

From [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Sep 7, 2017 11:50 am

[REDACTED] I have started and owned a number of businesses and learned the hard way that little lesson i the email I sent is so true, I had a blasting Business in Arkansas for several years and built it up and sold it. It was a relief not putting up with it with all the troubles involved with that type of business, [REDACTED]

I wanted to attend the class reunion but I just can not do it, I am attending a Sea Burial in Fort Pierce FL and that takes me away from work for a week, I can only do one event or the other and feel more obligated to attend the FT Pierce event. The big deal for me is that there is a UDT (underwater demolition team), SEAL Museum on Hutchinson Island at FT Pierce for US Navy Frog men and US Navy Seals, (I was both), Ft Pierce is where the US Navy trained Frogmen for WWII I graduated Underwater Demolition Team training at Little Creek VA even before there was a Navy Seals, My Class 33 started with 266 men and only 34 of us completed the course, When Vietnam loomed over the Horizon JFK started the US Navy Seal teams, Seal team One on the west coast and Seal team 2 on the east coast, I stayed in the Underwater Demolition Teams until the Vietnam Build up and the was asked to become a Seal in Seal Team 2 Little Creek VA, In 1970 the Navy started calling all the UDT teams SEALS but the first Seal team 2 was turned into Seal Team 6 with the same people, I stayed until 1970 and my old wounds from Vietnam caught up with me and I left because I felt I was no longer good enough and did not want to be a burden or not do my job as well as I had before I got shot up in Vietnam. So my loyalty is with my close Navy Friends and even though I graduated from LRCHS I only remember a few people and probably no one remembers me, Whereas my navy buddies were closer to me than my own Brothers,

We are old now and going out on a fairly regular basis, The Museum holds Sea Burials every year at our yearly Muster (gathering) where we meet up with old friends, The Burial ceremony is held behind the Museum on the Beach, The Navy Seals/ Frogmen line up and words are spoken for those who have recently passes away and after that the remains are swam out to sea and let go into the deep, It is a touching event, I have not missed one of these events since they were started, This year a couple of my Class 33 and SEAL 2 friends are being Swam out to Sea, This may be my last opportunity to attend unless it is time for me to be Swam out,

If you are ever in FL go see the UDT/Seal Museum at Ft pierce just north of Miami on the east coast, It has become a Super High World Class Museum and well worth going out of your was to see. It is ironic that when I was a SEAL we were not allowed to talk about it and not today we have a Museum and see SEALS on the News spilling their guts about what Seals do, We were taught Loose Lips Sink Ships.

Thank you for all your efforts and I do hope the LRCHS Class of 62 is a great success, seems like you did much work making it so.

Do you remember Bill [REDACTED]? [REDACTED]? Class of 62

The deer season just before we graduated we went Deer hunting down around Pine Bluff and Woodson AR. for some reason I do not remember why I left my rifle with him and never had a chance to get it back, I left for the Navy right out of High School. Bill kept my rifle and took good care of it for more than fifty years and once I was visiting family in NLR I called him just to say Hello and he asked me if I wanted my rifle back. I had forgotten all about it, I told him I would like to have it back unless he wanted it, He said "Lord no I have too many Guns now', I kept it for you when you might come home and ask about it"

The rifle was one I had owned since I was in grade school in Camden Arkansas, I carried it around in a scabbard attached to my bicycle, No one ever cared back then, I would even park my bicycle outside the Malco theater in Camden and when I would come out of the Movie it would always be there, Everyone in town Knew it belonged to Fred Miller and never even thought a thing about a 9 year old kid carrying around a 30-06 Springfield Rifle and a sack full of ammunition.

[REDACTED] we lived in a good world and country back then like we will never see again, The world is changing and has changed and we were the blessed one of our times, I miss those days really bad. but I miss the people of those days more than anything. I am just grateful to have know so many really great people. I never missed the Military or scools I attended I just missed my friends