

KENT WILLIAMS

USCGC POINT WELCOME (WPB-82329) – May68 to Jul68 – Relieved McGill

USCGC POINT ELLIS (WPB 82330) – Jul68 to Apr69 – Relieved Bowen

USCGC POINT YOUNG (WPB-82303) – Apr69 as Relief CO

December/January 2017/2018 Alumni Bulletin

...(Bill Carr) sat in and recorded the interview by the New London Day reporter and also videoed Kent's actual presentation in Leamy Hall shortly thereafter.... The day ended with dinner with the whole of the William's family as well as Doug and Phyllis Teeson, Bob and Mary Christiansen, Angelo Arecchi, myself and guest Lu Oldaker. Jim McDermott made an appearance at the reception immediately preceding Kent's presentation...we were all delighted he came to honor Kent.

In conversations with Classmates who received this same honor, the trail for how the recognition process stated goes back to Jim White while President of the Alumni Association ...Kent and I both recall Jim asking for information on those combat events. We all humbly thank Jim for his efforts and hope Donna White will continue to regularly join us to keep Jim and her in our thoughts at our events of the future,

November 9, 2017 - Hall of Heroes Induction Presentation

As a relief Commanding Officer of the PT YOUNG, Kent was on patrol in 1A1 which was the northern most of the shoreline sectors in Vietnam Market Time for preventing the interdiction of weapons, ammunition, personnel and medical supplies being smuggled into South Vietnam from seaward. One evening while on patrol, Kent received a Mayday call from a naval gunfire liaison unit, which was on-shore and up close to the DMZ.

The unit was under attack by a company of more than 100 North Vietnamese regulars. What was unique about this beach unit was they were posted in what looked like fire-lookout towers three to four stories high. They spotted for artillery, naval guns and aircraft into the DMZ and beyond into North Vietnam.

Kent realized their backs were against the wall. They had no place to go and it was clear from their communications they felt they were in danger of being overrun,

Kent brought the PT YOUNG to within 50 yards of the beach - possible in these very deep waters of I Corp- and into position to effect maximum close in gun fire support. It was a very

dark and calm sea night - the former a disadvantage but the latter a plus. Kent also had an edge with the seasoned spotters under attack who quickly zeroed him in with his 50-caliber machine gun and 81mm piggy-back mortar.

By maneuvering in-place, Kent was able to bring either the port or starboard waist and stern machine guns to bear along with the bow machine gun or the mortar. Star shell type flare mortar rounds from the PT YOUNG significantly illuminated the battle area of the enemy attack but also the profile and position of the PT YOUNG. Likewise, the 50-caliber tracers (every fifth round) allowed the crew gunners to more effectively lay their fire on the enemy but also gave a very clear path to the NVA as they directed their return fire.

This firefight continued for over four hours with return fire from the NVA recoilless rifles, rockets and machine-guns. Regardless of the many near misses marked by the gushers and splashes within 50 feet around them, Kent held his position. At approximately 0300 hours, the spotters reported the attack had been broken. The NVA regulars had been stopped and were headed back into North Vietnam. The action ended with PT YOUNG having virtually exhausted her ammunition - but undamaged and successful in protecting that naval unit.

Kent immediately headed out to the gun-line naval units to replenish his ammunition lockers but with two worries on his mind. The first was that the North Vietnamese would be back and PT YOUNG was at the moment unable to assist. The second was that the attack was a ruse, being used to direct the attention away from a trawler carrying ammo and supplies to the beach south of them during the fight. Fortunately, neither of these contingencies came to pass.

When asked by the New London Day reporter if he ever thought this incident would lead to the Bronze Star or his Induction into something like the Hall of Heroes, Kent responded by recalling the 'Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty' core values of the Coast Guard inscribed on the wall in the entrance to Chase Hall. He also noted the inlay there on the quarterdeck, installed when he was a Cadet. It says, "Who lives here reveres honor, honors duty."

Kent felt it was this Devotion to Duty that motivates Coast Guard men and women officers and their crews to perform in such extraordinary circumstances. He said the goal always was, "Perform the mission successfully and bring everyone home safely!"

Kent said, "No officer goes into a dangerous situation, combat or otherwise, expecting to become a Hero or even being honored as one. Motivated by Devotion to Duty, the only goal is to complete the mission. What happens afterwards regarding recognition is entirely out of one's own hands." Someone else gets to decide if the action was heroic.

When Kent was informed he had been selected for the Hall of Heroes, he was asked what he wanted to share with the Cadets at the Induction Ceremony. He responded that what he wanted to tell the Corp first was that the Coast Guard goes in harms way all the time. They go

wherever the security of the nation requires - worldwide. And he also wanted to emphasize that Coast Guard men and women leaders are not risk avoiders. They are risk managers.

And, when these cadets are officers and themselves go in harms way - and they most certainly will - their actions should be always guided by what they first began to learn at the Academy, in Chase Hall.

Devotion to Duty will see them through to perform the mission successfully and bring everyone home safely. Kent emphasized, "This was most certainly what I, and I think, all the other Coast Guard Vietnam officers and crews learned during our combat experiences back in Vietnam 50 years ago."

Golden Journeys Booklet - 2015

...CO; came under enemy rocket fire off the Vietnam DMZ (lesson: when the enemy is in range, so are you!)

Coast Guard Awards and Medals Board – List of CG Units Coming Under Hostile Fire

August 30, 2004

Encl. (16) to COMDTINST 650.25b MEDALS AND AWARDS MANUAL

POINT YOUNG – 14 Apr 69

POINT WELCOME – 4 Oct 68, 22 Mar 69 and 28 Mar 69

As you know Kent will be in Viet Nam for this Christmas. During his year away service and I are living in Penney Wama near our relatives.

Kent has been CO of the Point Welcome and Point Ellis. He spent September and October in Sasebo, Japan and on November 25 he was transferred to the YR-71. Around June we'll be moving to Monterey, California as Kent has post graduate school in financial management.



Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Fwd: Scrapbook - Class of 1965 Experiences in Vietnam

1 message

Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>
To: flagman@aol.com
Bcc: Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 4:26 PM

Hey Kent - Just a note..

I am leaving this Sunday afternoon on a driving trip to New England to visit with family and friends and to take in the Reunion.

However, I still have the capacity to include in this scrapbook any additional writings of remembrances of your tour in Vietnam - as you suggested you did the last time we talked.

If that turns out not to be possible, would you per chance have a copy of your Tour Debrief I might include?

Sorry to bug you about this Kent...just wanted to let you know I can still handle anything you might yet be able to write up...Bill

Williams, 67

Dear Cse & Mrs High,

It was good to hear from you again this year, and the class addresses have proven to be very useful.

My tour aboard CAPE LUNATA kept me so busy that it's hard to believe a year has gone by. We expected that I'd be going to Squadron One but were surprised with my orders to duty as CO, Cape May Station. This means we'll probably be in Cape May for two more years.

SAK activity in this group is constantly increasing, as everywhere else, and present plans call for an Air Detachment

Possibly by this summer.

We're both fine and enjoy Cape May. Our daughter Deborah is growing by leaps and bounds and readily points out her "Daddy's ship" and the fact that he's in the Coast Guard to anyone who'll listen.

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Congratulations on selection for Captain, and you and your family have our best wishes for a happy holiday season and prosperous New Year.

Gen & Jerry

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