

OBITUARY – MR. WILLIAM R. KREH, AUTHOR OF THIS COLUMN, DIES

William Richard Kreh, 76, retired editor of the *Navy Times* newspaper and recipient of the U.S. Navy's highest civilian award, died on 19 Oct. 2004 at the Casey House, a hospice, after a long illness. He produced this "In The News" page for the Naval Reserve Association for almost 18 years.

Mr. Kreh was born 27 Jan. 1928 in Highland Park, IL. From 1946-47, he served in the U.S. Navy where he learned journalism. Honorably discharged, he married the late Beverly Ann Kreh and settled in Montgomery County in 1948 to raise four children.

A journalist, he worked 31 years for the Army Times Publishing Company. He rose through the ranks of the *Navy Times* to become its editor-in-chief. When Mr. Kreh retired in 1985, the U.S. Navy bestowed upon him its Distinguished Public Service Award. He continued after retirement to write a column "News Notes" for the *Naval Reserve Association News*. He authored a book, *Citizen Sailors, the Story of the Naval Reserve*, published in 1969.

He belonged to the Naval Reserve Association, Navy League of the United States, the U.S. Naval Institute, and the Naval and Maritime Correspondents Circle, and was an honorary member and longtime supporter of the Navy Band. He gained national recognition for his efforts to memorialize the *USS UTAH* at Pearl Harbor.

He was devoted to his wife of 42 years, the former Beverly Ann Manley, who died in Feb. 1990. They are survived by their four children: William James Kreh and wife, Laurie, of Silver Spring, MD; David Richard Kreh of Ramona, CA; Deborah Lynn Isard of Gaithersburg; and Donna Marie Greenleaf and husband, Robert, of Cambridge, MD; and seven grandchildren: Patricia, Christina, and Sarah Kreh; Megan and Ashleigh Isard; Tad and Rachel Greenleaf. Mr. Kreh also is survived by a sister Ethel Cubrda of Kalispell, MT.

Mr. Kreh enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, hosting family holiday gatherings, poker parties with the neighbors, watching classic movies and ice hockey, doing crossword puzzles, spoiling the family dogs and cats, and learning to surf the net. He will be remembered for his kind, gentle nature and his willingness to help and forgive others.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation; 701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW; Washington, DC 20004 or to Montgomery County Hospice's Casey House; 6001 Muncaster Mill Rd.; Rockville, MD 20855.

PENTAGON TO TRANSFER MILITARY HEALTH WORKERS

The Defense Department plans to transfer thousands of uniformed health care personnel out of their positions in military medical facilities over the next few years and replace them with civilian workers or contractors. The initiative is part of a larger Pentagon effort to reassign military members to jobs that are more directly tied to warfighting and national security, leaving the tasks they had been performing to civil servants or private contractors, or eliminating the positions. The plan could bring important changes in the way the Defense Health Program provides medical and dental care to 8.9 million active members of the military, their dependents, and military retirees. The changes are expected to affect thousands of doctors, dentists, nurses, administrators, and ancillary staff employed in a network of 75 military hospitals and 461 military clinics. What will not change, officials contend, is the quality and level of care provided in a system that employs 40,648 civilians and 91,917 military members, with a current budget of \$17.3 billion.

NAVY PLANS TO BUY FEWER SHIPS

The Navy is proposing significant cuts in its shipbuilding program that could batter the already struggling industry. The proposal comes as top Pentagon officials consider shifting the military's focus from preparing for large-scale warfare to training more specialized forces for guerilla warfare, long-term peacekeeping, and counterterrorism efforts. The Navy's proposal would provide funds to build only four ships in 2006, compared with nine planned for 2005, according to a Defense official who spoke only on condition of anonymity because the budget proposal hasn't been made public. The plan would also delay production of a new generation of destroyers.

MEDICARE 2005 RATES

On 3 Sep. 2004, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the 2005 Medicare premium, deductible, and coinsurance amounts to be paid by Medicare beneficiaries. For Medicare Part A, the program that pays for inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facilities, and some home health care, the deductible paid by the beneficiary when admitted will be \$912, up from \$876 in 2004.

RESERVE UNIT ACTIVATED

A Rhode Island-based Naval Reserve unit has been called to active duty. The 33 Reservists were assigned to the Inshore Boat Unit 21, an armed small boat that'll be used to support warfare security operations in coastal regions worldwide. The sailors left the first week of September 2004. The activation will last for one year. The Reservists came from Massachusetts and New Hampshire, in addition to Maine and Rhode Island.

PENTAGON 9/11 MEMORIAL DELAYED

The plan was to dedicate the Pentagon memorial this past 11 Sep. but ground has not even been broken. It may be the fall of 2005 before any dedication will take place. To date, about \$2.9 million has been raised of the estimated \$17.9 million required. To make a donation, visit their Web site at <www.pentagonmemorial.net> or call 800-929-4911.

RESERVE PAO OFFICER SURPRISED BY HIS PROMOTION TO LIEUTENANT COMMANDER

Currently in the IRR, LT John Oliveira was "baffled" over his promotion because he has been a very public dissenter of the U. S. war effort in Iraq. He left active duty on 31 Jan. after having twice failed selection to LCDR.

CNRF SHARES VISION OF FULLY INTEGRATED NAVY

VADM John Cotton met with more than 100 Sailors during a town hall meeting at Naval Air Reserve Norfolk, VA, on 21 Aug. Cotton discussed the changes the Navy plans to instill in the Navy's Reserve Component, and emphasized that Active and Reserve Components are on the same team. "We have polarized the terms 'us' and 'them,'" Cotton said. "We are thinking of new ways to integrate and to support the Navy's Active Component." One change with the integration will be the uniformity of ID cards. Cotton, who is on a four-year recall, held up his ID card and said, "Mine says, 'active duty.' So, I am proud to say, next month, all card stock issued will say 'Navy.'" This will save the Navy millions of dollars and time spent changing ID cards during the mobilization process. According to Cotton, as the Navy plans to get smaller, it will get more effective and efficient. ↓