

THE SHIPMATE

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2013

SPRING LUNCHEON

The Spring Luncheon will be at 12:30 p.m., March 19, 2013, at Lillian's Restaurant on George Washington Highway, Chesapeake. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

It's time to send in your dues for 2013 if you have not done so. Dues are \$10.00 per year and should be sent to Cradock Admirals Retired, c/o June Dickinson, 829 Colony Manor Rd., Chesapeake, VA 23321. We would appreciate it if you would write a note to let classmates know what's happening in your life. It seems harder and harder to get items for the Shipmate, so it is up to you to keep us informed. Also, if you have pictures you would like to share, send them for the next newsletter. You can send articles with your dues or e-mail articles to me at maerthompson@cox.net or mail them to me at my home address, Mae Thompson, 4200 Summerset Dr., Portsmouth, VA 23703. This is a plea if you want the Shipmate to continue with items of interest.

Mary Annarino reported she sent Thinking of You Cards the following classmates recently.

Mary Beasley (honorary classmate), Whitney LeCompte, Donald Johnson, Donnie Wimberly, Sam Seay and Anne Holland. Roy Cahoon

Sympathy cards were sent to the family of Reuben Johnson and H. A. Keever, Jr.

Get Well Cards were sent to Barbara Ferebee Johnson, Joyce Overton Jonak, and Shirley Lyon Hartung.

Today, as I am writing this newsletter, our faithful classmate who sends the cards, is under the weather. Maybe you would like to remember her with a card? She really does a terrific job and has been sending the cards for many years.

The Christmas Luncheon at the Woodys was wonderful. The attendance was low compared to the past years, but everyone seemed to have a good time. Juanita has a great team helping - she and Woody had just returned from a cruise, but the house was decorated to the hilt as usual. Thanks, Juanita and Woody for your hospitality.

Notes and letters received from friends and classmates:

Shannon Keever Rellins, daughter of H. A. (Bud) Keever wrote: "I am sorry to give the news that my Father passed away on August 15, 2011. As I am sure you may know, he had suffered with dementia for quite some time. In January of last year I moved both my Mom and Dad up to the Shenandoah Valley to be closer to family. They adjusted very well and my Mother is very content

here. She misses Dad of course.

She would still love to receive "The Shipmate" if at all possible. Please give all her best. Also know that my Father thought of you all as family. Mom's address is: Barbara Keever, 50 Burkholder Lane, New Market, VA 22844.

Norma and Dan Mallison write: "Hope you all have a good Holiday Season. Enclosed is our check for the 2013 Shipmate dues. Take care."

Josie Barnes-Bardi wrote: "Lou and I are getting along so-so, however, nothing to brag about. We are still able to sit up and take nourishment three times a day. Love"

Mickey Riggs wrote "I lost my life, Margaret Ann Duke Riggs on 18 August, 2012. We were best friends, then boy/girl friend at old Cradock High. We got engaged at Christmas our Senior year in 1951 and planned our live together. We spent 32 years in the U.S. Army - 26 years in Special Forces. Margie was the smartest and to me the best looking of all the gals in our Senior Class of 218. I've enclose a copy of her obituary that was in our local paper. Perhaps you could print some of it in your next edition. I have heard from so many of my old classmates and school friends in Tidewater, and am very thankful and appreciative of their messages. Keep up your good work, it means so much to so many of us. God Bless."

Mickey, what a tribute to Margaret Ann. Below are excerpts from the obituary.

Margaret Ann Riggs, 80, of Bowling Green, KY, passed away Saturday August 18, 2012 at Greenview Hospital. Margaret Ann was a loving wife, dedicated mother, adoring

grandmother, faithful friend and an adopted "mom" to many. Known for giving hugs instead of handshakes, making strangers feel welcome, and opening doors to anyone in need. She was a dedicated Army wife, moved her family around the world wherever the Army sent them. She was a leader, mentor and patriot throughout her life, and made lifelong friends wherever she went.

She is survived by her husband, Col. Gary A. "Mickey" Riggs, three sons, and five grandchildren.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE!

Irma Delauri

Now that really is a question but is used as an exclamatory statement. Many of us have to ponder that statement this year as many of us are turning the Big 80! Are we going to old fogies or will we embrace the age with grace and thankfulness? As for me, I am telling old Father Time to keep on coming and telling Arthur to get out of the way! I am going to be more like Barbara Ferebee Johnson, who just keeps on going like that energizer bunny. I do not know how she does it! Shirley Lyon Hartung fell and broke her hip. She was not aware that most "old ladies" usually give up but no, not Shirley. She followed the doctor's orders and is walking again without the aid of a walker and forgets to take the cane most of the time. Now there are two examples of determination. Where did this determination come from? I believe it came from the lives we led as children living in a community like Cradock. Stop and think about it! Send Mae a short essay or story about how you learned determination. Let's share our experiences and keep THE SHIPMATE alive.