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Abnaki Courier

June 2020

Annual Dues \$15.00. If the first line on your address label is not 2020 or greater you may owe some dues. Send dues to: **Art Holstein, 2201 Eshcol Avenue, Zion, IL 60099**

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NOW HEAR THIS!!!

Due to the COVID19 outbreak and subsequent quarantine, it has been decided that the USS ABNAKI Reunion in San Antonio, TX, for 2020 been postponed/cancelled until 2021.



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I hope that all of you are staying safe and have not contracted the virus.
If you have I wish you a speedy recovery!



TRIVIA

There is a difference:

Armed Forces Day: For those that currently wear the uniform.

Veterans Day: For those who used to wear the uniform.

Memorial Day: For those who never made it out of the uniform.

On Jeopardy the other night, the final question was: How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier?

All three missed it!

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier:

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and why: 21 steps. It alludes to the Twenty-one-gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

2. How long does he wait after his about face to begin his return walk and why: 21 seconds for the same reason as above.
3. Why are his gloves wet? His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on his rifle.
4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and if not why? He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.
5. How often are the guards changed? Guards are changed every 30 minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.
6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to? For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5'10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30". Other requirements of the Guard: They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks, under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform (fighting) or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin, that is worn on

on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin. The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds, or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror. The first six months of duty, a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty. In 2003, as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington DC, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer. Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.





I have never seen or heard of this memorial. This Tear Drop 9/11 Memorial is located in Bayonne, New Jersey, right across from New York City. On the other side of the Hudson Bay from the Statue of Liberty.

This 100-foot-tall monument was given to the USA back in 2006 by the Russian people in memory of all those that lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

The break in the cracked façade forms the shape of the two towers.

The giant suspended tear drop symbolizes all the tears the world shed in response to this terrifying day.

At the base are recorded the names of all the people who perished. Yet, we do not hear about it.

It is a shame that such a beautiful memorial is given barely any attention.

"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Anyone Who Threatens It"



USS Abnaki (ATF 96)

If the last line on your address label is not (2020) or greater or has an * you may owe some dues.

If you have an * after your name, please contact Art or this may be your last Courier.

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