to spend \$100.00 for items for the troops in addition to the items brought to the meeting for mailing. The "Skipper" spent \$90.00 for snacks and toiletries using the remaining \$10.00 to help with postage. Together, the items made up nine care packages in flat rate boxes. 1st Lt. Matt Maimone advised all boxes were received in good shape, placed in the center of the Day Room and divided among the troops. The Lt. extends his heartfelt thanks for the thoughtfulness of our group. Capt. Cindy Stockamp thanked us for the packages in her newsletter, *Sharana News* and sent us a copy.

At the MAY meeting Webmaster Mel DER 386, donated the book *Sea of Thunder* by Evan Thomas that was raffled off in JUN raising \$49.00. Thanks Mel you are always doing something FOR the Association and we greatly appreciate it.....(Over)

Ed Klemm DD 847, won the 50/50 draw and donated his share of \$36.00 back to the treasury. Thanks Ed. Your generosity is appreciated.

The Skipper DE 365, representing the association, laid our wreath at the Memorial Day ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery. Also present were members Al Guier DDE 719 and Jim Ryan DDR838. Sorry if we missed any other of our members who may have been there. Rick Romely, USMC (Ret.) Severely wounded in Vietnam MC'd the ceremony. A fly over was conducted by the Primary Trainer Squadron, Arizona Antique Airplane Association, (actual 1940 WW II trainers), at the start and a fly over at the end of the ceremony was by F-16's from Luke Air Force Base. We were presented a thank you card and ribbon from the Arizona Memorial Day Committee for our participation.

On 12 JUN 07 The "Skipper" represented the Association at the funeral of Sgt. Caleb P. Christopher, US Army, killed in Iraq 3 JUN 07. The family was presented with a letter from us expressing our condolences and thanking them for their son's honorable service.

On 23 JUL 07 the "Skipper" wrote a letter on behalf of the Association to the Heritage Preservation Services, US National Park Service, Washington DC, requesting funding for the necessary dry-docking of the USS Slater DE 766 Historical Museum in Albany, NY. Slater, nearly fully restored, is the only floating DE in the country and in order to continue as a museum needs dry-docking for hull maintenance. All of her restoration has been done by volunteers and without public funds, hence, we are asking for government financial assistance in this program, which will require about \$100,000. Membership is available by writing DEHM USS Slater/ PO Box 1926/ Albany, NY 12201, \$25.00/year. Membership in the National DESA is available by writing DESA/ PO Box 3448/ Deland, Florida 32721, \$20.00/ year.

REMEMBER: Our upcoming meeting 10 SEP 07, is at Hometown Buffet at 1100. Let's have a big turnout for our Oregon guest and guest speaker Joe Johnson. BRING A GUEST/S and let's have another big donation of items for the CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM just like last time. If everyone brings a little something it won't cost each one very much and we'll have a bunch to send in the aggregate. The TROOPS COULD USE all kinds of toiletries, snacks, soups, hot chocolate mix, any kind of dry foods, trail mix, nuts, cards, games, writing materials, skin care products, mouthwash, and anything else you think they could use. And don't forget the female troops for items that women can use. They'll appreciate anything we send and are very thankful for the remembrance.

Looking forward to seeing y'all in SEP.....Fair Winds and Calm Seas.

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