



1943 - 1978

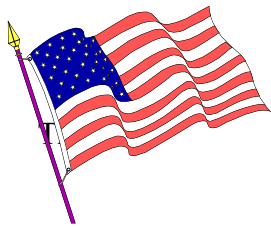
# Abnaki Courier

November 2018

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**NOW HEAR THIS!!**

## **2018 REUNION**

Our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual ABNAKI Reunion was held in Henderson, Nevada. Our Host was Frank Cardoza and his lovely wife Sally. We had a GREAT time. Thanks Frank and Sally!!

On Thursday, September 20, 2018, we toured the Las Vegas Distillery. “We love what we are doing....Bourbon Whiskey is my American Dream.” George Racz, Nevada’s first Bourbon Whiskey Maker and Founder of the Las Vegas Distillery. The Distillery is the first distillery in Nevada after Prohibition and the only craft spirits manufacturer in the Las Vegas Valley. All spirits are made in-house.

The Distillery is a great local story about passion for craft and “Never Give Up!” attitude of a first generation Hungarian American Family, born in the Western part of Romania, of Transylvania. Yes, that is Transylvania....so please do not come after the sun goes down, there’s a lot of blood sucking going on and the distillery is full of Vampires....!!

The Distillery’s two pot stills, Rose and Swan are the Las Vegas Copper Angels. The story of the Copper Angels goes back to George’s Grandpa, who was George, as George’s Father and his Son. George says: “We are a very boring family, everybody was George!”

The distillery is a Happy Place! George is a hilarious and friendly man that will give you a tour of their facility and you will learn about what is in the different types of hard alcohol. He also gives you information about the history of Vegas and tells different stories that tie to his business. After the tour we tried a variety of Vodkas, Whiskeys and Moon Shine along with a catered lunch. George and Sid Kindler are the Best! The Distillery dogs are Honey and Clayton.

Friday, we went to the Mob Museum. This place is amazing!! I don’t care how many hours you have to spend there, it is NOT enough!! The Museum is three stories with a basement. The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1919, banned the manufacture and sale of alcohol. At the stroke of a pen, centuries old customs became illegal, dividing Americans along ethnic regional and religious lines. Bootleggers, rum runners and the Mob seized the opportunity to, as they boasted “Give the people what they want”. The Prohibition Era ended in 1933, with the passage of the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. After repeal, mobsters invested their ill-gotten proceeds. Some, such as New Jersey kingpin Longie Zwillman went into the legal booze business. Others turned to the usual Mob rackets of illegal gambling, prostitution, loan sharking, narcotics and murder-for-hire. They also bankrolled various legitimate businesses, notoriously furnishing the seed money that practically created Las Vegas and its multi-billion dollar casino tourism industry. Las Vegas Casino’s were a source of millions in illicit “skimmed” cash for various Mafia families well into the 70’s. As Law enforcement cracked down, mobsters turned their eyes to Las Vegas. Las Vegas was regarded as an “open city” meaning that only one crime syndicate could dominate the town. What are the odds? A city sprouts in the desert and becomes a global capital of gambling and entertainment.

The legalization of gambling and the construction of the Hoover Dam, Las Vegas grew from a frontier outpost to a resort mecca, built by gamblers, second-chance dreamers and the Mob. For Mobsters, murder was a frequent solution to their internal conflicts. Gruesome violence was a part of Mob Life, exacting a terrible toll on individuals, families and despite Bugsy Siegel's assertion that "We only kill each other" – innocent bystanders. The St. Valentine's Day Massacre in 1929 in Chicago remains one of the darkest moments in Mob history. Seven members and associates of Bugs Moran's gang were lined up against a brick wall and shot to death by assassins allegedly associated with Al Capone's gang. Not all Capone's were on the wrong side of the law. After changing his name to Richard Hart, Al Capone's oldest brother became a Prohibition Agent in Nebraska. The names, faces and backgrounds vary. The dates span a century or more. The crimes range from bootlegging to betting, drug trafficking to murder. Each story is different, yet there is a common thread. Men, and occasionally women, lured by loot, ensnared in a complex web of crime that offered short-term gratification but seldom brought lasting rewards. A wall of infamy, profiting the most notorious figures for more than 100 years of Mob history. Many people don't realize it was, in fact, the IRS who put some of the most infamous mobsters behind bars! No longer centered in neighborhoods, cities or regions, contemporary crime networks extend across national borders and their illegal activities make the news daily. From trafficking in exotic species to engaging in cyber-scams, crime syndicates routinely cross both physical and digital borders to execute their elaborate schemes.

We had lunch at the Leatherneck Club. This famous club is a Marine club with wall to wall Marine memorabilia from World War I to the present. It was very interesting to see and the food was awesome also!!

Attendees:

Richard and Marilyn Beaver

Lacey and Debra Brunmeier

Adolph and Barbara Channel

Joe and Tom Columbara

Jim and Barbara Gallo

Steven M. and Peggy Henry

Art Holstein

Cecilia Kingsley (W)

Darrel Plank

James and Donna Thompson

Charles (Jack) and Bonnie Bowie

Frank and Sally Cardoza

Bunnie Clark (W)

Gary and Nancy Ferber

Steve and Mary Gonzales

Judy Hinrichs (W)

Alvin and Sharon Hrubes

James and Deb Manley

Ed Richardson

Jacqueline and Sara Vaughn

I am really happy with the number of attendees. We had a great time!! Each evening we did meet in the Hospitality room to swap stories and maybe a game of Farkle or two. We missed our regular players and hope to see you next year. Lacey, you can't play anymore! Just kidding!

The raffle was a great success this year. We raised quite a bit for our 2019 Reunion. A great big THANK YOU to all who donated to the raffle and silent auction. I would also like to give a shout out to our Widows, you are very special to us and contribute so much to our Reunions. Remember all activities listed on our registration forms are free for you. I hope to see more of you attend in 2019.

Richard Beaver will host the 2019 Reunion. I am waiting to hear from him with more information that I can pass on to you.

Ever wonder why Veterans Day is on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November and does not change? World War I ended on the 11<sup>th</sup> month of the 11<sup>th</sup> day at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. A man selling poppies stopped a lady and asked if he could re-position her poppy. While doing so he told that lady she should wear the poppy on the right side; the red represents the blood of all those who gave their lives, the black represents the mourning of those who didn't have their loved ones return home, and the green leaf, the grass and crops growing and future prosperity after the war destroyed so much. The leaf should be positioned at 11 o'clock to represent the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. He was worried that younger generations wouldn't understand this and his generation wouldn't be around for much longer to teach them. We must remember those from our current wars too!! Remember Veterans Day, and those who served to keep our country free. All gave some, but, some gave all.

#### MEANING OF A FLAG DRAPED COFFIN

All Americans should be given this lesson. Those who think that American is an arrogant nation should really reconsider that thought. Our founding fathers used God's work and teachings to establish our Great Nation and I think it's time Americans get re-educated about this Nation's history. Pass it along and be proud of the country we live in an even more proud of those who serve to protect our "God Given" rights and freedoms. I hope you read this, to understand what the flag draped coffin really means...this is how to understand the flag that laid upon it and is surrendered to so many widows and widowers.

Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776? (Which was the year our Nation was founded).

Have you ever noticed the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The 1<sup>st</sup> fold of the flag is a symbol of life.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4<sup>th</sup> fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war, for His divine guidance.

The 5<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right but it is still our country, right or wrong".

The 6<sup>th</sup> fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of the republic.

The 8<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters, for the defense of their country, since they were first born.

The 11<sup>th</sup> fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12<sup>th</sup> fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christian eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13<sup>th</sup> fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their nation's motto, "In God We Trust".

After the flag is folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, priveleges and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

In the meantime, may God protect us always.

ONE NATION, UNDER GOD, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.



The Las Vegas Copper Angel



George Racz, owner and distiller, Las Vegas Distillery

**From Jackie Vaughn, Storekeeper:** I will be establishing a new vendor for the hats, shirts and jackets. The link below is to their website for the different apparel items they offer, there is no minimum order for their embroidery service. If you click on the vendor link it allows you to choose the style or hat, shirt, polo, etc. that you like. If someone wants to order an item they can go online, pick out what they want and can contact me, I will take care of ordering for them, pick up and shipping or delivering to them. For those Abnaki members that do not have access to the internet can call me with what they are looking for and I will take care of ordering for them. I will bring a limited supply of shirts and hats to the reunion this year and if you have anything special you are looking for let me know. Polos with left chest embroidery usually run around \$23 and up depending on the style. Embroidered hats generally \$14-\$16. Windbreakers with linings may be around \$30ish.

You can visit the website at [www.otseonline.com](http://www.otseonline.com) Click “link” on the tool bar to get a list of apparel suppliers we have accounts with. You can visit their latest catalogs on-line and search various styles. If you would like a price on anything jot down the name of the catalog and style number and email me a request for pricing.

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USS ABNAKI Crew

Las Vegas, NV 2018





Deb and James Manley



Charles (Jack) and Bonnie Bowie



Steve and Mary Gonzales



Hospitality Room



Joe Gallo



Richardson, Beaver and Cardoza

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



USS Abnaki (ATF 96)

If the last line on your address label is not (2019) 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.

Send dues (\$15.00) to: Art Holstein – 2201 Eshcol Ave – Zion, IL 60099

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