



# “LEAKY T” News

## The Newsletter of the U. S. S. Tolovana AO-64 “WE CARRY THE LOAD”

First Edition published Spring-Summer 2002



### WINTER Edition No. 16

**Dedicated to the deceased and living members  
of the best Fleet Oiler in the U. S. Navy.**

July 1969 – July 1975 NAS, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Base Security, Crash Boats, Base Security (Duty C.O. - P.) Advanced to HT1c.

August 1975 – August 1978 USS Fulton (AS-11) New London, CT. R-1 Div. Shops 11 and 26B.

Sept 1978 – Sept. 1979, USS Direct (MSO 430) Charleston, SC, Qualified ESWS, Qualified C.D.O. Advanced to HTC.

Oct 1979 – Oct 1981, USS Canopus (AS-34) NWS Charleston, SC, R-1 Div Shop 17, R – 6 Assistant Div Officer, Fire Marshall.

Oct 1981 – Oct 1985, USS Alamogordo (ARDM-2) NWS, Charleston, SC. Qualified Dockmaster, Command Senior Chief, Advanced to HTCS.

October 1985 – July 1988, FMWTC Charleston, SC Instructor, Damage Control and Fire Fighting.

July 1988 – July 1991, USS Alamogordo (ARDM-2) Advanced to HTCM,

### Congratulations to a “T” Shipmate

On October 30, 2011, Fred Bolz was installed as President of the Southeast Region of the Fleet Reserve Association. He was elected September 2011 at the Regional Convention in Chattanooga, TN. He was installed in Kansas City, MO at the FRA National Convention and will hold the position until the next national convention in Reno, NV in October of 2012.

Frederick G. Bolz entered the Navy Feb, 1965, and took his Boot Training at Great Lakes, IL. Following his “Boots” he went to a number of duty stations, including the following -

USS Tolovana (AO-64) Aug 1965 – April 1969 SA to DC2c, Deck and Cargo Divs.

INACTSHIPMAINTFAC Phil, PA June, 1969 – June, 1971 Inspections Dept. Rate change from DC2c to HT2c.

Dockmaster, Docking Officer, Command Master Chief.

August 1991 – January 1993, USS Sierra (AD-18), Assistant R-1 Div. Officer, Assistant Safety Officer.

Retired with twenty-eight years of service, January 31, 1993.

After retirement, worked for Charleston County, SC first as a Detention Officer Sheriff's Dept and as a Maintenance Tech II from March 1993 until retirement in Oct 2008.

Various civilian activities engaged: LT Goose Creek Rural Vol. Fire Dept., Member Berkeley County Rural Fire Control Board, Adopt-A-Highway project.

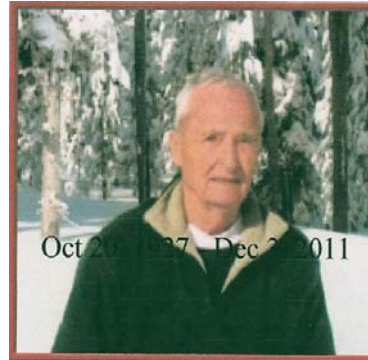
Fraternal Organizations: V.F.W., American Legion, Fleet Reserve Association. Presently Regional President Southeast Fleet.

Navy Medals:

Navy Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit (2), Battle "E" (6), Good Conduct (6), National Defense (2), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Navy), Viet Nam Service (5), Southwest Asia Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Viet Nam Campaign Medal, Expert Pistol with E

Congratulations to Fred for his Naval and other achievements.

## Joseph Kochis



HAMILTON - Joseph Kochis died peacefully Saturday afternoon December 3, 2011, at Marcus Daly Hospice following a short illness.

Joseph Loring Kochis was born to Joseph and Mary Kochis in Long Beach, California, October 20, 1927. His family moved often, while his father worked construction across southern California, eventually settling in Grass Valley where Joe graduated from high school.

He enlisted in the navy for two tours of duty, at the end of WWII in 1945 aboard the destroyer escort USS Weber as a machinist, and in the Korean War on the oil tanker USS Tolovana. His family never tired of his stories about his extensive travels around the world.


With the GI bill, he attended Placer Junior College and studied electronics and general studies. Soon afterwards he met his future wife, Shirley Price, at a St Patrick's Day dance and they married in 1952.

For the next 12 years he worked at Western Regional Research Lab in Albany as a stationary engineer before accepting a transfer in 1965 to Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton. He always considered this move as one of the best decisions he ever made for his family and of course it was. He retired from the lab in 1982.

Joe thoroughly loved working on his farm and was known for his prize winning Gelbvieh bulls. He took great care of his animals and was recognized by the Bitterroot Humane Association in 1976 as rancher of the year. After retiring from the cattle business, he enjoyed his passions for photography, travelling, hiking in the beautiful Bitterroots, vegetable gardening, and in recent years became a regular at Canyon Gym. He took great pleasure sharing profits of his harvests with friends and family.

Joe loved the valley and the people living in it. He had many valued friendships, with special warm regard for Lawrence and Peggy Haas. Joe didn't have a selfish bone in his body and was always there with a helping hand. Most notably, he was a recipient of the Carnegie award in 1968 for acts of heroism.

Joe is survived by his wife Shirley, his son John, daughter Janet and her son Matthew, daughters Sandra and Joanne with her husband Dave, Paul, and their sons Alex and Jacob. He also leaves behind his beloved brother Robert Kochis, his sister-in-law, Juanice, along with their children (Mike, Tim, Pete and Jill and their families) and finally, by his two canine companions, Oliver and Belle.



*God hath not promised  
Sleets always blue,  
Flower-strewn pathways  
All our lives through;  
God hath not promised  
Sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow,  
Peace without pain.*

*But God hath promised  
Strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor,  
Light for the way,  
Grace for the trials,  
Help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy  
Unfading love...*

**In Memory Of**  
*Leon E. Schmidlap*

**Date of Birth**  
September 15, 1925

**Date of Death**  
March 11, 2011

**Services**  
11:00 A.M. Tuesday, March 15, 2011  
Vail-Holt Funeral Homes  
Hilltop Chapel

**Officiating**  
Rev. Joe McKay  
Rev. Doug Lee  
Dr. Danny Gabbard, Sr.

**Final Resting Place**  
Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
Madison, Indiana

**Arrangements By**  
Vail-Holt Funeral Homes  
Madison, Indiana

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**IN MEMORY OF**

*Leon E. Schmidlap*

Leon E. Schmidlap, age 85 of Kent, passed away on Friday, March 11, 2011 at his residence.

Born September 15, 1925 in Jefferson County, Indiana, he was the son of William C. and Ruth (Barron) Schmidlap, who preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by two sisters, Elsie Moore and Helen Eppley; three brothers, Glen, William and Clarence Schmidlap.

After thirty years of service, he retired from the Jefferson Proving Ground in 1984 from the department of ammunition processing. Upon retirement, Leon and his wife, Marjorie owned and operated the Bear-In-Mind Craft Shop for eight years.

Leon was inducted into the U.S. Navy, November 15, 1943. He served on a merchant ship traveling to Naples, Italy; North Africa, Weymath, England; Venezuela and was at the Normandy Invasion. He served Pearl Harbor, the Philippines, Invasion of Okinawa, Korea and Japan. Leon received his Honorable Discharge from the Navy on April 25, 1946. He received the American Area, European-African Area, Middle Eastern Area, Asiatic-Pacific Area and World War II Victory Ribbons.

Leon has been serving the Hanover Post #10528 of the V.F.W. as the quartermaster and member of the American Legion Post #9.

A member of the Kent Christian Church since 1934, Leon served as Sunday School Teacher, Deacon, Elder and Chairman of the Board.

He enjoyed reading, word search puzzles, mowing his yard and playing computer solitaire. He loved his time spent with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**SURVIVORS**

Leon married Marjorie A. Perkinson on May 10, 1946. They would have celebrated sixty-five years in May; two daughters, Sandra Smith and her husband, Dan of Madison and Shirley LeGrand of Madison; one son, Gary Schmidlap and his wife, Russella of Kent; three granddaughters, Tami Dubuque and her husband, Pete, Tara Schickel and her husband, Dave and Amber Weatherbee and her husband, Kyle; two great-grandsons, Trey Schickel and Drew Weatherbee; one great-granddaughter, Gladys Fernandez and several nieces and nephews.

**SERVICES**

Rev. Joe McKay, Rev. Doug Lee and Dr. Danny Gabbard, Sr. will conduct funeral services at 11:00 A.M. Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at the Vail-Holt Funeral Homes, Hilltop Chapel with interment in Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The Honor Guard of the American Legion Post #9 will conduct military graveside services.

**VISITATION**

Family and friends may call at the Vail-Holt Funeral Homes, Hilltop Chapel from 4:00 to 8:00 P.M. Monday, March 14, 2011 and after 10:00 A.M. Tuesday until time of service.

**EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY**

The family requests memorial contributions be made to the Kent Christian Church, V.F.W. Post #10528 or the American Cancer Society. Contribution cards will be available at the Vail-Holt Funeral Home.

Leroy Joseph,  
SKCS (Ret.)  
October 29, 1914 to  
November 23, 2011

Leroy was born in  
Willows, CA, October  
29, 1914, to Louis B.  
and Mary E. Joseph.  
He moved to  
Redding, CA when  
he was about nine  
years old and  
eventually attended  
Shasta High School.



He left school prior to  
graduation and began working at a variety of  
jobs: bellhop/elevator operator at the Lorenz  
Hotel (Redding), chauffeur for then CA governor  
James Rolph, and then joined the CCCs in  
1933.

In 1935, Leroy joined the Navy. Following boot  
camp, he served on the USS Talbot DD114, the  
Yorktown, CV-5, and was discharged October  
1939 when his mother fell ill. He was recalled  
by the Navy in early January, 1942, having  
been put on a waiting list since December 8<sup>th</sup>,  
1941. He married Alice A. Boswell in  
September, 1942.

During WWII, he was a Storekeeper First Class  
at Ford Island, HI and Saipan, Marianas Is.  
While on Saipan, Leroy was promoted to Chief  
Petty Officer and put in charge of 120 sailors  
building a Navy supply facility after the Marines  
took the island. At the end of WWII, he was  
among the first to be returned stateside, where  
he was mustered out September, 1945.

He returned to Redding and began working for  
Bert McDowell Wholesale Grocers until  
January, 1950. He was again recalled, this  
time for the Korean conflict and he decided to  
remain on active duty to complete 20+ years  
until retirement. His duty stations during this  
time were USS Tolovana; Fleet Sonar School,  
San Diego; Fleet Underway Training Unit, San  
Diego; ComNav Marianas, Guam; US Navy  
Recruiters School and Recruiting Duty, Los  
Angeles, CA; USS Cacapon and as a patient in  
San Diego Naval Hospital. He retired as a  
Senior Chief Storekeeper in June, 1963 with his  
20+ years Naval Service.

During his tour on the USS Tolovana in 1950,  
his wife and son, Dale were living in Redding,  
CA. It was here that Dale, age 5½, contracted

a fatal case of bulbar polio. Leroy was given 30  
days emergency leave. At the end of the leave,  
he missed the USS Tolovana in Sasebo, Japan  
by one day and served on the USS Comstock  
and made the Inchon landing. He returned to  
the Tolovana in Norfolk, VA, on December 22,  
1950.

He worked 3 years at NASA Ames Research  
Center, Mountain View and then moved the  
family to Redding in 1966. He was employed  
by Redding School District until retirement,  
January 1, 1980.

Leroy and Alice traveled ten years towing a  
travel trailer mostly in Canada and the western  
US.

In addition to his wife, Alice, he is survived by  
his daughter and son-in-law, Laurie and Dan  
Woolery, his two granddaughters and their  
husbands, and one  
great grandson.

At his request, no formal services will be held.  
A graveside service was held on December 1<sup>st</sup>  
2011.

#### **A NOTE OF THANKS FROM ALICE JOSEPH**

Thank you Shipmates I personally want  
to say thank you to all the shipmates that  
sent condolences by e-mail and postal  
mail. Also many thanks to the ones that  
sent flowers, plants and moola. I  
appreciate them all. I will spend the cash  
on sending the newsletters to the  
shipmates that do not have e-mail.

I just finished all the necessary paperwork  
to all the agencies that required that I do  
so. It was no easy task as I had to wait for  
them to send the information to me that  
each one required. We really thought we  
were prepared for all this but many snags  
arose.

One agency that surprised us was the  
Social Security Administration. They  
withheld Joe's last payment and sent it to  
me early in December. When I took the  
required death notice to them they sat me  
down and explained they had neglected to  
include my portion of my last small check.  
As we sat there they prepared a check for  
me. I truly am impressed with their

actions. I just want all of you to know some government agencies in the field are very responsive and helpful.

Again , I appreciate all the correspondence from a lot of you, especially the ones of my husband's time on board. Everyone said such nice things about him. He truly was remarkable and our 69 plus years together were one of love, fun, good and lean times and filled with a lot of surprises. I will always feel his presence and love for his family. Thanks again, Alice Joseph

**An appeal for Sea stories and 'this is your life' stories for the quarterly newsletters**

Many of you have stories you love to tell your friends and family about your time aboard the Tolovana but writing them is difficult to do. However, Skip needs you to write them for our newsletters. Don't worry about getting the story told in proper English or format. They can/will be edited, with your permission of course, before publication.

We need to be able to read the stories verbally told at the reunions which make the reunions so good.

In addition, we need articles about your life after the Tolovana. Some of you have made successful careers and interesting life experiences that would be great to share, ones like the Fred Bolz story in this newsletter. Too often we think no one would be interested in what we have done or accomplished after the Navy but that isn't correct. I have heard numerous life stories at reunions that are fascinating. So let's flood Skip with some stories for the Spring 2012 newsletter

**2012 USS TOLOVANA REUNION**

Cousin Cecil told me, Howard, in a phone conversation the following re: the 2012 reunion.

Cecil reports that he doesn't have any details at this time to share in regards to the 2012 USS Tolovana

reunion in Myrtle Beach NC at this time. Cecil is now planning to have the reunion the last of September depending on when the hotel and other amenities rates are reduced for the winter season (Cecil says the water will still be warm enough to swim, snorkel, etc at that time) Also, he wants to avoid a motorcycle gathering that is usually planned about this time of year.

Cecil plans to get started on the reunion specifics after the first of the year and will have more information about the reunion to put in the Spring 2012 newsletter.

**Skip Moore, F Div, 1951- 1953  
anchorman1@bellsouth.net**