

# SQUADRONS & SHIPMATES NEWSLETTER

Good Morning Everyone,

February 21, 2010

Yes, it is morning right now, about 7:00 AM, but by the time I get this finished and into cyberspace it may be later on this evening after all the interruptions are handled. These newsletters are only supposed to be sent when we have something new and exciting to tell you about but it seems it is becoming a daily event. I have not heard any complaints yet about getting too much information and as a matter of fact, some of the former FDR Reunion members told me yesterday that this is really great compared to what little they received from that association when they were members.

## NEW MEMBERS

Good news first. When the roster was sent yesterday, I told you I received two more letters from 1945 Midway plank owners. When I found the time to call each of them I was shocked to learn that one of them, Arthur Paddison, will now be our most senior member. Move over Mr. Boyd, you are now the second most senior member being only 90. Mr. Paddison is 91 years young and sharp as a tack, just like you Mr. Boyd. Mr. Paddison also told me exactly the same thing, that is if we are successful this year, he will also become a Lifetime Member. In other words, it will be my quest to make sure this organization lasts until July 1, 2010. The most amazing thing is he and his wife have been married for 67 years and they are both doing well. In the last week or so I talked to another 1945 plank owner, Mr. Lyman Laughinghouse; he and his wife have been married for 64 years. I have never known a couple who had been married longer than I have been alive and now I have spoken with two couples. This is one of the reasons I love my job, getting to meet so many interesting people. Mr. Paddison does not have a computer; maybe Mr. Boyd can talk him into getting one now. I am sure he would like to hear from all of you so don't be shy, give him a call and welcome him aboard. His telephone number will be on the next roster.

## STATE REPRESENTATIVES

I am very pleased to announce that we now have more state representatives. Victor Zeno has agreed to take Pennsylvania. I got him on

a 3-way phone call with Mr. Paddison and me. Mr. Zeno said he will have his first meeting in York, Pennsylvania in honor of Mr. Paddison. I may just show up at that meeting. Our other new member, and 1945 plank owner, Mr. Walter Tacka from Towson, Maryland said he may also attend as it is not far from where he lives. This could be a very lively get-together with 2 WW II veterans and everyone else with their memories and stories to share.

Randy Bishop accepted the position as State Representative for Texas. I am not familiar with the proximity of all the towns in which our members live in Texas, but I do know that it is a BIG state and more than likely will need more than one state representative. Y'all know better than I, so will leave it up to y'all, 'cause I was told a long time ago not to mess with Texas.

Martin Olmeda has agreed to represent Southern California. That first meeting will be very important as we are planning to be in San Diego in 2011. We need everyone's ideas on the table. From the feedback I've been receiving this could be a very large gathering. Martin has also volunteered to help plan the 2011 Reunion. He works on the Midway so has graciously offered to assist us. Planning this reunion is going to be a large undertaking so those of you in the San Diego area, any assistance you could provide would be greatly appreciated. We also need suggestions as to the type of activities and sight-seeing opportunities everyone would enjoy while in San Diego.

Reese Slaughter, a 1945 Midway plank owner, has agreed to handle Georgia. Our weather here is improving so the Georgia members can look forward to our first meeting whenever Reese is able to plan a get-together. We are so fortunate; Mr. Slaughter has also offered to represent Alabama as he also has a residence there. This is quite an undertaking so all you younger guys in the Yellowhammer State please jump in and give him a hand.

OK, half of California is covered. It's a big state and needs one or two more representatives. Florida??? What are we going to do? There are more members in Florida than in any other state and no state representative; where is everyone hiding in all that sunshine? There are actually enough members there to hold a mini-reunion over a weekend. Hey, there's an idea!! Where do we start?

2010 REUNION

As I mentioned yesterday, the 2010 reunion has been postponed until August 10-14, 2010. The final plans, as you can understand, are not yet made but please keep that time open and if you are able, plan to join us in Atlanta. Of the members who responded, Bill Stiegler, was the only one not able to make it the following week. So the date was set for the 10th to the 14th, Bill, if you don't show up, we will be hunting for you. The hotels have not put the block of rooms into the system yet so please don't call until you hear from me. The prices will be the same, \$109.00 at the Hilton and \$99.00 at the Embassy Suites. We need to sell 150 rooms so make it a family trip and bring the children, grandchildren, friends or neighbors who may want to join us. We also like this week because school will not have started in most of the country. Remember, you get a cooked-to-order breakfast free everyday for 2 people for those prices. That is at least a \$30.00 a day savings if you were paying \$13.95 each for a buffet breakfast plus tax and tip. Some of you mentioned that you did not know about the reunion. Please visit the web site as it contains all the information about the reunion. Only the date will be changed; all the venues will be the same.

[www.squadrons-shipmates-of-the-fdr-midway.com](http://www.squadrons-shipmates-of-the-fdr-midway.com)

## E-MAILS

We would appreciate your help when you write to Pete, Walt, me or any of the state representatives if your last name is not part of your e-mail address. If your last name is not part of your e-mail address, we have to search to find out who you are, so we are asking that you sign your e-mails with your first and last name. I am familiar with some of the very creative e-mail addresses you guys have like, "seniorfixit1," "boatrides" and "fdrmanowar" but it will take awhile to be familiar with all of them. We now have 315 members and as we grow it will be almost impossible to remember everyone's e-mail address. When you sign Bob, Bill, Dan, please remember we have numerous Bob's, Bill's and Dan's, etc. We appreciate your understanding. Thanks and that's enough for today.

Al

P.S. Now for the bad news, there is none.