

USS Orion (AS-18) Veterans  
Historical Organization

**President - Tom Pieper**  
3938 Ficus Court  
Hamilton, OH 45013  
(513)738-3499  
ttp@fuse.net

**Vice-President - Jack Prendergast**  
14 Gerald Ave.  
Randolph, MA 02368  
(781)963-2793  
jprendergast93@comcast.net

**Secretary/Treasurer - John Bellis**  
121 East Ellington Street  
Peoria, IL 61603  
ovho@comcast.net

**Storekeeper - Larry Snyder**  
308 Oak Street  
Rowley, IA 52329  
(319)939-3668  
rowleyrunner@gmail.com

**Auditing Committee**  
Glenn Helbert  
Ted Swenson

**Honorary Chaplain - David Rodes**  
2004 11th Street PI SW  
Puyallup, WA 98371  
drodes@pnconline.org

**Scuttlebutt Editors**  
**Harold and Fran Wright**  
1404 Canterbury Road  
Tarboro, NC 27886  
(252)823-2525  
fwright743@gmail.com

The Scuttlebutt is published in April,  
August, and December by the USS Orion  
(AS-18) Veterans Historical Organization,  
Inc., a non-profit organization and has  
no official affiliation with the U.S. Navy.  
Pictures and articles are contributed by  
members and depict activities of the USS  
Orion, its crew members or persons  
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From our Chaplain.....David Rodes

**Hope Springs**

After a long winter, we are looking forward to warmer weather, an end to the snow and cold. On the calendar, spring has come, but at the time of writing this, for many it still feels like winter. It can be winter in our hearts as well, with great difficulties. We wonder if it will ever end and if anyone understands.

I've been poor, but I didn't know it. I was a little boy and my dad was trying to create a farm out of the dirt of eastern New Mexico. Our house was a shack and we looked the part. My parents didn't feel poor because they were rich in love, both from each other and from God. I recently had the experience of attending a Poverty Immersion Workshop. It was designed to give the participants an emotional 'kick in the gut,' causing us to feel the intensity of poverty. Ten minutes into the experience, I knew I didn't like it. Too much pressure, too many obstacles in feeding my family, paying the rent and utilities, on and on. It was crazy. Even though I knew I was in a simulated situation, the impact was significant. I emerged from the experience with more understanding of those who struggle with poverty.

Let me get back to my opening comments. Winter can feel long and spring can seem impossible. The familiar Psalm says, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...." Sometimes we believe no one understands and we don't think we'll ever get through it. As the 'Easter' spring comes and breaks on us, we are reminded that God knows what it is like to be us, to be 'poor' and in need of him. He loves us and is with us. "I will fear no evil for you are with me," says the rest of the Psalm. When we trust him, hope will happen to us.

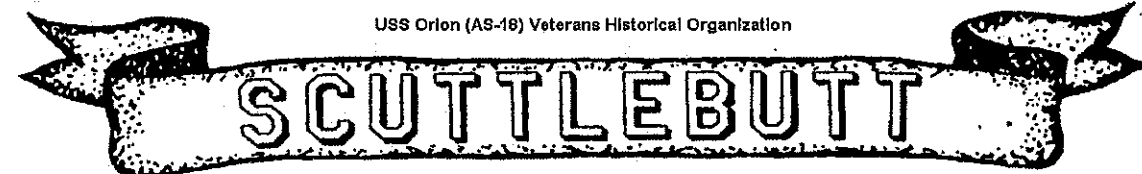
May good blessings and deep joys be yours!

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APRIL 2014

ussorion.org

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 2



**LET'S ROUND 'EM UP AND HEAD TO TEXAS!**

Ted and Martha Swenson, 2014 Reunion hosts have exciting plans for this year's reunion. The Embassy Suites, Outdoor World - DFW International Airport North, 2401 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine, Texas 76501 is the reunion hotel. The rate is \$129.00 plus tax including complimentary full breakfast each morning, complimentary manager's reception each evening, indoor salt water pool with whirlpool, free self parking, and complimentary airport transportation from DFW International Airport. Valet parking is available at \$12 per day.

Hotel reservations need to be made by September 10 to get the Orion special rate. Call 1-800-362-2779 or (972)724-2600 and ask for in-house reservation. The rate will be extended two days before and two days after the reunion. The deadline for all reunion reservations for activities will also be September 10.

**REUNION SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, October 2 - \$20.00** - Registration will be from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. in the hotel lobby. Registration includes hospitality room costs, name tags and printing costs.

**Friday, October 3 - Wine Tour - \$90.00 Museum Tour - \$23.00**

**Texas Star Dinner Theater - \$67.00**

A choice of two tours is scheduled for the morning. A Texas Wine Tour (with tastings), including a brief tour of Grapevine, and a glass of wine with a three course lunch (leaving the hotel at 11:30 a.m. and returning to the hotel at 3:30 p.m.) or a tour of the American Airlines C.R. Smith Museum with lunch on your own at The Royal Coachman Food Court or the American Airlines Cafeteria. The Museum features a DC3 plane and a flight simulator, plus exhibits on the science and forces of flight. This tour leaves the hotel at 9:30 a.m and returns to the hotel at 2:30 p.m.

The bus will leave from the hotel at 6:45 p.m. for a delicious dinner and 1800's comedy murder mystery at the Texas Star Dinner Theater.

**Saturday, October 4 - Vintage Railroad - \$65.00 (includes lunch)**

**Grapevine Opry - \$30.00**

We will leave the hotel at 12 Noon for the Grapevine Vintage Railroad. We will have a private first-class air-conditioned vintage coach with a bathroom that will take us to Ft. Worth for a Longhorn cattle drive down Exchange Avenue. There will be time to shop at the Railroad station in Fort Worth before we board at 4:00 p.m. for the return trip to Grapevine; returning to the hotel around 5:45 p.m. The bus will leave the hotel at 7:00 p.m. for the Grapevine Opry for an evening of fun and entertainment. There is not much time between activities, but you don't want to miss either one!

*Continued on Back of Page*

*Reunion Schedule (Continued)*

**Sunday, October 5 - Bush Library/Museum Tour - Memorial and Lonesome Dove Ranch BBQ - \$70.00**

The bus will leave the hotel at 11:30 p.m. for a 1:00 p.m. self-guided tour of the George W. Bush Presidential Library/Museum. No lunch is planned so you might want to check out their courtyard cafe if you need a snack. There is also a gift shop.

Following the tour, a Memorial honoring our deceased members will be held nearby. From there we will go to Dealey Plaza where President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963. Afterwards, we will go to Lonesome Dove Ranch for a 5:30 p.m. BBQ dinner with all the trimmings.....the 'best' anywhere.

**Monday, October 6 - Evening Business Meeting and Banquet - \$46.00**

Everyone should have a feel for Grapevine now and Monday is a free day to explore and shop in Downtown, the Grapevine Mills Mall or the Bass Pro Shop. We suggest taking a shuttle to Esparzas Restaurante Mexicano for lunch, walk down the hall to Bucks Brewery, or eat at the hotel. The business meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. followed by the banquet at 7:00 p.m. You don't want to miss it.



**EARLY BIRD DRAWING**

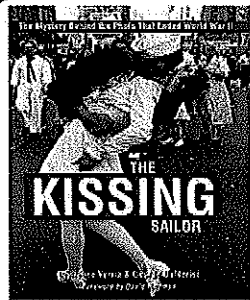
Reunion registrations received by **July 15** will be entered into a drawing at the banquet. The winner will receive one night's lodging free.

Would you like to have an Orion License Plate Holder or a new cap, t-shirt or jacket?



Just contact Larry Snyder, 319-939-3668 or e-mail rowleyrunner@gmail.com.

He will be happy to assist you or go to our website -[ussorion.org](http://ussorion.org) and click on Orion Ship's Store.

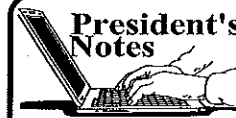


***Man Known as Kissing Sailor Dies***

According to the Associated Press and CBS News a man who became known for claiming he was the sailor kissing a woman in Times Square in a famous World War II-era photo taken by a Life Magazine photographer has died. Glenn McDuffie was 86. He died March 9 in a nursing home in Dallas. After World War II, McDuffie, who was born in Kannapolis, NC and moved to Houston, in 1960, became a mail carrier and semi-professional baseball player.

His life became more exciting about six years ago when Houston Police Department forensic artist Lois Gibson was able to identify him as the young man leaning over the woman in his arms to kiss her.

***But.....Is he really this Man?*** At least a dozen men have claimed to be the kissing sailor. Of all the claimants, only George Mendonsa sought scientific confirmation. A lump in Mendonsa's left arm matches a lump in the sailor's arm. Then there is Carl Muscarello, a retired Brooklyn police officer who claims to be the 19 year-old sailor that grabbed nurse Edith Shain for the famous kiss. Muscarello's claim gained support in 2005 when the Times Square Alliance celebrated the 60th anniversary of VJ Day and invited him and Shain to reprise the kiss. He also served aboard the *Orion* and is a member of our organization. We certainly would like for it to be him. However, when the kiss happened, they were celebrating the surrender and had downed a few beers. According to news reports, a lot of 'kissing' was going on. **You decide!**



**From Tom Pieper.....**

The new *Scuttlebutt!* It's here and hopefully to stay. And Thanks to Harold and Fran Wright who volunteered to create a smaller version of *Dave's Scuttlebutt*, most likely a page or two! And on the same schedule: April, August and December if things don't change.

So what do you think? We are looking for any kind of feedback and articles. If you have any thoughts, ideas, concerns, just email me, Fran or John Bellis.

And when you get a chance, say THANKS to Harold and Fran Wright.

The USS Orion web site is up and running. Just go to [ussorion.org](http://ussorion.org) on the internet. This is another way of staying in touch with all the shipmates. It includes shipmate listing, past shipmates, copies of all *Scuttlebutts*, recent news, reunion plans, reunion pictures, ship's store items, recent news, etc. So if you cannot find your copy of the *Scuttlebutt*, here's the place to go. Just type in:

[USSORION.ORG](http://USSORION.ORG)

*See you in Texas.....Tom*

**Note from Shipmate.....Craig Johnson, W-4 Div. TMSA -TMT2 1969-73;  
W-1 Div LPO TMT1 1977-78;  
W-3 Division Officer/CD/OOD Ensign 1981-83**



I had been sent to the Diamond TWR1 for Operation Springboard in January 1969. When the Diamond returned to pier 22 in Norfolk, VA, it tied up to the pier behind the USS Sea Leopard SS483. We were just across the pier from the Orion's after brow. QMC Daniels, the skipper of the Diamond told me to pack my gear and report back to the Orion my TAD orders were up.

I packed my sea bag and put a uniform on, said goodbye to my shipmates of the last four months, and stepped on the pier.

At the same time that I stepped on the pier, Captain Bell the Commanding Officer of the Orion, was standing on the starboard wing bridge observing the activity on the pier. Apparently he saw me step on the pier with my sea bag and headed towards the crew's after brow.

You have to understand; that while on the Diamond I nor any other member of the crew had a haircut or shave for four months.

Captain Bell had to travel from the starboard wing bridge to the after crew's brow in less time than it took me to cross the pier and walk up the brow.

Captain Bell met me at the brow and personally escorted me to the crew's barbershop. He had no problem getting me head of the line privileges in the barbershop.

It was the only time in my navy career that a ship's barber gave me a haircut and a shave. Once the barber was done Captain Bell just said, "sailor don't ever let me see you that way again. I answered, "Yes Sir!". He just left the barbershop and I never heard another word about it.

I spent the next thirty days as his driver instead of mess cooking. I know he recognized me but he never said a word.

*Have an interesting sea story you would like to share? Send it to [fwright743@gmail.com](mailto:fwright743@gmail.com)*