



*USS Markab  
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Shipmates,

Here we are already three months into 2014. Again, we will join the USS Klondike. Last year's reunion with the Klondike crew and their wives went well. We had a lot of good feedback. We had a few mix ups on our checking in, etc. This year we will have a handle on that.

Some of you may know that shortly after the reunion I got the word that Frank Batory passed. He wasn't feeling well in 'Vegas and didn't make one of the tours. I had dinner with Frank and Ted the night before the banquet and he seemed fine, but not himself. We will miss Frank at the reunions and I know his best buddy Ted will also miss him.

I received an email about a month ago from the son of one of our other WWII vets. He reported his father Richard (Dick) Stef had passed. He told me that just two weeks before he passed they found our website and Dick was making plans to join us in Texas. The family lives in Aurora, CO just a few miles from me and I contacted Bob (the son) and we talked. He invited me to the services and told me that he and his nephew were going to be there in uniform (he police, nephew firefighter) and that I would be welcomed in uniform. I had to inform him that when I retired I hung up my uniform for good. I will always remember the welcome I received from the entire family.

Paul told me that there was a Markab ball cap on order for Dick. I told him to send it to me and I would present it to the family. Bob invited me to his house for dinner when the ball cap came in and I did so. While there I offered Bob and his wife a room at the hotel for a night and to join us at the banquet. They said they would be honored.

This has been both a sad and wonderful to start this New Year.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at reunion. Don't forget to go to the website for registration information.

This year's reunion will be in San Antonio, Texas. We will be staying at the Riverwalk Holiday Hotel. Beautiful facilities, right on the river walk. All kinds of restaurants, shopping, boat ride, and two block walk to the Alamo.

Activities include "Rio Cibolo Ranch". A great time of music, eating, storytelling, etc. Followed the next day by a trip to the, "National Museum of the Pacific War". On our concluding day we will enjoy a great meal and time with our Farewell Banquet.

Some may ask why we have joined with the USS Klondike or any ship for reunions. Because of the declining size of our group, it became more and more apparent that we was having trouble reserving hotels to cater to small groups. We were concerned with what might seem to be the depersonalizing of our reunions. Will it work, that was the most important thing on our minds. I believe that even though our group size was smaller last year. From feedback, we are convinced it did and will work. So planning our part for this year will go on with another year with the Klondike. We appreciate and invite any comments on this topic.

We are looking forward to sharing more reunions with our friends with the USS Klondike association. We (Markab) are looking to the 2015 reunion in Florida. Marie Slaney is looking into it now. If that doesn't work, the Klondike is looking into Boston for 2015. Right now it is whoever gets it done first.

Please consider joining us for reunion in Texas. Get your reservations in and meet us there for fun and fellowship and tip a beer with members of our sister ship the USS Klondike (AD22).

Bill Hanzel

President

USS Markab Association