



## VALE

**RICHARD TOWNLEY**  
1929-2013  
US NAVY-KOREAN WAR

**VICTOR KOZANECKI**  
1920-2013  
US NAVY-WORLD WAR II

**Richard** passed away suddenly on August 16<sup>th</sup>. He originally from Montana and had been a Post member for 21 years. During the Korean War he was crew member (radio operator/gunner) in an aircraft from the carrier USS Essex. The aircraft was shot down and he became a Prisoner of War in China and North Korea under the most terrible conditions where he sustained frozen feet, hence the reason he always wore sandals as he could not bear the pressure of regular shoes. He was a loyal member of the Post and could always be counted on to attend our many commemoration services, the last being VJ Day, the day before he passed away. Our condolences to his wife Diana, their two daughters and their families. Thanks to **Post Historian Don Kennedy** for attending the funeral as the Post Commander and Auxiliary Unit President were overseas at the time.

**Vic** passed away on September 19<sup>th</sup>, three weeks before what would have been his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Originally from Wisconsin, he was a **Life Member** of the Post, joining in 1946. He enlisted in the US Navy in 1939 and served until 1946. He served as a Signalman aboard four different ships but the one he was most proud to have served in was the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise in the Battle of Midway in June 1942. His wife of 60+ years passed away a few years ago. Our condolences to his son and family.

**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM  
LEST WE FORGET**

# Congratulations

Our apology for the delay of this newsletter but November was a very busy month as one of the Post Commander's cousins from Phoenix, Arizona paid the Raymond family a visit for about three weeks. It being her first trip to Australia we were on the go every day showing her as much as possible of New South Wales. Thanks to daughter **Nicole** (an Auxiliary member as well as the cousin of **Betty Hanington**) who took on the responsibility as "official tour guide" we had a magnificent time/tour and saw more of the state in those three weeks than we have seen in the 43 years we've been here.



Betty Hanington and Nicole Raymond



Here is an item we rarely have to put into a newsletter....A WEDDING!!! Yes, that 78 year old FORMER bachelor, retired USAF Master Sergeant and 24 year member of the Post **Joe Duffy** finally took the plunge and married. The wedding took place in Colorado (**Joe** lives in Colorado Springs) with the best man (no pun intended) retired USAF Chief Master Sergeant **Richard "Hank" Sauer** also a Post member these past 19 years and also the "younger" brother of the late **Post Vice-Commander Don Sauer**. It had been raining for 10 straight days, the area was flooded, you couldn't even see Pikes Peak but **Joe** told everyone attending from the Air Force and State Department who he had served with "don't worry, my mother up in heaven has waited 78 years for this day and she won't let it rain"

## Veterans Day – Remembrance Day

Well, on the wedding day the sun came out, not a cloud in the sky. You could even see Pikes Peak with no snow or ice. Following a short honeymoon, **Isabell** went back to work and **Joe** slept in. Hey, he's retired!! (and also he has his priorities in order). In one of the accompanying with three persons, **Joe** is the young one on the left, **Hank Sauer**, the best man, is on the right and no guesses who the lovely lady is in the middle. **Congratulations Joe & Isabell!!!!** Some of our members may remember **Joe** when he was stationed in the US Consulate in Sydney back in the 1980's.



Joe and Isabell Duffy with the best man Hank Sauer (right)



On Veterans Day, Remembrance Day here in Australia, Post Member **Peter Lurvey** gave the Veterans Day tribute at the Lakeview United Methodist Church in Sun City, Arizona on Nov.10<sup>th</sup> and on Nov. 11<sup>st</sup> represented our American Legion Post at the Northwest Valley Veterans Association ceremony also in Sun City, Arizona which comprises about 20 veterans organizations and members of the USAF stationed at the nearby Luke Air Force Base.

In a very rainy Sydney, **Post Commander Raymond** placed the wreath for the Post at the War Memorial in Bankstown. The ceremony was very well attended in spite of the weather by local members of State Parliament, the Mayor of Bankstown and Bankstown Councillors as well as representatives of many local Australian ex-service organizations.



# Pearl Harbor

Our annual Thanksgiving Day luncheon was a great day with 28 attending. A few of our “regulars” were absent but they have assured us that they will be at the next functions. Age has “crept” up on a few but that will not deter them from joining us in the future. It was a great day and the best part as always is seeing and talking with members of our Legion Family who we see maybe two or three times in a year.

The 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was held at the War Memorial in Bankstown City on December 7<sup>th</sup>. This was the 29<sup>th</sup> year this commemoration was held there and as usual was well attended. This ceremony is jointly sponsored by The American Legion, the Bankstown Returned and Services League of Australia Sub-branch. Other than representatives of the aforementioned organizations we were honoured to have the new **US Consul General Hugo Llorens, Mayor Khal Asfour, State Member of Parliament Tania Mihailuk, Federal Member of Parliament Craig Kelly, Bankstown Local Area Police Commander Inspector Dave Firth**, nine representatives of various RSL Sub-branches, **Robert Kirkpatrick** of the **Merchant Navy Assoc.**, **Ernest Flint of the US Army Small Ships** (also a Post member) & **Peter Boughton of the Allied Chinese Ships**. We very much appreciate the attendance of so many of these organizations every year at this important commemoration. Following the ceremony a very extensive buffet was served at the Bankstown RSL Sub-Branch to all who attended. A special thanks to **Past Post Vice-Commander Peter Dashwood** for raising lowering the American Flag during the “half-mast” ceremony while the Last Post was played.

Many may not know this but the extra flag pole at the War Memorial is used ONLY for the American Flag at the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony.



A few of our Post members have been on the “sick list” but most have returned to “fighting shape” but confess to not being able to “leap over tall buildings in a single bound”.... **Ted Lange & Elaine, John LeCerf, George Foster** and down south of the border in Victoria **Hank Cotchin** is recovering from a replacement of a heart valve.

Our Post membership for 2014 is at 94, all that are still here have renewed. I didn't mean that “still here” was something grim, we have had 5 members pass away and four others returned to the USA who may transfer their membership to a local Post in their new areas.

A bit of trivia: There are over 23 million military veterans in the USA and 770,000 of them live in North Carolina. One of those 770,000 is Post member **Ed Wagner** who recently returned to the colonies from Sydney.

I'm happy to pass on Christmas and New Year's greetings from **Ralph and Ruby Ferber** up in trendy Noosa, Queensland and from another blast from the past, **Past Adjutant Bob Grindall** and better half **Debbie** also enjoying the good life as best as they can up on the New South Wales Central Coast.

As the year 2013 closes out pause a moment to give a thought to the families of our departed members this year: **Jerry, Montgomery, Les Davies, Ed Burke, Richard Townley and Vic Kozanecki**.

# AUXILIRY UNIT NEWS

Our Unit membership for 2014 is at 38. We still have a couple of potential members out there and hope to sign them up in January. Thanks to all for your support especially attendance at the July 4<sup>th</sup> and Thanksgiving Day luncheons.

We're a bit short on news so how about sharing some with us for the next newsletter. **Past Unit Secretary Kate Tomlinson** sends her "thanks" to all who signed the Christmas card and emails that she and **Jim** send read they are enjoying the good life as members of the "landed gentry" up there in (sometimes) sunny Queensland. We haven't heard from **Norma Benner** up yonder in (also sometimes) sunny California. She had several family members visiting her for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and unfortunately her niece and husband had a serious car accident resulting in both sustaining serious injuries especially the husband. This resulted in **Norma** relocating for a few months and rendered them unable to send emails. We're happy to report the injured are recovering and **Norma** once again back in California.



Thank You for your Support!!