

# The Leaf

VOLUME VIII ISSUE 1V

PROUD MEMORIES

Fall 2006

- Events

- \*NOL Lunch 2nd Mon  
@Golden Bull Rest.
- \*WOLAA SecondNight at  
Strathmore, Thurs. 26  
Oct 2006 @1800
- \*WOLAA Holiday Lunch,  
@Golen Bull, Gaithers-  
burg, Fri, 8 Dec 2006  
@1130

\* ***11 September 2001.....GOD BLESS AMERICA!***

WOLAA Web Site: [www.wolaa.org](http://www.wolaa.org)

***Five Years!***

- The LEAF is published quar-  
terly by the WOLAA, Inc. for  
its members.

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- LEAF Supplement

Tribute to Dr. Jacobs.





## **\*\*\*HOLIDAY LUNCHEON\*\*\***

***Saturday, 9 December 2006 @ Argyle  
Country Club. 1100-1500  
!!!Mark Your Calendars NOW!!!***

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*WOLAA is completing plans for another great holiday luncheon. You will be getting your flyer and reservation form in late October. Watch for it and plan to attend.*

*We will again offer your choice of two delicious entrée: probably, salmon and steak; these will be accompanied by salad, vegetable, rolls, beverage, and dessert. Cash Bar Will Be Available. Plus, Santa's helpers are preparing to bake WOLAA holiday cookies, and Santa Dee is cooking up a special WOL oriented gift for all. We believe the price will be between \$23 and \$25 a person; but check your flyer for the exact cost.*

*A holiday welcome but no speeches; just friendship and memories to begin your holiday season.*

*Plan to attend with your unit from WOL and reserve a table. Several groups from Supply and R Department have done this and enjoy the renewed WOL friendship over lunch.*

*If you see someone from WOL, pass this information to them and encourage them to attend. See you there.*

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### **News From WOLAA.**

**Mjt**

**\*Dr. Jacobs Tribute.** This issue of the LEAF has included as a supplement an excellent tribute to the career and life of Dr. Sig Jacobs. It was prepared with love by Ruth Doherty, Jerry Forbes, and James Short. You will read it with pride of the achievements and integrity of Dr. Jacobs. He is one of the many reasons that there are so many Proud Memories.

**\*Strathmore.** WOLAA will have their second night at Strathmore on Thursday evening, 26 October. The show will be a superpops series performance with the BSO Super Pops starring The von Trapp Children from the story line for “Sound of Music.” Nine WOLers will attend and meet at the theater for dinner at 1800. Thanks to Jack Sherman, we were able to get discount tickets. He invited members of the St. John the Baptist K of C members to go and over 20 are planning to go. This gave us the numbers to get the lower ticket costs. If any other WOLer plans to attend, join us for dinner.

**\*Historical Preservation.** Everyone sort of kind of took the Summer off. GSA was to plan a meeting to discuss the design of Bldg 1; but this didn’t happen. Time for another reminder. Wayne Hopkins has been representing WOLAA at the LABQUEST monthly meeting. He has noted GSA is about to sign a contract concerning a golf course on the property.

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## WOL Oral History

### *\*The Great White Oak Bank Heist by Frank Koubek*

Do you remember the “Great White Oak Bank Heist” circa early 1980's? My memory of the details of this caper has dimmed over the years, and, also, I have not been able to locate old newspaper clippings of this event, so, I am writing based on what I can recall from memory.

It seems that three men of ill repute decided to conduct a daylight armed robbery of the Suburban Trust Bank just off U.S. Route 29 north of New Hampshire avenue. Their plan was to drive a stolen car to the bank, rob it at gunpoint, then flee in the car a short distance to a remote area near the WOL security fence where they had stashed a stolen trash collection truck. They planned to abandon the auto, put the loot in the trash truck and then innocently drive off under the noses of any prowling police cars.

Here’s where the story gets fuzzy. Some say the police were hot on the robbers’ trail so that they did not have time to make good their escape in the trash truck. Others say the trash truck got stuck in the mud. At any rate, the crooks did not escape in the truck; in desperation they scaled the WOL security fence to escape the police, probably not knowing that they were now on federal government property. By that time, the alarm had gone out as the robbers pondered over how to get out of their predicament.

The next chapter begins with the robbers approaching the north guard post gate on Edison Road—from inside WOL!!—in an attempt to escape the property. As they neared the gate, with building number two of the main building on their left and the infirmary entrance of building number twenty on their right, they spotted the gate guards and vice-versa. The bandits opened fire to try to force their way through the gate. All but one of the guards took cover and were said not to have returned the fire. They were contractor guards—and probably had never fired their weapons—all except for the Captain of the Guard, who was a WOL employee and an Army veteran. The Captain fearlessly drew his pistol and fired a volley at the robbers. Bullets were flying up and down the street between the buildings!! (Unbeknown to those of us who were inside the buildings.)

This action forced the crooks to retreat toward the direction of the WOL Fire Department (Building 100 on Bowditch Road). They were eventually apprehended; but I cannot recall any of the details of their capture. Also, there are conflicting stories on whether the stolen money was ever recovered. Nevertheless, it was an exciting day in WOL history, and the only “combat day” in its long history!!

What do you remember of the “Great White Oak Bank Heist?” Perhaps you have copies of old newspaper accounts on hand. We’d like to hear from you. Send your inputs to the Editor of the LEAF.

**Editor Note: Frank's next oral history will be about the WOL goats in the 300 area. Does any one else have such great oral history memories. Please send them to the LEAF for publishing. Thanks.**



## Book Review Johnny Grams

Mjt

The *Ramblings of a Senior* are out of season for this LEAF and so is the book review. The book being reviewed was seasonal for Father's Day, instead it became one of my many beach bum reads. Four WO Leafs is great.



**\*Wisdom of Our Fathers by Tim Russert (2006).** Of all the TV or print news commentary folks of our time, I believed Tim Russert to be the most sincere, honest, fair, and objective one. After reading this book, my belief is confirmed. The subtitle of the book is, "Lessons and Letters from Daughters and Sons." His previous book was titled, "Big Russ and Me." It was the interaction of Tim and his father throughout their lives (I didn't read it; just didn't get around to it.). The book hit home so well with other sons and daughters that they started writing/emailing their stories and memories about their fathers. Russert then wrote the subject book displaying their amazing stories and memories. He breaks the book into chapters according to the type of story presented, like memories of honor, Daddy's girl, forgiveness, etc. Most were wonderful and inspiring stories. The ones on loss were quite sad, especially when a Father was lost in a war caused death. Those where the father was in fact a bum make you angry and sad. Many, many are of blue collar Irish, Jewish, and Italian fathers who worked many jobs to ensure their children had a better life. Most of these fathers had a hard time saying, "I love you." But as adults, the son or daughter now realize the strong values and love demonstrated by their father. If nothing else, the book will cause you to reflect on your own father. In my case, it was a good and loving memory.

4 WO

Leafs

## *Ramblings of a Senior*

Mjt

You won't read this until October but the Senior's Ramblings took on a patriotic theme. Probably because we returned to our home town, Ellwood City, PA, for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Lots of flags, huge arts/crafts and Super great food festival, and four days of fireworks. The city had a good display; but all around us the locals shot mortars as good as the city for three more days. For the first time in my life, we went way beyond snakes and sparklers and shot-off some exciting stuff. Grand kids really enjoyed a tank (~6" in length) that we ignited in the street. It moved about 3 feet, spun around, launched some missiles, and lots of "gun" fire. OK, the grand dad really enjoyed it too!

So, when I got home, I received two really neat articles that fit my mood and time of the year. The first was sent to me by Orly Marinaccio which detailed the collision of the Wasp and Hobson in the Med during Cold War. Then, Art Johnson sent me the article on wearing red to support our troops. The Ramblings end with John Wayne—A Marine. A good reminder of 9/11!

### **\*Hobson by Orly Marinaccio**

Last Thursday night I was telling Diana my sea stories from when I was in the Navy. I particularly told her about my first few days of sea duty and the naval disaster that occurred in our Task Force. She looked it up on Google and found the pictures and news stories exactly as I had told her. Except that I knew a few more details not reported. I was attached to COMCRUDIV4 and our admiral was Admiral Jarrett as reported. I was on the cruiser USS Worcester at the time as part of the Flag Division.

It was a smooth sailing day that afternoon and we were refueling from a tanker and the USS Hobson was on the other side of the tanker from us also refueling. During refueling a sailor from the Hobson got tangled in the lines and was dragged overboard and drowned. That night during carrier night exercises in launching and recovering of aircraft, due to a mis-communication, the carrier collided with the destroyer at high speed with the carrier slicing through the mid section of the destroyer cutting it completely in two. The destroyer sank in 4 minutes. Rescue efforts were hampered by the huge amount of diesel oil on the surface since the destroyer had just refueled. According to a friend of mine who was in the band aboard the USS Wasp, they couldn't even see the men in the water because they were covered with oil and it was so dark. It was one of the worst non-combat navy disasters in history. There is a monument in Charleston commemorating that event. It is in the park along the walk way near the water. One other humorous note that my friend told me. All the toilet paper on the carrier was stored in the front bow section that was torn away. Made for an interesting trip back to New York for repairs.



USS Wasp missing a section of it's bow after colliding with the USS Hobson

### **\*Red Friday from Art Johnson**

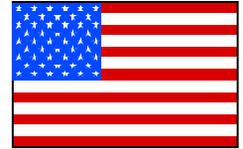
Very soon, you will see a great many people wearing **RED** every Friday. The reason? Americans who support our troops used to be called the "silent majority". We are no longer silent, and are voicing our love for God, country, family and home in record breaking numbers.

Many Americans, like you, me and all our friends, simply want to recognize that the vast majority of America supports our troops. Our idea of showing solidarity and support for our troops with dignity and respect starts on Friday, 7 July -- and continues each and every Friday until the troops all come home, sending a deafening message that, every **RED**-blooded American who supports our men and women afar will wear something **RED**.

The first thing a soldier says when asked, "What can we do to make things better for you?" is...We need your support and your prayers. Let's get the word out and lead with class and dignity, by example; and wear some thing **RED** every Friday.

### \*John Wayne—A Marine.

Mjt



No, not John Wayne the movie star of many marine movies. This is a real marine. His name is John Wayne Williams. He is Pat's cousin. John's childhood and teenage years were interesting. Authority at home and school was not high on his priority list. He was shot in the stomach in a sort of kind of hunting accident by his father. He had a dirt bike accident that really messed up his shoulder. Nevertheless, from when he was twelve, he said he was going to join the marines. With all his injuries and shall we say "take on authority," I thought it was a very bad idea. Sure enough, as a senior in high school, he entered the marine program and began basic in SC in August of 2005, somehow passing his physical. As I predicted, the discipline did not make him happy early in basic and then he had stress fractures in both legs. He was sent to a rehab platoon; I figured that was the end. Not. He healed and finished basic. Went to infantry training and is assigned as a machine gunner—M-60. He came home over the 4<sup>th</sup>, with a new wife who is also a marine. John is A Marine and a man. He really looked sharp in his dress uniform; and had gained many pounds of muscle on his slight build. BUT, the real story is his attitude. He loves his job and serving his country. He will go to Iraq in early 2007 and knows where he will be assigned—one of the current trouble spots. He wants to go and believes 100% in the mission. It is clear that this country still has men (boys who became men quickly) and women who understand the values of our country. I will be one wearing RED on Friday's. Semper Fi!

## FEATURES

Mjt

### \*Retirement News.

**-Best Breakfast Cereals.** The article that I took this information from begins: "Guys love their cereal." I am in that group. I have been known to have cereal for dinner and a snack during the day or evening. There are so many to select from. One clue of those not to buy/eat are those that turn your milk a fluorescent shade. Here are a few things to check on the labels. Watch out for cereals which use refined grains, are high in sugar, are high in salt, and contain partially hydrogenated oils---trans fats. The first ingredient on label should read whole grain. Fiber should be at least 3-6 gms per 30 gm serving. Avoid cereals with over 2.7 gms of fat; 8 gms of sugar, and over 180 mg of salt—all of these per 30 gms of serving. As an extra benefit, select those which are fortified, i.e., have essential vitamins and minerals included. Several have 100% of your daily needs included. Once you find several cereals which fit the above criteria, select the one that tastes good to you. You won't "love their cereal" if it doesn't taste good. The article noted Total is one cereal that fits the above criteria. (But, the correct cereal is the box that contains Capt. Midnight's secret decoder ring!) To keep a healthy regiment, please use skim milk and don't add sugar. I use skim milk but still miss my whole milk. To help, I add flavored non-fat creamer—like french vanilla—and this makes it a tad sweeter, bit creamier, and a nice flavor. Recently, blue berries have been given a plug as being really healthy; so I have gotten in the habit of adding a hand full of blue berries. Enjoy.

**\*Technical.** The LEAF has no technical updates this issue. The Centers' paper have very few technical articles as they have become base papers. Sooooo, we could really benefit from a technical reporter at each of the labs: Carderock, Dahlgren, Indian Head, and Panama City. Please let the LEAF know if you can be a reporter. Or best yet, just send a technical update to the LEAF. News on WOL people at the Labs is also greatly desired. Please help the LEAF and WOLAA.

### \*Alumni Update.

Mjt

**-Henry Ng.** WOLAA received the following email from Henry, which continues to confirm my belief that the people at WOL had extraordinary talent beyond their work place.

“Have not seen you for a long time. Hope everything is going well for you. Sorry I was not able to attend the WOLAA annual banquet for the past 2 years because of the schedule conflict (you know May is always a busy time for me each year). Hope I can make it next year. Missing the opportunity to see everyone. I am still working at NRL now (oh, it is almost 10 years after transferred from White Oak -- time passed fast). I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication and contributions for the White Oak Laboratory Alumni Association, Inc., especially the publication of "The Leaf". It has kept me informed of what is going on related to WOL. Great job and I enjoyed every issue very much!

Just read the summer issue of "The Leaf" and was interested to read the Building 90 article and you mentioned Rudy Schuetzler. Rudy & his wife (Lois Schuetzler -- who also worked at the WOL photographic department in the 70s. Unfortunately, I heard she passed away 2 years ago) and I are very interested in photography. As a matter of fact, we were members in the the Silver Spring Camera Club (SSCC) in the 70s while we were working at WOL. I competed against them in the Club competition every month (Rudy and Lois are great Photographers and they always gave me a tough competition). Rudy and Lois were a major force of the SSCC and they had made many significant contributions to SSCC. When I went back to Graduate School and later got married, I had to temporarily stop my hobby in photography and dropped out of SSCC because of the busy schedule. Also, Lois later stopped working at WOL and they moved to Bowie area in early 80s and we have not seen each other. I heard them moved to Tampa area after they retired. I saw in "The Leaf" that Rudy attended the Florida WOL gathering last year. Do you have Rudy's address (email even better) so I can contact him to see how he is doing?"

**-Connie.** I stopped by the Golden Bull's July WOL luncheon. Attendance is down to about a dozen. But, we had a great time discussing SUBROC, Mk 48, etc----mostly U Dept folks there. Then, Lee suggested someone should write about Connie. It so happened that Connie worked in the same organization that I did. So, I agreed to write about Connie. I worked in the Underwater Division in the Systems Analysis Staff of the ASW Systems Project Office, which reported to NAVMAT. Our Staff was located in Bldg 90. We did analysis of submarine and surveillance ASW, including building large simulations models. Our Staff was headed by Dr. Anson Solem, and my Division Head was Bob Miller. Most of the Staff and all its leaders had roots at NOL. Orly Marinaccio and Bob Flum were in this Division. Our secretaries were Carolyn Walker (later Merritt) and Carol Bauer. The librarian was Sharon Spadero. Now, about Connie. Connie is the most famous person from a "worldly/star" viewpoint to come from NOL. She was 19 in the late 60's and attending the U. of MD, majoring in journalism/communications. She came to the Staff and our Division as a Summer clerk-typist. In the Fall, she returned as a part-time employee. She was a perfect employee. Enthusiastic; willing to do what ever was needed in the office to support Carolyn, Carol, and Sharon; could type well and fast; and clearly ambitious in a good way. I remember Al Zelinski, SOSUS expert, teasing her frequently. He was particularly on her case about what she was going to do with her degree. She came right back at him that she was going to go into TV news reporting. We believed her but never expected her success. While at MD she did an internship at Channel 5, which is where her future husband was working. She got her break when she was assigned to follow Senator McGovern's campaign in the primary for president. She then continued to follow him when he won the nomination. Finally, she was selected to co-anchor the CBS evening news with Dan. The rest is history—some not so positive, re losing her job after messing up a key breaking news story and even worse not informing Dan that she had jumped on the story. She now has a show on cable news with her husband. Recently, she showed she has something in common with me; she can't sing. I should also mention that her Uncle was an Admiral in Charleston, while I headed U Department, and he was upset about CAPTOR (Can't remember the details but it wasn't pleasant for me; can someone help me with that little U Department "adventure.?). I probably should mention, that as a 19 year old and the days of mini-skirts, some of the "guys" thought she was very attractive. Oh, and just for those who may doubt this tale, I offer the picture appearing below, which shows Carolyn, Carol, Sharon, and Connie CHUNG in our Bldg 90 office in the late 1960's. While I was always super proud to tell people that Connie was my secretary (not quite accurate), I was even more proud to say she worked at the WOL. I certainly wish her well in her show and life.

**-Memry.** Bet you think I mis-spelled the word memory; I didn't. I was surfing and stopped at MSNBC News and suddenly heard the word NITINOL. Got my attention. I assume it was a commercial for a company using NITINOL. I got the web site—you must go to it at: [memry.com](http://memry.com). It is a company in CT, started in 80's to develop such metals. They make stents, the devices Ramsey Johnson described used in his root canal procedures, etc. The web site goes into some technical detail on how they fabricate stents; the thermo characteristics; and before and after pictures of the metal's memory. The pictures of the stents were the first I had ever seen. They do credit NOL with inventing NITINOL, but only by a single sentence. I plan to send the Oral History of NITINOL by William J. Buehler, which the Winter 2006 LEAF published, and a copy of the LEGACY to the CEO of Memry. They need to know!

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### **\*Deceased Alumni.**

Please inform Houston Cole of any information you have about deceased alumni: phone (4100 489-2977 or email/write WOLAA. Please check the WOLAA web site for more timely information than can be provided by a quarterly newsletter. The LEAF is pleased to print tribute to our WOL alumni.

**-Richard E. Ardinger, Sr.** His wife, Joan, provided the following: "Dick passed away on 12 June 2006 at age 73 of complications from leukemia at Duke University Hospital. He came to work at NOL after 4 years in the Marine Corp. He worked in the Technical Shops Division as a supervisor in the Electronic Section. He lived in New Bern, NC. He is survived by his wife, Joan and daughter, Suzanne.

**-Evelyn Marie Bean.** She died on 21 June 2006. She was formerly from Silver Spring, MD., but was living in Monrovia, MD at the time of her death. She was a secretary at WOL for many years and was secretary for G40 when Jack Wack was Division Head. She had 5 daughters, 12 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild. Her daughters are: Carlie Dozier, Patricia Boswell, Kathryn Norris, Karen Zeigler, and Janet Chirechella.

**-Paul Surface.** Paul recently died. About a year ago, his wife notified WOLAA that Paul had alzheimer. He worked in the Product Design Division.