
USS THOMAS JEFFERSON 618 ASSOCIATION

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Letter from the Desk of the Commander

Hello Shipmates,

Those who did not attend the TJ Reunion 11 in Norfolk, in September 2012, missed a very good time and a well-planned and executed event. I cannot express my appreciation enough to Jim and Joan Beauchamp who, with the assistance of Mike McNamara and Ron Bekech, made it all come together. Great job shipmates! On September 9th, we had a meet and greet at the hospitality room with lots of snacks and an excellently stocked bar. The booze is usually Dan Higgin's job but due to health reasons, Dan was temporarily grounded and Beauchamp met the challenge.

The morning of September 10th, we traveled across town to the Submarine Memorial where the TJ Sail rests. The crew held a service to honor the deceased TJ Sailors. Welcoming remarks were made by me, John Sweat; and the 23rd Psalm was read by Joe Goonan.

"When God Created A Submariner" was read by Jim Beauchamp with a reading of the Supreme Commanders Sailing List by me. The tolling of the bell was done by Sydney 'Charlie' Brown. This concluded the memorial service with not a dry eye present.

Note: The bell that we used to toll our departed shipmates was "confiscated" from the hotel lobby in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1964 by Ed Minkiewicz and myself. When Charlie Brown was tolling it, the clapper fell off with the tolling of Patrick McLaughlin...two names before Ed's name. Oh, well!!

The TJ Association Business Meeting was held at 1300. In the evening at 1800, a cocktail hour was held with the reunion banquet at 1900. The food was very good (no complaints). Teresa Snyder (Frank Snyder's daughter) won the Oklahoma theme basket from the Talkington's in the raffle.

On September 11th, we sailed on a two hour luncheon cruise aboard the 170-ft.

cruise ship "Spirit of Norfolk". The cruise included entertainment, a fine buffet luncheon, a cash bar and a topside weather deck viewing lounge. The cruise was very well narrated by the knowledgeable Captain and Chief Mate who identified each submarine and surface ship we saw along with a bit of history. All went well until the return from the Naval Base when Jim Beauchamp somehow commandeered the ship's bridge. Much to our relief Jim directed us safely back to the inner harbor where he graciously surrendered the deck to the Captain for docking. It seems as if Jim has come a long way since his earlier experiences as a bus driver at Cape Canaveral. It should of course be noted that this time he was sober. Following the cruise the afternoon was spent as personal time for sightseeing and fellowship in the hospitality room. On September 12th, a farewell breakfast was held with fond farewells and best wishes until the next reunion.

SHIPMATES, WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION!!!

John Sweat
CDR T. J. Association

From Desk of Secretary:

Shipmates:

I hope this newsletter finds all of you in good health. There has been a lot of news lately detailing the influenza crisis, so

I want to express the need to get a shot and wash your hands regularly.

I will be sending out the latest sailing list to be posted on the TJ website. It is imperative that you review your information and send me or any officer any corrective data. There are numerous e-mail changes, address changes and deaths that have not been posted to the sailing list due to lack of data being forwarded to the association.

The Association Officers are:

John Sweat	Commander
Jim Beauchamp	VCommander
Ron Bekech	Treasurer
Ron Bekech	Secretary

I know that we have not had a newsletter in at least two years. There is no excuse. However, we have a website that details crew information, reunions and the need for participants; unfortunately, most shipmates failed to access the website to obtain this information.

This is the USS Thomas Jefferson 618 Association. It was established by a few to make sure that we forever honor our service and lives together aboard the TJ. Lately, there has been a sense of apathy on the part of the crew to get involved in the association. Further raising an issue on whether we should continue to carry on this proud association. It is not the sole responsibility of the association officers to

seek updated data, collect dues and arrange events. These duties also rest with your willingness to share in the keeping the TJ alive.

I do not want to sound like a pompous, over-zealous bastard preaching from my soap-box; but I feel that I have the right to express myself. After all, I have served this association as the original treasurer(6-years) vice - command(4-years), commander(4-years) and now secretary-treasurer(+2-years). As I have attempted, I want my shipmates to respect this association and work to keep it alive. Reiterating, **we need your participation.**

Respectfully, Ron

From Desk of Treasurer

Our financial status is good. We lost some money on our reunion in Norfolk, VA. Our expenses exceeded our income by \$164.72. We currently have \$19458.68 in the treasury. We awarded a \$500 college scholarship each of the past years; and plan to award a \$1000 scholarship next year. Additionally, there have been very few shipmates paying their annual dues. The status of dues can be found in the sailing list.

Reunion #11 Unofficial Meeting Minutes:

Business Meeting
1300 September 11, 2012

1. Meeting was called to order by Assn. Cdr. John Sweat.
2. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.
3. First order of business was selection of Reunion 12 site. Various sites were presented, including New London-CT, Orlando-FL, Branson-MO, and Charleston-SC. A vote was taken. Charleston, South Carolina, was the elected as the site of the Reunion 12 with the Holiday Inn on the Mt. Pleasant side in early October 2014. Danny Leonhardt will put together a team to coordinate the reunion.
4. Second order of business was to address the TJ Scholarship. It was announced that Larry and Barbara Jones' granddaughter was this year's recipient. In addition, the crew voted to increase the scholarship from the current \$500 award to a \$1000 award. The TJ By-Laws should be altered to reflect the scholarship award change.
5. Special recognition was given to Dennis Hudson for his service as TJ Treasurer over the past years.
6. A call for nominations for the slate of officers was made; Jim Beauchamp was nominated for Vice Commander. All other position were nominated to remain the same. The slate of officers were motioned and elected as follows:
 - a. Commander, John Sweat;
 - b. Vice Commander, Jim Beauchamp;

c. Secretary/Treasurer, Ron Bekech.

7. A recommendation was made by Palmer Pisle, each future reunion attendee might make up a basket of items made or grown in their particular areas of residence for raffling off during the reunion. The recommendation was accepted by the crew. A perfect example was presented at Reunion 11. Dennis and Sandy Talkington donated a basket representing the great state of Oklahoma to be raffled off.
8. A discussion was held on increasing the participation of the crew within the association. Nothing was established or defined at this time. A motion was raised to have all TJ Shipmates contacted by telephone prior to the next reunion.
9. The meeting was adjourned by John Sweat.

When God Created a Submariner

15 May 2012

When the good Lord created a Submariner, it was almost 2300 on the sixth day. An angel appeared and said, "You're having a lot of trouble with this one. What's wrong with the standard model?"

And the Lord replied, "Have you seen the specs on this order? It has to be able to think independently, yet be able to

take orders; have the qualities of both a scientific mind and a compassionate heart; be able to mentor juniors and learn from seniors; run on black coffee; handle emergencies without a Damage Control Manual, respond competently to critical incidents, decipher cryptographic codes, understand pneumatics, hydraulics and sonar, have the patience of a saint and six pairs of hands, not to mention the strength of three its size."

The angel shook its head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands - - No way!"

And the Lord answered, "Don't worry, we'll make other Submariners to help. Besides it's not the hands which are causing the problem. It's the heart. It must swell with pride when a Shipmate earns his Silver Dolphins - which above all else signifies the crew members trust it with their lives, sustain the incredible hardship of life at sea in a steel tube, beat on soundly when it's too tired to do so, and be strong enough to continue to carry on when it's given all it had."

"Lord," said the angel touching the Lord's sleeve gently, "Stop! It's almost midnight!"

"I can't," said the Lord. "I'm so close to creating something unique. Already I have one whose hands blend knowledge with skill to perform the most intricate procedures, yet are strong

enough to patch a ruptured seawater pipe; whose ears can discern the sonar sounds of a myriad of ocean life, yet detect the slightest shift in ventilation; whose mind can practice the science of nuclear submarining, yet not lose sight of the art of teamwork; and whose eyes can peer through a periscope to identify a hull down ship, yet search within to embrace and personify honor, courage and commitment."

The angel circled the model of the Submariner very slowly. "It's too serious," the angel sighed.

"But tough," said the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what this Submariner can do or endure."

"Can it feel?" asked the angel.

"Can it feel! It loves Ship, Shipmates and Country like no other!"

Finally the angel bent over and ran a finger across the Submariner's cheek. "There's a leak," pronounced the angel. "I told you you're trying to put too much into this model."

"That's not a leak," said the Lord. "It's a tear."

"What's it for?" asked the angel.

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, frustration and pride!"

"You're a genius!" exclaimed the angel.

The Lord looked pleased and replied, "I didn't put it there."

Filled with pride, the Lord continued, "Great things are planned for this Submariner. It will be one of many and together they will lead a legacy of excellence like none has known before."

And with that the Lord rested. It was the seventh day.

CAPT Jane F. Vieira
Chaplain Corps, United States
Navy