

CARL JOSEPHSON

USCGC POINT WHITE (WPB-82308) - Apr68 – Mar69

Presidential Unit Citation – 18 Oct 68 to 31 Mar 69

Navy Unit Commendation – 1 Apr 68 to 31 Oct 68

October – November 2020 – Alumni Bulletin

Ralph Anderson writes, “Donna White and I attended the Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremony for Carl Josephson on November 6, 2019. We thought the ceremony was very impressive and well executed. Donna has attended many of these ceremonies and felt the format was the best so far. The ceremony has evolved from an outdoors event to a most comfortable setting in Leamy Hall followed by reception/dinner for the inductees, family and friends. This year’s ceremony consisted of introductions by 2/c cadets (all young women) who were very poised and delivered thoughtful and insightful comments. The inductees were presented plaques followed by a reading of their citation or the action that precipitated their recognition. The inductees did not make any remarks.”

November 6, 2019 – Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremony Reading - Excerpt

When Carl Josephson was a cadet with the class of 1965, a frequent sight in the waters around New London was the Point White, an 82-foot Coast Guard law enforcement and search and rescue patrol boat. A few years after graduating, Josephson was assigned as commanding officer of the Point White shortly after he arrived in Vietnam.

Josephson arrived in theater in the immediate aftermath of the Tet Offensive, one of the largest military campaigns of the Vietnam War, launched in early 1968 by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces against the South Vietnamese Army, the U.S. and their allies.

October 31, 2018 – Bill Carr E-mail to Tom Pennington

In regards to the 2 minute Monday night presentation for absent WPB CO's, Carl Josephson did a very nice job of summarizing his experiences in Vietnam as per the attached....probably plenty enough for you to feel comfortable with your presentation. I will send his write-up in a separate e-mail.

October 31, 2018 – Bill Carr E-mail to Carl Josephson

Regarding the BOOM and dog kidnapping, I don't remember any of that EXCEPT I do have a story about washing machines. I can't do it for a couple of weeks, but I'll put a couple of paragraphs together about that and then see if there indeed was a connection. But I have no recollection about the dog.

October 31, 2018 – Carl Josephson E-mail to Bill Carr

If I remember, when my wife returns home in a couple days, I'll get her help in taking apart her scrapbook that has a few pictures of our boat's mascot. If I remember, I'll try to scan a couple pictures of the young pup newly aboard and the later full grown dog in her crew constructed bath. I think the other WPB in the "Boom" and "Kidnap" paragraphs in my writeup was Bill Carr's WPB.

October 23, 2018 – Carl Josephson E-mail to Tom Livingston

Jozy. acknowledges receipt. I've seen it spelled several ways. I spell that particular nickname from the Coast Guard phase of my life with a "z", borrowed from my birth surname, Jozefczyk. The late Robert Tuneski, Charlie Company Tactics Officer at the Academy, talked me into legally changing it to facilitate my future time in the Coast Guard. I regret that I did, but it's too late to do anything about it now – would only cause complications. I'll put something together in next few days. I was not among the '65 war heroes, but had some stuff happen that might be of interest.

October 23, 2018 – Tom Livingston E-mail to Carl Josephson

Hello Jocy. Hope all is well in Florida and that your golf game is good. We are getting the VNCO's together in Charleston in a couple of weeks and we will say a few words about each of our classmates who served as CO's in VN.

I remember you beating me badly on the basketball court on Treasure Island before we went over, but I do not remember seeing you in VN. I assume you were there during the same time period as I was - Apr. 68-Apr.69. What division were you in as CO of the Point White? Do you remember working with any of our classmates? Do you have any stories to share concerning your activities or classmates? Do you have any pictures from your time in VN? Any information you send me will help to make our event more meaningful to us all. Thanks and take care,

Golden Journeys Booklet – 2015

After the Academy, I was assigned to-sea duty aboard three vessels and commanded two patrol boats, one in New England and one in Viet Nam.

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 WHITE – 19 Oct 68 and 1 Nov 68

RELATED WRITINGS

Carl Josephson

October 2018

IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER, A FEW REMEMBRANCES/VIGNETTES FROM A FORGETTABLE AND OTHERWISE WASTED YEAR

NAMES

I don't remember the name of the fellow I relieved (non-Academy), but at some earlier point the Command structure had been referred to as White under White under White (boat, CO, and shore Commander all named White). I don't think Jim White had been in An Thoi. So, maybe I relieved a "White". Nor do I remember who relieved me!

BOOM

One of your get-together attendees had apparently fired on a friendly village on the western coast of Phu Quoc island. We subsequently took the CG and VN shore honchos (I don't remember actual titles) to that village to offer their apologies to the village elders.

While they were ashore, we unsuccessfully tried to shoot down an enemy flag (ARVN?, VC?, I don't recall) waving high in a tree ashore.

However, on the trip back from the village, the VN Commander got very excited about a hut-type structure on the shore and wanted us to shell it. Nudging the boat bow in the shallows for stability, we fired a few White Phosphorous rounds to get a feel for the range. Finally, one landed square and set off a hellacious grand explosion. The hut was serving as an enemy ammo storage facility.

MASCOT & KIDNAP

One of our crew (possibly BM1 Michael Smith, "Smithy") brought aboard a pup he found ashore. I OK'd giving it a try to keep the dog aboard. The dog rapidly adjusted to boat-board life and was a great morale booster. I'll try to include a copy of a couple photos of the dog. If you don't receive them - I failed, or just didn't get around to it.

The crew named the dog "Whore," and did a great job of taking care of her and keeping things clean. Especially "Red," the Gunner's Mate. The vicinity of the 81 MM mortar mount on the

bow was the dog's preferred "relief" location. The crew also converted a 55-gallon drum into "Whore's bath."

I later "officially" changed the dog's name to "Girl" in Saigon when I arranged to have her transported to the States. Smithy had returned home a bit early because his dad was very sick, I think possibly dying. He had asked me to try to bring the dog to him stateside when my tour was up within the next month or so. I did. RONONE helped.

"Girl" arrived stateside a day before I did. We retrieved her from Boston's Logan Airport. Smithy drove down from Maine to Connecticut to pick up the dog. I asked for one of her pups if she had a future litter. I thought that was agreed to, but later I found out that they had the dog spayed.

Flashback a few months. Unbeknownst to us, the crew of another WPB kidnapped our mascot. We had delayed our night-time departure to patrol for a couple hours or so to search for her. We couldn't find her and finally got underway. We found out the dog had been taken for ransom. I seem to recall someone found a note to that effect. The other WPB would be relocating to the eastern coast of VN (Cat Lo?) and wanted something from us (I think it was a washing machine). Whatever "it" was, my crew agreed, because it would be more useful where the other WPB was going, and we had other options.

Despite my dislike for how the other WPB went about "asking," we made the exchange. I think the other WPB may have been the same one involved in the BOOM paragraph, above. Would-be swashbuckling cavaliers?

VACATION

Pt White had already been to Japan for overhaul prior to my arrival. Nevertheless, we did spend some time in Dry Dock during my time aboard.

Underway one evening GQ sounded in the middle of the night. While most were groggy and trying to figure out what was happening and what to do, Smithy simply donned equipment, descended into the engine room and extinguished a dangerous fire. Considerable damage had been done to one engine and, unless necessary, I was reluctant to operate the other engine under the circumstances.

Since we were rapidly drifting toward shore (and I had no idea if it was friendly territory - we were in unfamiliar waters off the eastern side of the Mekong Delta) I anchored. I violated all sorts of secure radiotelephone procedures notifying folks ashore, in plain language, to get someone to us. In short order another WPB showed up and towed us to "paradise."

I mean to say - Cam Ranh Bay. A pleasant interlude. I remember saying something like, "this Bay would be a great resort area." Googling Cam Ranh Bay (for correct spelling), I see that's just

what has happened. An agreeable surprise while undergoing repairs was in restocking supplies and food stuffs. No fuss, no formality. The Navy effectively said, "What do you want? it's yours, take it."

IT'S A WAR ZONE FOLKS

The An Thoi CG repair force wanted in on the action!

The shore folks put together a river operation that included our small boat in company with a boat from the repair force patrolling in a river flowing into Rach Gia harbor (Rach Gia River?), with a helicopter supposedly standing nearby (as I recall, it didn't). The XO (Mike Cain) and I alternated on small boat operational excursions.

It was Mike's turn. The Repair Force boat took the lead into the River and our Boston Whaler was close behind. Pt. White stood by close to the mouth of the river.

Someone was lying in wait on the banks of the river. No one knew that the river of focus had just been visited several days in a row by a Boston Whaler from the WPB previously operating in that area. The CG boats were ambushed and the lead boat (repair force) was heavily hit with several crew wounded.

Pt. White's people gave cover fire and did not get hit. Years later (1976) I was in New Orleans for a USDOJ admiralty case and happened to recognize CDR Al Peck on a sidewalk. Al had been the senior Coast Guard officer in An Thoi at the time of the Rach Gia ambush. He said he was in town to visit "Frenchy" Benoit, one of the repair force ambushed crew, who was in the hospital. I thought CDR Peck said "Frenchy" had been continually hospitalized since the ambush.

MORE NAMES

The CO of the Navy APL permanently anchored in An Thoi harbor was Ron Klemick. He would have been Naval Academy quarterback his First Class year, except for the arrival of someone named Roger Staubach.

John Kerry operated Navy Swift Boats across the interior of the Mekong Delta from coast to coast and back again. He was in An Thoi coinciding with some of my time there. I don't remember meeting him. He may have been one of the young officers singing in the small O'Club in An Thoi.

There were occasional sing alongs. I always wondered what, if anything, was being accomplished by those Swift Boat operations beside damaged boats and 50% crew casualties. Seemed a heavy price just to try to show a presence.

Another name - Latch. Any attendee remember who/what Latch was?

OTHER STUFF.

Chasing squalls in the calm waters north of Phu Quoc Island, south of Cambodia, soap in hand, to try to catch a fresh-water shower. Swimming ashore alongside the Boston Whaler making PsyOps island visits. Shelling in support of Army shore facilities under attack from VC. Trekking up Paoli Obi mountain radar station - sighting a large Gila monster. Nighttime pole-dipping, depth-sounding small boat ops in Mekong Delta river mouths -- gathering soundings for subsequent Swift Boat ops. The stench of the An Thoi Nuc Bahn preparation facility. A Three day lay-over in Camp Alpha. Under the bunk during a mortar attack - not sure when, then or a later date the evening before my flight home.



Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Re: Hall of Heroes Honor for Carl Josephson

1 message

Ralph Anderson <anderson-ralph@sbcglobal.net>

Fri, Oct 11, 2019 at 2:15 PM

To: Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Bill,

Very interesting. Jozy and I had talked over the years so he must have felt more comfortable sharing his health issues. I hope he feels better soon. We plan on attending the Hall of Heroes induction. Homecoming went very well last week. I sent Rog my thoughts on what the class should consider attending.

Take care and hope to see you next fall.

Ralph

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 11, 2019, at 2:57 PM, Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com> wrote:

Hi Ralph - I corresponded with Carl just a couple weeks after I saw that he had been selected and he politely told me he wasn't interested in giving any details other than what his Bronze Star citation read. I told him I could respect that and the correspondence was over.

Not sure what more I can do with that.

Say hello to Martha and take care of yourself....Bill

On Thu, Oct 10, 2019 at 5:04 PM ralph anderson <anderson-ralph@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Bill,

Hope you are doing well and have had a great summer. Will miss not getting together for coffee on our trip back to CA.

I sent an Email to Jozy on his selection for the Hall of Heroes to see if we could get a group together when he was here. I thought you would be interested in his response - Hall of Heroes member as well as class correspondent. I had not talked with Jozy or seen him for at least 10-15 years so I was surprised he wasn't doing well.

Take care.

Ralph

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Carl Josephson <floridajozy@hotmail.com>

To: ralph anderson <anderson-ralph@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2019, 07:51:16 PM EDT

Subject: RE: Hall of Heroes Honor

Ralph,

Thank you. It's very gracious of you to extend the invitation for a get-together. But, I won't be attending the ceremony. The Academy folks are aware of the situation. Due to a "condition" that is more of a very uncomfortable and potentially embarrassing nuisance than actually being debilitating, for the last few years I've been limiting extended travel to emergency situations where I cannot possibly avoid it. For example, I did go with Sara for a few days to her brother's home in South Carolina while hurricane "Dorian" spun around in the Bahamas while making up its mind which way it would go next.

And now, as of early August, I'm spending more time than I'd like with my cardiologist, and a lot less than I'd like on our golf course. He and I seem to be making some slow progress back to normality. In any event, I'm pretty much a geographic homebody at IRCC, but there's plenty of other stuff here to keep me occupied and interested, and I like it.

Here's wishing you well in the New London area. Counting cadet time, I lived up there 10+ years and "commuted" from Little Creek two more years on a very infrequent basis. However, in my case, my more cherished memories lie elsewhere.

Nice to hear from you. I think the Escanaba days were good. From time to time I reflect on the various officers we served with, and offer some prayers, esp. for those no longer with us.

Jozy

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: ralph anderson <anderson-ralph@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2019 5:07:57 PM
To: floridajozy@hotmail.com <floridajozy@hotmail.com>
Subject: Hall of Heroes Honor

Jozy,

Congratulations on being selected for the Hall of Heroes. This is a great honor.

I expect you know that Martha & I have moved from CA to New London and are slowly getting settled. We have had several class lunches this summer and are planning on having another before the year ends. We were thinking about having it while you and Sara and family would be here for the induction ceremony. I know Gene Bowen, Donna White, Martha & I are planning on attending the ceremony.

We don't have any details on the event so it's hard to do any planning. Will you be available or interested in getting together for lunch? If this is a possibility, please let me know your schedule for the induction ceremony and when you might be available for lunch. Those who have been at lunch include Donna White, Jean Walker, the McDermotts, the Bowens, the Teasons and the Andersons. If you know of others who are planning on attending, we would extend an invite to them.

Looking forward to seeing you next month. Take care.

Ralph

CAPT Carl Josephson, USCG (ret), '65

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH COMBAT "V" DEVICE

"For meritorious service while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam from 27 April 1968 to 18 March 1969. As Commanding Officer of the USCGC POINT WHITE (WPB 82308), Lieutenant JOSEPHSON performed his duties in a highly effective and most commendable manner. His exceptional initiative, professional ability and courage greatly contributed to counter-infiltration efforts of friendly forces at a time of increasing war tempo."



Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Fwd: Point White

1 message

Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Wed, Oct 31, 2018 at 12:37 PM

To: Thomas R Pennington <thomasrpenn@gmail.com>

Cc: Dave Livingston <dtlivingstoniii@aol.com>

Tom - I know you are hard at getting those pictures ready for next week.

In regards to the 2 minute Monday night presentation for absent WPB CO's, Carl Josephson did a very nice job of summarizing his experiences in Vietnam as per the attached....probably plenty enough for you to feel comfortable with your presentation. I will send his write-up in a separate e-mail and attachment.

Please give a call if you feel you need anything else....thanks...Bill (563-529-3982 cell)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bill Carr** <bill@getrain.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 31, 2018 at 10:36 AM

Subject: Re: Point White

To: Carl Josephson <floridajozy@hotmail.com>

Cc: Dave Livingston <dtlivingstoniii@aol.com>

*PT WHITE
AR 68 - MAR 69*

Carl - Perfect....just what we had hoped for.

Regarding the BOOM and dog kidnapping, I don't remember any of that EXCEPT I do have a story about washing machines. I can't do it for a couple of weeks, but I'll put a couple of paragraphs together about that - and then see if there indeed was a connection....

But I have no recollection about the dog.....:))....Bill

On Wed, Oct 31, 2018 at 8:31 AM Carl Josephson <floridajozy@hotmail.com> wrote:

Tom,

Here's a short writeup.

If I remember, when my wife returns home in a couple days I'll get her help in taking apart her scrapbook that has a few pictures of our boat's mascot. If I remember, I'll try to scan a couple pictures of the young pup newly aboard and the later full grown dog in her crew constructed bath.

I think the other WPB in the "Boom" and "Kidnap" paragraphs in my writeup was Bill Carr's WPB.

Carl.

From: dtlivingstoniii@aol.com <dtlivingstoniii@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 4:57:31 PM
To: floridajozy@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: Point White

Great Carl - my apologies on the misspelling. Tom

-----Original Message-----

From: Carl Josephson <floridajozy@hotmail.com>
To: dtlivingstoniii@aol.com <dtlivingstoniii@aol.com>
Sent: Tue, Oct 23, 2018 3:36 pm
Subject: RE: Point White

Jozy acknowledges receipt. I've seen it spelled several ways. I spell that particular nickname from the Coast Guard phase of my life with a "z", borrowed from my birth surname, Jozefczyk. The late Robert Tuneski, Charlie Company Tactics Officer at the Academy, talked me into legally changing it to facilitate my future time in the Coast Guard. I regret that I did, but it's too late to do anything about it now - would only cause complications.

I'll put something together in next few days. I was not among the '65 war heroes, but had some stuff happen that might be of interest.

Carl

From: dtlivingstoniii@aol.com <dtlivingstoniii@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 10:04:51 AM
To: Carl Josephson
Subject: Point White

Hello Jocy,

Hope all is well in Florida and that your golf game is good. We are getting the VNCO's together in Charleston in a couple of weeks and we will say a few words about each of our

10/31/2018

Rainmaker Software Mail - Fwd: Point White

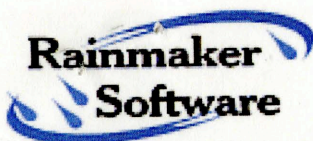
classmates who served as CO's in VN. I remember you beating me badly on the basketball court on Treasure Island before we went over, but I do not remember seeing you in VN. I assume you were there during the same time period as I was; Apr. 68-Apr.69. What division were you in as CO of the Point White? Do you remember working with any of our classmates? Do you have any stories to share concerning your activities or classmates? Do you have any pictures from your time in VN? Any information you send me will help to make our event more meaningful to us all.

Thanks and take care,

Tom

10/31/2018

Rainmaker Software Mail - Jozy



Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Jozy

1 message

Andrew Horsey <horseyandrew@yahoo.com>
To: Thomas R Pennington <thomasrpenn@gmail.com>
Cc: Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Tue, Oct 30, 2018 at 3:12 PM

Hi Tom. Attached is a recent pic of Jozy and Sara in our recent bulletin. I think you told me you will speak about Carl. If I misheard you, I am copying Bill to forward. Could be useful wrapping up the talk.

Andy

Sent from my iPhone



IMG_1034.JPG
127K

https://www.getrain.com/.../img-a%3Av601717347035... 3/3

Josephson 68
Feb-69
LT Carl Josephson
USCGC POINT WHITE WPB 82308
Coast Guard Division 11
FPO San Francisco 96629

Dear Captain and Mrs. High,

Please forgive my tardiness in writing. I just recently received your letter and Christmas card. I guess Commander, Southeast Asia Section wasn't too certain of my whereabouts. At any rate, I was happy to hear from you and will forward the card and letter to my wife when I complete this letter.

As you mentioned in your letter, my tour is rapidly drawing to a close, (March 20) and the prominent thought on my mind is returning home to my wife and children. When I left home, they were living in Westerly, R.I., but moved shortly thereafter to New London. I think my wife wanted to be closer to her family for the year. From recent pictures I've received, it looks as though my two daughters have grown up considerably. I think Pauline, the younger, may have some difficulty adjusting to my presence in the house since she was only a baby when I left.

In a letter I received last year from Pete Poulos, he mentioned that you were his new CO. He seems to enjoy the Detroit area. Can't imagine Pete as a stamp collector though.

From all indications, though I haven't received official word, I will be attending George Washington University for law school. In all probability, then, I will not be able to accept your kind invitation to visit you. I should be receiving orders for my interim assignment shortly and be back home for Easter. There is a movement afoot to have some type of class reunion next fall, possibly on homecoming weekend, so perhaps we may be able to see you there.

A recent interest of mine, which I hope to be able to pursue in the future, is to invest in the stock market. Unfortunately, this interest did not exist during my Academy days, and I didn't take advantage of the lectures which you scheduled concerning the market. I hope to be able to do some serious studying concerning investing and perhaps apply some savings to this end. Any direction or ideas which you, as an experienced investor, might be able to provide to a pre-novice would be appreciated, but please don't go out of your way. I recall having a paper bound book at home, "How to Invest in the Stock Market", which may enlighten me a bit.

I don't intend to comment much on this past year, except to say that it has been 365 days too long. The majority of the Pt White's work has been routine. We had some occasional excitement and danger, especially with regards to small boat operations. Fortunately we haven't incurred any casualties. No trawler, submarine, or helicopter (enemy types) have seen fit to cross our path as yet.

Keeping busy has enabled the time to pass more rapidly. Aside from reading in general and studying law, I was able to amuse myself with a cheap guitar and a small tape recorder. Alas, a Frank Sinatra I am not.

Once again I apologize for my late reply and look forward to seeing you again at homecoming if we can make it.

Sincerely,

Carl Josephson