

USNTC BAINBRIDGE



NEWSLINE

USNTC BAINBRIDGE ASSOCIATION NEWS
MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

Volume XVII, No. 2

FALL ISSUE – POST REUNION

NOV/DEC 2015

From the President

Greetings Fellow Shipmates...

The Seventeenth USNTC Bainbridge Reunion has come and past. All attendees needed foul weather gear since the Sun was not present until Sunday when we were pulling out to return to our home ports.

Even though the weather was foul I believe all enjoyed their adventures in Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio. The weather just proved we were still quite seaworthy. Several reunion attendees have shared their reunion experience in this issue so live the times with them through their words and thoughts.

There will be some changes in our recruitment for membership as described under Association Business Reunion Report. Also discussed at the meeting was to again review needed items required to report a veteran's death. This is to assist spouse/next-of-kin and is a revision of *Newsline*, Vol VII, #3 of Aug/Sep2005 article.

Wishing all a safe and enjoyable holiday season with stable and kind weather.

In continuing service...*Arline Member #150*

2016 Memberships \$20.00

Mail to: USNTC Bainbridge Association
Membership
C/O Arline Caliger
PO Box 147
Harrison, TN 37341-0147

Don't miss out on future Newsline issues...

Membership Notes:

The 2016 Association membership drive began 1 Oct 2015. Several members have already submitted their renewals for the coming year. What has been received to date will have been mailed by now. The bulk of 2016 membership cards will be mailed after the first of the year so as to miss being tangled up in the holiday mail.

We continue to ask that when you change your mailing address or place of residence please notify the association president of that change, since non-deliverable newsletters cost the Association sixty cents for every returned item which drains unnecessary funds from our budget. So let us know when you move so you continue to receive your *Newsline* and any other mail outs from your organization. The contact information is listed under Association Officers.

Items to watch for...

2016 Pay Raises: NDDA 1 Jan marks the active military pay raise at 1.3% and the civilian pay raise of 2.3%. There will be no COLA for retired Military and Federal retirees and Social Security recipients for 2016 due to the decreased CPI. The bill still needs the President's approval or veto.

Bainbridge Navy Training Center Museum

Open Sat & Sunday – 1 to 5pm - Port Deposit, MD
(check their web site for winter hours)

2016 Reunion

29 Sept – 2 Oct, Aberdeen, MD

Information will be in the May/Jun *Newsline*
and appear on the website in June

NTCB 2016 Display Dates

(contact Public Affairs Officer for information)

TBA National D-Day Memorial – Bedford, VA

TBA WWII Railroad, Strasberg, PA.

Prepare for End Of Life Issues

A Veterans Check List

1. People who can assist:
 - Veterans Administration
 - Clergy
 - Funeral Home/Director
 - Attorney (for WILL, Power of Attorney, Power of Attorney for Health Care)
2. Have a statement of your choice of Internment as addendum to your WILL.
3. Contact your Clergy, to make arrangements for service's you desire.
4. Provide the Funeral Director with a copy of the Veteran's Discharge document.
VA Claim Number, if known, and Veterans Social Security Number.
5. The Funeral Director will apply to the Department of Military Affairs for the amount allowable toward the burial expenses and also the allowable amount from Social Security for Burial.
6. The Funeral Director will apply to the Department of Military Affairs for the American Flag to Drape over the casket or Urn.
7. If the Veteran is a member of a Veteran Organization, contact the Post Commander or Association Leadership to inquire about providing Military Services, Firing Squad, or Pall Bearers, if needed.
8. If the Veteran had GI Insurance, contact the county Veterans Service Officer for assistance in completing the insurance forms. If the Veteran had Commercial Insurance, contact the agent for that particular company which insured the Veteran.
9. The spouse should contact the Social Security office to file for benefits that maybe available to them and any dependent children.
10. The County Veterans Service Office will assist the spouse and children in obtaining any benefits to which they maybe entitled, such as: Survivor's Death benefits from the VA, or a Headstone if burial is in a Private Cemetery. Provide the County Veterans Service Officer with the following when applying for benefits:
 - Copy of the Veterans Discharge – DD-214 or WD Form 53-55 or other variations prior to 1950.
 - Veterans VA Claim Number, if known
 - Social Security number of Veteran and Dependents
 - GI Insurance Policy
 - Veterans history of marriages, birth certificates of children
Information regarding prior marriages and how dissolved (death/divorce)
 - Copy of Death Certificate of Veteran

Make sure your Spouse/Administrative or Executor of your WILL knows where your documents are kept and if needed, provide them with a key or combination. If you do not use a Bank Safe Deposit Box but keep them at home, keep them in a safe place. Either have a Fire safe in a secure location of the house (not in the bedroom), or keep them in a watertight food container (Glad, Tupperware, etc.) in the refrigerator. (Most refrigerators are fire resistant and also heavy enough to fall through the floor of a building into the cooler part of the fire in the basement and therefore survive, and can easily be located in the ash or rubble of a fire or other incident.)

If you need to recover a veteran record a request should be made to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) by an on-line request to:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>

(Only print form when needed since it is often revised)

Deceased Veteran Information Form

*(fill out form and keep in a safe place, readily accessible in the
Case of Veterans Death or Incapacitation)*

Name of Veteran _____

Home Address _____

Date of Enlistment _____ Place _____

Date of Discharge _____ Place _____

Branch of Service _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Date of Marriage _____ Place _____

Place City & County _____

Government Life Insurance Amount _____ Policy # _____

VA Claim # _____ SSN# _____

Where are Records located: _____

Will & Living WILL: _____

Power of Attorneys': _____

Veterans/Military Service Documents: _____

Real estate deeds, car titles, etc: _____

Other Misc. Important papers: _____

Received Compensation: Amount _____ Pension: Amount _____

VA Office where Veterans Records are maintained: _____

A Review for Receiving Social Security Credit for Military Service...

Earnings for active duty military service or active duty training have been covered under Social Security since 1957.

If you served in the military before 1957, you did not pay Social Security taxes, but you were given special credit for some of your service.

Under certain circumstances, special earnings can be credited to you military pay record for Social Security purposes. The extra earnings are for periods of active duty or active duty for training. These extra earnings may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

NOTE: Social Security will add these extra earnings to your earnings record when you file for retirement or disability benefits.

If you served in the military from 1940 through 1956, including attendance at a service academy, you did not pay Social Security Taxes. However, you will get credit with \$160.00 a month in earnings for military service from September 16, 1940 through December 31, 1956, if:

- You were honorably discharged after 90 or more days of service;
- You were released because of a disability or injury received in the line of duty;
- or you are applying for survivors benefits based on a veteran's work and the veteran died while on active duty.

You cannot receive credit for these special extra earnings if you are already receiving a federal benefit, e.g. military retirement, based on the same years of service. There is one exception: If you were on active duty after 1956, you can still get the special earnings for 1951 through 1956, even if you're receiving a military retirement based on service during that period.

If you served in the military in 1957 through 1977, you were credited with \$300.00 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

If you served in the military in 1978 through 2001, you were credited with an additional \$100.00 in earnings, up to a maximum of \$1,200.00 a year, for every \$300.00 in active duty basic pay. After 2001, additional earnings are no longer credited.

If you began your service after September 7, 1980, and did not complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with your nearest Social Security Office for more information.

In January 2002, the Defense Appropriations Act (Public Law 107-117), stopped the special extra earnings that had been credited to military service personnel. Military service in calendar year 2002 and following years no longer qualifies for these special extra earnings credits.

(NOTE: In all cases, the additional earnings are credited to the earnings averaged over your working lifetime, not directly to you monthly benefit amount.)

If you are not sure you were credited with any of the special earnings credit during your time in military service pay a visit to your local Social Security Office. Make sure you take required documents of your military service, i.e., DD-214, etc. with you. Do not leave your original documents with them however, they are allowed to make copies if needed. All records are now computerized so the SSA office should be able to assist you easily and timely.

Watch for the 2016 Spring Issue of *Newsline* and articles on *Why Does USNTC Bainbridge Have Reunions?*

2015 Reunion Memories...

A Personal Perspective

It was USNTC Bainbridge Association's Seventeenth Reunion or a "union" in my case. I have never been to Bainbridge so all the meeting and greeting was a novelty to me.

The weather was not favorable, unless you are partial to overcast skies and rain. The sunshine was reserved for indoors. The hotel staff maintained smiles and casual chit chat, the reunion of the USS Holder (DD 819) was frequented by happy friendly faces (yes, they were gathering at the same time) and, of course, we had the welcoming Bainbridge group. The participants here were meager in numbers but all very special. Everyone had an interloper. I learned more about their military and personal lives in just a few days than I know of friends I have chatted with for years. Is it this stage of life? Have we reached a retrospective plateau and feel that we have something worthwhile to share? Whatever the motivation, it was wonderful to be instantly welcomed.

My military connection, if you will, is as a sailor's wife. He has long since retired but we, too, keep those memories of our military years on the front burner. Those were intense character building years, something that I share with the Bainbridge alumni and associates.

As far as a convention synopsis, I am sure that Arline has covered this in other formats. She certainly gives it her all and knows what to anticipate. She is the voice of experience but it may be time for more hands on deck. From what I observed those "hands" are indeed ready and willing to assist. This is certainly a win/win scenario and I know your next reunion in Maryland will reflect this. With a broader participation base there is shared ownership, less stress on any one individual and more fun to be had by all!

I won't be able to attend your eighteenth reunion as I have promised my husband to stay home for our wedding anniversary in '16. However, I will be thinking of all of you, even a certain pooch named Buddy, and remembering your warm reception. Thank you for your brief friendship.

Jane Melendy Walker
jmwalker@bellsouth.net
Signal Mountain, Tennessee

A Veteran Members Reunion Memories...

My sister and I arrived in Erlanger Wed. afternoon. We checked into our room which was very nice. Asked for and received a fridge and a microwave.

After getting settled in, I went down to find Arline and see where the room was going to be with our Bainbridge memorabilia. I found Arline and Jane, a friend of hers, outside the meeting room, and went in to join the work group and help out with whatever was needed. Then Emogene and her sweet little dog came in. We stuffed the goody bags to give out to all the attendees, then sat around talking and tossing a ball with a strange face on it to the dog who happily chased it.

Thursday was a free day. We slept late, then my sister and I went to a few stores to buy some things we invariably forget to pack whenever we go on a vacation. In the evening we attended the all hands reception, & watched the slide show about the visit the group had made to the base a while back - can't remember the year- 1999? 2001? The food was very good. Since there were so few people for this reunion, we all sat around a few tables and talked. I met a few new couples. It was sad that Don Draves had a stroke & wasn't there. He's always so kind. I'm hoping he makes it to next year's reunion.

On Friday, Rosie, Arline, Jane & I went shopping at Jungle Jim's in Fairfield, OH. Rosie & I have been there before, but it was a new experience for Arline & Jane. They really liked it. We all bought lots of goodies & some Christmas gifts, & I had to buy special catnip and toys for all my feline children. We ate lunch at Pappadeaux restaurant. The food was great, as usual. In the evening we all went for dinner at The Hofbrauhaus in Newport. I had never been to this type of restaurant. I even had a few beers, which I hardly ever drink. It was nice to have a bus to take us. We did a small tour of Newport after we ate. Even though it was raining, it was fun.

On Saturday morning I, along with maybe six members, attended the Memorial Service. Afterwards, we had the business meeting, again with only six members attending. Since I volunteered to be the recording secretary, I had my steno notebook & pen at the ready. The meeting lasted over an hour. It was very interesting mainly because I've never been to one of these meetings because I'm usually lazy & don't want to get up early - 0800 being early for me! But I managed to get out of bed & get where I needed to be by 0900. I took the minutes in shorthand and, remarkably, could read what I'd written down a week later & was able to transcribe all (okay, most of) my notes. An accomplishment for sure.



Saturday evening was our reunion banquet. It was a small, intimate affair. The speaker who talked about Daniel Boone was very interesting. Not sure why I have to always say how good the food was, but it was really good, & I even had iced tea with lemon which is what I usually drink when I go out to eat.

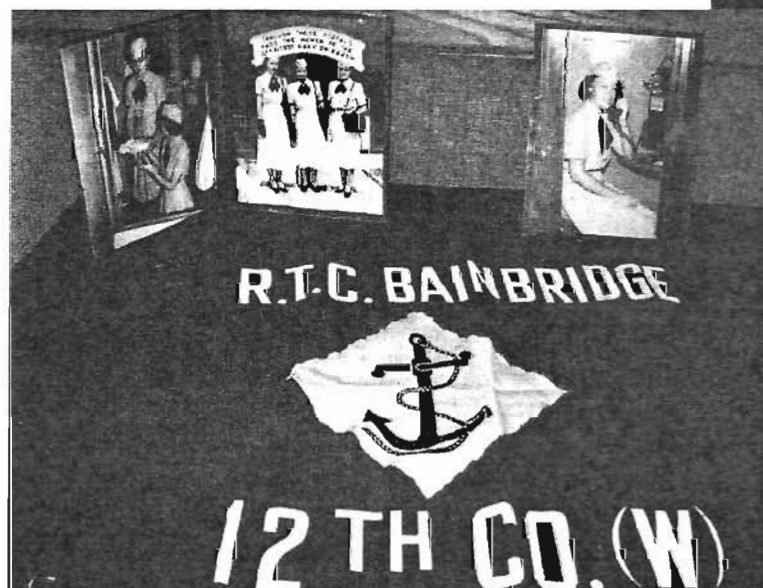
So, all in all, it was a memorable, fun reunion. I'm just hoping more people attend, AND that the people who were there for this year's reunion attend next year's reunion, unless they die, which is the only excuse allowable!

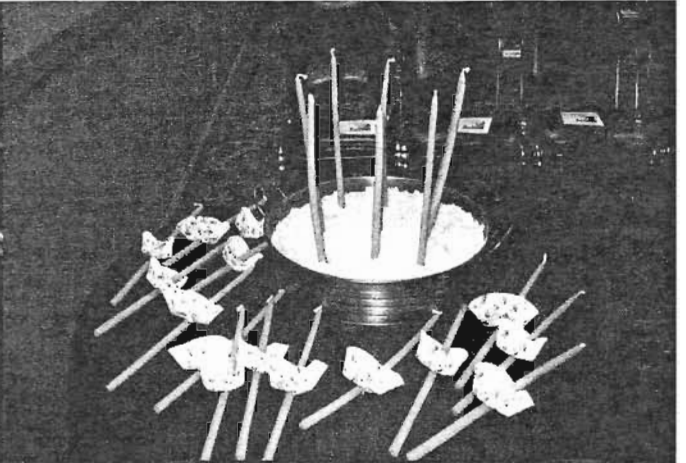
I hope to see lots of people next year in Aberdeen.

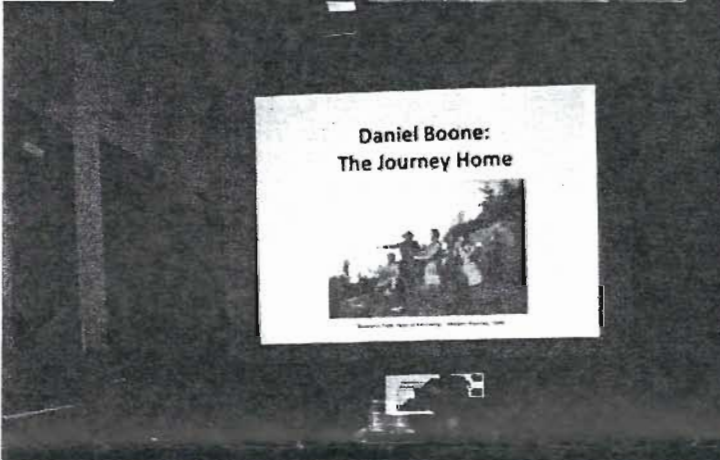
Jean Wynieski – USNTC Bainbridge Recording Secy.

Reunion Photo Memories by

Jane Walker & Howard Dobson III







WWII VETS Confront Last Battle

By Bill Torpy – NY Times News Service

ATLANTA – The military ceremony was complete, the flags fluttered and Carl Dean Beck, D-Day paratrooper, was lowered into the ground under a magnolia tree.

Beck had three careers – soldier, traffic engineer, college security guard – and was even an engaged, community-minded citizen. But what he was called to do as a teenager more than 70 years ago still defined him and in his later years he became an evangelist to keep alive the memory of World War II.

A few dozen mourners milled in the warm breeze to reminisce on the genial man's life and another tick of the passing of a generation. Of the 16 million who served in the war, just 855,000 remain, according to the National World War II Museum. Nearly 500 pass each day. A week ago Sunday was Beck's time.

He died from complications from a fall. Sadly, it occurred June 6 – the 71st anniversary of D-Day. He had also jumped on that day in France in 1994 and 2004.

Michael O'Steen, a Gulf War vet and state chairman of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, drove from South Georgia to pay respect to Beck, a man whose back story seems created from a novel. Beck spent time living in a railroad boxcar during the Depression before signing up with Uncle Sam at age 17.

"Going in the service was a way of survival for some of these guys who grew up on farms; it got them out from behind mules," said O'Steen. "Country boys made great soldiers."

They did. Beck was in the 101st Airborne, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, H Company, just a few alphabet letters from his comrades in E Company, later made famous as the "Band of Brothers."

On June 6, 1944, Beck parachuted pre-dawn behind German lines and was immediately lost from his troop. He hooked up with another lost soul and the two kept themselves alive in a hostile environment until they could meet up days later with other Americans so they could wage war on Germans.

In recent years, his stories of survival, laced with horror and measured with humor, were told to anyone who'd listen, school kids, history roundtables, media crews. He said he just didn't want the long-ago achievements to vanish.

As the VFW guy spoke, I glanced across the cemetery to see a small solitary figure in a blue wind-breaker and ball cap walking away slowly. I trotted after him and waved him down as he pulled away in a massive white Ford Expedition.

George Wilkerson, 91, knew Beck from the Atlanta World War II Roundtable. The two were Missouri farm boys who eventually moved to Atlanta.

Wilkerson was sergeant in charge of an artillery crew and ended the war fighting in Germany. He was part of the force that liberated Dachau, the infamous death camp.

"It was all bodies, lying everywhere," he said in a clipped, understated you-had-to-be-there-to-understand fashion.

Once his division finished its work in Germany, they were sent home to await orders for the invasion of Japan. Wilkerson is like many of the generation who believe the

atomic bomb allowed him to keep living. Soon, he left the Army, took the GI Bill, worked for Ford Motor CO. for 37 years, raised three kids and loved, married and buried two women.

"My life has been good," he said. "I didn't talk about all this until a few years ago. No one wanted to hear about it."

Beck, he said, always had better stories and could weave the drama better. Paratroopers, it seems, have better tales than artillery soldiers. Beck's are of escaping the enemy in the dark, accidentally bumping into Germans, getting caught in a firestorm while helplessly gliding to Earth. Beck even had a nickname for his machine gun—Jivin' Joan.

Artillery units rolled along and blew stuff up. Beck's stories always carried sort of a divine happenstance. "I'm not a hero; I'm a survivor," he once told a reporter. But time has etched away at the survivors. "We're basically dealing with 90-year-olds," said a historian at the World War II Museum. "It's demographic. They're passing very quickly."

He noted that 16 million in service out of a population of 132 million means 12 percent of America was in uniform. During the recent wars, it was less than 1 percent.

"Today, there are many people who don't personally know anyone who served in Iraq or Afghanistan," he said. Back then "everyone knew someone who was there."

The march to history has been steady. In 1984, when Ronald Reagan visited Normandy, there were 10.7 million WWII vets alive. Ten years ago, in 2005, there were nearly 3.5 million.

Last year, at D-Day's 70th anniversary, the Washington Post wrote a story headlined, "The looming approach of a world without World War II veterans." It said actuarial tables and history say the last vet would pass on in 2038.

Tom Beaty, a tech entrepreneur who started interviewing vets as a hobby and created the Witness to War Foundation, met Beck years ago at the Atlanta roundtable. The retired sergeant was one of his first subjects. Since then, his foundation has interviewed more than 1,100 WWII vets.

Beaty said he is shocked by how the past couple of years has dwindled the rolls of such vets. The youngest are now pushing 90.

"It was something we expected for a while but it seemed to have hit all at once," he said.

"They say old soldiers fade away. They say there are 800,000 left, but a lot of them are bedridden or their minds aren't the same. It's just life."

It's a daunting thought. To many of us baby boomers, the WWII generation remains in our visions as busy middle-age guys in checkered slacks telling the family to pile in the station wagon.

George Wilkerson agrees. "We're getting pretty thin," he said. He pointed off in the distance. "I'm going to be buried over there on that hill," he said. "Although I'm not looking forward to it."

The nonagenarian smiled. He said he owns the massive SUV because he pulls a camper. He's driven it to all 48 contiguous states, he said with-a-betcha-can't-believe-that smile. He heads to the North Georgia mountains soon.

This old soldier isn't ready yet to fade away.

SMALL STORES

IS OPEN

We have Bainbridge souvenir items for you as described below:

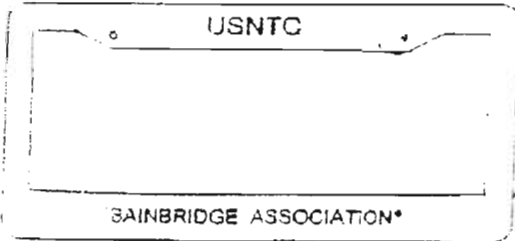
Ball Cap \$19.00 includes S&H
(standard navy blue ball cap with gold/yellow lettering)



Assn. Mug (shown)
\$13.50 includes S&H



License Plate Frame \$ 8.00 includes S&H
(as shown, black plastic w/ white letters)



USNTC Bainbridge Patch \$ 8.00 includes S&H
(as shown, blue background with blk, gold & white)

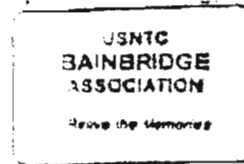


USNTC Bainbridge Lapel Pin \$ 6.00 includes S&H
(as shown above, Cloisonné, 1 inch dia.)

USNTC Bainbridge Challenge Coin \$20.00 includes S&H



Magnetic Address Book \$ 6.00 includes S&H
(as shown, gold matte finish w/ navy blue lettering)



Letter Opener \$ 5.00 includes S&H
(shown below, blue plastic w/ silver lettering)



Paper Weight \$12.00 includes S&H
(Silver on marble base)



Wall Clock 10" diameter w/ Bainbridge Logo \$21.00 w/ S&H

Clothing Items available:

T-Shirts - \$15.00 includes S&H

Golf Shirts - \$24.00 includes S&H

Windbreaker Jackets \$30.00 includes S&H
(all in Navy Blue with gold/yellow lettering)

Sizes: small, medium, large and X large are available.

Note: Sizes XXL and XXXL are special order items, add \$5.00 to above prices.

To order any items forward a check in purchase amount made out to: USNTC Bainbridge Association and mail to:

USNTC Bainbridge Association
Small Stores
PO Box 2313
Westminster, MD 21158