

The

MOTIVATOR

Exchange Club of Lake Tansi, P.O. Box 58, Crossville, TN 38557

Club #2359 Div XII TN-KY -- Linda Carothers, Editor

LTEC meets the 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month at 7:30 AM at the Hiawatha Center

JANUARY 2017

I really wasn't sure whether to call this a January newsletter or an extended December newsletter, but call it whatever you'd like. But the reason for doing one now becomes obvious as you read on:

At our one meeting in December we celebrated the Lake Tansi Exchange Club's 30th anniversary with a breakfast furnished by members. Great Food.

Birthdays and anniversaries for the month were announced, but there was one that I had forgotten. So, I felt it fitting to give a special edition of the Motivator to this one person, Bob Murray. Bob will be turning 92 the 30th of December.

I didn't know much about Bob except seeing him at the meetings and working various functions and have admired his stamina at his age. I hope I'm still going strong when I reach 92.

I decided to do a little research on Bob and Judi Elam shared an article from the Crossville Chronicle that was published last year. What a career Bob has had. In case some of you missed it, as I did, I'm going to share parts of it. Hope Bob doesn't mind. I really meant to do a short interview but time never permitted.

He grew up in Ridgewood, New Jersey. His grandfather had served in the Spanish-American War, So it seemed only fitting that when Bob turned 17 he followed in his grandfather's footsteps and joined up to fight in WWII. He enlisted in the Navy in 1942.

He reported to Church Street in nearby New York City, heading to Newport, Connecticut for basic training. "They gave us a post card to send to our parents to tell them where we were going." In his case there was a last minute change and he ended up at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center. His group was the first to train

there. "In May of 1942 after basic training, I volunteered for aviation mechanic school at the Navy Pier in Chicago. I stayed there until December and was shipped to Cecil Field, Florida for gunnery training.

After that he shipped to Jacksonville Naval Air Station and flight training. Then came his introduction to the "Black Cat". He ended up at Pearl Harbor with the VPII Black Cat Squadron, going to Kaneohe Naval Air Station for advanced flight training. The Black Cat was a nickname for the widely used, and perhaps little known to the public, aircraft known officially as the Consolidated PBY Catalina, which was a "flying boat".

Bob flew many missions in his career, logging over 1400 hours of flight time in roughly two years in the South Pacific. He and his crew once flew almost around the clock. "My longest day was 21 hours and 10 minutes, but who was counting the time?"

"On those long flights we had a stove and an auxiliary generator to run the stove. They would give us a bunch of food and that's how we could stay out so long. There were also four cots on each pane."

Bob said crews would stay on the water for long stretches. "We would just land in the water and sleep there, with people out on the wings. We would also sleep on the plane to protect it, even when we were close to land, to make sure nobody came out to damage it, especially the Philippines. We always wore guns on the flights."

Murray said one of the highlights of crew's two year run was the sinking of an 1800 ton tanker.

"I was relieved when the news that the war had ended reached me, because I knew I was getting out."

During his military service he received the WWII Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Air Medal and two Presidential Unit Citations. He was an Aircraft Machinist Mate 2nd Class when he was discharged.

After his discharge he went back to New Jersey where he owned his own auto repair shop, worked for Studebaker a short time, then for Lincoln-Mercury for 32 years.

He and his wife Lillian were married in 1961. They have three children.

Their journey for a retirement home led them eventually to Crossville, Lake Tansi, Tennessee. We are so fortunate that Bob and his wife found us. We are blessed to have him here. He has been a member of the Lake Tansi Exchange Club for 22 years. Next to Ken Deadman, the longest serving member.

I went to the Methodist Church Tuesday night to help with the Stephen's Center Christmas Party, and guess who was there. Bob Murray. What a faithful volunteer.

S00000000000000000000!!!!!!



A GREAT BIG HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BOB

Happy Birthday

January Birthdays:

Tina Ferry, 4th
Sharon Kirtley 22nd
Steve Hiltabidle 30th

AND,



January Anniversaries

Jan and Kermit Hurley 13th

NEXT MEETING: January 5th, 2017



FROM
Home
To *Home*
And
Heart to heart
From one place
To another
The *warmth* and *joy* of
CHRISTMAS
Brings
Us
closer
to each other

...Emily Matthews...

* * *

And from me, thanks for allowing me to do the Motivator. I hope each of you enjoy getting it as much as I enjoy doing it. Linda

And in friendship- May you each have a very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years.