



USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76)

NEWSPAPER NAME WINNERS: AS2 Michael Mack SKSN Christopher Conner DKSA Steven Haywood

June 17, 2004 Vol. 1 Issue 7

Crew Holds Memorial for Reagan

by **JO1(SW) Sean Linvill**
Staff Writer

The crew of USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) held a memorial ceremony for their

ship's namesake, Tuesday, on the ship's flight deck.

During the memorial, Ronald Reagan's Ceremonial Guard fired a 21-gun salute

and presented the ship's commanding officer with a shadow box holding the U.S. flag flown from the ship's mast June 5. Fifty additional Sailors volunteered for a state flag detail, which became the backdrop for the ceremony.

The ceremony gave the Sailors a chance to pay their respects and mourn the loss of the 40th president of the United States.

"President Ronald Reagan was a hero," said Capt. James Symonds, Ronald Reagan commanding officer as he began his address to the crew. "He came to office at a time when I used to wonder if the presidency was just too hard... it seemed hard for anybody to get it right, but he made it look easy."

Symonds went on to tell the crew that President Reagan brought a renewed sense of pride to America during his White House years.

"He knew what was great about America," said Symonds. "He said it loudly to everyone -- first to us Americans and then to the rest of the world."

After the crew found out

President Reagan had died, they began writing their condolences in a special book on the mess decks to send to Mrs. Reagan and her family.

Mrs. Reagan is the ship's sponsor, and gave the order for the crew to "man the ship and bring her to life" during the ship's commissioning in July.

"When she christened

this ship, she gave birth to a new family," said ABHI(AW) Cameron Fisher, ceremonial guard member. "We will come home, her husbands spirit will come home aboard the ship that bears his name."

Although the ship no longer carries the distinction of being named after a living president, his vision, character and legacy will live on in the hearts of the Sailors on board.

Sawicki: A Volunteer's Heart

By **JO2 Paul Simonds**

Staff Writer

Alec Baldwin who played the role of Col. Jimmy Doolittle in the 1998 film Pearl Harbor, said, "You can never underestimate the heart of a volunteer."

Epitomizing that sentiment is SH1 (SW/AW) Luke Sawicki, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) night laundry supervisor.

He received a package from Geico Auto Insurance, which named him the 2003 National Safety Award finalist just as Ronald Reagan pulled into Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 9. A Department of the Navy gold watch, a Geico shirt and a certificate were in the package.

Hailing from Sandwich, Ill., Sawicki said he has proudly served his country for more than 20 years. As a ship's serviceman, his job provides him an opportunity to serve his shipmates everyday. But how Sawicki spends his free time really sets him apart from many people in the Navy.

Sawicki reported to USS Ronald Reagan in July 2002 with one goal in mind.

"I wanted to bring the ship to life," he said.

Sawicki requested orders to Ronald Reagan because President Ronald Reagan was his role model growing up. Had the Navy not offered him orders to be the Navy's newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, he probably would have left the Navy he said.

"President Reagan was the best president of my lifetime," Sawicki said. "I thought of Reagan as a mentor."

Sawicki recalled moving to Ohio with his family as a
Volunteer ... Cont. on page 4



by PHAN Kevin O'Brien

AO1 Joe Swartout and PNC William Evans present the ship's National Ensign, which was flying the day of former President Ronald Reagan's death, during a remembrance memorial for the former president.

In This Edition

NKO
Page 2
Main Event
Page 2
Reader's Choice
Page 3

Sailors of the Day
Page 4
New York Times
Insert

Main Event

Lance Armstrong: Enough is enough

by JO2 Paul Simonds

Staff Writer

The problem with sports figures is people are always looking for the negative aspect in them.

Michael Jordan is labeled as a gambling fanatic.

Mark McGwire is labeled as a steroid user.

Tiger Woods is labeled as a jerk. The list goes on and on.

Anytime an athlete climbs the mountain of success, there are a handful of reporters and fans lining up to tear him down.

But now it's gone too far!

The book "L.A. Confidential, the Secrets of Lance Armstrong," co-written by David Walsh, London Sunday Times sports reporter, and Pierre Ballester, cite

a former staff member on Armstrong's team saying the U.S. cyclist asked her to dispose of used syringes and lend him makeup to conceal needle marks on his arms.

Before we go any further, it should be noted Armstrong has repeatedly denied use of any banned substance and never tested positive.

Armstrong has dominated the cycling world winning five straight Tour de France races.

Oh ... and by the way, he found time to recover from testicular cancer as well.

Armstrong is a true American hero.

He has worked hard his entire life to achieve greatness in his field, overcome obstacles most can't even imagine and still maintain his level of

excellence.

He has always been a gentleman in front of the cameras, and has donating millions of dollars to charities.

As far as I am concerned, this is nothing more than jealousy from a bitter group of people who are tired of seeing the American cyclist dominate a sport usually dominated by Europeans.

A spokesman for Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service team (USPS), Jogi Muller, said Walsh was seeking "personal revenge" against the cyclist.

The heart of the accusations come from Emma O'Reilly, who worked for three and a half years as Armstrong's masseur, physical therapist and personal assistant.

A USPS spokesman

confirmed O'Reilly was a past employee but declined additional comment.

According to the reporters, O'Reilly accuses Armstrong of using the banned substance EPO (erythropoietin), which helps endurance athletes by boosting concentrations of red-blood cells.

Until Armstrong tests positive for a banned substance and found guilty in a court of law, the man is innocent.

Really ... it's okay for someone to be a great athlete and a good guy at the same time.

If he were to pop positive, he would pay the consequences.

But until then, look for Armstrong to win his sixth straight Tour de France later this month.

NKO: Navy's One Stop Shop for Careers

by JO1(AW) Lori Sawyer

Staff Writer

USS Ronald Reagan Sailors now have the opportunity to work on warfare qualifications, take college classes and complete correspondence courses on the Web while chatting with Sailors worldwide.

The doorway is just a Web page away and available to all Department of the Navy active duty Sailors, reservist, retirees and civilians.

Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) is the new generation for our future leaders," said LN2 Rosa Laturno, Legal department.

"It offers sailors helpful applications that can assist them whether they choose to stay in the military or return to the civilian sector."

After Sailors create an account, they have the ability to take control of their career in ways the Navy has never offered before.

One key feature of NKO is the 5 Vector Model (5VM), which gives Sailors an in-depth look at career development opportunities.

It diagrams different career paths, future duty assignments and educational opportunities.

The 5VM feature is not currently available to all.

NKO is working to make this tool available to all users in the near future.

NKO also provides several different types of communication.

Some communication methods used include chat rooms, instant messenger and forums.

"I have used the chat rooms to talk to others while away from home," said Laturno. "These tools offer a new level of communication with Navy counterparts."

Users have access to educational and technical assistance related to specific jobs.

NKO is a warehouse of off-duty education including SMART transcripts, medical libraries and e-learning for all users.

E-learning offers foreign language courses, computer programming courses and practice tests for college aptitude exams.

NKO is a valuable resource every Sailor can take advantage of to further their career and marketability in the military as well as the civilian sector.

NKO is a convenient one-stop environment to take advantage while underway and after reaching San Diego.



Commanding Officer
Capt. James Symonds

Executive Officer
Capt. Andres Brugal

Command Master Chief
CMDM (SW/AW)
Kathy Hansen

Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Suzanna Cigna

Assistant Public Affairs Officer
JOCS (SW)
Donna Corvin

Managing Editor
JO1 Shane Montgomery

Editor
JO3 Robbie Thomas

Staff Writers
JO1(SW) Sean Linvill
JO1 (AW) Lori Sawyer
IC1 Michael Helke
JO2 Shane Tuck
JO2 Paul Simonds
AN Heather Beckham

Photographic and printing support is provided by CVN 76 Steel Horse Imaging



This newspaper is an authorized publication for military members on board USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Contents of The Great Communicator are not the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the United States Navy.

Reader's Choice...

What Actor Would you Want to Be?



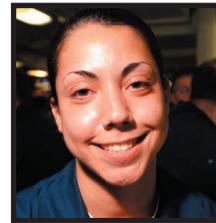
AME1 Maricris Granada
"Angelina Jolie"



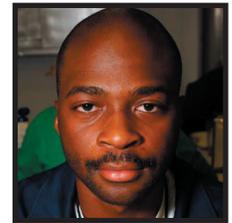
FC2 Elias Espino
"Roger Moore"



IC2 Walter Fitzpatrick
"James Dean"



SA Kelly OrtizRodriguez
"Mariah Carey"



SH3 Jeremy Williams
"Vin Diesel"

Reel Time

Total Recall

with "The Helke"

Tonight on Channel 2

Total Recall is an old-school, Sci-Fi action thriller directed by Paul Verhoeven. Douglas Quaid (Arnold Schwarzenegger) and his wife Lori (Sharon Stone) live dream lives until the twisted story of "Who am I, and why are you chasing me" begins. Quaid must find himself and then choose between good and evil. Then ... it's time to save Mars from total destruction!



Made in an era when digital-special effects were nonexistent, movies such as this captured our minds with a great story and intense action. There was no "Morphing," "Bullet Time" or crazy computer editing. Back then effects could be made with a box of sand and a burning paper plate on a string. Maybe you could find the occasional robotic arm. It was tricky cool!

Cut back to the story -- Quaid thinks he's hunky-dory, but he's having crazy dreams. He eventually goes to get his brain noodled

ACTING = B
DIRECTING = C+
STORYLINE = A-
CAMERA WORK = B-
OVERALL = B

by a company who gives virtual vacations. After the "awakening," his life goes insane in the membrane. His wife tries to kill him and he desperately needs to find out why.

After working with a freedom-fighting group on Mars, he discovers he was... wait, I'm not going to spoil it, watch the movie yourself!

The action starts right out of the gate and keeps on running.

There are gunfights, fistfights and guys with babies popping out of their stomachs. There is also the suspense of trying to figure out what's going to happen. What more could you ask for? No, no more Star Trek for you, you Frodo wannabe!

Total Recall is a time-tested flick that commands your attention. Why? Because I say so! So tune in today to channel two, lest I bend your mind to my will with my Dark Jedi powers.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

JO2 Symond's recent article concerning NASCAR has really struck a cord with me. He talked about how there is no athletic ability in NASCAR, he specifically mentioned driving fast on an interstate which for the most part is in a straight line or only minor turns. Has he ever tried to turn

his car through a corner at an intersection at 180 miles per hour?

He said that race car drivers are not athletes ... Race car drivers don't have the luxury of commercial time outs or even regular time outs. All they have are pit stops and caution flags. The average pit stop, from the time the driver slows to enter pit road, to the time they get the car back to maximum speed, takes an average of 1 to 1.5 minutes.

A racecar driver's workout regimen is just as demanding as any football player's, basketball player's or baseball player's. The only difference is that a race car driver sits in a race car covered head to toe in fire proof gear and a helmet so that the only skin showing is their nose and the skin around their eyes which is covered by a visor. The cars have no air conditioning -- only a fan to blow air on their face.

The average temperature in the car during a race is between 100 to 110 degrees. I challenge him to go put

on an FFE and SCBA and sit in a sauna for 4 hours straight with only water to drink and see how you feel afterward.

-- NASCAR Fan

Dear NASCAR Fan,

Thank you for your response to our sports commentary on NASCAR.

We publish a variety of articles in each issue of *The Great Communicator*, including controversial sports articles. Our hope is to generate discussion and generally create an opportunity to escape, if even for a few moments, from the day-to-day grind we all experience underway.

Our "Main Event" articles are not the opinion of the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy or the command.

We hope no one is actually offended by our articles, but our expectations are to stir up your thoughts as they relate to the world of sports. Therefore, NASCAR is a real sport. Okay, are you happy? Can we have our journalist back? We are really going to need him for the next paper. All joking aside, tahnk you for the letter.

--Editor

Today's Movies

Channel 2

- Top Gun
- Rambo: First Blood
- Austin Powers
- Blade 2
- Mr. Deeds
- One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest
- Total Recall
- Empire

Channel 4

- Ace Ventura: Pet Detective
- Ghostbusters
- Freddy vs. Jason
- Wild Things
- Underworld
- Texas Chainsaw Massacre
- 12 Monkeys

Spanish Lessons...

"Como se llama"

"What's your name"

Volunteer

Continued from front page

young man. He remembers witnessing a state steeped in unemployment.

Sawicki said within the first term of Reagan's presidency, he saw the unemployment rate drop substantially.

As a result, the 40th president of the United States holds a very special place in his heart.

Sawicki has dedicated his life to serving and giving back to the community because of, not only Reagan, but his family as well.

"My father served in the Navy and in the Marine Corps," he said.

Sawicki, a geographical bachelor and father of three, is certified as a defensive driving instructor.

After checking on board Ronald Reagan, he approached the Safety department and volunteered to teach the defensive driving course.

Throughout 2003, Sawicki taught the class

twice a week with an average of 30 students in attendance.

"I don't think people have to die stupidly," Sawicki said. "I don't teach people how to drive, I just reiterate what they already know."

Though Sawicki has been recognized nationally for his efforts as an instructor, he is also one of the current Hampton, Va., Firemen of the Year.

After Hurricane Isabelle swept across Hampton in September 2003, Sawicki, along with 14 volunteers worked around the clock for three days.

They did everything from cutting down tree branches to feeding people in shelters.

"Normally, they give the award to one person, but this year they gave it to all 14 of us," he said proudly. "Fire fighting is my passion."

Sawicki has channeled that passion to help others



by PHAN Konstandinos Goumenidis

SH1 Luther, Sawicki, of Sandwich, Ill., sews a Ronald Reagan patch on coveralls. Geico Auto Insurance recently named Sawicki the finalist for the 2003 National Safety Award.

on Ronald Reagan as well.

"I think during the pre-commissioning portion of this ship, I helped qualify more than 400 people in damage control," he said.

Sawicki plans to continue volunteering his time when the ship pulls in to its new homeport in San Diego.

"In San Diego, I am going to volunteer my time at a burn ward and work with kids," Sawicki said.

He would volunteer at a local firehouse; however, according to Sawicki, in San Diego, the fire departments don't usually accept volunteers.

Sawicki's desire to help others has been constant throughout his naval career.

Now his main goal is to inspire his people in his work center.

Sawicki said he would love to see some of the

young Sailors on board Ronald Reagan spend less time playing video games and spend some time reading books or volunteering.

However Sawicki decides to keep himself busy throughout the remainder of his naval career, based on his track record, it will surely be helping others. After all ... that's what he loves the most.

<p>June 14 Sailor of the Day SH3 Chiquita Davison</p>  <p><i>Your favorite place to visit?</i> My mother back home.</p> <p><i>What is your favorite book?</i> The Other Woman</p> <p><i>What did you do before the Navy?</i> Worked for the "Grand" Casino</p> <p><i>What is your favorite song?</i> "Confessions" by Usher</p> <p><i>Who do you hold responsible for your success?</i> God and my mother</p> <p><i>What's piece of advice would you pass on to others?</i> Strive to do your best. Never let anyone take your joy.</p> <p><i>Dept: Security/SF-2</i> <i>What is your job title?</i> Security Dispatch</p> <p><i>Where are you from?</i> Gulfport, Miss</p> <p><i>Why did you join the Navy? So I could save funds for school.</i></p>	<p>June 15 Sailor of the Day SN Brian Driscoll</p>  <p><i>you joined the Navy?</i> Worked at Home Depot / College</p> <p><i>Your favorite place to visit?</i> Devil's Lake</p> <p><i>Your favorite movie?</i> Evil Dead 2</p> <p><i>What is your favorite book?</i> Watchers</p> <p><i>What is your favorite song?</i> "One" by Metallica</p> <p><i>What inspires you?</i> Dad</p> <p><i>What would you consider your strongest asset?</i> Very persistent</p> <p><i>What piece of advice would you pass on to others?</i> Set goals and reach them. Don't take "no" as an answer.</p> <p><i>Dept: Deck</i> <i>Job Title:</i> deck seaman</p> <p><i>Where are you from?</i> Foxlake, Ill.</p> <p><i>Why did you join the Navy? Education and training.</i> <i>What did you do before</i></p>	<p>June 16 Sailor of the Day HM3 William Kearns</p>  <p><i>visit?</i> Myrtle Beach</p> <p><i>Your favorite movie?</i> Dogma</p> <p><i>What is your favorite song? Let There be Rock by AC/DC</i></p> <p><i>What inspires you? Helping people and seeing their faces afterwards.</i> <i>Who do you hold responsible for your success?</i> My parents</p> <p><i>What's your favorite quote?</i> "You'll end up eating a steady diet of government cheese and living in a van down by the river."</p> <p><i>Dept: Medical</i> <i>Job Title: Sick Call</i> HM</p> <p><i>Where are you from?</i> Pittsburgh, Pa.</p> <p><i>Why did you join the Navy? To become a doctor.</i> <i>Your favorite place to</i></p>
--	--	--