

THE



JOLLY  CHOLLY

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 2

Fall 2016

CHARLES H. ROAN  
US MARINE WWII  
MEDAL OF HONOR



# USS C. H. Roan Association Board Of Directors

*May We Never Forget Our Departed  
Shipmates Who Served With Us Faithfully  
and Gallantly*

**President**  
Richard F. Souza                      SMC                      58-66

**Vice Presidents**  
Ed Semcheski                      RM2                      61-64  
Bob Willet                      BT2                      63-66  
Carl Wishart                      QM2                      57-60

**Secretary & Editor**  
Joe Lambert                      EM2                      62-64

**Chaplain**  
Frank Manasseri                      RM2                      61-64

**Web Page - Master**  
Ron Lucchesi  
(Richardson)                      FTG3                      66-68

**Board**  
Gordon Anthony                      YN3                      61-64  
Joe Carlson                      SO2                      49-53  
Paul Dabbs                      FTG2                      70-72  
Sal Genova                      QM2                      52-55  
Bob Hansen                      TE3                      57-59  
Tony Hudalla                      LTjg                      59-62  
Frank Locastro                      YN3                      53-57  
Bob Marshall                      LT                      59-61  
Chuck Medlar                      BM3                      66-70  
Ralph Rankin                      FTGSN                      65-67  
Henry Rossi                      SK2                      57-60  
Tom VanPetten                      LTjg                      58-61

## Taps

Plankowner  
Francis McDevitt                      F1                      46-47                      02/16  
Thomas L Rhoades                      SA                      46-48                      08/16  
  
Robert L Makely                      SN                      47-50                      01/16  
Jack M. Ballard                      CS2                      49-52                      02/16  
Thomas A Cosgrove                      LT                      51-52                      08/14  
Carl Sandberg                      MML1                      51-52                      10/15  
Charles A. Simpson                      SFP3                      56-58                      01/06  
Frank N. Thurlow                      EM2                      56-58                      09/07  
James Briggs                      SN                      57-59                      11/05  
Gerald Branco                      BM3                      59-61                      04/11  
Vernon Morgan                      BT3                      59-62                      08/15  
Thomas Mc Ginty                      LTjg                      57-59                      03/15  
John Hiehs                      SN                      61-63                      03/16  
Ed Nunes                      RD2                      63-66                      10/16  
Richard L Lawrence                      RD3                      64-67                      05/16  
Joseph C McGlynn                      SKC                      71-73                      03/05  
Daniel E Jenkins                      SA                      72-73                      05/15

## Cover

Charles H. Roan's block from the veterans walk at the Veterans Memorial in Claude, Texas.

**Association President**  
Richard Souza  
6396 Manassas Ct.  
Pensacola, FL 32503  
(850)261-1360  
souza6@cox.net

**Editor**  
Joe Lambert  
12213 Quail Ridge Dr  
Huntley, IL 60142  
(773)206-9923  
chief9bullie@comcast.net

**Web Master**  
Ron Lucchesi  
16675 Kildare Rd.  
San Leandro, CA 94578  
(510)278-7177  
rblucchesi@comcast.net

**Shipmate Locator**  
Henry Rossi  
177 Thatcher Road  
Rockport, MA 01966-2230  
(978)546-7272  
rockportrossi@gmail.com,

### Association Donation

Richard, I understand that to run any Association as large as the USS Charles H. Roan Association funds are needed. In doing my part to keep this ship afloat and to stave off dues, please accept my donation to fund projects such as "The Jolly Cholly" and the web site. I hope this helps with keeping the Association functioning.

\$10

\$20

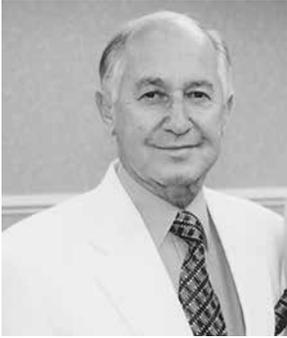
\$50

\$100

Other

Please accept my donation in memory of:

# From the Signal Bridge



First let me say that I CAN'T give enough thanks to the reunion committee for making our reunion in Amarillo, Texas an event, which we will never forget. The Association and I are extremely thankful for the many hours spent by the committee in making the reunion a success, many times at their own expense. Our heartfelt thanks to, Tom VanPetten (LTjg 58-61), John Molstad (RDSN 63-64), and Bob Smith (ENFN 59-61). I would also like to thank Mike Fredericks (BM3 65-67) for donating the picture of the Roan that he designed, painted and framed. This picture was raffled, and was a financial windfall for our Association. Our thanks also to Linda Oppel (wife of Larry Oppel, EM3 64-66) for the time she took making a fabulous Navy themed quilt. Also June Smith (wife of Bob Smith, ENFN 59-61) for the wonderful hand made Navy themed pillows. These donated items were also raffled and truly are a help to our finances and were extremely appreciated. Many thanks to Mike, Linda and June for going above and beyond, and to all the other shipmates who supported us with their donations.

I would also like to thank Mike Moore, Don Sherman, and the people of Claude, TX without who's support this reunion could not have been the success that it was. I would also like to thank American Legion Post 344, its members and their spouses and significant others who welcomed us as shipmates and had us join them in a great barbecue. The memorial they dedicated to Charles H. Roan and other local veterans is truly a remarkable feat.

Speaking of donations, we do not charge any dues and rely on you, our shipmates to financially support us. In our last newsletter I made a request for donations as I do in every newsletter. We received \$1,700 in donations with two of the donations totaling \$900. Our newsletters cost us approximately \$1,600 every 6 months. Our inter-net and telephone is approximately \$125.00 a month. I firmly believe the newsletter and web site is our lifeline to the membership.

As you see the donations did not cover our expenses. Other expenses vary, such as bereavement, postage, office supplies and all the other unknowns, which come up. Many of our officers such as Joe Lambert, Ron Lucceshi, Henry Rossi and myself do not ask for out of pocket expenses that occur in the name of the Association and none of us get paid. We have been in operation over 26 years and we thank all of you who have supported us financially over the years. We presently have almost 1000 members. I know some of our shipmates can't afford to donate and I certainly do not want to burden them to do so. We are shipmates, and those of us who can, we ask to help support those who can't. The present financial report shows we are financially sound once again, due to the support we received at the reunion and from the reunion. Do to ongoing expenses this amount will

surely dwindle. Please keep in mind, without your financial support we can't continue to operate.

Members present at the reunion voted to hold the next reunion in New Orleans, LA in 2018. Ralph Rankin, (FTGSN 65-67) will be the Chairman for this reunion. More information will follow. Please keep in mind with your special thoughts and prayers our shipmates, spouses and significant others who are ill.

*Richard F Souza*

---

## Financial Report Nov 6, 2016

### Last Financial Report: Apr 25, 2016

Balance of Checking Account	9,225.97
Reserve Fund-Separate Account	700.00

#### Expenditures

Post Office	254.03
Office Supplies	374.99
Small Stores	1,203.82
Printing/Newsletter	1,594.85
Telephone/Internet	750.00
Bereavement	99.93
Amarillo Reunion Expenses	3,038.29

Total Expenses	7,315.91
----------------	----------

#### Deposits

Donations/Small Stores	12,564.47
Checking Account	9,225.97
Deposits	12,564.47
Expenses	-7,315.91

Total Balance	14,474.53
Reserve Fund	700.00

Total Assets Including Reserve Fund	15,174.53
-------------------------------------	-----------

*Note: Reunion Committe returned \$6,081.47 after all expenses were paid.*

*Donations/Raffles at reunion \$3,350.00.*

# Obituaries

Raymond D Forbush  
RdM3 46-47 Plankowner

Raymond Duane Forbush, 87, passed away peacefully at home in West Jordan, UT on March 12, 2016. Born July, 11, 1928, to Nora Bennett Staub Forbush and Raymond Eldgen Forbush in Midvale, Utah.

Ray graduated from Jordan High School in Sandy, Utah, and later enlisted in the United States Navy in 1945, serving during W.W. II and the Korean conflict, receiving an Honorable discharge in 1953. Ray then finished his education and worked in the aero-space industry for 12 years after which he operated his own business in San Diego, California until his retirement in 1989.

Survived by his beloved wife, Carol, 2 sons, 1 step-son, 1 step-daughter and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by his parents, wife Caroline Helen Forbush and infant son, Val F. Forbush.

Ray was very proud to be a descendant of two of the great Utah pioneer families, the Forbush's and the Bennett's who migrated and settled in the Salt Lake Valley in the 1850's.

Francis "Mickey" McDevitt  
F1 46-47 Plankowner

"Mickey" age 88, died February 1, 2016. Mickey was born and raised in Philadelphia and honorably served his country in the US Navy. He was a longtime resident of Prospect Park before moving to Lakeland, FL. For the last 11 years, he resided in Upper Chichester Twp. Mickey worked for the US Postal Service as a mail carrier in SW Philadelphia. He was an avid Phillies and Flyers fan and enjoyed golfing during his residency in Florida. Mickey was a great handy man and was known to be able to fix just about anything. Mickey was married for 62 years to the late Theresa McDevitt. He was 1 of 9 siblings. He is survived by a son and daughter 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren, and 2 sisters and a brother.

Reginald M Kingsley  
SN 52-56

Reggie was born on November 6, 1931 in Wadena, Minnesota. His parents were the late Paul and Christina (Geber) Kingsley. Reggie grew up on the family farm in rural Deer Creek where he attended country school in Compton Township. Reggie honorably served in the United State Navy during the Korean Conflict from March 10, 1952 to February 29, 1956. On July 1, 1958 Reggie was united in marriage with Arlene "Tina" Doris Haddock in Wadena, Minnesota. Reggie and Tina made their home in East Boston, Massachusetts. Reggie was employed as a machinist with Bromfield Shipyard in East Boston. In May of 1973 Reggie moved his family to Deer Creek, Minnesota. He continued to work for the Bromfield Shipyard until his retirement in 1976. During his retirement Reggie began a painting business and also was a gravedigger for the area funeral homes. For over 15 years Reggie and Tina operated the Kingsley Group Home and also enjoyed the outdoors and deer hunting together. Reggie was kind, gentle and was always willing to help his family, friends and neighbors.

On June 11, 2016 Reggie passed away at his home in Deer Creek, Minnesota at 84 years of age. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends. Preceding Reggie in death were his parents; wife, Tina and his brother, Elmer.

Reggie is survived by 2 daughters, 1 son, 7 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, a brother and a host of friends.

John J Metschl  
XO/LT 54-56

John J Metschl was killed in a helicopter that crashed through the ice in Antarctica in Oct, 1963. He was buried at sea.

Frank N. Thurlow,  
EM2 56-58

Frank passed away unexpectedly at his home on September 26, 2007. He was 80 years old. A resident of Atlantic Beach, FL since 1961, he retired from the U.S. Navy after a long and distinguished career. He was a member of the Fleet Reserve, American Legion Post 0316, and was a prolific writer. He and his wife raised six loving children all of whom will miss him dearly. Preceded in death by his wife, Gerry Thurlow "Green Eyes"

Tilden F (Mac) McCommas  
EM2 SS 62-63

Tilden F. (Mac) McCommas, of St. Peters, MO, formerly of Plainfield, CT died unexpectedly Thursday, May 28, 2009 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. He was born July 5, 1941 in Excelsior Springs, MO. His parents were the late Ray F. McCommas and Mabel McCommas, who survives him. Mac had 1 brother. Mac was married May 28, 1977 to his wife Karen, who survives him. He is survived by his 1 son, and 3 daughters. His greatest joys were his 5 grandchildren.

Mac was a veteran of the United States Navy, serving mostly as a submariner. He graduated in 1969 from Eastern Connecticut State University, with a Bachelors Degree in Biology. In 1977 he co-founded Eastern Aquanalysis, an environmental laboratory, where he was the laboratory director. He retired in 1996. He enjoyed collecting coins and stamps, was an avid Boston Red Sox fan and loved watching college football games. His favorite vacations were taking cruises with his wife and family.

Mac was a past president of the Danielson Rotary Club, and in 1995 received Rotary's highest award, the Paul Harris Fellowship Award.

Edward (Ed) Nunes  
RD2 63-66

On the morning of October 7, 2016, following complications and a long battle with diabetes and end stage renal disease, Ed died peacefully in his sleep while being attended by familiar staff members at the Manteca Care and Rehabilitation Facility. He was 75 years old.

Ed was born in Oakland, California on July 2, 1941. He was the fourth son and fifth child of Joseph and Mary DeJesus Nunes and had three sisters, Celeste, LaVerne and Linda. The family settled in Modesto in 1953 where they ran the family owned grocery store, Nunes Market until 1964. The store was then purchased by Ed's brother Ernie and continued to operate as Nunes Market until he sold it in 1979.

Ed graduated Downy High School in Modesto in 1959 and attended Modesto Junior College prior to joining the Navy in 1962. During his enlistment (1962-1966) Ed was eventually stationed aboard the USS Charles H. Roan. Following his discharge, Ed worked in the electronics field in the San Jose/Santa Clara area until his retirement in 2006. He excelled in his business field and seemed to make lasting friendships wherever he went. Ed loved telling stories about his swinging singles and Navy experiences and later in life about his proud and happy days as a Sunnyvale Elk member. Most people will remember Ed as happy go lucky, the life of the party and a very caring person.

He was married to his wife, Marilyn, for 16 years and they very happily relocated from their lives in the Silicon Valley to Manteca in 2013 for what was to be the remainder of their "golden" years. In those last years, some of Ed's happiest times were when he would set out in his golf cart with his dog Sammy sitting by his side, riding up and down the streets and visiting friends in his Woodbridge neighborhood.

Ed was always very proud of all his family and the love they shared. He will be dearly missed, by his wife, daughter, son, stepson and six grandchildren and numerous friends he had made throughout his life. A special acknowledgement goes to Roger Albright, who remained a true friend to Ed throughout their school and Navy years, and adult life right to the end.

# **“Within my heart the song still plays in memory of those better days”**

## **Flags and Signals**

Dear Joe,

Nice spring issue, but I'm very sorry to hear of Captain Connell's ( CO/CDR 59-61) passing. He was a veteran skipper. Have a great time in Amarillo!

Warm regards,

Larry Treadwell – Captain, U.S.N. ret  
XO/CO/XO/LCDR 61-63

Richard,

On the page for new members was the name Donald C. Appling 46-47, Amarillo, TX. After commissioning of the ship three new men came aboard. They were all from Charles H. Roan's hometown.

Donald Appling S2 46-47  
Bobbie Simpson SA 47-48  
Kenneth Griffin SH3 46-51

All good shipmates.  
Richard C Brophy - Plankowner  
S1 46-48

Richard,

I'm sorry to see the passing of SFP3 Lloyd Keola. He helped me out a lot when I first came aboard Roan. I have one picture of Lloyd at sea during the 1967 Med. Cruise. So many good memories. Richard here's a check for "The Jolly Cholly" fund.  
Tom E Parker  
DC2 66-70

Greetings Richard,

I am sending some help for the cost of printing, and for the reunion. If it is possible, I would like to have a disc of the reunion in Texas because I will not be able to attend.

Unfortunately the reunion week is at the same time as a event that I have a leadership role in. The organization running this event has been doing so for 39 years. Ginny, my wife says we would rather be at the reunion and she's right. I know you will keep me informed of the next reunion that I have every expectation of attending.

Most sincerely,  
Joseph Lovas  
EN2 59-61

Richard,

Here is a Roan story for you. While I was standing a sounding and security watch, Walt Dean (SN 69-70) was standing an after lookout watch and being a friend of mine, I went up to see him. We were the lead ship in a formation. I noticed a can with a ring on it at the lookout station. I didn't know what it was but pulled the ring anyway. It turned out to be the man-overboard flare. Of course we had to notify all ships in the formation this was a false alarm. Needless to say I was never invited up to the after lookout station again and on my own accord stayed well clear of it.

Thanks again Richard for my fall edition. In the taps section there is a Harold E Schumacher MM3 57-58. I found out recently that he worked with my brother at the U.S. postal service. Small world.

I enclosed two checks, one for 2 sets of Roan stickers and one for "The Jolly Cholly."  
Tom E Parker  
DC2 66-70

Richard,

Please send 2 sets of decal stickers. Apply the extra money to the kitty. Hope to see you in Texas.  
Thank you,  
Skip Fanning  
SN 67-71

Chief,

Thank you and Ron, Henry Joe and the VP's for keeping the Association afloat. Enclosed please find an order for some items from the ships store plus some extra funds for the Association's finances.  
Bill Pirowski  
FTGSN 71-72

Hi Chief Souza,

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$50. Please send one ship's photo (post-gram) and use the balance as a contribution to the Association.  
Best regards,  
Mark W Fleming  
LTJg 71-73

# Flags and Signals

Hi Richard,

Alice and I are looking forward to the reunion in Amarillo. It is always nice to meet the fellows and enjoy the time together. Enclosed is a little something for the Association.

Take care,

Tony DeNiro

SN 58-60

Hi Rich,

Please send an Inland Seas cruise book, enclosed is a check, put the remainder in the kitty. I look forward to getting "The Jolly Cholly." You guys do a great job.

Thanks,

Richard Jones

RD3 57-60

Dear Chief Souza,

Hope this will help with the newsletter. I left the Roan as a LTjg and the Navy as a LT.

Adrian Spicer

LTjg 62-64

Dear Richard,

Rene and I have just sent in our registration form to attend the Amarillo reunion, God willing. We feel we have to make it to this reunion as it is so special because of the young man the ship was named after and all the men who served on her so proudly. We look forward to seeing you all again. We hope the enclosed helps a wee bit.

Love to all,

Margaret Savoie, wife of

Rene Savoie

SH3 59-64

---

## New Members

Robert A Stiteler  
SM3 46-47 Plankowner  
Hereford, AZ

John T McCann  
DK3 59-61  
Andover, MA

Bradley Gail McCoy  
SN 69-71  
Scott Depot, WV

Joseph W Milkovich  
ME2 54-55  
Cleveland, OH

Joseph Matais  
LTjg 61-62  
Portsmouth, RI

Bradley Crane  
BT2 70-73  
Buffalo, NY

Harley D McLendon  
GM2 54-56  
Lakeland, FL

John S Messa  
MM2 61-63  
Marcy, WI

Joel Baggenstoss  
OS2 71-73  
Apple Valley, MN

Donald J Lisy  
FN 55-56  
Parma, OH

Richard E Manson  
DK1 64  
Chillicothe, OH

Paul McLaughlin  
MM3 71-73  
Spencer, MA

John Kram  
RD3 56-57  
Georgetown, DE

Robert A Lufkin  
STG3 67-68  
Gloucester, MA

Max Bardeen  
QM3 72-73  
Dedham, MA

---

**“Any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction’ - ‘I served in the United States Navy’ “. John F. Kennedy**

## “Killing the Rising Sun”

Several people have contacted the association to tell us that Charles H Roan was noted on page 34 of the Bill O’Reilly’s new book “Killing the Rising Sun,” speaking to his great personal sacrifice and being awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. I suggested to Richard Souza that he write to Mr O’Reilly. Below is that letter and Bill O’Reilly’s reference to Charles H Roan and other Marines who met thier deaths in the same way as Charles.

Henry Rossi SK2 57-60

Dear Mr O’Reilly,

It is a great pleasure to have the name of Pfc. Charles H Roan USMCR, who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, noted in your recent book, Killing the Rising Sun... A United States Navy Destroyer, USS Charles H Roan DD853, was named in his honor and christened by his mother, Lillabel Roan, on 9/12/1946. The Roan was decommissioned 9/21/1973. In those 27 years, 4,996 sailors and officers served on her. Later, an association was started and now, over one thousand living crew members are keeping the name of Charles H Roan alive. The members of the USS Charles H. Roan Association would like to express their appreciation for publishing his name and acknowledging his great personal sacrifice, in your book. Thank you.

Richard F Souza SMC 58-66

President, USS Charles H. Roan DD853 Association

### **An excerpt from “Killing the Rising Sun”**

“On (almost) this day in 1944, a United States Marine throws himself on a grenade to save two of his comrades. John D. New had been the first person in Mobile, Alabama to volunteer for the Marines after Pearl Harbor.

His sacrifice came a little over 2.5 years later at the hard-fought Battle of Peleliu. The casualty rate during that World War II battle was high! Americans expected to take the island of Peleliu from the Japanese in a few days. Instead, the effort lasted for two months.

Eight men would earn Medals of Honor during that long Pacific battle. A whopping six of these were awarded to Marines who threw themselves on grenades in order to protect others.

Think about that for a minute. Six Marines saw live grenades and reflexively ran \*toward\* the danger. Death was almost certain to follow, but they did it anyway to save a fellow Marine.

One of the saddest parts? Their stories can be hard to tell. For one thing, most of these Marines did not live to tell us what they thought or felt during those critical moments. Moreover, from a story-telling standpoint, the move is so quick—and so final: One swift decision, then the moment is done. A life is lost, given for another.

The sacrifice and the bravery are the same. Yet other Medal recipients can get more attention simply because their heroism involved a long, thrilling action sequence that turns into a good story.

At Peleliu, only one Marine ran toward a grenade and lived to tell the tale. His memory of the action is fuzzy. He’d just taken a bullet right below his ribs when a Japanese soldier emerged from a dugout behind him. The enemy soldier threw a grenade toward Carlton R. Rouh and several other Marines.

“I got to my feet,” he later recounted, “I remember that. Then after that I can remember things only in patches with blind spots in between.”

He’d placed himself between the other Marines and the grenade, taking the full brunt of the explosion himself. Another Marine rushed toward Rouh, covering him as more Japanese emerged from the dugout. Rouh was evacuated and miraculously lived.

Five other brave Marines at Peleliu were not so fortunate. They ran toward grenades—and gave their lives.

Today, then, perhaps we can take a moment to remember five Marines with stories that tend to get lost in the shuffle: Charles H. Roan, John D. New, Lewis K. Bausell, Richard E. Kraus, and Wesley Phelps.

Each was a hero.”

# Veterans reunite in Claude, Amarillo

BY LISA LAMB

*lisa.lamb@amarillo.com*

About 70 veterans of the USS Charles H. Roan and their family members held a special reunion with events in Claude and Amarillo this past weekend.

"The reason we decided to come to Amarillo is because Claude is just a few miles down the road from where Charles H. Roan was born and raised," said Tom Van Petten of North Carolina, who served on The Roan from 1958 to 1961.

The Roan was christened in 1946 and served the country until 1973. The ship is named for Claude resident Charles Howard Roan, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Harry Truman in 1946 for his heroism in the Pacific Theater of World War II.

Roan was born in Claude on Aug. 16, 1923, and was killed in action on Sept. 18, 1944, when, according to Globe-News archives, he threw himself on a Japanese hand grenade in the battle of Peleliu.

Roan, who was already wounded, used his body to shield the blast and saved the lives of four of his fellow Marines.

"Charles H. Roan was hero. He has the Medal of Honor. We like to keep his name alive," Van Petten said.

"The ship is no longer commissioned, so we keep the Charles H. Roan name out there."

The remaining veterans of the Roan meet for a reunion biennially at different locations in the U.S. This is the furthest west



LISA LAMB / AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS

Former crew members of the U.S.S. Charles H. Roan Bob Smith, from left, Tom Van Petten, Richard Souza and John Malstead attended a reunion in Claude and Amarillo this past weekend.

the group has met at given the ship was based on the East Coast.

"My service in the Navy was fantastic. It truly was," said Bob Smith of Illinois, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1958-1961 and was a shipmate on the Roan.

"When you go aboard a ship, 24/7 you're with these guys. You get to know them, you get to depend on them and you develop a friendship that you cannot get anywhere else."

The veterans and their families held a barbecue and toured the Charles Roan Memorial Roadside Park in Claude on Thursday.

The group held a dinner and ceremony in Amarillo on Saturday.

Marlin Digby, who served in the Navy from 1959-1961, reunited with his former shipmate John Horner after 50 years.

**"The ship is no longer commissioned, so we keep the Charles H. Roan name out there."**

VAN PETTEN

Served on The Roan from 1958 to 1961

While Marlin Digby described the reunion between the two as "really happy," his wife was more descriptive. Virginia Digby said the, "tears flowed and they talked about happy memories and things they used to do to get in trouble together."

Richard Souza, president of the USS Charles H. Roan Association board of directors, said the organization was founded in 1990 and held its first reunion in 1991.

"We don't have any dues. It's all through donations," Souza, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1958 to 1966, and is

a former crew member of the Roan. "We are funded by our shipmates."

The oldest member attending this reunion served on the ship in 1968. The group plans to keep getting together.

"We're all getting older," Van Petten said, "and our attendance is dropping because of this."

The USS Charles H. Roan was a Gearing class destroyer that accommodated 20 officers and 325 enlisted sailors.

Roan also is remembered locally in the name of the Ussery-Roan Texas State Veterans Home on Tascosa Road.

# Amarillo September 2016 14th Reunion USS Charles H Roan



Amarillo, Texas. What can I say about Amarillo. Have you ever been there? It's a small city in the middle of the Texas panhandle, surrounded by Texas prairie. Very flat Texas prairie with nothing but a lot of scrub grass. Not a very inviting scene. But the people we met from that area were very inviting as was the staff at the Amarillo Inn and Suites. Could not have been nicer.



We began to arrive on Tuesday Sept. 6 and immediately began running into Roan shipmates. There was not a lot to do on that first day because this was the real early bird arrival day. So the more adventurous of us started to scout out the area, mostly looking for nice places to eat. Those of us who arrived over the next few days were indebted to those early scouts.



On Wednesday the golfers gathered in the morning to leave for their usual tournament of exaggeration leaving behind us golf widows to our own devices. Little by little more shipmates arrived and began renewing old friendships and making some new ones. The welcome room opened giving us a place to gather and talk and be filled in on what has transpired in our lives since the last reunion.

The exploration of Amarillo continued while the golfers were gone. It's a nice city with all the amenities of most cities. So like visitors to any city we explored and compared it to our home towns. Some things you wish your hometown had and some you're sure are nowhere as nice as yours.



Left to right: Bob Smith, ENFN 59-61  
Tom Van Pelt, LTjg 58-61  
John Molstad, RDSN 63-64.

As late afternoon approached the golfers returned and we got ready for our "Welcome aboard party." This is a casual meeting of the group with a cafeteria spread of comfort foods. The food was enjoyable and the camaraderie was even better. Because most of us had arrived at this point the meeting of old friends was heartfelt to say the least. We were introduced to our host, the committee who put this reunion together, Tom Van Pelt, LTjg 58-61 Bob Smith, ENFN 59-61 and John Molstad, RDSN 63-64.

After dinner we broke into our separate friend groups in the lobby, bar or hospitality room and talked until we were tired and drifted off to our rooms for some rest and to get ready for a long day on Thursday.



Thursday morning was a free time and about 1300 we boarded 3 buses for a busy afternoon. My buses first stop was Claude TX. the home town of Charles H Roan. Claude is a typical small Texas town like you may have seen in the movie "The Last Picture Show." Our first stop was the Armstrong County Museum. This was a small museum fitted into a couple of storefronts and an old picture show.

The museum held a nice array of items from this part of the Texas panhandle. There also was a section dedicated to their most famous son, Charles H. Roan. We had expected to see his Medal of Honor displayed here but were disappointed to find out it was on display in another larger museum for security reasons.



Well looky here, The Ten Commandments. I guess there is a USA out there somewhere.



Back on to the buses for a short trip to the Veterans memorial put together by the local American Legion Post. This memorial was a work in progress with the majority of it in place. While the memorial was dedicated to all local veterans the main part featured those local military personal that had given their lives in defense of our country with Charles H Roan in the forefront. The memorial was very well done and when it's completed will pay great homage to their veterans. (see more on this memorial on page 16.)



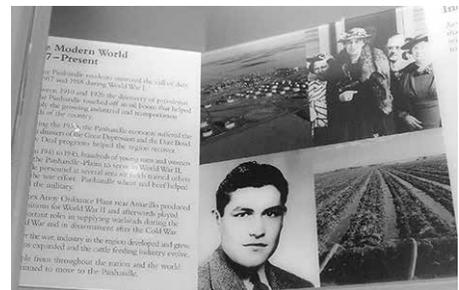
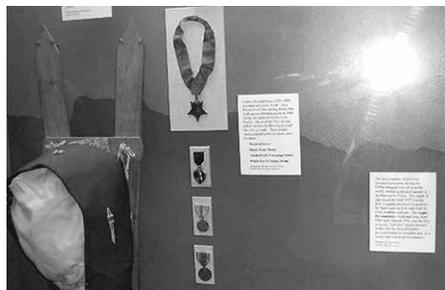
We reloaded our buses for a ride to Charles Goodnight Center. Charles Goodnight was a cattle rancher who settled in this part of the panhandle in 1876. He and his partner John Adair started buying land and ended with a ranch of 1,335,000 acres with 100,000 cattle. Adair provided most of the capitol with Goodnight in for about 1/3, and also living on and running the ranch. This is the oldest privately owned cattle ranch in the Palo Duro Canyon section of the Texas Panhandle southeast of Amarillo and of course no longer that big with large sections sold off over the years. Charles' wife Mary Ann was the only white woman within 100 miles.

Charles Goodnight is credited with developing the chuck wagon for cattle drives. In addition to raising cattle the Goodnights preserved a herd of native plains bison, which is said to survive to this day in Caprock Canyons State Park. Charles played a role in the cross breeding of domestic cattle and bison.



Back on the bus and off we went back to Claude and the Veterans memorial site. The American Legion had set up a barbecue for us and any of the residence of Claude who cared to show up and show up they did. After a few words from various dignitaries and a brief ceremony at the memorial we sat with the American Legion and the people of Claude and broke bread. All in all the food was good and the interaction with the good people of Claude was great.

We returned to our busses for our return trip to the hotel to freshen up. We spent the rest of the evening socializing amongst ourselves in the hospitality room and the hotel bar.



Friday morning found us marshaling in the lobby again ready to board the buses again to further explore the Texas panhandle. This time our first stop was the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in Canyon Texas. This was a very large museum with some great displays of historical significance to the Texas panhandle. It was a great museum with some beautiful displays.... BUT... we were mainly there to see Charles H Roan's Congressional Medal of Honor. This turned out to be a huge disappointment. We were shocked and very displeased with the disrespectful way they had displayed Roan's Congressional Medal of Honor and Purple Heart and made our displeasure known to the museum administration.

Our President, Souza took the administrator to task (I would say in a respectful way), but made it very clear we were no way pleased and we would also let the people of Claude and local officials know of our feelings. We felt as if they did not know the significance of the Congressional Medal of Honor and Purple Heart. In my opinion it would have been better if they hadn't displayed the medal at all.



After our tirade they served us a nice lunch and it was back to the buses. Next stop, a bus tour of Ploa Duron Canyon. Now I'm a city boy from Chicago and i'm unaccustomed to the flat Texas panhandle where you can see for miles, nothing but scrub grass. While we traveled along the earth suddenly opened to a green canyon. As the second-largest canyon in the United States, this canyon is roughly 70 mi long and has an average width of 6 mi, but reaches a width of 20 mi at places. Its depth is around 820 ft, but in some locations, it can increase up to 1,000 ft.

The first evidence of human habitation of the canyon dates back about 10,000–15,000 years and believed to have been continuously inhabited to the present day. Native Americans were attracted to the water of the Prairie Dog Town Fork, Red River, as well as the consequent ample game, edible plants, and protection from weather the canyon provided. We rode down into the canyon, which displayed pretty walls of various colors. I wish these photos were in color so you can see the beauty of this canyon. Very different from the land that surrounds it's rim.

We did stop and explored parts of the canyon on foot then reboarded the buses for our return to our hotel. After a little freshening up some of use set off to find a nice place to have dinner. A good number of us ended up at the Big Texan Steak Ranch. If you're ever in Amarillo and would like to eat at a restaurant with a party like atmosphere this is the place. It's big, crowded, and has many more attractions beside the restaurant. The food is decent and they offer a 72oz steak that if you can eat it in an hour you get it for free. After we ate it was back to



the hotel for a little socializing and then to our rooms for some much needed rest.

Saturday started with an Association business meeting with the main topic being where the 2018 reunion will be held. The Orlando area of Florida, was brought as well as Indianapolis, Indiana and New Orleans Louisiana. New Orleans won out with Ralph Rankin FTGSN, 65-67 taking the helm. So set your sites for 2018 and N'awlins Baby.... The Big Easy.

After the meeting some shipmates headed over to visit the Ussery-Roan Veterans Home. The home is relatively new as reported in previous issues of "The Jolly Cholly." We had coffee and donuts and chatted with some of the veterans in their day room. After about 2 hours we headed back to the hotel to prepare for the evening banquet.



We began assembling at 1800 for photos and cocktails and to be seated in the banquet area. Tom VanPetten greeted us and introduced various people from the Amarillo area who helped to put the reunion together including the Mayor of Amarillo. Chaplain Dan Trathen STG3, 66-68 gave the blessing and dinner was served. We were entertained by a husband and wife country and western ensemble, who were quite good. We also had a group of youngsters who did American Indian dancing, who were outstanding.

After dinner a raffle was held for a number of very impressive items. There was a Navy quilt, hand made by Linda Oppel, wife of Larry Oppel EM3 64-66. There were also five hand made Navy themed pillows from June Smith, wife of Bob Smith ENFN 59-61. Bill Peterson, FTG2 62-65 had donated a ships plaque that needed some loving care, which was undertaken by Mike Frederick BM3 65-67. Mike also donated a framed hand painted picture he created of the Charles H Roan DD 853. All these items were spectacular and brought quite a boost to our treasury which is greatly appreciated. We want to thank these people for their beautiful hard work. We also want to thank all those who bought raffle tickets to help our finances grow, and congratulations to the winners. And to all us losers, better luck next time kid.



So the reunion proved we are all getting older. So with heavy hearts we said good night to our shipmates and little by little we drifted off to our rooms to get much need sleep for our long trip home. We hope to see each other in 2018 and hope those of you who could not make it to this reunion will join us in New Orleans in 2018. I promise you will not regret it. Remember a shipmate wants to see you.

## Deceased Shipmates

Raymond D Forbush RdM3 46-47 03/16	Reginald Kingsley SN 52-56 06/16	Benny L Meers SO1 54-56 10/02	Isaac L Luce CSC 58-59 12/92	Peter A Malinowicz ST1 66-67 07/97
Murdock McKenzie CRM 47-48 06/91	James H Morgan GM3 52-56 12/97	John J Metschl XO/LT 54-56 10/63	Bernard F McHugh QMSN 58-59 11/05	DeLeno Montgomery BT2 66-67 08/01
Louis C Lazarus RM 47-49 06/13	James F Nycum SN 52-56 11/97	Alver A Majors SA 55 08/07	Emil A Novak HNC 58-59 08/94	Willis R Layman BT1 66-68 01/05
Philip T Lombardo SKSN 49-50 12/83	Leon C Newell BT1 52-57 03/85	Robert G Mailhoit GMM2 55-56 10/99	Richard T Mansell LTJG 59-60 12/68	Richard Street SM1 66-71 07/98
Ralph D Liner SN 50-51 05/91	Joseph LaRocca SA 53-54 01/11	Richard A Montfort LCDR 55-56 03/04	Daniel A Newman MM3 59-63 10/13	Alvin B McFeely RD2 67-68 08/95
Joseph L Marthey MEG2 50-51 02/09	James L. Cambell FN 53-55 01/16	Alfred A Moss BTC 55-56 12/97	Douglas H Marks GMG 2 62 11/85	Robert G Massalon ETN2 67-68 12/14
Lawrence Makfinsky RD3 50-52 10/91	Ronald J Luszc SN 53-56 06/02	Grayson C Kinney LCDR 55-57 12/90	Lionso J Luis PC3 62-63 04/01	Robert C Long Jr RM3 69-70 05/15
Robert McClaskey SN 50-54 12/98	Jack E Maxwell EM1 53-56 09/07	John Lodomirak BT3 55-57 10/78	Tilden McCommamas EM2 62-63 05/09	Darrell L Nelson SK1 69-70 06/03
Arnold Mullink FN 50-54 04/12	Douglas G MacAfee SK1 54 06/00	James M Leighton SA 55-57 02/08	Lorenzo U Ocheda TN 63-64 10/12	John T Macklin BT2 69-72 11/14
Martin J Nowicke BM3 51-52 03/14	Herman R Krantz FA 54-55 09/06	Richard M Melchione SN 55-57 10/11	Gorgon K Macleod FTG2 65-66 11/15	Harry J LeClaire Jr CS1 70 07/04
Douglas Leary FT3 51-54 06/91	Walter J Krzywda RMC 54-55 01/14	Harold W Mason EM1 56 12/92	George T May EM3 65-66 05/96	Robert W Lecroy EM1 70-71 02/07
Charles H Maven TN 51-54 03/03	Robert P Kuhn MM1 54-55 03/87	Raymond Nezol SA 56 05/13	Rex D Northam BT2 65-66 04/78	Harry H Mason BTC 70-71
Walter P Newling FN 51-54 05/01	Nicholas D Lazzaro GM3 54-55 11/16	James A McBryde FT1 56-57 05/97	Everett T Moore Jr BT2 65-67 07/77	Paul J Nichols CS1 70-71 01/84
Joseph E McNamee TM3 51-55 12/04	Thomas Leonis SK3 54-55 05/01	Alvin H Marsh BM3 56-57 06/04	Joseph R Dusek BM1 66 01/83	Michael G Norman PC3 70-71 02/14
Robert W Lazelle SA 52 02/13	Charles T Malone FT3 54-55 08/94	Robert V Novratil LTJG 56-58 01/01	Robert J Manoni CS3 66 08/05	Jose F Ortiz BT1 70-73 11/01
Henry A Marin SA 52 08/83	Teddy L Nicholas SN 54-55 09/94	Dennis W Lau SN 57 10/03	Henry T Lawton BM1 66-67 06/90	Jerry D Lawhorn SN 72-73 11/78
Leo W Grenier DC2 52-56 01/96	Kevin T Martin BT3 54-56 12/99	Wilfredo P Lucero SD2 57-59 04/07	Douglas A McDaniel BM3 66-67 12/93	Charles A Kutch SA 73 01/04

Be sure to visit our web page at:

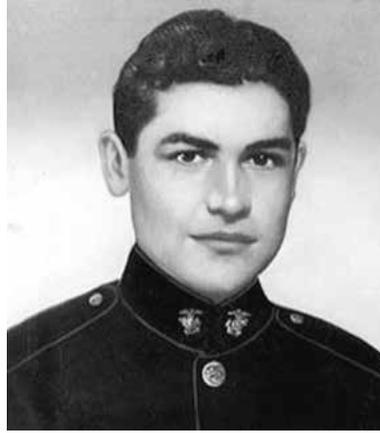
**<http://www.usscharleshroan.org/>**

Ron Lucchesi, FTG3, 66-68, has put a lot of hard work into it.

# Charles H. Roan

## Armstrong County Veterans Memorial

A project brought to you by the  
American Legion Harold Gist Post 344  
Claude, Texas



### MISSION OBJECTIVE

In memory and commemoration of the service and sacrifice of all those from Armstrong County, Texas to boast our communities' pride and patriotism and to express to the world our appreciation and respect for all of standing up for that which we truly believe, we, the Harold Gist American Legion Post 344 are relentlessly pursuing the erection Of a grand memorial to be situated along Highway 287 in Claude, Texas. We invite all interested parties to submit suggestions and graciously ask for any and all support for this cause.

### THE MONUMENT

Efforts are underway to complete a design and ultimately build a monument that will commemorate the service of all veterans from Armstrong County dating back to the dozen or so Civil War veterans and spanning forward to the present day veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Front and center will be a monument to give honor and due credit to Claude native and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Charles H. Roan.

Armstrong County and Claude, Texas have a rich military heritage with their men and women having stepped up to serve in almost every conflict since the Civil War including the Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, Panama, Desert Storm, Desert Shield, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. Among some of these have come a Medal of Honor recipient, several prisoners of war, countless Purple Heart recipients, and many who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

With the support of the county, city, and their citizens, the Harold Gist American Legion Post 344 looks to provide an all out memorial for all proud American communities to emulate.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

This project has been a grand vision in the minds of many people for a long time and all is being done to ensure its progress and ultimate success, however, without help this grand vision will remain just that. A fundraiser has been developed to support this project and provide a unique opportunity for anyone who wishes to become a part of history in Armstrong County. The foundation and base of the monument will be paved in granite blocks that are for sale to anyone who would like their name, the name of a loved one, or a message to be inscribed on that block that will remain for hundreds of years. These blocks will be carved and your words will be carved into the blocks to suit your request at the time of cutting. These are standard 12x12 inch granite blocks that will be sold in thirds, halves or you may purchase an entire block. The one-third block option can have up to two lines of type with 14 characters per line. The half blocks can have a special emblem or symbol included with the type, and the whole block option can be custom designed with anything you like on them. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to contribute and make your mark in history.

**For more information contact a Legion member or call Debbie Sherman at  
(806) 226-6102**

Samples of the proposed granite blocks are shown below along with pricing and information on each contribution level that you can purchase. Pricing is as follows:

One-third block	(4"x12")	\$75.00	Up to two lines of type
One-halfblock	(6"x12")	\$125.00	Up to three lines of type
One block	(12"x12")	\$200.00	Up to six lines of type
Name on Light Pole		\$300.00	
Benches		\$1,500.00	



**Mail orders with payment enclosed to:**

American Legion Post  
 344 PO Box 312  
 Claude, Texas 79019

On the lines below please list your name and contact information including what you would like to have engraved on your granite block.

---



---



---



---



---



---

*If you visit the memorial in Claude (which you should if you're in the area) check the blocks in the walk for shipmates names. Also you will find a bench dedicated to our ship from the members of American Legion Harold Gist Post 344. We are very greatfull to them for their generosity and thoughtfulness.*

# SHIP'S STORE

Front Back



Item # 6  
**USS C.H. Roan Challenge Coin**  
 2 inches diameter.  
 Polished copper & steel alloy.  
 Enameled ship's plaque on front.  
 Really Sharp!  
 \$20.00

Item #5  
**Roan Cruise books - Spiral bound facsimiles**  
 1952 European Cruise - Operation Success  
 1959 Operation Inland Seas -  
 (devotes 1 page to each ship in Task Force 47)  
 1960 Mediterranean Cruise  
 1964 Mediterranean Cruise  
 1966 Mediterranean Cruise  
 1967 Mediterranean Cruise  
 1968 Mediterranean Cruise  
 1972 Around the World Cruis  
 \$25.00



Item #1  
**Ships Photos**  
 Approximately 8X10 Black and White

Pre-Fram before 1961 - 1a  
 After Fram 1961 - 1b

Not Framed  
 \$12.00



Item #2  
**Embroidered Golf Type shirts**  
 (with pocket)  
**Ships Crest and Name**  
 Navy Blue  
 SM to 1X - \$32.00  
 2X and 3X - \$33.00



Item #4  
**Flag Pin**  
 U.S. Flag with  
 USS Charles H. Roan DD-853  
 Black Lettering- Gold Trim approximately  
 1"x 1"

Great quality good looking  
 pin with our ships name on it.  
 \$6.00



Item #7  
**USS Roan Shield Window Sticker**  
 Can be used on most any surface  
 Two stickers  
 1 large 4 1/2 x 4  
 1 small 2 3/4 X 2 1/2  
 \$6.50



Item #3  
**Ball Cap**  
 Blue hat with gold ship and lettering  
 with either  
 Before 1961 silhouette  
 or  
 After 1961 silhouette  
 both  
 \$18.00  
 (please indicate silhouette preference)



Send all orders to:

Richard F. Souza  
 6396 Manassas Ct.  
 Pensacola, FL 32503-7530

**ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE -**  
 Mostly by Priority Mail

Qty	Item #	Description	Size	Color	Price/Each	Total
<b>Total of Order</b>						

# FROM AFTER DIESEL

I'm tired! I've been doing this for 19 years and I'm tired. Counting this one, that's a total of 37 editions. The first year there was only one edition. Many times I get inquiries about when the next newsletter will be out, and a lot of them times I don't know myself. This edition should have been sent out in October, and here it is December and you're just getting it, (in some cases it may be January.) That's another thing we will discuss.

Probably the most frustrating thing about putting this newsletter together is trying to find material to fill it. My inventory is very, very, weak. So once again I have to ask for your help in supplying stories for the newsletter. Most of the time these pleas fall on deaf ears. But I'll try again.

Let me address photos. There are times I'm sent photos with not story behind them. Photos of a coastline or ships in formation or guys sitting in a bar somewhere. We have all seen them before and probably have some of our own. They really have no interest unless there is a story of interest that goes along with them. "This is me and so and so, or here we are in the Atlantic with this other ship or here is the coast line of Aruba," is just not interesting. Put a number of these photos together with an interesting story about that port of call or cruise and we have an article of interest for the newsletter. A funny occurrence or something of interest that happened while you served in Charlie and we have winner. Photos to go along with the story are all the better.

Let me address the delivery of your newsletter once more. When I finish putting together this newsletter I send it to the printer. He prints and addresses them and takes them to the post office all at the same time. When they get to the post office we no longer have any control over delivery. Because of the class of mail the newsletter is sent as (to keep the cost down) the post office delivers it at their convenience. So the newsletter is delivered to you over a wide period of time depending on when the post office decides, especially your local post office.

Also if you move or are out of town they will not forward the newsletter to you. It gets returned to me and we pay more for that return then it cost to originally mail it. So if you moved and did not notify us you will not get a newsletter – ever – until you correct your address.

So like I said at the beginning, I'm tired.

Joe Lambert  
12213 Quail Ridge Dr  
Huntley, IL 60142

(773)206-9923  
chief9bullie@comcast.net

---

## Roster Update

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country / Territory \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

(Most information that is missing is from the following categories – Please help us update our files)

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Rate and/or Rank while aboard the Roan \_\_\_\_\_

Years served aboard --- From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

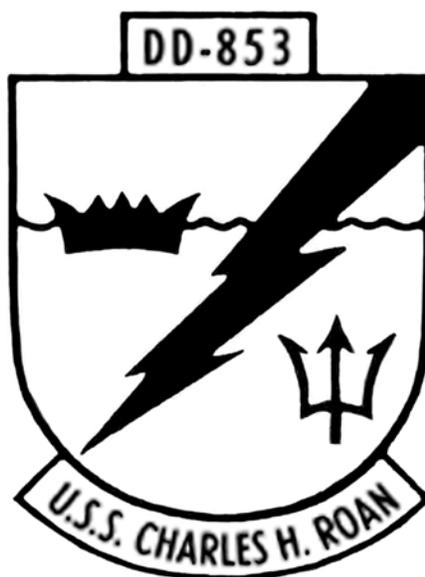
Spouse / Fiancée's name \_\_\_\_\_



Joe Lambert  
12213 Quail Ridge Dr  
Huntley, IL 60142

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CHICAGO, IL.  
PERMIT NO. 227

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



If you are not the person that this newsletter is address to please return it to your postal carrier.