

October 16, 2010



Mr. and Mrs. Don & Patty Gillies
Evansville, Indiana



"The Schnakenburg Family Home"

With Gratitude and Appreciation,
From the Crew of the USS Sand Lance (SSN 660)

WWW.USSSANDLANCESSN660.COM

One evening, not long ago, an email message was sent to me from Don Gillies, a Korean War Veteran and Volunteer to the Habitat for Humanity of Evansville, Indiana. The message was simple: "Can you tell me where to locate a model of the USS Sand Lance for one of the crew members?" Shortly thereafter I responded with a source for this request and what followed was quite a remarkable turn of events.

Within an hour or so after his email, Don and I were on the telephone discussing the nature of his request. One of the Sand Lance crew, John Schnakenburg had recently passed away from a heart attack.

Just a short time prior to his passing John and his family were selected by the Habitat for Humanity to be provided a new Catholic sponsored home to raise their family: John, Debra, Sam (16) John (10) and Olivia (8).

At the presentation of the "Key" for their new home, Don thought it would be a great idea to have something from the USS Sand Lance to also present to the family, especially to the children to remember their Dad and his service to his country. A model was selected and also purchased by Don, but for reasons we will not discuss here, it was decided not to present this particular item.

An alternate to the model, was selected, the below posted professionally framed image of the USS Sand Lance (SSN 660). This framed image of the boat looks twice as nice in real life then the photograph below. It turned out that it was the right answer for the situation.

In order to assure Don, and more importantly the family, that John's personal information which was to be placed on the framed image was properly reflected, I contacted Phil Brunson, YNC/SS of the Commissioning Crew and after some detailed reviews of John's information and some challenges involving the format of the data on a "draft image", we all became very satisfied with the end result.

It soon became apparent that it might be reasonable to find out if John's Commanding Officer while he was aboard the Sand Lance might want to send the Schnakenburg family a personal memorial letter. This was to be presented by a retired Navy Lieutenant and member of the local Habitat for Humanity. We sought out his initial Commanding Officer who was "Brian Rabe" and he was contacted by email and we received an unqualified supportive response – only later to find out Captain Rabe and John knew each other quite well. Please see the enclosed greatly appreciated memorial letter from Captain Rabe, below.

Phil Brunson then contacted his Sister (Joan) and Brother in Law (Jerry), both "Master" Wood Carvers. Phil sent a picture of the Sand Lance and requested that a model be made for the Children of John and Debra Schnakenburg – again, without hesitation a commitment was made to work on the model.

Nathan Isenhour, ICC/SS provided Don Gillies the ship patch of which John Schnakenburg sailed under and Don had these placed on sweat shirts for the family to proudly wear for many years to come!

About a week from the date of the "Key" Presentation event – Phil received word from Joan and Jerry that the wood carved replica of the Sand Lance was completed, again, see the below photograph.

On Wednesday, 14 October 2010 Major Bill Jent, USAF Retired (Navigator of B52's in the Strategic Air Command – SAC) Chief Phil Brunson YNC/SS, and I drove from Mount Airy, MD to Evansville, Indiana to participate in the "Key" presentation event. The trip took over 10 hours to complete with Bill Jent "at the wheel" for the entire trip duration. For those of you who know "Bill" that was no small feat – he is 86 years of age and remains as feisty as can be and full of desire to live a full and active life. He wants to be a "race car driver" when he grows up!

Upon our arrival (Thursday) Don Gillies treated the "three amigos" to a visit at his "golf club" in the afternoon and later that evening an exquisite dinner meal at the clubhouse! He suggested that on Friday, we visit the: Landing Ship Tank (LST 325) moored on the Ohio River in Evansville, Indiana and chocked full of historical accomplishments. None the least was a trip on the high seas (Making

International News) from Greece manned by a Crew with an average age of 72, who brought the ship to Evansville, Indiana, where these types of vessels were built during World War II. <http://Istmemorial.org> Phone: 812-435-8678

Oddly enough: The ship would not pass Coast Guard Inspection, so they sailed under a "Pirate Flag" up the Ohio River. The Ship was also taken farther up river to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and in 2014 it has been requested to return to Normandy, by the French Government under special transport arrangements – That Year commemorates the 70'th Anniversary of the Normandy Beach Landing during World War II . Major Bill Jent, has already said "I'LL GO!"

Again, Friday in the evening Don treated us to another very fine meal at a local Italian restaurant. Dilegges www.dilegges.com Phone: 812-428-3004.



Sister Jane Michele McClure, OSB - Development Director

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville, IN (16 October 2010)

Sister Jane in action showing us all the way to sharing kindness and friendship!



Family, friends and neighbors attend "The Schnakenburg" Family Home Dedication



Lieutenant Paul Rupprecht, USN Retired. Read and Presented the Memorial Letter from Captain Brian Rabe, USN Retired and the "On Eternal Patrol" Listing to: The Schnakenburg Family.

To the family of John Schnakenburg,

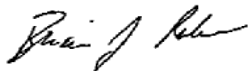
Although it's been many years since John and I served together on USS Sand Lance, I remember him well. John was a good shipmate, hard working, always willing and well liked. I am very sad for your loss, which is also sad for all of his former shipmates on Sand Lance.

John was an Electronic Technician, responsible for maintaining and operating our sophisticated navigation and electronic warfare equipment.

His important work was often times taken for granted, but it was his group's steady and diligent attention that kept the ship safe and operating exactly where we were supposed to be. As the Commanding Officer I was very fortunate to have John as a member of the Electronics Division.

I'm sure he is very grateful to the Habitat organization and proud that his family has qualified for their assistance and generosity. Please accept my wishes from the Sand Lance family for a safe and blessed home, and remember that your husband and Dad was a good guy, whom we all miss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian J. Rabe".

Captain Brian Rabe, USN (Retired)



Don Gillies, Korean War Veteran and member of the U.S. Army 326th COMMRECON Company and Volunteer for the Habitat for Humanity presents the USS Sand Lance (SSN 660) boat image to The Schnankenburg Family



A Closer Look: Silver Dolphins Coveted Pin "Represents John Schnakenburg was "Qualified for Submarine Duty" a Proud Symbol of the "Silent Service", Yellow Teardrop Patch is the Boats Commissioning Patch, The Blue and Red Circled Patch is the Decommissioning Crews Patch.



Back row: Phil Brunson, John Schnakenburg's Mother and Father
Middle row: Sam, Debra and John, Front row: Olivia Schnakenburg



The Carved Wooden model of the USS Sand Lance (SSN 660) made by Phil Brunson's Sister (Joan Johnson) and brother-in-law (Jerry Johnson)



Front Row: Debra, Olivia, John and Sam Schnakenburg, John Schnakenburg's Mother.
Mother and Grandson.

Row 2: Bill Jent, Ray Lambert, Don Gillies, Paul Rupprecht, Bernie O'Neill, Phil Brunson,
John's Brother, Sister in Law and 2 Children.

Back row: John's Father, Sister in Law, Niece and Brother.

Did you know?

Did you know, that the wood within this house bear tributes to John..

**Tributes from his friends, both close and afar,
A tribute to his love of family, of his faith, and friends.
While John watches over this house, like a heavenly star**

**Did you know, that besides both kin and friend..
Others wish to be with John's family on this day,
To show their loving support and respect
In a slightly different way.**

**Did you know, that John's Navy friends world wide
Have come forth to stand with family and spouse.
Their gifts to his family always to insure
That John will live forever ... within this house.**

**Did you know, how close John and his comrades were,
Guiding Sand Lance worldwide, as silent as a mouse.
They now man the rails behind his family and friends to tell
everyone...**

**Did you know, that John will Rest In Peace,... forever within
this house.**

A friend

EVANSVILLE

Habitat to dedicate first Shadewood home

Habitat for Humanity will dedicate the first house in its newest development, Shadewood Place, at 10 a.m. Saturday at 2009 Shadewood Ave.

The home was sponsored by the Catholics for Habitat.

Homeowner Debra Schnakenburg's husband died a few months ago, and retired military personnel from Baltimore will attend to present her with a replica of a submarine he served on.

— *Dani Palmer*



JOHN SCHNAKENBURG

John David Schnakenburg, 38 of Evansville, Indiana, died June 15, 2010, at his home.

John attended Mount Vernon Schools, graduating from Mount Vernon Senior High School in 1989. In his youth, he was active in the Boy Scouts and enjoyed outdoor activities. He spent his entire life dedicated to his family. A loving father, he enjoyed playing with and teaching his children, nieces and nephews.

He served in the United States Navy from 1989 to 1996 on the nuclear submarine, USS Sand Lance SSN 660. During his time in the Navy, he completed several advanced training courses. John was a member of the American Legion and the VFW.

He is survived by his wife of 11 years, Debra of Evansville; sons, Sam, John II and Olivia all of Evansville; parents, David and Sherri Schnakenburg of Evansville; sister, Jennifer Ensweller (Chad) of Evansville; brother, Brian Schnakenburg (Dedra) of Evansville; grandfather, Richard Schnakenburg of Evansville; aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Services were Saturday, June 19, 2010, at Alexander

West Chapel, officiated by Rev. Joseph Easley of Central United Methodist Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to Habitat for Humanity, Hadi Shriner's Transportation Fund and Operation Support on the Homefront. Condolences may be made online at www.alexanderwestchapel.com.