

NOTES:
 Next General Meeting:
 11 Feb 2012 1100 am



Jan 2012
Bulletin
 Official Newsletter of the
 Fleet Reserve Association
 "Valley of the Sun"
 Branch 163 / Unit 163
 American Legion Post 107
 20001 E Cave Creek Rd
 Phoenix, AZ

www.fra163.org

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RETIRED ACTIVITIES OFFICE

Phone 602-353-3033

NEWSLETTER aka Branch Bulletin

Editors: Dwight "Gib" Hall
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**** - Editor's note - Signatures are by font usage and are not to be considered the actual signatures of the individuals represented.**

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**NEXT MEETING DATE
Feb Meeting (11 Feb 2012)
1100am
NEW MEETING LOCATION
AMERICAN LEGION POST 107
20001 N CAVECREEK RD
PHOENIX, AZ**

**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING,
14 January 2012
American Legion Post 107
20001 N Cave Creek Rd
PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

The general meeting of FRA Branch 163 was called to order by Branch President Ginter at 1210am.

OPENING CEREMONIES CONDUCTED.

MASTER-AT-ARM REPORT

Total Attendees: 14
Branch Shipmates: 13
Guest: 01 RPSW Stanley J. Lewandowski

INITIATION OF NEW MEMBERS: Peter Schneider

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Shipmates you have read the minutes for October, as posted in the Branch Newsletter, are their any correction, if not the Minutes will stand as posted. They will stand as posted.

COMMITTEE AND STANDING REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP-RETENTION: Chairman S/M Joe Bland

Active Members: 369
Past Due: 009
Members In Good standing: 360

New or Reinstated Members: 000

Past Due; 09	Terminated; 02	Renewal; 08
Donald W Barnes	NPD: 02	Grady L Cauthron
Leigh Dechaine	Arthur M Gallegos	Robert Clarke
Steven M Doty	Don H Stedfield	Howard C. Grubb
Elton C Erickson		Robert Johnston
Kenneth D Fink		Douglas Kelsey
Frederic H Leetch		Kent M Lewis
Donald W Lowery		Natasha McClain
William Joseph Odonoghue		Edward Joseph
James A Slater		Morrison

MEMBERSHIP-RETENTION: Chairman S/M Joe Bland

Shipmates last year we donated funds to NOSC Phoenix to help off-set the cost of their SOY and SOQ awards. I think it is time to re-instate one year membership to SOY for Active Duty and Reserve. I would like to think about.

Secretary S/M Hall: The Branch has drop from FRA Group 2 to FRA Group 3.

RETIRED ACTIVITIES: S/M Joe Bland Chairman for Eli Koss

The Retired Activities Office located 35th Ave.& I-10 inside of Naval Operational Support Center Phoenix will be reelected to a newly constructed facility at Luke AFB. The new building is currently scheduled to be on line during the month of March 2012.

This movement will require more volunteers. RAO currently has 3 individuals that preform this task 4-5 hours one day each week (TUE.-THU.). This is an excellent opportunity to assist widows, NOK, other retirees(active and reserve) and current members of the ARMED FORCES while you shop at LUKE AFB on the same day..

If you would like to become involved 4-5 hours every two weeks please contact NAVY RAO at 602-353-3033.

HOSPITAL, WELFARE & REHABILITATION/CHAPLAIN: S/M Joe Bland Chairman

1. JACK BRADSEMA is at the GLENDALE CARE CTR 4704 W. DIANA GLENDALE, AZ. HE would appreciate a visit or phone call from any shipmates.
2. GLEN ANDERSON had recent gall bladder surgery and is doing fine.
3. MIKE ROSSON will be having knee replacement surgery on 23 JAN. 2012 at the VA HOSPITAL. WE wish him a speedy recovery.

A PESSIMIST IS ONE WHO MAKES DIFFICULTIES OF HIS OPPORTUNITIES AND AN OPTIMIST IS ONE WHO MAKES OPPORTUNITIES OF HIS DIFFICULTIES.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Please keep me informed of ladies or shipmates of the branch or unit that are on the binnacle list.

ACTIVITIES: S/M Joe Bland Chairman

Coming up events.

1. 30 March: Ribbon Cutting for the New NOCS Phoenix, AZ Building at Luke AFB. The Branch is invited to attend.
 2. April: Branch Officers election
 3. May: Installation of Officers and Luncheon
 4. May: Flag Sharpening at Greenwood Memorial Cemetery
- The first and third Friday of each month table at VA Clinic East Valley

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: S/M Glenn Linkey Chairman

The following dates are what is left to attend this year. A few are still undetermined, And open as yet. Hope you attend one in your area.

Just found out there is a new Vista Grande High School in Casa Grande (MCJROTC), Awaiting word back on particulars.

APACHE JUNCTION H.S. NJROTC	01-18-12 @ 0800 HRS@ Football field
CORTEZ H.S. NJROTC	01-25-12 @ Tentative Date
GLENDALE H.S. NJROTC	01-18-12 @ 0830 HRS @Football field
GREENWAY H.S. NJROTC	01-19-12 @ 0800 HRS @NJROTC Bid
INDEPENDENCE H.S. NJROTC	02-16-12 @ 1000 HRS @Football field
MOON VALLEY H.S. NJROTC	02-14-12 @ 0900 HRS @Tennis Court
THUNDERBIRD H.S. NJROTC	02-15-12 @ 0800 HRS @NJROTC Bld./Football Field
COOLIDGE H.S. MCJROTC	02-----12 Not on line/ Self Inspection/ TBD
TOLLESON H.S. MCJROTC	03-----12 To be determine /Self Inspection
PHOENIX DIVISION USNSCC	03-10/11-12 @ 0900 HRS @Hensley's Budweiser
VETERANS PRIDE BATTALION USNSCC	03-21-12 @ NOSC, 1300 hrs
FIREBIRD YOUNG MARINES	To be determined

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE READ:

Communications is at head table for you read.

TREASURERS REPORT: S/M Russ Hrouda Treasurer.

The Treasurer’s report will be held over to next meeting as we have not banking statement.
Branch Treasurer S/M Hrouda: All bills for the month are covered by Branch Standing Rules.

UNFINISHED AND DEFERRED BUSINESS:

STORAGE SHADE:

Shortage shade price of shade will run us somewhere between \$1500 to \$2000 and then there the cost of flooring. We need the shade by March, as this when the storage area is up for renewal. We need to take action at the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

MEETING TIME

Motion by S/M Bland to start our meeting time to 1100am. Second by S/M Willis. Past

CONFLICT of Meeting dates with Regional and National Convention this year, and Arizona Memorial Tucson.

S/M Hrouda; The Conventions in August and October, and Arizona Memorial Tucson in December conflict with our meetings, so I recommend we move the meeting dates up a week.

S/M Hall; Lets check with the post for no conflicts. Defer until next month meeting.

Two Bell Ceremony

They are now on the Service of the Supreme Commander
Keith Little; Navajo Code Talker. Bother of S/M Sam Little
S/M Charles W Dees, AFCM USN(Ret) 39yrs membership
S/M John Madden, Capt USMC(Ret) 15yrs membership

GOOD OF THE ORDER

S/M Linkey: FRA is on Facebook. There is a lot of good information on their page.

RPSW Stanley J. Lewandowski: Covered National Convention

Presented Youth Activities Chairman Glenn Linkey with the National First Place Pennant for Youth Activities for the Branch. The Branch presented S/M Linkey with a plaque for his many years as Youth Activities Chairman.

Closing Ceremonies were conducted and the meeting adjourned at 1350.

AFRA Unit163 President

Still settling in at our new /old meeting site , American Legion Post 107.

Some of us may miss the “comfy“ chairs at the Shrine auditorium but it will be a shorter drive for some.

Regional President Deanne Lewandowski was our guest , informed us of the location for regional convention-Winter Haven California, and an increase ,in dues to \$20, effective January1st. She also presented Lupe Mann with her 25 year pin. Congratulations Lupe.

Info on Shingles vaccine, - important to receive, if you are over 60 and have had chicken pox. If you have Tricare for life it will pay for the cost of the vaccine which ordinarily would cost almost \$200 . However it must be administered by a participating pharmacy, Some physicians office may have it also but check before getting it to be sure you inform them if you have Tricare. Some local Safeway Pharmacy do have the vaccine and after checking with my local store pharmacist, she verified there would be no co pay. BE SURE to check coverage before receiving the vaccine .

In the process of our move I uncovered a trophy presented to our unit in 1956 by the Regional President , inscribed it said “ To an outstanding Unit 163” Will have to check the old history book to see what we were doing.

Coupons were received from Sandy and Sherry . We have also decided to add another base to send them . Up to now we were sending them to 2 Navy and 1 Army bases and since we represent sea service we are adding a Marine base to our list.

Wishing you all a Happy Valentine day,
Yours in Loyalty, Protection, and Service
Virginia Ginter, Unit 163 President

**AFRA 163
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING,
14 January 2012
American Legion Post 107
20001 N Cave Creek Rd
PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

Meeting called to order by Madam President, Virginia Ginter at 1211.

Meeting at New Location American Legion Post.

Prayer, Pledge, and Preamble were recited.

Roll Call Of Officers: all present. Excused - Alice and Bea.

Visitors: SWRP DeAnna Lewandowski, and Ivy Anderson.

Members: Jean Brandsma, Sharon Campbell, Joanie Katzenberger, and Lupe Mann.

Minutes were read, and approved.

Committees:

Treasurer's Report : was given and approved. Motion made by Sandy, Sherry - 2nd, all ayes to roll over CD.

Chaplain's Report: Bea on oxygen. A card sent. Diane better, has good and bad days

Membership: 64

SWRP DeAnna Lewandowski: SWR Convention will be at Winterhaven, CA. Prices were discussed.

Bea Demmel handwriting is improving.

Note the new address for Membership Services.

Presented Lupe Mann with her 25 year pin.

President's Project: Breast/Prostate Cancer Awareness.

Americanism/Patriotism: Martin Luther King Jr Day, New Year's Day

Publicity: 4 sisters belong to AFRA.

Unit Activities: Refreshments - Feb 11: Sharon and Pat, March 10: Joanie and Ida-May, April 14: Lupe and Sherry, May: Installation.

Welfare/Rehabilitation: Coupons - Sherry and Sandy. Navy, Coast Guard, and Marines in Yokosuka, Japan. Anne still saving coupons. Request bag coupons in sandwich ziplock bags.

VAVS: Tues 1/17. MaryEllen/Sally's Place. Homeless women Veterans. Needs items.

Youth Activities: Scouts started after the first of the year. Sherry's been working with them since 1990, Teddy since 1987.

Communications: MSA (membership services) new address: **Ladies Auxiliary FRA**, P.O. Box 2086, Shingle Springs, CA 95682-2086. And FRA newsbtyes.

Bills: Virginia \$19.46 - refreshments, \$10.95 - coupons (\$30.41), Helen - \$9.80 - refreshments. Total \$40.21

Unfinished Business: Christmas Party. Cell phone list update.

Shingles shots: Available at Safeway. Must be on DEERS, TriCare for Life, Medicare D, No cost. Possibility of

availability at Fry's. Check with your insurance for need of a doctor prescription, as it could cost \$\$\$ for shots.

Volunteer Hours: update book.

While moving storage from the Shrine to the rental unit. Virginia found an Award presented to the Unit in 1956-1957 "Most Outstanding Unit - 163". By Mary Mandot.

S/M Gib: Meeting time has gone back to 1100. Next meeting S/M committee for shed.

SWRP: Asking for anyone attending SWR Convention - need help with committees.

Closing prayer was given. Meeting closed.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection, and Service,
Ida-May Hrouda, Secretary Unit 163
Valley of the Sun, Phoenix, Az

RENEWALS:	BIRTHDAYS:	AFRA ANNIVERSARIES:
DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER
Dorothy Tolken	01 - Geneva Bland	Jeannette Jung (38)
	04 - Jean Bailey	
JANUARY	05 - Katherine Meyers	JANUARY
Winnie Simon	06 - Desiree Atos	Chrystal Wilder (28)
Mary Stephens	12 - Jill Devine	Judith Rickman (21)
	13 - Anne Mook	Sherry Murphey (18)
	18 - Sandra Linkey	Cynthia Mabe (15)
	19 - Jeanette Aubeny	Joanie Katzenberger (11)
	21 - Angelita Denofre	Desiree Atos (07)
	26 - Sherry Murphey	Tina Oldfather (07)
		Fredrick Hrouda (05)
	JANUARY	Joyce Hrouda (05)
	18 - Willa Miller	Helen Hall (01)
	21 - Mary Stephens	

**Naval RAO Phoenix, AZ
is
Recruiting for RAO Volunteers**

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This movement will require more volunteers. RAO currently has 3 individuals that preform this task 4-5 hours one day each week (TUE.-THU.). We would like to goto five days a week, Monday thru Friday.

If you would like to become involved 4-5 hours every a week please contact NAVY RAO at 602-353-3033.

This is an excellent opportunity to assist widows, NOK, other retirees(active and reserve) and current members of the ARMED FORCES. After your shift you will still time shop at LUKE AFB.

New Form and Legislation for Reporting Retiree Deaths

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) launched a new online form to make it easier for grieving family members to report the deaths of military retirees. The form and additional information are available at:
<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter/newform.html>

This new form will help eliminate the problem of overpayment, which can result in financial and emotional hardship for the family when repayment is required without warning. The problem most often occurs when a military retiree dies late in the

month. If the death report and other administrative details are not handled before the next retirement payment is processed, an overpayment occurs for the period between the retiree's death and the end of the month. DFAS is required to recoup this overpayment directly from the survivor's bank account and can do so with little or no warning.

FRA supports a legislative remedy. At the Association's request Representative Walter Jones (N.C.) introduced legislation (H.R. 493) authorizing surviving spouses (or other designated survivors) to retain the full month's retired pay for the month in which a military retiree passes away. "The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act" seeks to ensure survivors are not unfairly burdened when overpayments occur.

Jones' proposal would allow survivors to retain the full month's retired pay for any month in which the retiree was alive for at least 24 hours. To offset the cost associated with this proposal, a provision of the bill would delay the first Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity payment until the month after the retiree dies. Congress passed a similar law in 1996 allowing surviving spouses to retain veterans' disability and VA pension payments issued for the month of the veteran's death. FRA believes military retired pay should be no different. Members are urged to use the FRA Action Center at www.fra.org to express their support for H.R. 493.

Lessons Of History

Here we go again. The President made the same decision 5 JAN in announcing his new military strategy that virtually all of his predecessors have made since the end of World War II. He said: "Moreover, we have to remember the lessons of history. We cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of the past - after World War II, after Vietnam - when our military was left ill-prepared for the future. As commander in chief, I will not let that happen again. Not on my watch." Unfortunately, his plan does exactly that. It forgets the lessons of history. Some facts:

Harry Truman seeking to never repeat the costs of World War II reduced the Army from 8 million soldiers to fewer than half a million. Without the intervention of Congress, he would have eliminated the Marine Corps entirely. The result was the evisceration of both land services in Korea, a war Truman never intended to fight.

With Dwight Eisenhower came the "New Look" strategy that sought to reduce the Army and Marine Corps again to allow the creation of a nuclear delivery force built around the Strategic Air Command. Along came Vietnam, a war that Eisenhower, John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson never wanted to fight. But by 1970 our professional Army broke apart and was replaced by a body of amateurs. The result was defeat and 58,000 dead.

After Vietnam, the Nixon administration broke the Army again. The writer of this article, a former Army major general and commandant of the U.S. Army War College who retired after 34 years in service, says he knows this to be true. He was there to see the drug addiction, murders in the barracks and chronic indiscipline, caused mainly by a dispirited noncommissioned corps that voted with its feet and left.

Then came Jimmy Carter's unique form of neglect that led to the "hollow Army" of the late '70s, an Army that failed so miserably in its attempt to rescue the American hostages in Iran.

The only exception to this very sad story was the Reagan years, when the land services received enough funding to equip and train themselves to fight so well in Operation Desert Storm. Then tragedy again as the Clinton administration reduced the ground services, intending to rely on "transformation," a program that paid for more ships and planes by reducing the Army from 16 divisions to 10.

In the George W. Bush administration, Donald Rumsfeld continued a policy that sought to exploit information technology to replace the human component in war. Had it not been for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the Army would have gone down to fewer than eight divisions.

The present administration will reduce its long-service, professional land force to pay for something called "Air Sea Battle," a strategy that seeks to buy more ships and planes in order to confront China with technology rather than people. This strategy shows a degree of a historicism that exceeds that of any post-World War II administration. So much for remembering "the lessons of the past." Here's what the lessons of the past 70 years really teach us: We cannot pick our enemies; our enemies will pick us. They will, as they have always done in the past, cede to us dominance in the air, on sea and in space because they do not have the ability to fight us there. Our enemies have observed us closely in Iraq and Afghanistan, and they have learned the lessons taught by Mao Zedong, Ho Chi Minh and Saddam Hussein: America's greatest vulnerability is dead Americans. So our future enemy will seek to fight us on the ground, where we have traditionally been poorly prepared. His objective will be to

win by not losing, to kill as an end rather than as a means to an end. And we will enter the next war again tragically short of the precious resource that we have neglected for six administrations: our soldiers and Marines. [Source: Washington Post Robert H. Scales article 6 Jan 2011 ++]

FRA NewsBytes

Early Retirement Program to be Implemented

Beginning January 1, 2012, the services are authorized to implement Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA). An FRA-supported provision (Section 504) in the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA, H.R. 1540) reinstates the TERA provision that will allow officers and noncommissioned officers to retire with at least 15 years of service and receive retired pay at a reduced rate. TERA was authorized from 1991 to 1996 in conjunction with force reductions during that period. In addition to retirement pay, the program includes TRICARE coverage and is not available for Coast Guard personnel because that service is not implementing involuntary separations.

The DFAS website has not been updated to reflect this new change, but we'll publish details in future editions of NewsBytes and FRA Today as they become available.

Retiree Account Statements

Most military retirees will receive two annual Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Retiree Account Statements (RAS) by January 31, 2012. These two-page documents summarize pay, benefits and deductions, and provide other important retirement pay information.

One statement (dated December 2, 2011) includes the new payment amount as of December 30, 2011, based on a 3.6-percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2012. Another statement (dated December 12, 2011) shows the new payment amount as of February 1, 2012, based on federal income tax adjustments caused by changes to the 2012 tax tables.

A monthly electronic Retiree Account Statement (eRAS) is now available to all military retirees currently receiving retirement payments. The eRAS is only available on *myPay*, the official online account management system for DFAS. The statements are available by the first of each month, and date back to Nov. 1, 2011, when the eRAS was first offered. Retirees only need to register an email address in their *myPay* account, and DFAS can send an email reminder each month when individual statements are available.

Visit <https://www.mypay.gov> for more information.

If retirees cannot access *myPay* or they need a RAS that is no longer in their *myPay* account, they should fax a detailed written request to 800-469-6559 or mail it to DFAS Retired Pay, P.O. Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130. Requests should be dated and must include your name, Social Security number and signature. Please specify exactly what information is needed and the dates that should be included in the statement.

Deadline for FRA Education Foundation Scholarships

The deadline to apply for FRA Education Foundation scholarships is April 15, 2012. The Foundation's board of directors encourages all eligible candidates to apply now for academic awards of up to \$5,000. Applications are available online at www.fra.org/foundation

Applicants must be affiliated with the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, either through their own service or that of a spouse, parent or grandparent. FRA Education Foundation scholarships are funded through private donations, established trusts and corporate sponsorships, and recipients are selected based on financial need, academic standing, character and leadership qualities. The Foundation awarded more than \$124,000 in scholarships last year and donations in any amount are welcome at any time.

Some scholarships have very specific award criteria. The Hazel E. Benn Scholarship, for example, is available to children of Navy enlisted personnel who are serving or have served as a hospital corpsman assigned to the U.S. Marine Corps. Please visit www.fra.org/foundation for applications, to donate or obtain further information.

More VGLI Available for some Veterans

Veterans under age 60 that are currently covered under the Veterans Group Life Insurance program (VGLI) and have less than maximum coverage can now purchase additional coverage up to \$400,000. Veterans can increase their

coverage by \$25,000 at each five-year anniversary date. The VGLI program allows newly discharged veterans to convert the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) coverage they had while in the service. Veterans can request the additional coverage during the 120-day period prior to each five-year anniversary date. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has indicated that less than 22 percent of eligible veterans take advantage of this program.

For additional information about VGLI go to: www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2244

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FRA is celebrating its 87th anniversary and is the oldest and largest association representing the interests of current and former Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel. If you are not a member and are eligible, please join FRA at www.fra.org. The larger the membership base, the louder your voice is heard on Capitol Hill!

Congressional/Benefits

Approval ratings for Congress are at a historic low, and our members often ask us what sort of benefits legislators enjoy. The following information isn't presented to defend Congressional perks, but only to dispel some myths that perpetually float around the internet. If we're to have credibility defending military programs, we need to have our facts right.

Fact or Fiction:

1. Members of Congress get full pensions for life after serving just one term.

Mostly Fiction. The Congressional retirement system is very similar to that of federal civilians. It's true that a member of Congress can become eligible for retirement benefits after a minimum of 5 years of service if they're age 62 or older, but only for a partial pension. To qualify for a pension a member of Congress must meet one of the following service and age requirements:

- 5 years of service and age 62
- 20 years of service and age 50
- 25 years of service at any age

Like the military retirement system, Congressional retirement pay is calculated on a combination of their average high-three years of salary and a multiplier based on their length of service. It's also worth pointing out that members of Congress contribute to their own retirement and pay Social Security taxes. Once retired their Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) are sometimes held artificially below the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which measures inflation. Since the Congressional retirement system was overhauled in 1984 (to be less generous) the average annual pension is roughly \$40,000.

2. Members of Congress don't pay for their healthcare.

Fiction. Members of Congress and their staffs are eligible for the same health insurance as federal civilians, and they pay the same premiums. They can enroll in any insurance program offered under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). One of the most popular plans under FEHBP (the Blue Cross Blue Shield Standard plan) costs beneficiaries \$430 a month for a family, and \$185 a month for individual coverage. Starting in 2014, members of Congress and their staffs will be required to participate in the health care exchanges created under national health care reform.

3. Legislators receive free health care at military facilities such as Walter Reed.

Fiction. Members of Congress can receive care at the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, but the cost of such care is billed to their federal insurance.

4. Congress votes themselves pay increases every year.

Mostly Fiction. The law authorizes Congress a raise every year unless legislators vote to stop it. Congress voted to forgo a pay raise in 2010, 2011, and 2012. Congressional pay increases are capped lower than the military raise. While military raises are tied to the average American's (the Employment Cost Index), congressional raises are capped one-half percentage point below that. In 2012 members of Congress will collect a salary of \$174,000 (Congressional leaders receive more).

[Source: MOAA Leg Up 13 Jan 2012 ++]

Naval Historical Center
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY -- NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER
805 KIDDER BREESE SE -- WASHINGTON NAVY YARD
WASHINGTON DC 20374-5060

Grand Canyon

A western landmark, the grand canyon of the Colorado River.

(AD-28: dp. 11,755; l. 492'; b. 69'6"; dr. 27'6"; s. 18 k.; cpl. 977; a. 2 5", 8 40mm., 12.20mm.; cl. Shenandoah)

Grand Canyon (AD-28) was launched 27 April 1945 by Todd-Pacific Shipyard, Inc., Tacoma, Wash.: sponsored by Mrs. W. L. Mann; and commissioned 5 April 1946, Captain W. D. Hoover in command.

After brief shakedown off the coast of southern California Grand Canyon departed Port Townsend, Wash., 26 June 1946 en route Newport, R.I., via the Canal Zone. She arrived Newport 20 July. Assigned the task of keeping our destroyers in operation, Grand Canyon cleared Newport 17 September 1946 for her first tour with the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean. After a visit to Palermo, Sicily, and a 41/£-month stay at Naples she returned to the States, arriving Norfolk 1 March 1947.

Between 1 November 1947 and 12 November 1954 Grand Canyon continued her support of 6th Fleet destroyers, making six Mediterranean deployments. During this time she participated in some of the largest peacetime service operations ever undertaken.

Grand Canyon continued her tender duties in the U.S. until 24 September 1956 when she again departed for the the Mediterranean for her eighth tour. By 20 October the Suez Crisis had reached the serious stage and the majority of the 6th Fleet proceeded into the Eastern Mediterranean. During this period Grand Canyon, as flagship, took part in fleet exercises and visited the ports of August Bay, Sicily; Messina, Sicily and Taranto, Italy. As the Suez problem subsided she sailed for Cannes, France, 20 December, in time for the Christmas holidays. Grand Canyon returned to Fall River, Mass., 13 March 1957.

The third of September 1957 found Grand Canyon underway with other units of the Atlantic Fleet, this time to participate in NATO fall exercises. By the 16th she had crossed the Arctic Circle operating west of Norway. After visits to Trosno, Norway and Portland, England, Grand Canyon returned Newport, R.I. 21 October.

Grand Canyon continued her tender duties out of Fall River, Mass., until 1 August 1958 when she sailed for Suda Bay, Crete, to support the 6th Fleet in operations off Lebanon. For the next 4 months she supported destroyers and other types while helping to stabilize the situation and block aggression in Asia Minor. Besides Suda Bay, Grand Canyon visited Izmir, Turkey; Athens, Greece; Naples, Italy; and Barcelona, Spain, before returning home in December.

Grand Canyon spent most of 1959 with tender duties at Newport except for duty at Charleston, S.C., between 29 August 1959 and 11 January 1960. She cleared Charleston 11 January 1960 to participate in Operation "Springboard," returning to Newport 7 February; thence to Bermuda and New York before returning to Newport. Between October 1960 and August 1961 Grand

Canyon tended ships at Newport, Boston, and Norfolk.

After her ninth Mediterranean tour August 1961 to March 1962 Grand Canyon returned to Newport and again took up her duties there until the fall. She proceeded to San Juan, P.R., arriving 3 November 1961 to start tending ships of the South Atlantic Blockading Fleet during the Cuban missile crisis and subsequent quarantine. Grand Canyon again helped demonstrate the mobility and versatility of sea power. She returned to Newport 5 December.

Grand Canyon made her tenth deployment to the Mediterranean between 6 February and 27 June 1963. The ship entered Bethlehem Steel Yards, East Boston, Mass., for modernization and refitting. With the completion of modernization 3 January 1964, Grand Canyon sailed for Guantanamo Bay and San Juan, P.R., on training cruises. Returning to Mayport, Fla., 11 May, she tended destroyers there until her departure for Newport, R.I., 20 June for similar duties at that station.

On 27 November Grand Canyon departed Newport for her 11th Mediterranean cruise, relieving the USS Shenandoah (AD-26) as 6th Fleet tender. She reached Palma de Mallorca in December and until 16 April 1965 tended ships in French, Italian, and Spanish ports. After returning to Newport on 27 April she served there and at Norfolk during the next 11 months. Between 29 March 1966 and 12 August she again served ships of the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean. During the remainder of the year she operated out of Newport. Into 1967 Grand Canyon continued to provide tender and repair facilities for destroyer-type ships of the Atlantic Fleet and the 6th Fleet. The USS Grand Canyon AD28 relieved the USS Yellowstone (AD-27) in Naples, Italy Nov. 1967. Grand Canyon was reclassified Repair Ship (AR-28) on 11 March 1971, and was decommissioned and struck from the Naval Vessel Register 1 September 1978. Grand Canyon was sold for scrapping in June 1980 to Union Minerals and Alloy Corporation of New York.



In two years the branch has gone from 600 members to just under 380.

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I am starting a new item for the newsletter. It will called name that shipmate. If you have a picture of you in uniform (will in the service) send it to me and I will put it in newsletter to see who guest who it is.



Who is it?

Branch Picture



S/M Glenn Linkey Arizona Memorial, Phoenix 2011



SOQ & SOY 1996 PRPNE Bradley and Capt Woler
RAO Phoenix AZ



Luke Days 2007