

Department of Hawaii “Yanks Down Under” Post AU01 Sydney, Australia



JOHN LeCERF
1926-2914
US Merchant Marine
World War II

EUGENE McClARTY
1917-2014
US Navy (Retired)
World War II & Korean War

COLIN TRINNICK
1917-2014
US Army Small Ships
World War II

Sadly we have lost three of our members of the “Greatest Generation”, all World War II veterans and all Life Members of our Post.

John LeCerf a member for 12 years and one of our most supportive Post members was born in England but made his home in Massachusetts. He entered the Merchant Marine when he was 15 years old serving on Norwegian then American merchant ships during World War I. He served aboard the SS Thomas Pinckney, SS Stage Door Canteen and the SS Charles Bulfinch. Following the war he worked aboard lobster boats along the northern (New England) US coast and eventually owning his own boat which he turned into a very successful business. After retiring he and his wife **Marjorie**, an Auxiliary Unit member, settled in Australia. They had been married over 64 years when **John** passed away. Whatever the occasion, a memorial ceremony, a luncheon and Post meetings **John & Marjorie** were there.

Eugene McClarty was a Post member for 34 years and the last surviving “Pearl Harbor Survivor” in our Post. **Gene** was originally from a small country town in Missouri. He joined the US Navy in 1939 and after 12 weeks boot camp was assigned to the heavy cruiser USS Chicago and was transferred from San Diego to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In 1940 he was re-assigned to the destroyer USS Downes as a Torpedoman and participated in a goodwill cruise to Australia. It was in Sydney then he met his future wife to be, **Barbara**, who he married in 1946. His whole world changed on December 7, 1941 when his ship was hit by three bombs during the attack by the Japanese. At the time his ship was in dry dock with the destroyer USS Cassin and the flagship of the Pacific fleet the battleship USS Pennsylvania. You may have seen photos of the ships after the attack with the Downes leaning against the Cassin after both were hit by bombs. He narrowly escaped being killed as he was on the gangway when the first bomb hit there but did not explode. The Downes was lost and **Gene** was then assigned to the destroyer USS Bagley which participated in 12 of the 14 naval campaigns in the Pacific Theater of Operations. On September 2, 1945 it was located in Tokyo Bay next to the USS Missouri upon which of course the Japanese officially surrendered. In 1945 as a Chief Petty Officer he decided to make the Navy his career. During the next 15 plus years he was assigned to various ships and naval stations throughout the world but one assignment has a unique occurrence. He was assigned to Recruiting Duty in Cairo, Illinois normally a 2 year assignment, but became so involved with the community that when his tour of duty was coming to an end the Mayor and other leading citizens wrote to the US Navy Chief of Operations asking that his tour of duty be extended, and it was, an extra year. He retired at Pearl Harbor in 1961 and two years later moved to Sydney where he landed a job with ABC-TV and retired 30 years later. He and Barbara then moved to South Australia to be near their son Michael and his family. He was the author of two books, “From Pearl Harbor to Tokyo” and “Live Life to the Full”. If you have a copy of “Day of Infamy” by Walter Lord his experience during the attack on

Pearl Harbor is detailed in the book. **Barbara**, his wife for 68 years passed away 6 weeks prior to the death of **Gene**.

Colin Trinnick, a member for 17 years was an Australian from the State of Victoria. He served in the Australian Army from 1940-1944 in the Middle East before being discharged due to wounds which made him "unfit for further military service". He then joined that unique group the US Army Small Ships and served at Oro Bay and New Guinea the remainder of World War II. He had a great talent with his "copperplate" penmanship. His letters etc to the Post were always in that beautiful style, a passing art in this day and age of computers.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



LEST WE FORGET

On a happier note we **WELCOME** a new member to the Post!!!! **Daniel Duran**, US Air Force, retired. Originally from Nevada he now lives in Victoria and is veteran of the present unpleasantness in Afghanistan. **Welcome to The American Legion & "Yanks Down Under" Post AU01**. I'm sure I speak for all in the Post in thanking you for your service in a most unpleasant part of our world, may your tour of duty there not have been in vain.

VJ/VP Day...Friday August 15th at the Cenotaph.. Martin Place, Sydney at 10:45 am

The 69th anniversary of the surrender of Imperial Japan and the end of World War II. The Post Commander will be laying a wreath and will bring our American Legion banner to be displayed along with those of other veterans associations. Assistance required by at least two Post members will be appreciated.

July 4th luncheon: Twenty-five attended, numbers were down a bit due to the passing of some of our "regulars" and illness of a few others. The Post Commander and Auxiliary Unit President were unable to attend as they were taking in the sights of Hungary, Austria, Germany and Holland on a European river cruise that you have seen the commercials of so many times these past years. In a very few words it was magnificent, more so than shown in the TV commercials and programs. For once we can say it was real value for money. We had to take the cruise in June & July as the Auxiliary Unit President, **Sonja**, had been invited to attend the 60th anniversary of her confirmation with her school class in Karlsruhe, Germany at the end of June. We are deeply indebted to our youngest daughter **Nicole**, an Auxiliary member, for organizing and hosting the day in our stead. We had many compliments on her debut acting as host. For those that attended discovered there had been a change of management in the dining area and as such the former standards were severely lacking (see, I'm trying my best to be nice) and as a result we are looking for another venue in the city and near a railway station on the city circle in Sydney.



Now the information you all been waiting for...**RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015;**

For The American Legion: \$27 either US dollars or Australian dollars. PLEASE make any checks/cheques or Australia Post Money Orders out to **The American Legion**. If you wish to make an electronic transfer contact the Post Commander via email he will send you the BSB & Account numbers.

For the Auxiliary it is \$15 either US or Australian dollars. PLEASE make checks/cheques out to

American Legion Auxiliary. For electronic transfer email the Auxiliary Unit President for BSB & Account numbers.

If the husband & wife are both renewing one check/cheque including the dues for both (\$42) is good, make it out to either the Legion or Auxiliary.

For those members living in the USA and not renewing at the National Convention you can send your checks to the Post Commanders cousin (also an Auxiliary member) whom he will be visiting in late August after the

National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Please send them to arrive no later than August 28th, write POST AU01 on back of the envelope. Name and address is as follows:

Elizabeth Hannington

11201 N. El Mirage Rd. #222

El Mirage, AZ 85335



Thank You for your Support!!

David Raymond – Post Commander Sonja Raymond-Auxiliary - Unit President
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