



USS GENERAL A.E. ANDERSON (AP-111) (TAP-111)

FEB. 2006 Editor: Harry "Swede" Lagerstedt

THE ORIGINALS

HERE ARE THE FOUNDERS OF THE USS GENERAL ANDERSON ASSOCIATION

*Kneeling, Gene Redmond
L. to R. Lee Reissener,
Sam Terry, William Vines,
"Red" Mayo, and Jerry
Reed*

Story on page two



Arlington National Cemetery at Christmas



See page three
and learn how
these beautiful
wreaths came to
decorate the
tombstones at
Arlington
National
Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery at Christmas

Some 5,000 wreaths were donated to Arlington National Cemetery by the Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine. The owner, Merrill Worcester, not only provides the wreaths, but covers the trucking expense as well. He's done this since 1992. Most years, groups of Maine school kids combine an educational trip to DC with this event to help out. Making this even more remarkable is the fact that Harrington is in one the poorest parts of the state. Visit the following for more interesting information: <http://www.fb.org/fbn/html/maine.html>



*Rest easy, sleep well my brothers.
Know the line has held, your job is done.
Rest easy, sleep well.
Others have taken up where you fell, the line has held.
Peace, peace, and farewell.*

Be it snow, hail or pelting rain, soldiers guarding the Tomb of the Unknowns consider it not just an assignment, but the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson.



**The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.
*ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD,
AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.***

ANNOUNCING

THE 12th USS ANDERSON REUNION

I recently enjoyed the movie “While You Were Sleeping”, starring Sandra Bullock. I use that to segway into telling you, that while YOU AND I were sleeping, shipmate Frank Thompson was busy making arrangements for the 12th annual ANDY reunion in Colorado Springs, CO. Reunion dates are Sept 12 to 15, 2006, that’s a Tuesday arrival and a Friday departure. It is also three nights at the Radisson Inn, located at 1645 North Newport Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80916 (Near the Airport) 129-597-7000.



Nightly (group) rate is \$87.00+9.4% tax. This includes a buffet breakfast, each day, a complimentary beverage the first evening and 25% off the first evening’s meal. Airport shuttle, hotel parking, hospitality room and banquet room are included in the room charge. Frank made a trip to CS to compare several hotels and to check on tours. He reports that while the hotel is not new, its rooms are large and have recently been re-modeled. The banquet will be the only other meal eaten at the hotel. The buffet dinner features beef and chicken at \$25.00 per plate which includes tax and gratuity.

IMPORTANT: Frank Thompson really needs numbers to work with while negotiating with vendors. They all want to know the size of the group, be it for the number of banquet place settings or the size of vehicles needed to transport us. If you have any thought of attending the 12th ANDY Reunion, even if not definite, please notify Frank ASAP. Notifying him does not obligate you in any way, but it is most helpful in planning. Frank Thompson, 8600 Oak Country Lane, DeSoto, KS 66108. Tel: (913) 583-3121. email: fatfatfat2@yahoo.com. Please don’t procrastinate, **PLEASE DO IT NOW!** For those of you in Eastern states, this is your opportunity for a bit of fabulous scenic western exposure. For you westerners, this is probably as close as it’s gonna get.



This may look like a KC-47 Tanker plane to you, but it is Solo’s Restaurant, located next to the Radisson Hotel and another choice for Monday evening’s dinner. Frank ate there one night and says it is great.

ANDY Reunion Tours: #1. Wednesday 9/13. U S AIR FORCE ACADEMY— BUFFET LUNCH AT THE OFFICERS CLUB — -GARDEN OF THE GODS. The Academy is an 18,00 acre Air Force training facility. We will see a film at the Visitor’s Center, visit the Cadet Chapel, view a 1600+ cadet formation to lunch and see “Diamond Lil”, a B-52 bomber. After lunch at the Officer’s Club we will drive through the 1,350 acre park called, “The Garden of the Gods”, an amazing series of red sandstone formations sculpted by erosion.

#2. Wednesday evening, 9/13. THE FLYING “W” RANCH featuring a tour of a restored Western town, a barbeque dinner followed by entertainment by the Flying W Wranglers.

#3. Thursday 9/14. ROYAL GORGE TOUR is one of the world’s most scenic train rides leading to the world’s highest suspension bridge. It starts at the historic Santa Fe Depot built in 1914 and travels to the suspension bridge located over 1,000 ‘ above the Arkansas River. Oh Yeah, it’s also the worlds steepest incline RR.

#4. Friday 9/15. An optional, post reunion tour, to the top of Pikes Peak via a Cog Railway can be made available if enough people are interested. Just let Frank know. More info on all the tours and prices for each will be forthcoming in the May newsletter.

A P Transport Reunion Group

Is having their 18th Annual Reunion at the HOLIDAY INN EXECUTIVE CENTER in Virginia Beach, VA—June 8-11, 2006.

A package price of \$480 double, \$390 single includes 3 nights, 3 buffet breakfasts, 1 buffet dinner and 1 sit-down dinner, all taxes and gratuities included.

Tour #1 is to the McArthur Memorial and Old Towne Portsmouth. \$30.00 per person

Tour #2 includes a riding tour of Virginia Beach and visit to NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, with lunch at the Breezy Point Officers Club

Contact APTTG, 35 Oak Lane, New Hyde Park, NY 11040-2339
1-516-747-7426

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OH YEAH, IT’S A
NEW YEAR AND
TIME TO CALL FOR
THOSE DUES AGAIN.

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SO, PULL YOUR
WEIGHT AND SEND 20
BUCKS TO OUR
TREASURER:

E

Helaine Hamelman
2008 Covey Glen Road
McKinney, TX 75070-6958

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Note your membership status in the upper right corner of the address label. If it says M-04, you were a paid up member last year. If it says 2004 it means that we know you are out there, but you haven’t joined. The newsletter is sent to non-members for three years

God Bless The USA

If tomorrow all the things were gone
I'd worked for all my life,
And I had to start again
With just my children and my wife,
I'd thank my lucky stars
To be living here today,
'Cause the flag still stands for free-
dom
And they can't take that away.
I'm proud to be an American
Where at least I know I'm free,
And I won't forget the men who died
Who gave that right to me,
And I gladly stand up next to you
And defend her still today,
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this
land
God Bless the U.S.A.
From the lakes of Minnesota
To the hills of Tennessee,
Across the plains of Texas
From sea to shining sea.
From Detroit down to Houston
And New York to L.A.,
There's pride in every American heart
And it's time we stand and say:
I'm proud to be an American
Where at least I know I'm free,
And I won't forget the men who died
Who gave that right to me,
And I gladly stand up next to you
And defend her still today,
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this
land
God Bless the U.S.A.

Lee Greenwood



The Navy Log records naval service information of present and former members of all the sea services, living or deceased. With an enrollment of more than a half million names (and tens of thousands of photographs), the Navy Log is on continuous display in the Navy Log room of the U.S. Navy Memorial as well as being accessible on the internet through the U.S. Navy Memorial Website.

Enrollment in the Navy Log is free of charge and without obligation. It used to cost \$25 to "log in" and another \$25 to include your photo. Thanks to George Kesselring and a tip of the flat hat for alerting me to their new **FREE** policy. Making changes, updating information or adding a photograph is also now free of charge.

By logging in on the Navy Memorial site you can enter your photograph, service dates, duty stations, awards and service memories. Sign up at www.lonesailor.org, or during visits to the U.S. Navy Memorial, or by calling: (202)737-2300 ext. 730 for a Navy Log brochure and application.

World War II Registry

This is a data base for all 16 million men and women who served during WWII. Similar to the Navy Log, but broader in scope, the WWII Registry covers all the services involved in that war.

Al Nesbit signed up while we visited the WWII Memorial last Sept. Now it is time for the rest of oldtimers to join him and get registered. The website is: www.wwiimemorial.com or write to National Mall and Memorial Parks, 900 Ohio Drive S.W. Washington, DC 20024-2000



Since February is the month set aside especially for Sweethearts and Lovers, it is the editor's opinion that St. Valentine would appreciate the following article. After you finish reading the children's definitions of "love", you will probably say, "Out of the mouths of babes!" Enjoy.

Some professionals posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds. The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined:

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." -- Rebecca – age 8

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth." -- Billy – age 4

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." -- Danny – age 7

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." -- Nikka – age 6

"Love is when mommy sees daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford." -- Chris – age 7

"I let my big sister pick on me because my Mom says she only picks on me because she loves me. So I pick on my baby sister because I love her." -- Bethany – age 4

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." -- Terry – age 4

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." -Bobby – age 7

"My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night" -- Clare – age 6

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." -- Jessica – age 8

**** The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing. I just helped him cry."

IWO JIMA EUOLOGY DELIVERED BY MARINE RABBI



Here lie men who loved America because their ancestors generations ago helped in her founding, and other men who loved her with equal passion because they themselves or their own fathers escaped from oppression to her blessed shores. Here lie officers and men, blacks and whites, rich men and poor . . . together. Here are Protestants, Catholics and Jews together. Here no man prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color. Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or allowed. Among these men, there is no discrimination. No prejudices. No hatred. Theirs is the highest and purest democracy ...

Whosoever of us lifts his hand in hate against a brother, or who thinks himself superior to those who happen to be in the minority, makes of this ceremony and the bloody sacrifice it commemorates, an empty, hollow mockery. To this, then, as our solemn duty, sacred duty do we the living now dedicate ourselves: to the right of Protestants, Catholics, and Jews, of white men and black alike, to enjoy the democracy for which all of them have here paid the price ...

We here solemnly swear that this shall not be in vain. Out of this and from the suffering and sorrow of those who mourn this will come, we promise, the birth of a new freedom for the sons of men everywhere.

And now, for the rest of the story

Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn (1910-1995), assigned to the Fifth Marine Division, was the first Jewish chaplain the Marine Corps ever appointed. He was in the thick of the fray, ministering to Marines of all faiths in the combat zone. He shared the fear, horror and despair of the fighting men. Gittelsohn's tireless efforts to comfort the wounded and encourage the fearful won him three service ribbons.

For dedication of the Marine Cemetery, Division Chaplain Warren Cuthriell, a Protestant minister, asked Rabbi Gittelsohn to deliver the memorial sermon. Cuthriell wanted all the fallen Marines - black and white, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish - honored in a nondenominational ceremony. Unfortunately, racial and religious prejudice was strong in the Marine Corps, as it was then throughout America and the majority of Christian chaplains objected to having a rabbi preach over predominantly Christian graves.

To his credit, Cuthriell refused to alter his plans. Gittelsohn, on the other hand, wanted to save his friend Cuthriell further embarrassment and so decided it was best not to deliver his sermon. Instead, three separate religious services were held. At the Jewish service, to a congregation of 70 or so who attended, Rabbi Gittelsohn delivered the powerful eulogy he originally wrote for the combined service.

Among Gittelsohn's listeners were three Protestant chaplains so incensed by the prejudice voiced by their colleagues that they boycotted their own service to attend Gittelsohn's. One of them borrowed the manuscript and, unknown to Gittelsohn, circulated several thousand copies to his regiment. An avalanche of coverage resulted. Time magazine published excerpts, which wire services spread even further. The entire sermon was inserted into the Congressional Record, the Army released the eulogy for short-wave broadcast to American troops throughout the world and radio commentator Robert St. John read it on his program and on many succeeding Memorial Days.

In his autobiography, Gittelsohn reflected, "I have often wondered whether anyone would ever have heard of my Iwo Jima sermon had it not been for the bigoted attempt to ban it." The above was written by Michael Feldberg, the director of the American Jewish Historical Society and appeared on www.jewishworldreview.com in February 2005.

USS General William Weigel AP-TAP 119

William Weigel born in New Brunswick, N.J., 26 August 1863, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1887. After fighting in the Indian Wars as a junior officer, he took part in the Cuban campaign during the Spanish American War and was active in the Philippine Insurrection. As a division commander during World War I, he commanded troops in the Aisne-Marne offensive and the Meuse-Argonne campaign. He retired as a Major General 1927 and filled various civic and patriotic posts until his death in New York 4 March 1936.

AP-119 was laid down under Maritime Commission contract 16 March 1944 by the Federal Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Kearny, N.J. First named *USS General C. H. Barth* (AP-119) April 1944, she was renamed the *USS General William Weigel* August 1944; launched September 1944; acquired by the Navy January 1945, and commissioned at Bayonne, N.J. Captain Thomas Y. Awalt, USCC, in command.

The *USS General William Weigel* sailed from New York to LeHavre February 1945 with 5,000 rotation troops, then embarked veterans and returned to New York. In May, the troopship touched at San Juan to take on 5,000 Army fighting men for passage to Hawaii.

This far ranging ship made 2 trips from Marseille to transport troops taking part in the climactic Pacific battles returning to San Pedro, Calif. August 1945. As part of the "Magic-Carpet" fleet, she continued Pacific crossings until departing San Francisco for New York, arriving 1 May. Decommissioned there 10 May 1946, and transferred to the War Department for peacetime operations as an Army transport. She then made shuttle runs with troops and supplies from San Francisco to garrisons in the Pacific until reacquired by the Navy 20 July 1950. The *USS General William Weigel* was assigned to MSTS 1 August 1950. .

During this phase of her career, the ship sailed from the Pacific coast to Japan and Korea carrying troops for duty in Korean fighting. She continued to rotate American troops until she was placed in Reduced Operational Status in 1955. *USS General William Weigel* was returned to the Maritime Commission 12 June 1958 and entered the National Defense Reserve Fleet at Olympia, Wash. She was reacquired by the Navy 18 August 1965 and assigned to MSTS as the Navy bolstered its support forces for the struggle against Communist aggression in Southeast Asia. She carried troops to Vietnam through 1967.

The USS General William Weigel received seven battle stars for Korean conflict service.

The *USS General William Weigel* was sold for scrap 04/10/87 for the price of \$1,177,200.