

What I have done for the last 40 years! by Charlie Kappelman



The barn at my home during high school



The Springview Kappelmanns

May 1965 – Graduated from Keya Paha County High School

September 1965 – May 1966 – Attended University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Late 1966 – Attended automotive trade school in Laramie, WY (The school is now known as WyoTech). My brother Roger was also attending

March 1967 – Enlisted in the U.S. Navy

June 1967 – Went on active military duty, attended ‘boot’ camp in San Diego, CA

August 1967 – Start my electronics training in San Diego (6 weeks) and then transferred to Treasure Island, San Francisco

May 1968 – While enroute to Submarine School, USS Scorpion sank. My family, neighbors and friends questioned my decision to volunteer for the submarine service



USS Scorpion (SSN 589)

June 8, 1968 – Met the woman who eventually became my wife

August 1968 – Promoted to E-4 (3rd Class Petty Officer)



Third Class Petty Officer Insignia

August 1968 – Proposed marriage to my eventual wife

August 1968 – Attended advanced electronics training in Virginia Beach, VA

April 1969 – Promoted to E-5 (2nd Class Petty Officer)



Second Class Petty Officer Insignia

July 1969 – April 1972 - Assigned to USS Will Rogers (SSBN 659) blue crew. Completed 4 strategic submarine patrols. Participated in an exercise where we shot 6 unarmed ballistic missiles



USS Will Roger (SSBN 659) patch



Strategic Deterrent Patrol Insignia

March 18, 1970 – Earned my submarine warfare insignia (dolphins)



Submarine Warfare Insignia

June 13, 1970 – Married Patricia Ann Leverett

February 10, 1971 – Katherine Ann Kappelman was born

June 1971 – Re-enlisted for four more years

October 1971 - Promoted to E-6 (1st Class Petty Officer)



First Class Petty Officer Insignia

April – November 1972 - Attended another advanced electronics school in Virginia Beach

November 1972 – June 1975 -Transferred back to USS Will Rogers in Kittery, Maine, which was being overhauled and refueled (nuclear power). This included conversion to carry Poseidon missiles conversion.

Completed 2 more strategic submarine patrols after leaving the shipyard.
Participated in another exercise where we fired 4 unarmed missiles.

January 17, 1973 – Christopher Paul Kappelman was born

June 1975 – Re-enlisted for four more and transferred to Naval Submarine School for instructor duty

February 1976 – Promoted to E-7 (Chief Petty Officer)



Chief Petty Officer Insignia

May 1977 – Awarded an Associates Degree from Mohegan Community College, Norwich, CT

April 1978 – September 1981 – Received Navy commission and promoted to Ensign and transferred to USS Fulton (AS11). The USS Fulton was a submarine repair ship and we performed repairs on 8 nuclear attack submarines. Assigned duties as Electronics Repair Officer



Ensign Insignia



USS Fulton (AS-11)

May 1978 – Purchased and moved into the house that we still live



Our Home Christmas 2002

June 26, 1978 – My mother Louise passed away (cancer)

January 28, 1979 – Tanya Louise Kappelman was born



The Connecticut Kappelmans in 1979

April 1980 – Promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade



Lieutenant Junior Grade Insignia

September 1981 – February 1985 - Transferred to back to Naval Submarine School for duty as division officer and department director.

April 1982 – Promoted to Lieutenant



Lieutenant Insignia



*Captain William Houley, Commanding Officer, Naval Submarine School;
Lieutenant Charles Kappelman, Division Director – Code 62: and
Lieutenant Commander Luis Duran, Department Director, Code 60 (summer 1984)*

February 1985 – December 1988 Transferred to Washington, DC as the Submarine Navigation/Operations Inspector on the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV). The President of INSURV was a WWII hero, and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for taking General Douglas MacArthur from Corrigedor, Philippines to Australia in a PT boat. His name was John D. Bulkeley. He was also Lieutenant Junior Grade John F. Kennedy's military boss. During this time I was involved in 77 material inspections of submarines and submarine repair ships



Rear Admiral John D Buckeley

May 1985 – Missed our 20th year reunion as family was still living in Connecticut and getting ready to move to DC with me.

January 1, 1998 – Retired from the U.S. Navy and moved back to our house in Connecticut

January 18, 1988 – Started civilian career at Sonalyts, Inc. (defense contractor), Waterford, CT, supporting the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in New London, Connecticut and Middletown, Rhode Island



Sonalyts, Inc Logo

August 3, 1994 - My first grandson Nicholas Austin was born to Katherine

May 1995 – Made it back for our 30th class reunion. Patty and I visited Black Hills and Niagara Falls on our way back to Connecticut

June 3, 1996 – Continuing to work at Sonalyts, relocated to Middletown, RI. (Naval Undersea Warfare Center in New London was moved to Middletown, RI)

July 21, 1998 – My second grandson John Lloyd was born to Tanya

April 17, 2000 – Resigned from Sonalyts. (The commute – 130 miles a day - was killing me)

April 20, 2000 – Started working as contractor at Pfizer Global Research and Development in New London



Pfizer, Inc. Logo

September 14, 2000 – My third grandson James Ian was born to Tanya

April 30, 2002 – My fourth grandson Krystopher William (Kris) was born to Tanya

Summer 2002 – We start a new hobby, weekend camping. It is so relaxing.



Our Other Home

June 7, 2003 – My brother Paul was killed in a mountain climbing accident in Bolivia, South America

June 21, 2003 – Katherine is united in marriage with Patrick Ludwig

July 11, 2003 – My father Charles passed away (cancer)

August 15, 2003 – Attended the most impressive military funeral at the Arlington National Cemetery. Met many of Paul's military friends, including the Commanding General of Military District, Washington, DC: Major General Galen Jackman. MG Jackman is from Lincoln and graduated with Paul from UNL. MG Jackman also escorted Nancy Reagan during the services for her husband, President Reagan



Sgt. York



**Col. Paul Kappelman
Funeral Procession**



**Captain of the Guard
presenting colors to
MG Jackman**



**Roger, Jack and Charlie Kappelman
in front of USMC Memorial – August 2003**



Susan, Charles and Roger – August 2003

February 2004 – I was diagnosed with prostate cancer

March 6, 2004 – My fifth grandson August John (AJ) was born to Tanya

March 9, 2004 – My first granddaughter Emma Autumn was born to Christopher and Michelle

July 24, 2004 – Christopher is united in marriage with Michelle Ogle

September 6, 2004 – Had cryo-surgery for the prostate cancer. As of today, everything looks positive

I guess I haven't done much the past 40 years – worked for three different employers, married 35 years, owned the same house for 27 years, raised 3 children, and have 6 grandchildren.

What the future holds:

- 1. My seventh grandchild is on *her* way. Parents are Katherine and Patrick**
- 2. Patty and I will probably be adopting 4 of our grandchildren (John, James, Kris and AJ).**
- 3. A few more years of working and hopefully a few years of happy retirement.**
- 4. And 10 more years until our 50th class reunion.**



Thanksgiving 2004 with all the grandkids