



CLEVER BOY

Vol. III No. 4

October 2019



N X Y O



IN THIS ISSUE—

Jam packed with good stuff

VETERAN AND NAVY NEWS

- ◆ Blue Water Navy & Agent Orange benefits update
- ◆ VA Mission Act details
- ◆ VA Medical benefit eligibility

MAILBAG

ETERNAL PATROL NOTICES

SURFIN' SUBMARINER—Links to Web Sites of Interest

READER'S PUKA — Submarine book, magazine and video reviews & suggestions



USS SABALO SS-302

BALAO CLASS

DIESEL ELECTRIC SUBMARINE

IN COMMISSION:

1945-46 & 1951-71

A PROUD WORKHORSE

OF THE FLEET



She made her missions.

We did our best.

We served our country.

This has been done.

* * * * *

<http://ussabalo.org>

The Sabalo web site has much information about the men who served in her, and the ship details and exploits. Copies of all the past *Clever Boy* newsletters beginning from 2009 can be accessed from this page:
<https://ussabalo.org/RN-Clever%20Boy%20Index.html>

CLEVER BOY is a privately authored and published newsletter of the **USS Sabalo Association**. The Association is an informal group for the preservation of the submarine's history, the assemblage of the list of all who served in her, chronicling her exploits and missions, and celebrating the memories of those who manned her. "Clever Boy" was the radio call sign for Sabalo, and NXYO was her flag identification code.

CLEVER BOY is currently distributed via online and hard copy to over 400 veterans of the U.S. Navy submarine, USS Sabalo SS-302. If you can no longer receive email, please remember to communicate so that you can be switched to receive a hard copy. The cost of those who receive hard copies is supported by donations. If you have no interest in this newsletter, please communicate so funds can be conserved.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR OF ANY CHANGES OF ADDRESS EITHER USPS OR EMAIL.

Not a day goes by, when in which my mind doesn't slip away to those days on the Sabalo.

=====

Who can say where the road goes ...
Where the day flows,
Only time

—Enya



More Info:
<https://ussabalo.org/USSVI.html>

Millions More Vets and Caregivers Are About to Get Commissary, Exchange Access

Starting Jan. 1, 2020, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and all service-connected disabled veterans, regardless of rating, as well as caregivers enrolled in the VA's Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers program, will be able to shop at Defense Commissary Agency stores and military exchanges.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/09/20/millions-more-vets-and-caregivers-are-about-get-commissary-exchange-access.html>

Sailors are taking on too much weight- The Navy Is the Fattest But Obesity Rates Are Up Across the Services

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/09/03/navy-fattest-obesity-rates->

How to apply for a Veteran ID Card

A Veteran ID Card (VIC) is a form of photo ID you can use to get discounts offered to Veterans at many restaurants, hotels, stores, and other businesses.

If you don't have a retiree's or VA medical ID card, or don't live in a state that ID's vets on driver's licenses, there is still a way to get a positive ID as a veteran; This web site will lead you through the procedure:

<https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic/>

A Submarine

Born in the shops of the Devil,
Designed in the brains of a fiend;
Filled with acid and crude oil,
And christened "A Submarine".

The poets send in their ditties,
Of Battleships spick and clean;
But never a word in their columns,
Do you see of a submarine.

I'll try and depict our story,
In a very laconic way;
Please have patience to listen,
Until I have finished my say.

We eat where're we can find it,
And sleep hanging up on the hooks;
Conditions under which we're existing,
Are never published in books.

Life on these boats is obnoxious,
And that is using mild terms;
We are never bothered by sickness,
There isn't any room for germs.

We are never troubled with varmits,
There are things even a cockroach
can't stand.
And any self-respecting rodent,
Quick as possible beats it for land.

And that little one dollar per dive,
We receive to submerge out of sight;
Is often earned more than double,
By charging batteries at night.

And that extra compensation,
We receive on boats like these;
We never really get at all,
It's spent on soap and dungarees.

Machinists get soaked in fuel oil,
Electricians in H2SO4;
Gunners mates with 600W,
And torpedo slush galore.

When we come into the Navy Yard,
We are looked upon with disgrace;
And they make out some new regulations,
To fit our particular case.

Now all you Battleship sailors,
When you are feelin' disgruntled and mean;
Just pack your bag and hammock,
And go to "A Submarine"

from Sub Base newspaper in Groton,
CT in 1966.-author unknown, reputed
to be a sailor off the N-2

➡ In the jargon department -

Nub – Newbie, or someone who does not stand watches and is therefore deadweight to the department. Literally, "Non-Usable Body. Two polite terms for what the boats call 'non-qual pukers'.

THANK YOU GENEROUS DONORS! - TNX again to all who kicked in some extra donaro to keep Clever Boy going a bit longer. The money received has made hard copies available to those on the list without email who have indicated they wish to receive it.

Christmas is coming! Buy yourself a present, or hint to those who can't find something you'd like

SHIP'S STORE — DID I MISPLACE OR FORGET YOUR REQUEST? PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

If you asked me for any items either at the reunion or by email at some point and never got any response, your request may have gotten lost in my many folders of email. Please communicate again, and I will get back to you about what I still have, or the possibility of obtaining any items I don't have presently. I will try to revise the Ship's Store page on the web site soon to reflect all the options. Still working on source to print some more posters of the 'Sabalo Battle Flag'. Check the web site for details on what may be available, or call.

**After a run on the treadmill, I thought I was losing weight,
but then I discovered my sweat pants were untied.**

One of the great American poets captured the essence of WWI subs in this poem. The first four lines appeared in the last CB issue.

The Trade

*by Rudyard Kipling
1914-18 Sea Warfare*

*They bear, in place of classic names,
Letters and numbers on their skin.
They play their grisly blindfold games
In little boxes made of tin.
Sometimes they stalk the Zeppelin,
Sometimes they learn where mines are laid,
Or where the Baltic ice is thin.
That is the custom of "The Trade."*

*Few prize-courts sit upon their claims.
They seldom tow their targets in.
They follow certain secret aims
Down under, far from strife or din.
When they are ready to begin
No flag is flown, no fuss is made
More than the shearing of a pin.
That is the custom of "The Trade."*

*The scout's quadruple funnel flames
A mark from Sweden to the Swin,
The Cruiser's thund'rous screw proclaims
Her comings out and goings in:
But only whiffs of paraffin
Or creamy rings that fizz and fade
Show where the one-eyed Death has been.
That is the custom of "The Trade."*

*Their feats, their fortunes and their fames
Are hidden from their nearest kin;
No eager public backs or blames,
No journal prints the yarns they spin
(The Censor would not let it in!)
When they return from run or raid.
Unheard they work, unseen they win.
That is the custom of "The Trade."*



How beautifully leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days.
...by John Burroughs, naturalist, nature essayist

Rolling Thunder announced Memorial Day 2019 to be Final Washington DC Event

Rolling Thunder's annual roaring motorcycle parade through the streets of the nation's capital will not be repeated. Organizers said this year's ride, drew maybe more than 1 million riders and spectators to the National Mall. The event has become a fixture of Memorial Day commemorations in Washington, D.C. for more than 30 years, drawing attention to military members still missing in action. But the noisy, attention-getting demonstration also has become a victim of its own success. Pete Zaleski, vice president of Rolling Thunder Inc., said costs for security and clean-up of the event have swelled to more than \$200,000, an expense the group cannot continue to sustain. "It really has exploded to beyond what we can support," he told Military Times. "These costs didn't exist 10 years ago." Zaleski said the size of the crowd both participating and watching have prompted additional security concerns at the Pentagon, where the annual ride typically starts. That has prompted several new costs and conflicts with local officials. "We still have 90 chapters in 33 states, and we're going to help them coordinate their own rides on a smaller scale," Zaleski said. "The group is not going under, and our message is not going away. We're just not going to be doing it in Washington anymore."

***In the last issue I included info on this, but there may have been confusion. Also, until the form is posted online just contact me.—
Jeff***

South Korea Veterans Ambassador for Peace Medal

The application needs to be filed based on your regional location with the Korean /consulate for your state. I have created a generic form suitable for all regions – Jeff O.

- ◇ 1. To be eligible, the veterans must have served during the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. It is also available for the veterans who have participated in UN peacekeeping operations until the end of 1955.
- ◇ 2. The commemorative medals may be awarded posthumously. The next of kin, such as the spouse or descendants may apply for the medal on behalf of a deceased veteran.
- ◇ 3. To apply for this medal, send completed application form with DD-214 to the South Korean Consulate for your region. An application form will eventually be available for download on the Sabalo web site.

List of consulates

http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-en/wpge/m_4501/contents.do

See pic of medal on last page

BLUE WATER NAVY—AGENT ORANGE UPDATE

The Procopio Case— a synopsis by ed.

In January 2019, after numerous court filings, the court ruled in favor of Alfred Procopio, Jr., 73, who served on the USS Intrepid during the Vietnam War. Procopio is one of tens of thousands of veterans who served aboard aircraft carriers, destroyers and other ships and were deemed ineligible for the same disability benefits as those veterans who served on the ground and inland waterways. The decision came 10 years after the VA denied Procopio's disability claims for diabetes and prostate cancer.

At issue was interpretation of the current law, which had presumption for exposure and allows easier access to disability benefits for veterans who "served in the Republic of Vietnam" and suffer from one of a list of illnesses linked to the Agent Orange. The herbicide has been found to cause respiratory cancers, Parkinson's disease and heart disease, as well as other conditions. The court determined territorial seas should be included in the definition of "Republic of Vietnam" – a point the government disputed. For Procopio and other Blue Water Navy veterans, the decision could result in thousands of dollars of disability benefits each month. John Wells, one of the attorneys on the case, estimated 50,000 to 70,000 veterans could become eligible for benefits.

The VA ultimately decided in June to discontinue any appeal.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/03/26/va-drop-fight-against-blue-water-navy-veterans.html>

The full case can be read here:

<http://www.cafc.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/opinions-orders/17-1821.Opinion.1-29-2019.pdf>

The question now remaining is whether these determinations will take precedence over the Blue Water Act for determining benefit eligibility. The Act states the presumption is based on "Territorial Waters". The Procopio Case interprets the other applicable laws to mean "waters off-shore".

It is expected that there may be more debate and court cases on the matter.

Standby for more updates when the Blue Water Act takes effect on 1 Jan 2020.

Blue Water Navy Association

<https://www.bwnvva.org/>

News from this group should continue to be monitored for new info. They remain as a prime watchdog and promoter of topics regarding VA benefit recognition of Agent Orange exposure.

VA Now Has Shorter Wait Times Than Private Clinics, AMA Study Claims - 23 Jan 2019

"In 2014 the average wait time in V.A. hospitals was 22.5 days, compared with 18.7 in the private sector," the study said, but in 2017, "mean wait time at V.A. hospitals had gone down to 17.7 days, while rising to 29.8 for private practitioners." read more:

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/01/23/va-now-has-shorter-wait-times-private-clinics-ama-study-claims.html>

During June 2019—Wash-DC

<https://www.bwnvva.org/hr-299.html>

President Trump has signed HR 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, and it will go into effect 1 Jan 2020. Some conflicts are being discussed between the specifics of the Act and the Procopio case. Some discussion of the latter here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3hjXBY_WM4

It seems that whether Sabalo will be finally included is contingent on proving she was within the 12 mile territorial waters. We were, but whether this can be established seems problematic for some of the occurrences. —ed.

The Constitution: it doesn't need to be rewritten, it needs to be reread.

The Boat

When the hatch closes over your head, the OOD says last man down and the COB says green board, you understand the meaning of adventure.

When the only thing between you and millions of gallons of seawater is a steel hull and some closed valves, you understand the meaning of courage.

When its' ALL FOR ONE, AND ONE FOR ALL you understand the meaning of brotherhood.

When sonar calls out to the conn high speed screws in the water in a hostile area, you understand the meaning of fear.

When hissing water in the overhead turns from a slight annoyance to a terrifying rushing cascade bouncing off the hull and equipment, you understand the meaning of survival.

When you see a shipmate stand at attention while the Captain pins on the fish he worked so hard to earn, you understand the meaning of pride.

When you retire and they pipe you over the side for the very last time, you learn the meaning of great sadness.

When your eyes grow dim and your strength ebbs with age, you understand the meaning of envy every time you see a submarine getting underway.

When a shipmate from a time so long ago passes on and people say so many things they wish they had said before they departed, you understand regret.

Author unknown, contributed by Don Nelson

☸ **Surfin' Submariner**

Online *CB* viewers can use these clickable links or others can find these sites online using the URL

RAO Bulletin— <http://www.nhc-ul.org/rao.html>

MilitaryConnection.com has announced the launch of **Veteran Art Connection**, a joint partnership with **Visions for Vets** that features an online gallery of art produced by America's military heroes. It utilizes art therapy techniques as a treatment for PTSD, lifelong disabilities, and other issues that might be a result of military service
<https://veteranartconnection.com/>

The Torpedoes of WWII - Documentary
<https://youtu.be/AJttDDx0Axs>

The Largest Submarine in The U.S. Navy—A piece about Ohio class with vid from inside the USS Pennsylvania (28.4 min.)
<https://youtu.be/UxB11eAl-YE>

Map Of All Sunken Japanese Ships During WWII Is Absolutely Mind-blowing (submitted by Will Kaefer)
<https://worldwarwings.com/this-map-of-all-sunken-japanese-ships-during-wwii-is-absolutely-mind-blowing/>

50 Years Ago, the U.S. Navy Lost the Scorpion—Dec. 2018
<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/50-years-ago-us-navy-lost-submarine-shocking-accident-heres-what-happened-40137>

Grunion Wreckage Found—Bow of WWII US Submarine Discovered Near Remote Alaskan Island



RE-UPPING IS BIG \$\$ THESE DAYS

◆ **Navy Selective Reenlistment Bonus Program** -

Retention of trained and highly technical job skills is critical. The Navy's program is complicated with bonuses up to \$100,000 possible. Here's one example for a Hospital Corpsman PO2 with 8 years prior & re-enlisting for 6 more years = \$60,000. Payout schedules and taxes affect the actual amount being received. Details are complex, see:

<https://www.thebalancecareers.com/navy-selective-reenlistment-bonus-program-3346192>

◆ Likewise, the Army has just reviewed its reenlistment bonus program. Some critical specialties had an increase of the amount up to 12.5%. Periods possible range from 12 to 60 months. A PFC gets the minimum of \$1,000 for a 12 month extension. The maximum amount is \$81,000 for higher ranking rangers and cyber security specialists. Other critical specialists can expect \$65,000 for 60 months. There are about 700 possible variations based on rank, specialty experience, and length of reenlistment.

Non-VA medical care paid by the VA THE VA MISSION ACT

<https://militarybenefits.info/va-mission-act/>

<https://missionact.va.gov/>

*** **

Typical government SNAFU: To differentiate from the previous program entitled "Care in the Community", the new program is entitled "Community Care". Now I bet that relieves all the confusion for you !!

VA launches new health care options under MISSION Act

The VA launched its new and improved Veterans Community Care Program on June 6, 2019, implementing portions of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (MISSION Act), which both ends the Veterans Choice Program and establishes a new Veterans Community Care Program.

The MISSION Act will strengthen the nationwide VA Health Care System by empowering Veterans with more health care options.

"The changes not only improve our ability to provide the health care Veterans need, but also when and where they need it," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "It will also put Veterans at the center of their care and offer options, including expanded telehealth and urgent care, so they can find the balance in the system that is right for them."

Under the new Veterans Community Care Program, Veterans can work with their VA health care provider or other VA staff to see if they are eligible to receive community care based on new criteria. Eligibility for community care does not require a Veteran to receive that care in the community; Veterans can still choose to have VA provide their care. Veterans may elect to receive care in the community if they meet any of the six eligibility criteria: ck link for details:

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5264>

A Million Veterans Have Looked Into Private Care Since Mission Act Rollout

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/09/25/million-veterans-have-looked-private-care-mission-act-rollout.html>



UNDER THE HEADING OF POLITICALLY CORRECT B.S.

Sailors May Dress According to Preferred Gender While Off Duty, Navy Rules

9 Apr 2019 Military.com | By Hope Hodge Seck

With the upcoming April 12 start of a new Pentagon policy that will bar most transgender people from entering the military and restrict transgender medical transition for those not grandfathered in, the Navy has released additional guidance noting that sailors will be permitted to "live socially" in their preferred gender while not on duty, even if they must conform to the standards associated with their biological gender while in uniform. "There is no policy that prohibits the ability of a service member to express themselves off-duty in their preferred gender," ... more

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/04/09/sailors-may-dress-according-preferred-gender-while-duty-navy-rules.html>

Movie Night in the After Battery

Old Silent Service TV series from the 50's

(A real marathon—not all the episodes can be accessed, but a lot of watching. A few hours of this and you be overwhelmed with nostalgia. —Season One 39 episodes; Season Two 36 episodes. (The short clip at the beginning of the episodes is the Pickerel SS-524 doing a max angle surface. This footage was taken from the deck of the Sabalo.

Below is link to Season One. Click on "Silent Service" in left column to get to Season Two. :

<https://www.silent-service.com/cat-ss-s1.html>

Voted The Most Realistic American Submarine Movie (56 min)

From the film-maker: "I made this one hour primetime television special in 1986. At the time, it was a big deal for the Navy to let me on one of their submarines. I love the experience and the submariners. This documentary won the blue ribbon at the American Film Festival. As I am an independent filmmaker, I make a portion of my living from selling copies of my films but I have decided, given the number of requests that I have had from ex-Navy men and women, to put the entire film up on YouTube. "

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Qt7dyhB-jg>

RUSSIA & CHINA LASER WEAPONS MAKE PUBLIC DEBUT

In 2018 details were made public about **Russia's laser weapon. Peresvet** is designed to be used against unmanned aerial vehicles. At the same time, its effectiveness directly depends on environmental conditions; in good weather, it works perfectly, but fog, rain, snow and other adverse weather events can interfere with the passage of the laser beam. Details are limited, but such installations consume a lot of electricity, so using them on mobile platforms is unlikely to succeed. In the future, it is expected they will be deployed as fixed units to protect many military bases and other locations from penetrations of unmanned drones.

Not much is publicly known about the **Peresvet** combat laser system, as *Sputnik*, a Russian media outlet controlled by the government, noted. What exactly it does has been the

subject of much speculation. "It is expected to be an air-defense system that can track and shoot down hostile aircraft and missiles," Sputnik explained, adding, "Some suggest it will be tasked with 'blinding' sophisticated enemy systems, making them inoperable."

The Russian defense ministry posted videos on the weapon back in July before it had officially entered service.

<https://youtu.be/ghDvDFb3IM0> &

<https://youtu.be/PIUsAOfvtPg>

China unveiled the LW-30, a vehicle-based laser weapon built to quickly eliminate a variety of aerial targets, at Airshow China Nov 2018 in Zhuhai. <https://www.janes.com/article/84491/airshow-china-2018-casic-s-lw-30-laser-weapon-system-breaks-cover>

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY— NICKNAMES

- If Laura, Kate and Sarah go out for lunch, they will call each other Laura, Kate and Sarah.
- If Mike, Dave and John go out, they will affectionately refer to each other as Fat Boy, Bubba and Wildman

⇒ **On the subject of : This is No B.S. (This is a Nuke boat story, but a good one!)**
CALL A MEDIC, THE CORPSMAN NEEDS ONE, PLEASE!

I discovered this knot about the size of a nickel on the back of my neck. We were out on sea trials and I went to see the Doc. He looks at it and says "Yea, needs lancing. But let's wait until we get back into port so we'll have fresh air and sunlight to help it heal". Sounded reasonable.

We get back in to port and I go see him a couple of days later. He says, "Let's wait till we get back out to sea where I've got all the stuff I need and plenty of time".

We're underway again and now the mass is about the size of a quarter. And my vision seemed to be just slightly blurry. I found that if I cupped the knot in my hand and pulled it away from my spine that my vision cleared up. Whoa!

I'm telling my running mate about this. He's a non-nuke MM, master repairmen of all things submarine. We're down in lower level AMR1 having this chat. His name is Pig. No, his mother named him Bert but we nicknamed him and it stuck. Most would say it suited him well. If you know A-gangers you know what I'm sayin'. Pig says, "Sit down here, lemme take a look." I planted myself on a CRES rag can, bent over with my elbows on my knees. He grunts, whips out his handy-dandy all purpose 'Frog-Sticker' (forerunner of the Defender 10.5 in folding knife). If the phrase "I got this" had been coined back, then he would have said "I got this."

He initiates a surgical procedure of carving around the core of this knot. Then puts the knife down and places each of his thumbs on opposite sides of the mass and squeezes inward. I hear him yell "Jesus!" and he jumps back. At the same time, I feel this heavenly release of pressure off my neck. He grabs my shoulders and jerks me off of the rag can. He's staring wide-eyed up at the overhead. A bloody glob of this massive cyst is dangling from the lagging, ready to succumb to the rule of gravity. I thought he was done but he's not. He finishes with a gillye washdown. Job done. I can see clearly now. (hmm, has a ring to it, maybe I'll write a song about this). I'm good as new.

A couple of days later the Doc pulls me into his cubby and says he's ready. I waived him off and told him it was taken care of. He asked me what I meant and I told him Pig cut it out and I was fine. He stepped back, jaw dropped and turned a ghastly, ghostly white. He started sputtering something about sanitary this and greasy that. He began making this weird squeaky, whimpering noise. He looked truly upset. Being very concerned about his well being I left.

Many years later when I had my retirement physical. the four-striper checking me over noticed the cavity on my neck. She asked about it.

"You see doc ,I discovered this knot about the size of a nickel on the back..."

...posted on Facebook by [Fred Bannon](#) in *SUBMARINE BUBBLEHEAD BROTHERHOOD*.

U.S. Firms At The Top Of The Global Arms Trade—Dec 2018

US companies hold more than half of the world market share for military equipment, according to a recent study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Lockheed Martin remains the undisputed leader among the world's 100 largest defense companies. No other company in the industry made a larger profit in 2017. With sales amounting to \$44 billion (€27.8 billion), Lockheed Martin leads the SIPRI ranking by a wide margin. Germany's largest defense group, Düsseldorf-based Rheinmetall AG, doesn't even account for a 10th of this sum. With sales of \$3.4 billion, Rheinmetall ranks 25th.

Lockheed Martin is primarily producing large equipment requirements of the US armed forces. These include the F-35 Lightning combat aircraft and the C-130 Hercules transport aircraft. Boeing is the world's second-largest arms manufacturer. In July, President Donald Trump awarded Boeing the contract to build two new Air Force One aircraft for the president's travels. Trump bargained the price down to \$3.9 billion and did away with the previous light blue and white design. The arms race with countries such as Russia and China also fuels business: Lockheed Martin is currently developing an expensive "hypersonic missile" that can bypass conventional radar systems. Russia and China already have long-range missiles of this kind that fly at multiple times the speed of sound. The arms race now also includes space, which Trump wants to dominate with a future "space force." In the coming year, the US intends to invest the record sum of \$716 billion in armaments.

This is a combination of the
MAILBAG & MEET YOUR SHIPMATE:
Donald Randolph Nelson, STCS(SS),Ret.
—STS2(SS) on board Sabalo '68-69

Back in May, Don and I had an exchange. Don't know how it came up as a subject, but class rankings at high school graduation came up, and the relevance to life success was discussed. My rank was 125 out of 430. I was always told I didn't apply myself, and my grades were thus reflected in my final average. - Jeff

Don's reply: Yeah, 58 out of 308 for me. E. St. Louis Senior High in Illinois. I was told to go to work because my I.Q. according to the IQ scores would not allow me to go to college. So I went to work for the Missouri Pacific RR as electrician apprentice making \$2.22 per hour. Wasn't long before I was a resident of the E.St.Louis City Jail. Was there for about 6 days before I was arraigned. When I went before he Judge (Judge Hanley?) He gave me a choice. Stay in Jail or go with he man siting in the back of he room. Navy Recruiter! Found my self in San-Diego about 12 hours later wondering if I hadn't been better off staying in jail. Found out it wasn't so much the Navy I liked but I fell in love with the smell of diesel, the sound of the 4-16 cyl. Jimmys [maybe he means FB's—J], and the uniqueness and professionalism of my fellow man. Something I have never found again.

After Navy career went to school again. AA, BA, MS, PHD, and PSYD. No idea how I made it given my labels out of HS. Went to work for Honeywell out of the Navy while going to school (brutal)! After my BA with my last \$158.00 opened a 10x12 room with an electric typewriter working for the courts as Guardian ad Litem. Finally started making enough to supplement wife's income and feed my boys. Founded Family Services Clinic in Port Orchard, Wa. On Mile Hill Dr. There for 12+years after MS. Master's degree soon wasn't enough when the medical profession

went to managed acre so I went into debt again to get a PHD. Picked up a PsyD along he way too. Finally left WA. In 1998 and went to work for Linn County Mental Health stationed at the county jail working with mentally ill headed to prison of stepping down in a futile effort to re-enter society.

Had a stroke in 2016 and life-flighted to OHSU hospital where I was told I would not be able to walk or speak again. God had other plans. Linn County retired me without my permission. I had over 6 months of sick time built up and over 30 days' vacation on the books. I worked my ass off trying to learn how to walk, how not to slur my words and I cannot count the times I fell in the street and yard trying to walk. I did not go to physical therapy at first, and after I did, I simply did not need it. With the help of my wife of 53 years and diesel boat determination I am now fully functional, ht.+ wt. proportional and fully employed by the State of Oregon. So yeah.....Fuck the morons that said I couldn't go to college, fuck the doctors that said I couldn't walk or talk again.

However, not only do HS grades not mean shit, neither does college grades. They only keep you from being kicked out of college as if that is some awful thing. Never, ever have I been asked my grade point average in any case. (All A's except one stinking B in PHD.) Titles, degrees, and other special recognition don't mean shit! I know because I've got them. Just get the piece of paper whether a diploma or certificate (if even needed) and go to work! Keep in mind schools are b-ass-ackwards. Schools teach you the lesson then give you he test to see if you learned anything. LIFE ON THE OTHER HAND / TEST FIRST; LESSON AFTERWARDS. Best learning tool on earth!

So Jeffagain dang it...you are completely right again. We need to pay less attention to worrying about one-ups-manship. Just get the piece of paper whether a diploma or certificate (if even needed) and go to work! Thanks for the reminder shipmate! DBF, Don

New Veterans Cemetery Construction Behind Schedule

A federal plan to build up to 18 veteran cemeteries by the end of 2017 is so far behind schedule that it will take a decade to complete the project, according to GAO. The GAO found that the main obstacle to the VA and its National Cemetery Administration (NCA) project has been buying land, noting that cost estimates for some sites have more than doubled since being proposed....

The new cemeteries include urban and rural locations and have been proposed for California, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. As of late September 2019, new cemeteries had been completed in only two locations — Laurel, Montana, and Fargo, North Dakota. The GAO report comes after the Army last month announced new rules to restrict who can be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, which is running out of space for

Eternal Patrol Notices

Petterson, William Viktor d.25 May 2019, Canby, OR EN2(SS) abd Aug54-Dec55; Qual on 302 Jan55

SAILOR REST YOUR OAR !

[There have also been other recent discoveries of a few other previously unlocated Sabalo men who have had their status on the web site changed due to recently finding data they had passed away a number of years past.]

Thankfully, reports since our last issue are greatly diminished, Check out the poem, **The Boat**, on pg. 5 related to lost shipmates:



Reader's Puka* - Book recommendations and reviews— *{send in yours for sharing}* may be available from many outlets including eBay, [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [ChristianBooks.com](#), [Books-a-Million](#), [Church Source](#), [Kobo](#), [IndieBound](#) and [Audible.com](#).

The Raft, by Robert Trumbull—The true WWII story of 3 men who survived 34 days in a small rubber raft after ditching their Navy aircraft. I read this many years ago, and my paperback copy is getting a little brown these days. I see copies on line for less than 4 bucks. Impelling adventure and a quick read.

Thunder Below by Adm Eugene B. Fluckey (MOH winner) - The story of USS Barb. The boat that sank the most tonnage in WWII. h/c is 444 pgs. Prices \$11.50-\$16.00, also available as Kindle download.

Crash Dive: True Stories of Submarine Combat - Edited by Larry Bond,
- "collects the best non-fiction excerpts about the mighty submarines and the crews that man them. From the tough Gato-class boats that harassed the Japanese Navy during World War II to the cat-and-mouse games played by U.S. and Soviet submarines during the Cold War," available as h/c; paperback and Kindle.



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