



Next Prom  
January 7, 2019 @6:30pm

Next Cheminot  
January 15, 2019 @ 6:30pm

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Voiture 99 Vancouver, WA

# BOXCAR BULLETIN

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January 2019

## Chef de Gare's Corner

Morris Giesler

Military Life is not easy. The men and women who serve in our Armed Forces protect our freedoms and our way of life. They make tremendous sacrifices along with their families in service to our Country.

What is a Veteran?

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast, and he set around, telling stories of his past. Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done. The exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one. Tho' sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became a joke, all his Veteran buddies listened, for they knew where of he spoke. We'll hear his tales no longer for old Calvin has passed away, and the world's a little poorer, for a Soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many, just his children and his wife, for he lived an ordinary and very quiet sort of life...

He held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way; and the world won't note his passing, tho' a soldier died today. When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state, while thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great. Papers tell their whole stories, but the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung. The ordinary fellow who, in time of war and strife, goes off to serve his country and offers up his life! A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives are sometimes disproportionate to the service he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier, who offered up his all, is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension small. It's so easy to forget them, for it is do many times that our Calvin and Bob's and Jim's and Johnny's, went to battle, but we know it is not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys, who won for us the freedom that our country now enjoys. Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand, would you really want some cop-out, with his ever-waffling stand?

Next month the rest of the story of, WHAT IS A VETERAN ?

## Correspondants Notes

The Christmas Season is a special time of the year. It's a time for hope, thanksgiving, and joy. I hope that everyone in our 40/8 family had a wonderful Christmas Holiday.

The end of the year surge in membership has helped bring us up to the 72% renewed mark. This is good, however, were still a long way from that 100% goal. So try to get your renewal into me as soon as you can so I can get you up to date.

This New Year will bring some obvious changes to our Voiture. What with the sale of the Bingo Hall and all that that will entail. It's also time to start thinking about our new leadership for the upcoming year. It's never too early to start thinking about what you want to do. Do you want to sit in the back of the room and complain about how you think things should be handled,

or are you ready to step up and take charge by adding your leadership skills to the management of this Voiture? If you are unsure of what a particular position entails, I can provide you with a breakdown of all requirements and duties of the leadership staff. Then you can take your time and choose where you would like to start.

In the meantime don't forget our Thursday AM Coffee, Friday Breakfast and remember the Chateau Lounge is open each Saturday from 12 noon until 7 PM. Remember, it's your Chateau. If it's not supported – it might go away.

Frank Falbee

## Russ Williams 1946-2018

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 22nd for Voyageur Russell Williams. Military honors began with a bugal rendition of Taps, which brought tears to my eyes. Russ' family was then honored with a beautiful flag folding and presentation to his wife. Some of the many in attendance spoke of their experiences and memories of Russ, followed by scripture readings and a procession of mourners placing rose petals on his casket.

Russ will be remembered by many in 40et8 as being frank and honest in his beliefs, and the one who always said yes to any request for help. He was very active in everything "veteran". He will be greatly missed.



# Chateau Schedule for January 2019

Members and guests allowed on Friday for breakfast. Saturday the Chateau is open to voyageurs and guests.

Thursday morning coffee & doughnuts at the Chateau at 8:30am.- 10:00am

Chateau (360)574-3872

Voiture 99 Meeting Reminders:  
Prom 1/7/19  
Cheminot 1/15/19

## January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Member & Guest Coffee & Donuts 8:30am - 10:00am	4 Member & Guest Breakfast 7:30am - 9:00am	5 Chateau Open 12-7pm Lunch 12-3pm
6	7 <b>PROM</b>	8 BNI Networking 6-9am Boxcar	9 SW Washington Contractors Meeting 7am-9am Boxcar	10 Member & Guest Coffee & Donuts 8:30am - 10:00am	11 Member & Guest Breakfast 7:30am - 9:00am CMAC	12 Chateau Open 12-7pm Lunch 12-3pm  Private Celebration Event, Boxcar 5pm
13	14	15 BNI Networking 6-9am Boxcar <b>CHEMINOT</b>	16 Korean War Veterans 9am Boxcar	17 Member & Guest Coffee & Donuts 8:30am - 10:00am	18 Member & Guest Breakfast 7:30am - 9:00am	19 Chateau Open 12-7pm Lunch 12-3pm
20	21 S.A.L.T. Meeting 11am, Boxcar	22 BNI Networking 6-9am Boxcar	23	24 Member & Guest Coffee & Donuts 8:30am - 10:00am  Bingo @Van VA CLC 6:30 - 7:30PM.	25 Member & Guest Breakfast 7:30am - 9:00am CMAC	26 Chateau Open 12-7pm Lunch 12-3pm
27	28 Ombudsman Volunteer Meeting 9am, Boxcar	29	30	31 Member & Guest Coffee & Donuts 8:30am - 10:00am		

**Chateau Lounge** is open Saturday, 12-7pm---Grill is open 12-3pm for lunch

\*\* 1/1/19 40 et 8 Offices are CLOSED

\*\* 1/24/18 40 et 8 Members Dinner, 5:30pm Boxcar- PLEASE RSVP to Frank @ 360-334-2653 or V99correspondant@gmail.com.

### Happy New Year Voyageurs!

Please continue to turn in your service hours. As part of community outreach I attended the Snowball Express where Gold Star families were flown to Disney World for Christmas. This was 2:30-5:30 am on a Saturday morning.

Here I am chatting with the Commanding Officer of the Coast



Guard Detachment, about the untrustworthiness of Jawas. The Patriot Guard was also there to help send off the families. Seeing them off on the windy damp tarmac was the highlight of the morning. So glad to know there are folks supporting these families. Stay tuned for a new upcoming monthly event.

Yours in Service,  
Annie

## Americanism

Here is just a brief recap of some December events that took place. On the First the Loci drove Santa with a police escort to Randall Children's Hospital for a Holiday party that was enjoyed by all in attendance. I handed out 100 flags to children of all ages and they were warmly received.

The CMAC Christmas party was a great way to meet fellow community members who share in the goals of promoting patriotism and veterans' programs.

I was also honored to be part of the Snowball Express, a program supported by the Gary Sinese Foundation to send Gold Star children and their families to Disney World during the holiday season. Along with my friends from Star Wars Oregon, the Patriot Guard, and Portland Coast Guard Detachment we welcomed the families as they got through security at PDX. Even though it was 2:30am everyone had a smile and a warm greeting for the families. Photo ops abounded with kids getting to see and chat with Star Wars characters and droids as well as the American flags held by the Patriot Guard. After the families had boarded the plane through a light saber arch, we went down to the tarmac on that wet windy morning and waved Bon Voyage to the passengers. It broke my heart knowing that these kids were not going to have a parent home for any holiday. Knowing for just a little while things were a bit brighter for each of them made me feel good.

The Loci also did the annual Children's Christmas party for Open House Ministries. Once again we had Santa and a Loci full of toys



*Loci Crew and members surround Santa at the Children's Christmas Party*

and gifts provided by the generosity of Frito Lay. It was so refreshing to see that every child got something from his or her list and there was no complaining! Children even came back and thanked Santa. This was a very heartwarming event and I hope to participate for many years to come.

As we go into this new year let us continue to spread good feelings not only to our friends and family, but to our Veterans and our community. Oh, and don't forget to document your activities on your Americanism sheets!

As a committee Chair we are in the planning stages of a Members-Only/Spouse Sweetheart Dinner at the Chateau on February 16. Tickets will be presale only and the proceeds will be split between participating committees. Please save the date, and bring your date, to this fun and hopefully monthly event.

Yours in Service to the Voiture,  
Annie

## La Femmes

Happy Holidays to all the 40 @ 8 Voitures and Cabane 99 LaFemmes. Our hopes for 2019 are that we will continue to do good works and support all the National and Local programs in which we are now involved. We thank everyone who was involved in our fundraising efforts in 2018, every LaFemme is excited to volunteer and help support all our programs in the future.

As part of our Child Welfare Project with SHARE, Bea Ritter and Bonnie Mills delivered to them on December 11, 2018; 60 gift cards for Unaccompanied Youth (students without guardians) in Evergreen and Vancouver Schools. They also delivered three loads of non-perishable food for their Student Backpack Program. Thank you to everyone who donated food. We will continue collecting non-perishable foods for them until June. Please continue to donate food for students as there is great need.

Mary Snyder

## **TIMELINE: CANBERRA (CA-70)**

By Robert Myers



### **PREFACE**

The year was 1942. The Australian warship HMAS Canberra was in a fight for its life when it engaged the Japanese warships. The battle of Savo Island was very heavy as the Japanese struck time and time again at the Canberra. The Canberra gave a hard and brilliant fight, but was severely damaged. On 9 August 1942, the ship was ultimately sunk by USN warships to prevent it from falling into enemy hands. The Battle of Savo Islands was one of the first battles where US and Australian forces fought side by side in a major battle of the Pacific war theater. It was a common decision between the two powers. In honor of the Australian warship, the USS Pittsburg was christened the USS Canberra in honor of the HMAS Canberra upon her launching on 19 April 1943 by the wife of the Australian Minister in Washington. She (the USS Canberra) was commissioned on 14 October, 1943. She was ready to rock and roll.

### **TIME LINE: 14 JANUARY,'44**

The USS Canberra departed Boston, Mass. bound for San Diego to pick up personnel destined for Pearl Harbor. Little time was spent in San Diego. The stop was just long enough to pick up and transport essential personnel to Pearl Harbor for dispersal. Arrival was on the first of February. The Canberra wasted

no time in getting underway for the Far East and rendezvousing with TF 58 on 14 February. Its mission was to assist in the capture of Eniwetok.

### **TIMELINE: 16 FEBRUARY '44**

The Australians have run the Japanese off the Huon Peninsula a part of New Guinea and nearest to Rooke Island. General MacArthur announced that the Marines firmly had a grip on New Britain and captured Corissi village about twenty miles east of Cape Gloucester where they had landed just six weeks prior.

### **TIMELINE: 30 MARCH,'44**

The Canberra left her base at Maduro and met up with the Yorktown (CV-10) task group and raided several islands on the Palaus. Then got under way on the 13th of April to assist in air strikes in support of the Army landings on New Guinea. The Canberra then joined the Carrier Enterprise (CV-6) task group for sweeps against Truk, bombarding Matawan and rejoining the carriers for further bombing of Truk.

### **TIMELINE: MID MAY,'44**

The USS Canberra raided Marcus during a day raid and assisted the submarines as they sank 15 Japanese ships. Only two Japanese aircraft were seen after the raid. Later this same month in the battle of Wake Island with the aid of the submarines, forty-one Japanese ships were sunk. This brought the total Japanese ships since the war began to 573.

### **TIMELINE: 6 JUNE,'44**

The Canberra set sail from Majuro to take part in the Mariana's including the battle of the Philippine Sea. The

battle for the Philippine Sea took some time because of the size and distance between the islands held by the Japan forces. It also supported neutralization of the bases in the Bonins. After replenishing at Eniwetok, the Canberra headed for the Philippines and the Palaus.

### **TIMELINE: 29 AUGUST,'44**

The Canberra arrived in time to back up the Morotai landings off North Halmahera of the Maluku Islands This operation took until the end of the war in August 1945. The first part of the allied invasion consisting of the United States and Australia lasted two weeks. Japanese reinforcements landed on the island between September and November. However, they lacked the supplies to attack the allied defenses. During this time, the fighting would be sporadic until the end of the war in August of 1945. (Ref: Wikipedia)

### **TIMELINE: 2 OCTOBER,'44**

The Canberra left the Morotai landing operation and accompanied TF 38 a naval task force consisting of several aircraft carriers and support ships. They were headed for Okinawa and Formosa to take part in the landings at Leyte.

### **TIMELINE: 13 OCTOBER,'44**

About ninety miles from Formosa, the USS Canberra being in close proximity to enemy vessels, was struck below the armor belt by an aerial torpedo blowing a huge hole. Jagged and gaping, it killed twenty-three of her crew instantly. Before the compartment where the hole was, about 4500 tons of water rushed in and flooded both engine rooms and aft fire room. This action became one of the greater

achievements of the war of saving wounded ships. The Canberra was taken into tow by the Wichita and the Houston, injured by a torpedo earlier, was escorted by the whole task force, retired to Ulithi. On the way there, "Cripple Division 1" fought off an enemy air attack that succeeded in firing another torpedo into the Houston. Admiral Halsey used the opportunity to lure the Japanese into the open. However, the Japanese sortied from their base the Inland Sea, Air attacks from the rest of Task Force 38 forced the Japanese to withdraw. The Canberra and her escorts continued on to Ulithi without incident arriving 27 October '44. After temporary repairs were made at Manus, the USS Canberra returned to the west coast, where she was placed out of commission on July 6, 1946.

#### **TIMELINE: 7 MARCH,'47**

On this date, the USS Canberra arrived at the reserve mothball fleet at Bremerton Washington shipyard. It sat there unused for five years when the US Navy redesignated the Canberra from heavy cruiser to a CAG-2 heavy guided missile heavy cruiser. In early January of 1952, the Canberra was towed from Bremerton, Washington to Camden, New Jersey. It took nearly four years once it arrived at Camden, New Jersey, to modify the ship with two missile launchers intended for surface to air missiles. This conversion changed the appearance of the ship quite a bit. In addition, the Canberra was outfitted with extensive electronics and radar capabilities.

#### **TIMELINE: MID JUNE,'56**

It wasn't until mid- June of 1956 that

the Canberra was recommissioned becoming the second Boston Class 13,000 lb. heavy guided missile cruisers. For more than a year the Canberra cruised the Western Atlantic and Caribbean subsequently taking President Dwight D. Eisenhower to a conference in Bermuda, took in part of the International Naval Review at Hampton Roads, Virginia in June of 1957. It then made a training cruise to Brazil.

#### **TIMELINE: SEPTEMBER,'57**

In this month, the USS Canberra took part in a NATO exercise in the northeastern Atlantic before heading to the Mediterranean Sea. From there it headed back to the United States.

#### **TIMELINE: MARCH,'58**

Upon arrival to the U.S., the Canberra served as a ceremonial flagship for the Unknown Soldier of World War II. She then transported naval personnel on a training cruise to Spain, Sweden, and the Netherlands.

#### **TIMELINE: MARCH,'60**

In a good will gesture from President Eisenhower, the Canberra was chosen to circumnavigate the world. It would be gone for the better part of eight months. Part of its travels would be operating with the Seventh Fleet in Asian waters and with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea. It made two deployments to the Sixth Fleet during the next two years arriving back at Norfolk, Virginia in September 1962 and the second in October of 1963. During these times, the Canberra took part in the quarantine of Cuba 1962.

#### **TIMELINE: OCTOBER,'63**

October of this year saw the transfer to the Pacific Fleet. As the Viet Nam War began ramping up, the Canberra would see several deployments during her final five years of deployment to the Pacific War Theater. The next five years would see the Canberra take part in numerous bombardments of positions in North and South Viet Nam. Her remaining six remaining eight-inch guns were extensively used shelling enemy positions.

#### **TIMELINE: OCTOBER,'67**

During the next two years, the USS Canberra would deploy performing bombardment missions the first occurred from October 1967 to April 1968 and again from September 1968 to January 1969. With extensive gunnery usage and the outdated missile system, her classification reverted to heavy cruiser in May of 1968. Her designation reverted to CA-70 from CAG-2.

#### **TIMELINE: OCTOBER,'69**

Canberra's missile launchers and guidance radars were removed in 1969 following the end of her last cruise. She arrived in San Francisco in October to begin deactivation. She was decommissioned in February of 1970 and was stricken from the naval vessel Register July 1978 and sold for scrap July of 1980. It was a sad ending for a ship that performed an illustrious career.

