



1943 - 1978

# Abnaki Courier

July 2105

**Annual Dues: \$15.00** If the first line on your address label is not 2015 or greater you may owe some dues. Send dues to: **Art Holstein, 2201 Eschol Avenue, Zion, Illinois, 60099**



Phone: 847-872-9043 Email: [grandpahol@comcast.net](mailto:grandpahol@comcast.net)

## NOW HEAR THIS !!!!

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual ABNAKI Reunion Will be in Jeffersonville, Indiana  
September 16-19, 2015

### Sheraton Louisville Riverside Hotel

700 W. Riverside Dr. Jeffersonville, IN

**Hotel Reservations: 888-627-8069 Room Rate: \$105**



Room rate includes: High Speed Internet, Business Center, Local Calls, Indoor Pool, On-Site Parking, Flat-Screen HD Television, Fitness Center. Only 10 minutes from the Louisville Airport with free pick-up and drop off. Just tell the Hotel what flight and the time and they will be there to pick you up.

**Widows:** Once again all activities listed in the registration are free for you. Our Widows are very special to us and contribute a lot to the Reunions. Please come and bring along family or friends or both!

Our Host: The Penningtons, Deanna, Deloris, Delmas, and Debbie For more information call Delmas Pennington: 606-928-5611 or email Debbie at: [tsetter@columbus.rr.net](mailto:tsetter@columbus.rr.net)

Here is brief schedule of events:

WEDNESDAY: Registration begins at 1000 hrs. We will register in the Lewis Room on the main floor. This will also be our meeting room. It is on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor and where most of our drinks and food will be kept. The hotel staff are going to try to put everyone's room on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor so as to be near this hospitality room. **IF ANYONE HAS LANYARDS FROM PREVIOUS REUNIONS, BRING THEM, PETE SAYS WE ARE RUNNING OUT. IF YOU KNOW PETE WHAT PETE SAYS GOES!! I HAVE TO TRY TO PLEASE HIM.**

THURSDAY: 1000 hours assembly in the lobby to board the bus for Church Hill Downs. This is the home of the Kentucky Derby. We will take a 30 minute walking tour and visit the Museum.

NOTE: Thoroughbred racing will be taking place in September. SO.....if anyone wants to stay or return for racing, we will arrange a later pick-up or drop of for you. LUNCH will be on your own. The Derby Café is a great place to eat. On the way back we will enjoy a bus tour of the city, highlighting the Falls of Ohio, Cast Iron District, Museum Row, and Victorian homes in Old Louisville.

1800 Hours Welcome Aboard Party/Pizza Buffet.

FRIDAY: 1030 hours meet in Hotel Lobby to board bus for the "Spirit of Jefferson". This is a Steamboat Sightseeing Cruise around the Louisville area as we enjoy an ABNAKI like Buffet Lunch and listen to some Riverboat Music☺ we will return to the Hotel around 1430 hours. This may be a good time to take a hotel shuttle to check out Louisville or walk the Jeffersonville Historical District Attractions.

SATURDAY: This will be a free day. Louisville is the sixteenth largest city in the United States. There are many attractions in Louisville that anyone who desires can hop a ride on the shuttle and visit. **The Muhammed Ali Center** may be a good choice for those interested in the life of Louisville native Cassius Clay/Muhammed Ali. There is also the **Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory**. Another choice may be **The Frazier History Museum**. The Frazier Museum has the distinction of being the only place in the world outside of Great Britain to permanently house and display Royal Armories artifacts. **REMEMBER** the Banquet is Saturday night with the raffle to follow.

If anyone is bringing a young or young at heart, more adventurous crew to our reunion the Louisville Underground Cavern has rave reviews. It has more than 17 miles of underground passageways beneath the City of Louisville. There are six underground zip lines, including a fun filled dual racing zip and two awesome challenge bridges that will test ones skill and balance. It is guaranteed to get your heart racing and your adrenaline pumping. If some young whipper snappers are looking for a one-of-a-kind adventure this just might be the perfect thrill! Mega Zips is the No. 1 attraction in Louisville, according to TripAdvisor, besting the likes of Churchill Downs and the Louisville Slugger Museum.

Even though our Hotel is in Indiana we will be employing a Kentucky atmosphere serving the likes of bourbon balls and derby pie in our hospitality room. **A complimentary continental style breakfast will be served in the hospitality room each morning.** The hotel offers a large breakfast buffet for a charge of \$10.00 inclusive of Tax and Gratuity. Breakfast Coupons will be given to each guest at arrival and these will be presented at Riversides Café to receive this discounted breakfast rate to be paid at the Café.

Coming to Louisville and not going to the Kentucky Derby Race is JUST unacceptable! **Friday** evening we will have a Kentucky Derby Dicey Horse Race and Derby Party around 7:00 in the meeting room. The Kentucky Derby isn't Derby without hats, hats, hats! So the women of the Abnaki will have the opportunity to choose a hat compliments of the Pennington's! The Abnaki men will have the chance to name a horse or be a jockey for the dicey wooden horse races. We will enjoy some Kentucky Derby sweet treats, so don't fill up too much on dinner before coming to the party.

We are really looking forward to seeing all the people we have met before and meeting and making new friends.

Remember our Saturday evening raffle. We always enjoy the treasures from this fun time. If you would like to contribute items for the raffle bring it on. **We had a lot of very nice things in Colorado Springs.**

You are welcome to bring some of your favorite snack and treats, we do love to visit and chow down. **Remember everything on this page is free for widows.** Just fill out the form for everything you want to do and then place a "W: in the "Total Column" and we will take it from there!

## TAPS

Richard "Dick" Sample, 77, of Scottsbluff, Nebraska passed away April 11, 2014. He joined the US Navy in November 1954. He attended boot camp in San Diego, California and served aboard the USS ABNAKI in the Pacific. He served four years in the Navy until 1958. While he was able he attended the ABNAKI reunions and getting reacquainted his Navy buddies. Our sincere sympathy to his wife of 54 years, Shirley, and the rest of his family.

If you know any of your shipmates that may have passed please let us know so we can pass on this information to others.

Please complete the following form and return ASAP to

Pennington, Delmas E835 St. Rte. 716, Ashland, KY 41102

**Please make check payable to USS ABNAKI Reunion Association**

USS ABNAKI (ATF96)  
Reunion Registration Form 2015

**To insure your reservation for these activities this form must be returned no later than 8/15/2015.**  
**All prices include tax and tip**

Day	Time	Event	Cost	Time	#	Total
Wednesday	10:00	Registration	\$10.00	X		
Thursday	10:00	Tour #1	\$15.00	X		
	18:00	Welcome Aboard	\$16.00	X		
Friday	10:30	Tour #2	\$36.00	X		
Saturday	18:00	Banquet	\$32.00	X		

**THE BANQUET WILL BE SERVED BUFFET STYLE**

Mixed green salad with dressings, rotini pasta salad with sun dried tomato and pesto dressing, baked honey ham, herb baked bone-in chicken, freshly brewed coffee & iced tea, chef's choice potatoes and vegetable, and dessert.

There is no registration fee for anyone under eighteen.

Total\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please feel free to bring as many guests as you like including but not limited to Parents, Grandparents, Children, Grand Children, Great Grand Children, Cousins, Uncles/Aunts, Friends, Friend's Friends or relatives. Reunions are for kicking back and relaxing, so bring them on!!! The more the better!*

Please show you and your guest's name the way you want them to show on the "Name Badges" Also show your **name, rate and year/years** served aboard Abnaki

Please type or print

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please use separate sheet for additional names

**Don't forget**



Registration Form should be completed and returned to Delmas Elwood Pennington, 835 St., Route 716, Ashland, KY 41102. **Checks Payable to USS ABNAKI ATF 96 Reunion.** Please complete and return the registration form no later than **8/15/2015**. Call or email Debbie Setser 937-243-5368 [tsetser@columbia.rr.com](mailto:tsetser@columbia.rr.com) with any questions or ideas, or call Delmas or Delores Pennington 606-928-5611 or 606-571-0053.

## TWO GREAT STORIES – BOTH ARE TRUE

### STORY NUMBER ONE.

Many years ago, Al Capone, virtually owned Chicago. Capone wasn't famous for anything heroic. He was notorious for enmeshing the windy city in everything from boot legged booze and prostitution to murder. Capone had a lawyer nicknamed "Easy Eddie". He was Capone's lawyer for a good reason. He was very good! In fact, Eddie's skill at legal maneuvering kept Big Al out of jail for a long time. To show his appreciation, Capone paid him very well. Not only was the money big, but Eddie got special dividends as well. For instance, he and his family occupied a fenced-in mansion with live in help and all the conveniences of the day. The estate was so large that it filled an entire Chicago city block. Eddie lived the high life of the Chicago mob and gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him.

Eddie did have one soft spot, however, he had a son that he loved dearly. Eddie saw to it that his young son had clothes, cars, and a good education. Nothing was withheld. Price was no object. Despite his involvement with organized crime, Eddie tried to teach him right from wrong, he wanted his son to be a better man than he was.

With all his wealth and influence, there were two things he couldn't give his son; he couldn't pass on a good name or a good example.

One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. Easy Eddie wanted to rectify wrongs he had done. He decided he would go to the authorities and tell the truth about Al "Scarface" Capone, clean up his tarnished name, and offer his son some semblance of integrity. To do this, he would have to testify against the Mob, and he knew the cost would be great. So, he testified. Within the year Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago street...but, in his eyes, he had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer, at the greatest price he could ever pay. Police removed from his pockets a rosary, a religious medallion and a clipping from a magazine. It read: The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour. Now is the only time you own. Live, Love and toil with a will. Place no faith in time. For the clock may soon be still".

### STORY NUMBER TWO

World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare. He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific. One day his entire squadron was sent on a mission. After, he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tank. He would not have enough fuel to complete his mission and return to his ship. His flight leader told him to return to the carrier. Reluctantly, he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet.

As he was returning to the mother ship, he saw something that turned his blood cold; a squadron of Japanese aircraft was speeding its way toward the American Fleet. The American fighters were gone on a sortie, and the fleet was all but defenseless. He couldn't reach his squadron and bring them back in time to save the fleet. Nor could he warn the fleet of the approaching danger. There was only one thing to do. He must somehow divert them from the fleet. Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety he dove into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mounted 50 caliber's blazed as he charged in attacking one

surprised enemy plane and then another. Butch, wove in and out of the now broken formation and fired at as many planes as possible, rendering them unfit to fly. Finally, the exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction.

Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered fighter limped back to the carrier. Upon arrival, he reported in and related the event surrounding his return. The film from the gun camera mounted on his plane told the tale. It showed the extent of Butch's daring attempt to protect his fleet. He had, in fact, destroyed five enemy aircraft.

This took place on February 20, 1942, and for that action, Butch, became the Navy's first Ace of World War II, and the first Naval Aviator to win the Medal of Honor. A year later Butch was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. His hometown would not allow the memory of this WW II hero to fade and today, O'Hare Airport in Chicago is named in tribute to the courage of this great man. The next time you find yourself at O'Hare International, give some thought to visiting Butch's memorial displaying his statue and his Medal of Honor. It is located between Terminals 1 and 2.

SO WHAT DO THESE TWO STORIES HAVE TO DO WITH EACH OTHER?

Butch O'Hare was "Easy Eddie's" son.

If anyone has any stories that you would like to see in the ABNAKI, please contact Nancy at the following:  
Email: [masonsawyergrma@yahoo.com](mailto:masonsawyergrma@yahoo.com) or 527 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Greenfield, Iowa 50849

I would love to have your input. This is your newsletter.

## Uniform Supplies

The following items may be ordered from the ABNAKI (Joe Colombara, Supply Officer) supply department.

**Allow 60 days for the delivery of orders.** Orders will be delivered to the reunion at the prices below. If you wish to have your order shipped please see shipping and handling charges below.

**Please indicate size – Small – Medium – Large – Extra Large – XX Large All are super quality.**

### POLO SHIRTS

<u>Color</u>	<u>Logo Colors</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Navy Blue	Gold Name, Number, Ship			\$27.00	
Navy Blue	Gold Name, Number, Silver Ship			\$27.00	
White	Navy Blue Name, Number, Ship			\$27.00	
<u>NOTE: Add \$2.00 Each for XX Large Sizes</u>				Sub-Total	

### CAPS

<u>Color</u>	<u>Logo Colors</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Navy Blue	Gold Name, Number, Ship		\$14.00	
Navy Blue	Gold Name, Number, Silver Ship		\$14.00	
White	Navy Blue Name, Number, Ship		\$14.00	

**Jacket, Light Weight, Full Abnaki embroidery on back, Abnaki emblem**

<b><u>On left breast, name on right breast</u></b>	\$50.00
S & H Jacket onlv	\$ 7.50

If your order exceeds the schedule shown below contact Joe Colombara      Sub-Total

**S & H charges:** One shirt, or one shirt and one cap \$7.50 Two caps \$5.00 One Cap \$5.00 Grand Total

Please enclose check with order payable to Joe Colombara 720 E. Country Ln., Collinsville, IL 62234

Phone: 618-344-8869 Email: [joe96@att.net](mailto:joe96@att.net)

**All profits go directly to the ABNAKI Sailors Association**