

TASTY TOURNEY: REAGAN CHEFS BATTLE IT OUT

76^{er}



USS RONALD REAGAN'S

DPIA

NEWS SOURCE

May 23, 2012

HONEST, ENTERTAINING, INFORMATIVE

MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SACRIFICED
THEIR LIVES FOR YOUR FREEDOM



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CELEBRATING DIVERSITY:
Asian & Pacific Islander Culture

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Reagan's Deck and Tile Team puts forth an enormous effort to complete the task at hand.

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Team Reagan fires it up in Military Culinary Arts Competition.

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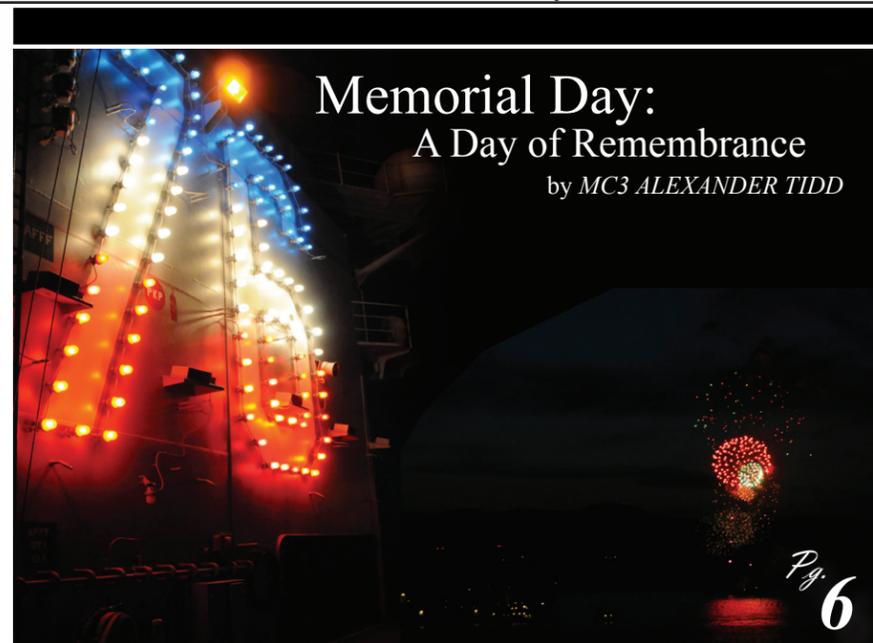
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Up Front

RONALD REAGAN'S WEEKLY BULLETIN

WILD WHITE WATER RAFT TRIP!

Thrill seekers looking to go hard into spring and summertime adventures have reason to zip up their wetsuits: the Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton's Welfare and Recreation facility is hosting a white-water rafting trip on Washington's raging Wenatchee River.

Leaving at 0730 June 2, this guided excursion will pit Ronald Reagan Sailors against the water rage of Mother Nature as they trek down a river fueled by melted snow. The guided trip costs \$60 and inexperienced rafters are welcome to join. Helmets,

wetsuits, booties, lifejackets and lunch are all included on the trip. Interested Sailors of all experience levels can purchase tickets at the Bremerton MWR lounge or from Ronald Reagan's MWR office on the barge, located at 03-73-2-L.

MARINERS TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Start oiling up your gloves and lacing up your cleats, baseball fans, because Major League Baseball's 2012 season is now underway! In support of America's pastime, Ronald Reagan's Welfare and Recreation division has purchased 30 premium seats to Seattle Mariner's home games at Safeco Field!

Sailors now have access to field level seats directly in front of first base for only \$35 a

ticket, available for most series this season.

Additionally, MWR can potentially arrange a meet-and-greet with Mariners players if a group of Sailors wants to attend a game in uniform (pending team participation).

Sailors are encouraged to purchase tickets well in advance. For a complete schedule of available games, drop by the MWR office on the barge 03 level.

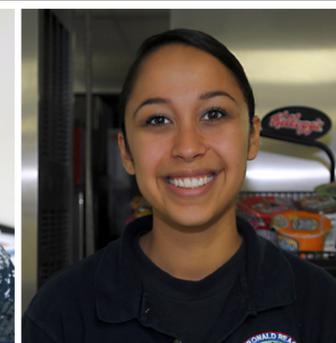
STREET BEAT:

Checking the pulse on the deckplates

WHO IS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL LEADER IN YOUR LIFE?



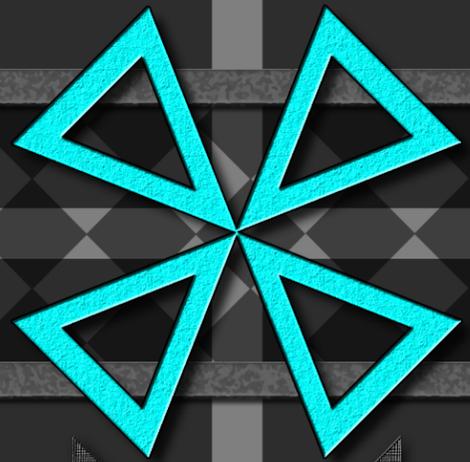
LS1 Cody Blaylock
"My father because of his work ethic and love for his family."



ABEAN Pauline Williamson
"My grandmother because of her wisdom and kind heart."



YNSN Devaun Hawkins
"My mother because of her strength and perseverance."



DECK & TILE

DECK & TILE TEAM LAY DOWN THE GOODS

story by
MC3 SHAWN STEWART

photo illustration by
MCSN NOLAN KAHN

From the minute Ronald Reagan entered Dry Dock 6 here at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Activity, our Docked Planned Incremental Availability (DPIA) teams have been restless, diligent and determined. Five months into DPIA, Sailors assigned to the Deck and Tile teams have shown much progress and continue to stay ahead of schedule.

In the early stages of DPIA, the Deck and Tile teams leading petty officer, Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Jonathan Barton, worked with his chain-of-command in hopes of developing a practical work schedule.

“We sat down and looked at what we had and we saw jobs that were easier to complete set towards the end of DPIA,” said Barton. “So we moved them up because they are one to two-day jobs. This left the harder, more complex jobs for later, allowing our team time to become skilled and efficient on the easier jobs.”

Barton’s crews consist of 30 crew members who have worked over 5,000 man hours and completed 122 of the 300 scheduled work orders.

“We have great workers,” he said. “They can go into a space and get the work done without

prior experience, and do it the right way.”

Very few members of the Deck and Tile Team had any experience laying tile before they received their DPIA assignments. That inexperience didn’t last long, as the large number of jobs provided plenty of hands-on learning experience.

“At first it was hard because I didn’t know what I was really doing,” said Ship’s Serviceman Vaquita Barnes. “But once you’ve completed over 100 jobs you become more efficient and the work becomes second nature.”

Even with the prospect of more work on the horizon, most team members are excited to press on.

“We are happy with the work we have accomplished so far,” said Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Rosalie Lashley. “But we know we still have a hundred or more lined up.”

Team members attribute their success to the friendships they have cultivated during DPIA.

“All we have is each other,” said Barnes. “So we push each other to do more and reap the benefits of the results.”

Barnes believes these relationships help keep the team’s morale high.

“When we first started we were a diverse team from several different departments,” said Chief Aviation Ordnanceman Mike Steward. “But once (Senior Chief



Aviation Ordnanceman) Corey Duncan, (IS1) Barton and I came together, we were able to put together a great crew. I couldn’t be more proud of these guys and the work we are accomplishing.”

As with every other DPIA team, overall job accomplishment and pride in work can be gained through one very basic experience—seeing the results of a job well done.

“I love to look over a space after we complete the work,” said Quarter Master 3rd Class Donald Day. “We work all of our problems out as a team, and make sure we get the job done right the first time, every time.”

“That’s another way we keep morale high,” added Day. “If we finish our work for the day we can all get a little more time to spend with our families and friends.”

With high morale, hard work and a little forward planning, the Deck and Tile Team has continued to move towards their goal of finishing on time.



A DAY FOR OUR HEROES

MEMORIAL DAY

story and photo illustration by MC3 ALEXANDER TIDD

Every year, as May turns to June, proud Americans gather with friends and family, fire up their barbeques and kick off their summers with Memorial Day, celebrating the noble sacrifices service members have made for their country.

Formerly known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day began as a day to commemorate fallen Union soldiers after the Civil War. But by the 20th century, the holiday was extended to honor all Americans who gave their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

“Memorial Day is important because it’s my chance to give thanks to the people who came before me and gave their lives,” said Yeoman Seaman Benjamin Hopson. “We have to acknowledge them, say thanks and let them know that even though they may be gone they are not forgotten.”

It is for these service members that it is important to not lose sight of the true meaning of Memorial Day. Perhaps due to the time of year and the warm weather that comes with summer, there is concern that many Americans seem to regard the holiday as just a day off on a three-day weekend.

“My family and I do all the things you do on Memorial Day, barbequing and getting together,” said Lt. Will Gray, IM-3’s division officer. “But it’s important that while we’re enjoying the day, we take a few minutes to remember the service members who have come before us. My father and grandfather both served their country, so for my family it’s very important.”

While fun in the sun and tasty grilling are top priorities for Ronald Reagan Sailors enjoying their time off, the command wants to ensure Sailors are doing so in a safe manner.

“Memorial Day is sort of the unofficial kickoff for summer,” said Cmdr. Scott Springer, Ronald Reagan’s safety officer. “This means the military launches into the ‘101 Critical Days of Summer’ campaign, so we are pressing safety as a top concern.”

The “101 Critical Days of Summer” are typically the most dangerous for service members not on deployment. In 2011, 31 members of the Navy-Marine Corps team

lost their lives while participating in recreational activities between the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

“This is the time to think about your summer plans,” said Springer. “That’s the key—to have a plan. Whether you’re travelling, driving for a weekend trip or just grilling out,

it’s important to preflight your equipment, choose a designated driver and take other precautions.

“All 31 fatalities last year happened off duty,” added Springer. “I want to make sure our Sailors don’t become part of this year’s statistics.”

Of course, that doesn’t mean Sailors can’t get out and fully enjoy the long weekend. Much of the Ronald Reagan crew is looking forward to sharing the holiday with friends from the comfort of home.

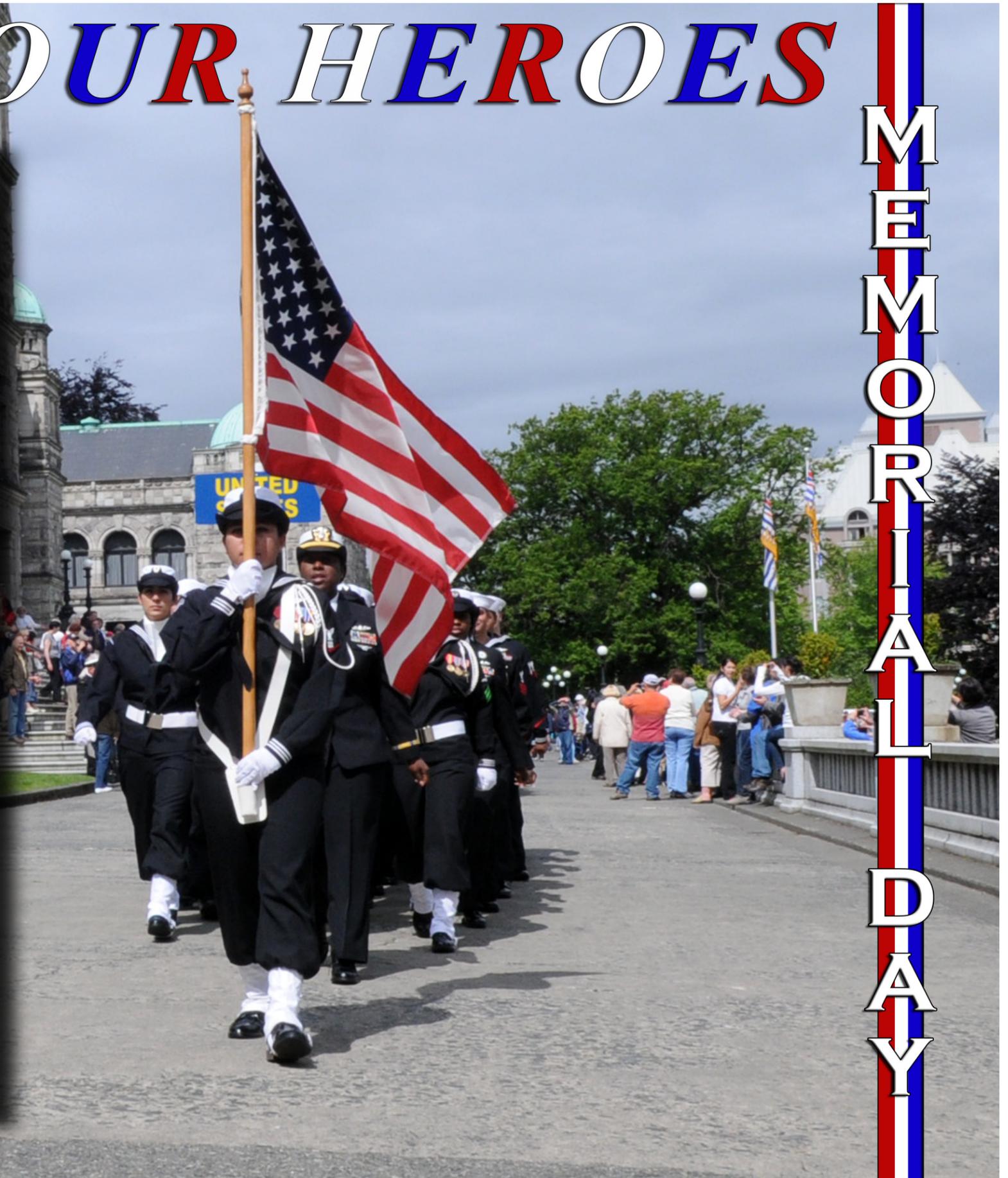
“I’m having a nice little barbeque at my place in town,” said Hopson. “I’m making my ‘world famous’ ribs, and we’re going to try to watch the Memorial Day parade.”

For Sailors looking to get out and do a little exploring, the Kitsap peninsula has much to offer. Springer said he is looking forward to checking out more of the local area.

“Memorial Day is a time to reflect on our comrades who have given their lives for our country, so it’s important to enjoy the freedoms we all have fought for,” said Springer. “I’m excited to be getting out of Bremerton and seeing a little more of Washington, exploring the mountains and countryside and maybe visiting Leavenworth, a small, Bavarian-style village (east of Seattle).”

Whether taking in a parade, enjoying a fireworks display or checking out one of several festivals in the local area, there is plenty for Sailors to do. But enjoying the holiday safely should still be in the back of every Sailor’s mind.

“We’ve done a great job through the winter and spring,” said Springer. “I definitely think we can continue to do so for the summer months, and Memorial Day is the right time to start.”





Reagan Riders Roll Into Summer with motorcycle safety in mind

story and photo illustration by
MCSN KEVIN HASTINGS

More than 30 motorcycle riders from aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) joined nearly 300 fellow riders from military commands throughout the Pacific Northwest for a motorcycle safety standdown aboard Naval Base Kitsap-Keyport, May 17.

The safety standdown was conducted to reinforce the Navy's standards for motorcycle safety, especially with more motorcycle riders taking to the roads as weather conditions in the region continue to improve.

"There were 34 motorcycle-related deaths in the Navy last year," said Chief Hull Technician Nick Brunney, Ronald Reagan's command motorcycle safety representative. "We want to bring operational risk management to the forefront of Sailor's minds."

The safety standdown brought riders of all skill levels together to help less-experienced riders improve their proficiency. Those in attendance received safety briefs before taking to a slalom course to demonstrate basic motorcycle riding and safety skills.

According to Brunney, rank was of no concern to the riders in attendance.

"It's important we get all the riders together as peers," said Brunney. "The person who might be helping you become more familiar with riding, and therefore a better and safer motorcycle rider, can be junior or senior (in rank) to you."

Capt. Thom Burke, USS Ronald Reagan

commanding officer and a motorcycle rider himself, said attending safety courses like the one held aboard Naval Base Kitsap-Keyport is important for all riders.

"It's imperative to keep everyone in the fold when it comes to motorcycle safety," said Burke. "This critically important training helps riders develop those crucial habit patterns that don't come naturally... and it's those patterns that could end up saving your life."

Machinist's Mate 1st Class Tyrone Perriott, a seven-year motorcyclist, believes courses such as this one are important to instill basic bike-riding skills based on one simple principle-safety.

"We have safety standdowns to give our riders the tools to develop better riding habits and become better riders," said Perriott. "The only way to become more comfortable with riding is with time and practice."

As part of the Navy's motorcycle safety guidelines, Sailors must complete a standardized motorcycle riding course before they ride a motorcycle. The course includes training on how to ride safely, how to ride in traffic, tips on how to react to a myriad of different scenarios, and much more.

"It's important that our Sailors take the course," said Brunney. "It builds camaraderie between shipmates and it helps develop good riding habits. And it's not important to own your own bike before you take the course, because loaner bikes are available for new riders."



Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month



"It is a time to recap the history of Asian-Americans who have fought in America's wars for freedom and a time to educate those who know little of our culture."

**Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuel) 1st Class
Dennis Cabarrubia
Sailor of the Quarter**

Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage

story and photo illustration by
MCSN TRAVIS NICKELL

People come from around the world with the intention of joining the United States Navy. These future Sailors bring their cultures with them when they join, making our service more and more diverse.

This diversity is celebrated many ways throughout the year, with the month of May set aside as Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

USS Ronald Reagan participated in a local event May 14th at the Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton Naval Exchange to recognize our fellow Sailors of Asian and Pacific Islander descent.

The event consisted of a guest speaker, Lt. Cmdr. Phoung M. Lui, traditional Samoan and Filipino dance demonstrations, and food from the respective cultures.

“It’s important for us to continue recognizing the different cultures and heritages that serve on board Ronald Reagan for many reasons,” said Electricians Mate 1st Class Michael Jones, one of Ronald Reagan’s equal opportunity advisors. “These events educate our junior Sailors about how diverse

our command has become.”

Many Asian and Pacific Islanders serve on board Ronald Reagan, and for some, the odds of being able to join the Navy were slim at best.

“I was born and raised in the Philippines,” said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Hilario Gamboa, Ronald Reagan’s Medical Department leading chief petty officer. “Out of 300 people applying to join the Navy when I did, only five were selected and I happened to be one of them.”

Gamboa looked to the Navy as a way to earn a living after the economy in the Philippines took a downturn.

“We all had professional jobs like lawyers and teachers,” said Gamboa. “But then the economy took a turn for the worse. It was a hard life, living in the Philippines at that time.”

For Gamboa as well as many other Asian and Pacific Islanders, their arrival at basic training marked the first time they had ever been in America.

“Joining the Navy was a culture shock,” said Gamboa. “The first time I met an American was in boot camp. I believe it made me a better person, getting to experience new cultures, especially

the American culture.”

Although Gamboa worked hard to acclimate himself to the American way of life, he never forgot his roots. He believes others, no matter what their background or which country they came from before joining the Navy, should do the same.

“You never want to forget where you came from,” said Gamboa. “It’s a part of your life and it reminds you of the importance of all the hard work and skills you have learned. This month in particular is a good way to help Asian and Pacific Islander Sailors remember that.”

Asian and Pacific Islanders hold leadership roles throughout the ship, but junior Sailors impact the crew just as much by sharing their influence in many ways.

“Asian and Pacific Islanders influence the Navy every day, from food choices found on the mess decks, to the hard working attitude they bring to the job each day,” said Personnel Specialist Seaman Melmartin Villoria, who is also a native of the Philippines.

With many Sailors from all around the world, the ship has a plethora of interesting backgrounds. Sailors from countries such as Vietnam are not

heavily represented in the Navy, which makes their contributions even more unique to the mixture of diversity found on board Ronald Reagan.

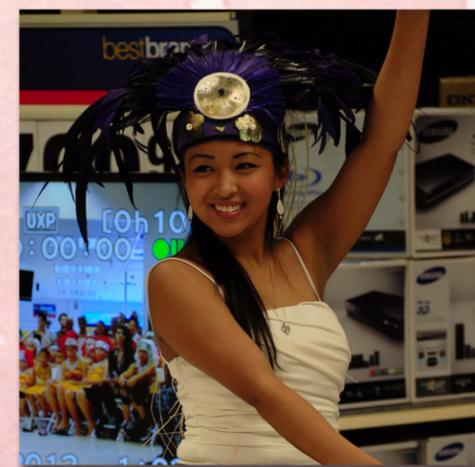
“I moved away from Vietnam when I was 13 years-old,” said Logistic Specialist 1st class Binh Nguyen. “I was in the Junior Recruit Officer Training Corps program in high school and that influenced me to join the military.”

The Navy benefits the lives of almost everyone that enlists, and offers great programs for individuals who just graduated high school.

“I encourage undecided Vietnamese high school students to enlist in the Navy because it will benefit their lives and will help them to succeed,” said Nguyen.

There’s no denying the impact Sailors from different countries, backgrounds, cultures and societies bring to the Navy, and Asian and Pacific Islanders are no different.

“Asians and Pacific Islanders have helped make the Navy what it is today,” said Villoria. “The Navy is going to strengthen our quality of life, and (Asians and Pacific Islanders) will work hard in return.”



REAGAN TAKES THE COOKING CHALLENGE

story and photo illustration by
MCSN CHARLES GADDIS

Sailors assigned to USS Ronald Reagan participated in the 20th Annual Olympic College Foundation Military Culinary Arts Competition in Bremerton, Wash., May 12. Ronald Reagan Sailors placed in many of the categories, which were judged on appearance, taste and presentation. Culinary Specialist Seaman Lakota Harris took first place for his pie presentation and third place for his barbecue ribs. Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Alicia Pruess took second for her garnish presentation and Team Ronald Reagan tied for third in the "Iron Chef" category. A multitude of teams represented seven local commands in the competition; Ronald Reagan, Naval Base Kitsap, Naval Hospital Bremerton, Naval Station Everett, USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), USS Maine (SSBN 74) and Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Prior to competing in the Olympic College event, Ronald Reagan Sailors participated in two culinary arts competitions on board the ship. They used their experience from those competitions as a springboard to success in the contest at Olympic College. "It felt great to get the opportunity to participate in a competition of this level,"

said Culinary Specialist Seaman Matthew Horn, assigned to the Ronald Reagan. "We were prepared to give 100 percent and were very confident in the dishes we prepared." The competition was broken down into eight categories: Iron Chef, pie, decorated cake, garnish, chili, hors d'oeuvres, chicken wings and barbecue ribs. "The competition was superb," said Naval Base Kitsap Commander Capt. Pete Dawson, who also served as a judge for the event. "This competition showcased the ability of our military members, and I look forward to next year's competition." Bremerton Mayor Patty Lent, who also served as a judge for the event, was impressed with the level of expertise displayed by the competitors. "I think each year it gets better," said Lent. "We have expanded to more branches (of the military) and the turn-out was amazing. I love how the civilians interact with the military, and hope it gets stronger." Sailors from Ronald Reagan began to pour in to show their support during the final judging of the competition. "I'm so proud of them even though they have not competed on this level before,"

said Chief Culinary Specialist Lindsay Alvarez, USS Ronald Reagan Food Services leading chief petty officer. "Even though we got into the event pretty much at the last minute, our dishes looked excellent." Ronald Reagan brought several special items to the competition, including a cake shaped like an aircraft carrier, a dinosaur-themed garnish, rainbow pie and lots of motivation. "I personally enjoyed the aircraft carrier cake," said Command Senior Chief Loren Rucker from the Naval Supply Northwest Fleet Logistics Center Puget Sound. "It was fluffy like any cake you would have on a ship, and it reminded us of all the good times aboard a ship." Food service specialists from other branches of the military were also impressed with Team Ronald Reagan's efforts during the competition. "I was pretty amazed to see the time and effort Ronald Reagan put into their food for the competition," said Marine Food Service Specialist Sgt. Chris Hamilton, assigned to Marine Corps Security Forces in Bangor, Wash. "I'm impressed to see the dishes they were able to create while working in the shipyard."

The competition features a few fresh faces every year, with Ronald Reagan joining for the first time this year, placing third in the overall competition. "The creativity and motivation of the junior Sailors is very high, and it shows in their dishes," said Alvarez. "I'm proud to work with this team; they help me enjoy my job more than anything." The Olympic College Foundation Military Culinary Arts Competition is more than just a competition; it is also a training tool that boosts the morale of the participants and their commands. "The competition is not completely to see who is better, but more of a learning experience," said Chef Steve Lammers, senior chef instructor at Olympic College. "I'm very proud of the Ronald Reagan for competing and send my support. I know their job is to defend our country, and for them to come to the competition with this level of motivation shows a great deal of leadership support from the command."



A Day at the ZOO



story and photo illustration by
MCSN DERRICK BRADY

A day at the zoo reminds everyone about the little kid inside all of us. It takes us back to more innocent times, before we knew of life on board a ship.

A couple weeks ago, I made a weekend trip into Seattle to check out the Woodland Park Zoo. I highly recommend taking a cab to and from the ferry because it is quite a hike if you decide to hoof it on foot. It took me about 3 hours to walk to the zoo, so learn from my mistake.

Now before I get too far into talking about the zoo please be aware that this zoo is smaller than most zoos in larger cities. Basically, don't expect the San Diego Zoo.

The zoo itself was very nice. It was well maintained, very informative, the exhibits looked great, and had many beautiful areas to have a picnic with your family or friends. It's also great for those with little ones who are looking for something to do over the weekend. There is plenty for them to see in a short time frame.

There are tons of places for pit-stops, whether it's for food and a restroom break. There are some quick restaurants in the zoo to grab chow if you didn't bag your lunch, but be warned their prices are a little higher than other places right outside the zoo.

My experience at the zoo was decent but I think it suffered from two key issues. One was the lack of actually seeing animals. This might be in part to many of the animals just waking up from hibernation.

The second issue was the sheer lack of animals in general. I was expecting to see more and to spend more than an hour walking around the zoo. There were no reptiles to be seen, no sea animals, and not a large variety of animals at the zoo.

So if you are looking for something to do but don't want to spend a whole lot of time doing it then I recommend checking out the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle. The best part is you get \$5 off each ticket for yourself and up to six other family members with your military ID.



HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK?



LET MWR PICK YOU UP



BUS ROUTE

- A McClouds
- B J&R Tavern
- C Our Place Pub and Eatery
- D Old Town Bistro Martini and Wine
- E 19th Hole Tavern
- F Horse and Cow Bar and Grill





**Chief Boatswain's Mate
Jose Padilla**

San Diego, Calif.

“Dedication and perseverance helped me make chief, but it was my Sailors’ success that made me a chief.”



USS RONALD REAGAN

