

Department of Hawaii "Yanks Down Under" Post AU01 Sydney, Australia November 2014



ROBERT GRINDALL JR.
1946-2014
US Air Force-Vietnam

PATRICK CURTIS
1926-2014
US Army Small Ships-World War II

With deep regret I report that two of our comrades have entered the Post Everlasting. **Past Adjutant Bob Grindall** passed away on September 25th at his home in Killarney Vale on the New South Wales Central Coast after a long illness. He had been a Post member for 37 years.

He was originally from New York City (the Bronx) and served in the US Air Force for 4 years based at Lackland and Lubbock Air Force Bases in Texas and Luke Air Force Base in Arizona then a tour in Vietnam 1969-70 based at Phan Rang. It was from there he took his R&R leave to Sydney and met his future wife Debbie. He was appointed Post Adjutant in 1979 a post held for 8 years before moving to Killarney Vale. In 1978-79 our Post had only 45 members, **Bob** managed to contact many former members and Vietnam veterans he knew and as a result he brought the Post membership up to 118 by 1981. The Post continued growing to our all-time membership of 182 by 1983. He was the manager of two companies here in Sydney and on his move to the Central Coast was manager of a new Woolworths Supermarket near Gosford. It was there he had a very bad accident at work which caused him to retire from active work and unfortunately his health deteriorated rapidly resulting in his passing in September. His funeral was on October 2nd at Palmdale on the central coast. The Post Commander, Auxiliary Unit President and their daughter Nicole attended the funeral which was "standing room only" in the chapel, which speaks for his popularity of all who knew him. We expressed our condolences on behalf of all his comrades in the Post to wife Debbie, daughter Jennifer and his grandson. He and his father were both Post members back in the 70's although his father lived in Arizona and was a World War 2 US Army veteran of the 91st Infantry Div in the Italian campaigns. His two brothers both served in the US Force, one retiring after 20 years' service. We'll miss you **Bob**, thanks for the memories.

Patrick "Pat" Curtis was a Post member for 11 years and resided with his family in beautiful Port Macquarie on the north coast of New South Wales. **Pat** was an Australian and joined the US Army Small Ships in 1943. He served aboard the **Mactan**. He caught dengue fever at Milne Bay and was hospitalized in Sydney then discharged in 1944 as under age. He later joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and served 30 years retiring as a Warrant Officer. He served in the



Robert
Edward
Grindall Jr

"BOB"

05/08/1946 - 25/09/2014

He lived,
He loved,
He laughed &
He danced...
(although dancing is
probably the only
thing he wasn't
absolutely brilliant at!)

Thanks for the
memories

occupation forces in Japan (1947-49) and in Vietnam (1966) where he was mentioned in the dispatches, equal to receiving a Commendation Medal in the US Forces. He entered the Public Service in 1974 from which he retired (again) in 1992 and was awarded an MBE (Member of the British Empire) by Queen Elizabeth. He eligible to join The American Legion through his service with the US Army Small Ships from which he received an Honorable Discharge from the US Army . When the Small Ships Assoc. was established he served as a Vice-President and later Treasurer.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



It's our pleasure to WELCOME a new member, **Bernard O'Neill**. Originally from Wyoming and served in the US Navy as a Medic (a Corpsman in Navy talk) in Vietnam 1969-70 and was wounded in action. He resides in the Sydney area so we hope to meet him ANZAC Day if not before. **Welcome aboard Bernie!!!**

Membership: We have almost 100% of our members paid in for 2015, only 4 more to go....so we'll keep sending gentle reminders for another week and if not received by then we'll bring in the big guns (not literally). The Auxiliary Unit only has one more for 100% maybe the Legion Post should use the Auxiliary Unit President uses, she sends a notice out with a PS: "**Ve haf vays uff making you pay, nicht var?**" We have one member who has returned to the USA and I think he may have transferred back to his old Post where he lives. We have several members who have or will be receiving a Continuous Membership Certificate. These are awarded to members who have continuous membership of 5 years with multiples of every five years after that. For those with 50 years or more the certificate is issued by the National Commander, we have 2 in that category, **Ralph Ferber 61 yrs., Phil O'Hearn 52 yrs.**

Those who have received or will be receiving certificates this year from the Post Commander are: **5 years- Matthew Murphy, Tom Lozowski , 10 years-Doug Wright 15 years- Peter Lurvey, 20 years-Ern Flint, Reg Clancy, Richard Sauer, 25 years - Ed Wagner, Joe Duffy, 30 years-Bill Earls, 35 years-Roy Spence, Dan Tyler and 40 years – George Foster who has also signed up for PUFL (Paid-up-for Life membership). Congratulations and thank you all for your consistent loyalty to The American Legion and your Post.**

I'm sure you all recall the items in past newsletters about the Finch Family Maritime Museum in Kyogle, northern New South Wales. Well it is closing down, **Frank Finch** is still alive and hopefully well but claims he and his wife who conduct tours of the museum say old age is creeping up on them, However the museum will be moved south to the Hastings Victoria Maritime Museum and his museum will be called the Finch Family Maritime Section. The Finch family dates back to 1864 (but not Frank). The museum was the only "bush town" museum of it's kind in Australia. The Finch's would like to thank all from the Legion and their friends that visited the museum over the years.



Any members travelling to the northern hemisphere these past few months? The Raymond's were lucky to meet up with **David and Pat Callahan** who were passing thru Hawaii in September on their way home so we managed to drag them into the Hale Koa Hotel for happy hour. The Post Commander and Auxiliary Unit President were on their way back from the National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina with a short stop -over in Phoenix (I know, no one in their right mind goes to Phoenix in August and September) the lowest the temperature got while we were there was 104 F...high ? 116 F. The "travellers prize" this year goes to **Bill and Sue Skane**...a 42 night cruise, yes 42, Copenhagen to LA. Last we heard from them they were in the North Sea (the ship not Bill & Sue) heading for Reykjavik, Iceland stopping at Belfast, Glasgow and Dublin. Yo Ho Ho and a bottle of Rum (duty free of course) !!!

Now all you members who are retired from the military, on US Social Security or receiving a VA Disability Pension haven't exactly won the lottery but they will be getting a 1.7% raise in their January check just in time to check out the 2015 models of Mercedes, Ferrari's etc.

A former Australian Prime Minister is famous for saying :”Life wasn't meant to be easy”

Here are a few “wise sayings” from our members: Some day you are the pigeon and some days you are the statue or Some days you are the dog and some days you are the tree.



Pearl Harbor Day...Sunday December 7th at the War Memorial in Courthouse Square, Bankstown City, Ceremony starts promptly at 11:00 am. This will be the 30th year that this ceremony has been held there. Following the ceremony a luncheon will be held at the nearby for City of Bankstown RSL Club sponsored by the City of Bankstown and the RSL Sub-branch. If for any reason the ceremony is cancelled those who normally attend will be notified.

AUXILIARY UNIT NEWS

Stop the press!! We have a wedding to report!! Yes, **Cortney Trainor**, a Unit member and granddaughter of Unit Vice-President **Esme Trainor**, married on November 1st CONGRATUATIONS !!!

We have another Honorary Life Member, **Ruby Ferber . Ruby & Ralph** now in retirement in Noosa, Queensland send best regards to all their friends here in the Post and Unit.



THANKSGIVING DAY LUNCHEON: Thursday November 27th starting at noon. As there were a few disappointed last year with the reduction of choices in the buffet we have been endeavouring to find another venue. Unfortunately other venues in the city were too expensive or booked out for pre-Christmas luncheons it was narrowed down to two places, the same club as in past years or another club in the city however that club would be inconvenient for public transport or too far for many who attend are elderly so as result it will be held as before at **99 on York Club (formerly the NSW Bowlers Club) in the dining room on the 1st floor. Cost will be same as for members of the club but you must tell the cashier at the entrance you ae with The American Legion.** As always this is

not only for our Legion Family members but your friends, as always, are most welcome. Bookings are required so we can notify the club how many are attending so please call (9644-6854) or Email

austraymond@bigpond.com no later than November 24th please (subject line of email – thanksgiving lunch).

Our area will be as before on the stage at the rear of the dining room. Come and celebrate with us the 392nd American Thanksgiving Day (without turkey).

Thank You for your Support!!

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