

## A Forgotten Medal of Honor Winner

Members of our Post attended a special service for Emil Fredreksen (1867-1950). In January 2016, Ray Johnston, a member of the Medal of Honor Historical Society who searches for lost recipients, found Fredreksen had never been accorded the honors he deserved. His citation reads: "Serving on board the *U.S.S. Bennington*, for extraordinary heroism displayed at the time of the explosion of a boiler of that vessel at San Diego, Calif., 21 July 1905." The ceremony took place at the Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery on March 25, 2016.



According to the cemetery's blog, Fredreksen was a survivor of the *USS Bennington* Gunboat #4 disaster and one of a number of Bennington crew awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions that day. His grave will be decorated with a granite marker to match the other Medal of Honor recipients in Washelli.

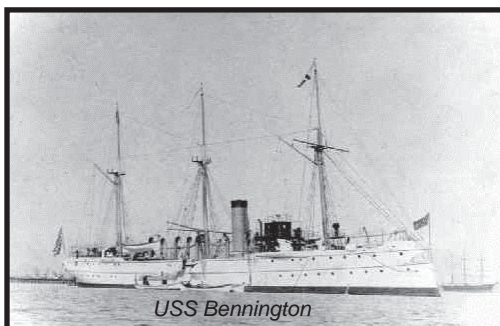
Fredreksen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark on January 5, 1867, and immigrated to the United States in 1884. He enlisted in the US Navy in 1897 and in 1905 became a naturalized citizen. According to records, he was a lifelong sailor, starting as a deck boy in 1884 and eventually earning the rank of Chief Watertender.

After serving on active duty 28 years, he moved to Keyport and transferred to the Naval Reserve where he continued to serve his country until 1930. In 1944 he bought a house in Seattle and lived there until he died of natural causes in 1950 at Seattle's Marine Hospital. He was buried with a simple grave marker—name and dates, with no known living next of kin.



Fredreksen served on more than than twenty ships during his career, but his deeds when the Bennington blew up are what earned him a rare peacetime Navy Medal of Honor. On July 21, 1905, the ship was preparing to sail from San Diego to Panama when one of its boilers exploded due to an over pressured valve. Out of the crew of 179 there was a total death toll of 66 and 46 seriously wounded. Records of the incident say that "the ship shook violently for several seconds, large volumes of steam and ashes filling most of the living compartments and deck space."

Of the aftermath, Commander Young stated that "not even the leper settlement at Molokai, in the Hawaiian Islands, could show anything so fearful." It was considered the worst peacetime disaster in the US Navy.



The *Bennington* was a 1700-ton gunboat of the Yorktown class built at Chester, Pennsylvania, and commissioned in June 1891. She initially served in the Atlantic and European areas, and was transferred to the Pacific in 1894. Extensive information on the explosion and aftermath is available at <http://www.uss-bennington.org/early-gb4-explosion.html>



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The Post Newsletter is published monthly. Submissions must be received by the editor five days before the last day of a month for inclusion in next month's issue. Contact Charles Anderson with questions about material at [editor@vfwseattle.org](mailto:editor@vfwseattle.org)

Post business meetings: First Thursday of each month at 1900. Social evenings with a catered dinner: Third Thursday each month at 1830. Doors open 1730 for both events.

Post Officers are listed on our Web site (<http://vfwseattle.org>)

## Commander's Letter



As the close of my tenure as Post Commander approaches, I want to thank you all for the confidence you placed in me. Now that Nestor has lost his sanity and has decided to take on the task, I hope he will find it equally rewarding. In all seriousness, after eight years, change is overdue and it is good to see others have the opportunity to leave their imprint on this organization and build upon what I believe to be a strong foundation.

Our post has the distinction of achieving over 100 percent membership this year and our average attendance at meetings and socials would be the envy of most posts in the District. That is a credit to your commitment and involvement and I thank you for it. Please continue it under the leadership of our new Commander and my good friend, Nestor Tamayao. It has been my pleasure and honor to hold the office I am about to relinquish, but I look forward to finally being able to sit down during a meeting.

## Quartermaster's Update



Here at our post, April brings us spring and the beginning of our new VFW year.

At our March meeting we had first nominations for officers and at our meeting this month there will be second nominations and elections. The newly elected officers will guide us through the coming year as we grow the post in membership and expanded activities in our community.

In the coming year our newly formed Color Guard will be participating in parades and other ceremonies to honor our flag. The Captain of our Color Guard, Bill Hoeller, has been instrumental in getting this program off the ground, requesting rifles and scheduling practices. We will soon be deciding on uniforms.

A huge "Thank You" to the participants and donors who supported our St. Patty's Day dinner. It was a big success and a good tune up for our next effort in the fund raising arena, the May 1 District 2 and Post 3063 Spaghetti Feed and Raffle (see article on page three).

After some experiments and debate we have decided that effective this month our office will be open from 1300 to 1700 every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoon. These hours will be posted on the door, the website and here in the newsletter. As people grow accustomed to having regular hours we anticipate increasing traffic and better service to our members and the public.

Sometime in May we hope to have a flag decommissioning ceremony here at our post. The date and time are contingent on approvals from the City of Seattle and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency so we will announce a time and date in our May newsletter.

In closing I'd like to repeat our need for a volunteer to be caretaker of the grassy hillside north of our parking lot. We also need to replace the panels in our sign and need a stylish design. If you have talents in either area, please give me a call.





## Fundraiser Report

By Harold Rodenberger



Our St. Patrick's Day Social was a resounding success with good food, good company and an approximate profit of \$1,500 for our Post Relief Fund.

The cooks received many compliments for the tasty food. From the Irish Soda Bread to the spinach salad, corned beef dinner and the bread pudding with whiskey sauce, the diners raved about the food and the service.

Many thanks to the volunteers who put on this dinner. Without the wonderful volunteers it would have not have been possible. Thank you, thank you.

More hearty thanks to those who made outright donations to the Relief Fund and those who bought raffle tickets.

Most of all we want to thank those who attended this fund raiser. Without you our best efforts would have been for naught. With your participation we all had a good dinner and shared some good camaraderie while raising money for a good cause.





## Movin' and Groovin' or Deferring Action on a Motion

By Clark Silliman

Once a motion has been made and seconded, it may become necessary to defer or postpone the vote on the motion. (For example, further research on the topic of the motion may be advisable before a vote is taken.) There are several ways this can be done. We will discuss two of them.

**First**, the action can be **TABLED** by a motion and second to do so. Tabling means the original motion can be renewed at a later time. The motion to **Table must be put to an immediate vote without discussion.**

**Second**, the action on the original motion may be **POSTPONED** to a future date and time. The motion to postpone is properly called a motion to **POSTPONE CONSIDERATION**. Like most other motions, it requires a second. The motion may be debated or discussed before being put to a vote. It also may be amended as to the date and time of the future consideration.

## Spaghetti Feed/Raffle

Coming to our post on May 1 is a special fund raiser for District 2 and our Post 3063 Relief Fund.

Kay Seelig will be cooking her famous spaghetti dinner with her own secret sauce, garlic bread and salad.

The raffle will feature special prizes ranging from handmade afghans to a soccer ball autographed by members of the Seattle Sounders. There will be plenty of gift certificates to local and Seattle-wide restaurants, museums, stores and other attractions.

Since May 1 is Loyalty Day we will have a short Loyalty Day presentation after dinner. That will be followed by the raffle and then Kami will invite karaoke singers to demonstrate their prowess on stage.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available from the Quartermaster and other members of the post and auxiliary.

This event promises to be even better than the St Patty's Day special we had last month so mark your calendar, get your tickets and join us for a landmark evening of fun.

## 2016-17 Post Officer Elections

Last month, as prescribed by the rules, we had the first round of nominations. At the April 7 meeting second nominations and final elections will take place. Currently nominated are:

Commander: Nestor Tamayao  
 Senior Vice Commander: Jon Guncay  
 Junior Vice Commander: Pete Krawitz  
 QM: Harold Rodenberger  
 Chaplain: Bill Griffith  
 3-Year Trustee: Aaron Stoltz  
 3-Year House Committee Member: Doug Maines

To have a voice in the officer roster for the coming year you will need to attend the April 7 meeting.

## April Events

► **The Student Veterans Association** will host a Fund Raiser Pool Tournament on Thursday, **April 7, 2016**, to support the Warrior Scholar Scholarship Fund. The Tournament will take place at the Mitchell Activity Center (MAC), 1718 Broadway and is open to all Students, Staff, and Faculty. Community Members are welcome to join as well. The entry fee for the tournament is \$10. Grilled burgers, hot dogs and cold drinks will be available for purchase for a small fee in Room MAC-210.

► **Washington State President Erin Mezek's** Tailgate Homecoming party Saturday **April 16, 2016**, 1530 to 2000. Finger Food—Beverages—Fun—Games—Entertainment. Location: Rainier VFW Post Home, 6038 South Pilgrim St, Seattle WA 98118. Doors open at 1530. 1600 to 1630 Special entertainment. Headcount appreciated by **April 12**, call Laurie 206-244-0557, [e-mail laurielukas777@hotmail.com](mailto:laurielukas777@hotmail.com) or [adriennewest-miller@yahoo.com](mailto:adriennewest-miller@yahoo.com)

**Birthday Greetings** (free dinner in your birthday month)

Anderson, Bennett T.	Jonsson, William G.
Anderson, Charles R.	Kettle, Robert E.
Ast, Richard J.	Leake, Herbert G.
Bornemeier, Robert A.	Mamallo, Justin R.
Fitzgerald, Joseph G.	Routhier, John B.
Goudy, Donald E.	Stoltz, Aaron J.
Houghton, Jordon G.	





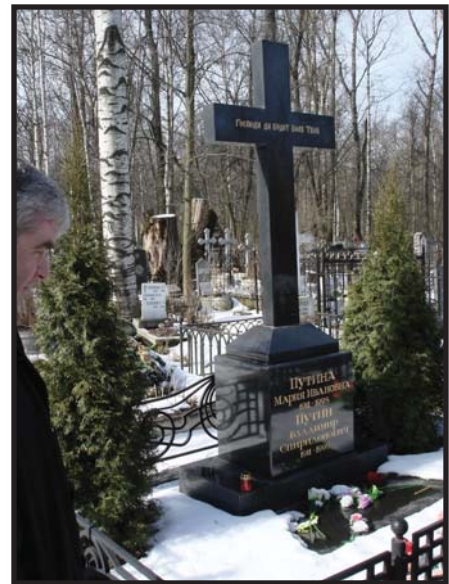
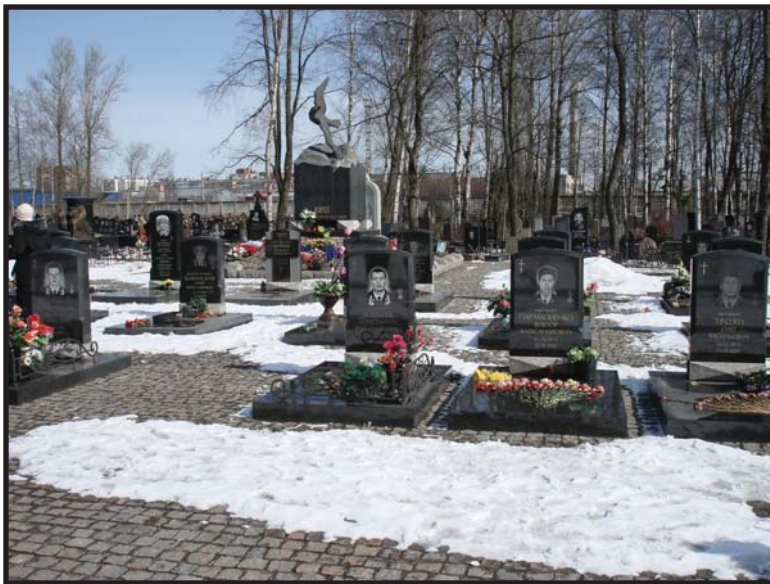
## Forty-two

By Bob Kettle

April 7, 2009, was the 20th anniversary of the sinking of K-278 *Komsomolets*, a Project 685 or in NATO-speak "Mike" class submarine. Forty-two souls were lost on that date in 1989. On the 20th anniversary I travelled up from Moscow by train to St. Petersburg to represent the U.S. Navy at the ceremonies to honor those who died as well as those who had survived.

A service was first held at Nikolsky Cathedral, better known as the Sailor's Cathedral, where the echoes of the singing and chants swung back and forth from the Orthodox priests to the choir and back again. The waifs of incense filled the air adding to the sounds and sights of the beautifully ornate church. One could not help but be moved at this truly mariners' cathedral especially on reflecting upon the plaques hung on the walls listing those sailors lost so many times at sea.

I met my host, the President of the Submariner's Club of St. Petersburg after the church service at the cemetery where some of the *Komsomolets*' crew were laid to rest. We first drank some vodka as is the custom in Russia then walked past the K-141 *Kursk* submarine memorial and also the site where President Putin's parents are buried before moving on to the location of the *Komsomolets* memorial ceremony.



A procession lined up along a cemetery road. I joined in behind two Russian Federation Navy sailors carrying a wreath to be placed at the gravesite holding two carnations myself for the grave for even number of flowers are reserved for those who have passed. Throngs of people from the procession clustered up near the gravesite. I then stood at the grave with my host and saluted. I held my salute on a 42 second count in honor of the 42 who had died, most by hypothermia, in the freezing waters of the Barents sea twenty years earlier 100 nautical miles southwest of Bear Island, Norway.

A dinner was held later where surviving members of *Komsomolets*' crew their families and the families of those lost joined together to remember. The many poignant stories of this naval but really human tragedy were captured best when the children of the dead gathered for a photograph. I, as it turned out, the only active duty naval officer present, rose and spoke at the dinner. I noted the honor in serving one's country for those who died were, at their level, doing just that.

An attaché serves many roles in the country he's accredited to but to be present on such a day as April 7, 2009, representing America is not one to be forgotten.



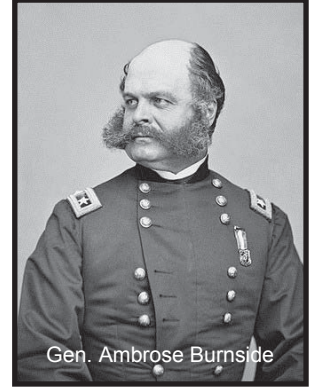
## Razors and Shaving: An Informal History

For most of recorded military history, facial hair has been not only permissible but considered fashionable.



Rear Adm. David Porter

The introduction of poison gas as a weapon of war seems to have turned the tide on hirsuteness, at least among front-line soldiers. Protection with gas masks required a tight fit against the face and did in blossoming facial adornments. The Navy generally was an exception to new rules, particularly in submarines until things got out of hand in the 1980's with hippies and flower power. Some elite military units remained with relaxed beard/mustache options. Recently the tide seems to be turning again, at least for facial hair associated with religious beliefs. According to a story in the January 22, 2014 issue of the *Chicago Tribune*, "Lieutenant Commander Nate Christensen, a Pentagon spokesman, said for the first time the Defense Department's policy encouraged acceptance in the military of beards, long



Gen. Ambrose Burnside

hair and articles of clothing worn for religious reasons so long as they do not interfere with good order and discipline."

Men have gone through the sometimes-painful process of removing facial hair for longer than written history exists. With the Jazz Age of the Twenties, women got into the act by shaving their legs.

Cave paintings from prehistoric times show some men without beards. The nearby presence of sharpened flints provides theoretical evidence they used these flints as primitive razors. During the Bronze Age metal-working improved and razors benefited. It was not until the Nineteenth Century though, when steel razors came into use, that shaving became less of a chore. This explains the many centuries in which beards were popular.

The development of steel razors allowed close and relatively painless shaves. Tonsorial parlors first located in large hotels and then in separate shops in towns and villages became an informal men's social club, home for card games, haircutting and music center (the barbershop quartet). The word tonsorial came from the Latin term for shaving, *tonsorius*. The tonsorial artists, sometimes called professors, used the straight or cutthroat type of razor that opened into an extremely sharp steel blade with a handle.

The invention of the safety razor, which protected the skin except for a tiny bit of the edge of the razor blade, eventually moved shaving from a social act to a private routine done at home. A Frenchman named Perret invented the first device, which was a bit cumbersome. This was refined into automatic razors such as the famous Rolls Razor, a razor and handle in a case that included sharpening leather. Many of these razors are still available on the Web. King Camp Gillette brought the final development into the marketplace with his disposable blade razor. His marketing ploy, sell the razor cheaply but charge forever for blades, was followed successfully by other entrepreneurs, for example by the Polaroid camera and inkjet printers. These simple double-bladed razors remained the standard for many years until in the past several decades developments in manufacturing made multiple-bladed razors with special coatings possible.

Besides the cutthroat and safety razors, the widespread availability of electricity prompted the development of a complete alternative to these mechanical methods of shaving. Jacob Schick, a Canadian, developed the first electric razor and patented it in 1923. It took some years of refinement before the device was ready for mass marketing. However, by the early Nineteen Thirties, sales of the Schick electric razor rose from 3,000 a year to between one and two million a year by the end of the decade. Gillette and the Remington Company followed with their own versions of an electric razor.

[Note: The above is a revised version of "Men (and Women) and Their Razors," c2008 Charles R. Anderson]