

For where thy go, I will go:

A journey with a Navy Officer

By **Paula L. Ratliff**
Guest Contributor

“For whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge, thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God.” (Ruth 1:16). Dona Rae Chapman knew the instant she saw his “pretty, dark brown eyes” that he was the one and she readily signed on for a life with her Navy officer.



Freeze III.

After he finished his first tour in June 1959, Dona recalls that he couldn’t find a job. One day, he received a call from a Navy officer who asked him if he would like to work in Hawaii, to which Dona replied, “Who wouldn’t?” They loaded up and headed to Hawaii, the first of a dozen moves the couple would make while serving our country.

He worked for a year with Bendix Field Engineering on the Pacific Missile Range and assisted in the recovery of the first satellite recovered from space, Discoverer XIII. He did a lot of “encrypted teletype,” she said.

While in Hawaii, Dona enjoyed the pineapple and sugar cane fields and stayed busy. She became pregnant with their first child and flew home to be with her family. As she left the airport, James pleaded of his wife, “Any name, but Junior.” Well, she named him “Junior.”

He soon joined Dona and Junior. Times were hard and he couldn’t find a job that paid enough to support the family, so he decided to enroll in Georgetown College and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and Chemistry in 1964.

“At that time, we had 4 kids, all less than 4

years of age, so it was hard to make a living. He didn’t make enough money on a teacher’s salary, so he applied to Officers Candidate School,” said Dona.

On the road again, the family moved to Pensacola, Florida, and James entered the Naval Preflight Program and was designated a Naval Flight Officer in June 1965. After designation, he reported to Reconnaissance Attack Squadron Three for training in the RA-5C Vigilante, a Mach-2 Tactical Reconnaissance aircraft. He then served in four fleet squadrons logging 350 carrier landings, over one hundred combat flights over North Vietnam off the USS Enterprise in 1966-67 and 1971 and over 2,700 hours in the RA5C aircraft. He served two, nine-month deployments in Vietnam.

Dona and Jim communicated with letters and cassette tapes. She would record messages from the kids to send to him.

Dona enjoyed living in Florida and said the kids could play outside all the time. She recalled one time when Junior walked to the beach before anyone realized he was missing. When a volunteer found his cowboy boots on the pier, they feared the worst, but thankfully he was fine.

“I didn’t scold him, I just cried,” she said.

Dona shared memories of their many moves and the strict policies they could not fraternize with others. “It made for a lonely life, especially after 11:00 p.m. when the kids went to bed. He was often away on missions.”



She hand-sewed their clothes, did two loads of laundry a day, and cooked three meals a day, “Well, I fed them, not necessarily cooking, hot dogs and hamburgers were an easy meal. The military housing was excellent for officers. We didn’t have much entertainment. Our 13-inch black and white television had one channel. We had a telephone, but he couldn’t call me. I took the kids to church and the ballpark.”

They moved back to Nashville, then back to Key West, Florida, where she was able to travel with him for one month to Italy, Spain, and Greece. She lovingly remembers the military balls.

When asked about the protests about Vietnam, Dona said they didn’t experience anything specific, but she and her family recalled a lot about race relations as they moved to

different locations. Their daughter, Lee Boyter Hayden, gave an example of her mother’s reaction to discrimination.

“I was in first or second grade and we were in Albany, Georgia. Mom was in her robe and singing in the choir. A white man and black woman entered the church and sat toward the front. She watched as a deacon approached them and they got up and left. She noticed her mom leaving the choir loft and she didn’t know why.

Well, a minute later, here comes Mom without her choir robe. She walked up the aisle to the pew where us four kids and Dad were sitting. She grabbed him by the arm and proclaimed, ‘We will not go to a church where they will not let people come in to worship.’ There she was, all five feet of her small stature and weighing about 100

pounds, standing as tall as Dad who was six feet tall. Together, we all marched down that aisle and never returned to that church.”

Her actions resulted in the church addressing race relations. “I am so proud of her for taking that bold step,” said Lee. “She may be small in stature, but she was a giant in strength.”

In February 1977, James accepted his final assignment in recruitment with the Navy in Nashville, Tennessee, retiring in 1980. The district included most of Tennessee, North Alabama, North Georgia, the western portion of Virginia, and Southern Kentucky.

She remembers arriving in Hendersonville, just outside of Nashville, during the snow blizzard of 1977. We

OFFICER,
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INSPECTION PERIOD FOR THE PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT ROLL

The Hart County real property tax roll will be opened for inspection from May 5 through May 19, 2025. Under the supervision of the property valuation administrator or one of the deputies, any person may inspect the tax roll. This is the January 1, 2025, assessment on which state, county and school taxes for 2025 will be due about November 1, 2025.

The tax roll is in the office of the property valuation administrator at 118 E. Union Street, Munfordville, and may be inspected between the hours of 8 am - 4 pm weekdays and by appointments on Saturday, May 10 & Saturday, May 17 Please call if you need an appointment for Saturday 270-524-2321.

Any taxpayer desiring to appeal an assessment on real property made by the PVA must first request a conference with the PVA or a designated deputy. The conference may be held prior to or during the inspection period. Written documentation supporting your opinion of value will continue to be required.

Any taxpayer still aggrieved by an assessment on real property, after the conference with the PVA or designated deputy, may appeal to the county board of assessment appeals. The appeal must be filed with the county clerk’s office no later than one work day following the conclusion of inspection period. Please contact the county clerk’s office to receive instructions on the method the office is using to accept appeals this year and to obtain a form that can be used to file your appeal.

Any taxpayer failing to appeal to the county board of assessment appeals, or failing to appear before the board, either in person or by designated representative, will not be eligible to appeal directly to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Appeals of personal property assessments shall **not** be made to the county board of assessment appeals. Personal property taxpayers shall be served notice under the provisions of KRS 132.450(4) and shall have the protest and appeal rights granted under the provisions of KRS 131.110.

The following steps should be taken when a taxpayer does not agree with the assessed value of personal property as determined by the property valuation administrator.

- (1) He must list under protest (for certification) what he believes to be the fair cash value of his property.
- (2) He must file a written protest directly with the Department of Revenue, Office of Property Valuation within 30 days from the date of the notice of assessment.
- (3) This protest must be in accordance with KRS 131.110.
- (4) The final decision of the Department of Revenue may be appealed to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Cindy Atwell
Hart County Property Valuation Administrator

05-01-25

Super Crossword

TRIPLE-E PLAY

ACROSS

1 Degrade

6 Sandler of "Grown Ups"

10 Adverse fate

14 Birch's cousin

19 Bob of folk rock

20 It uses poses called asanas

21 "Waterloo"

22 Wife of Gorbachev

23 Paper version of an online publication, informally

26 Cairo's home

27 1989 Series champs

28 Share the same view

30 Region of northern France

33 That man's

35 The "P"

36 Assessment of a worker's performance

42 Moon goddess

43 Dernier — (latest thing)

44 Patronage: Var.

45 Befuddled

49 Give rise to

50 Hearty brunch dishes

54 People with clout

55 That woman

56 NBC TV inits.

57 The "S" of RSVP

58 Pi follower

59 Port in Italia group

62 Moore of the Brat Pack

65 San — (certain Californian)

67 Christmas carol whose titular flower symbolizes Mary

72 Hindu god incarnate

73 — bene

74 Brainpower

75 TV's Turner

76 Q followers

78 Curve part of S&P

80 Geller of psychic acts

81 Just out

84 Portrayer of Rainbow Johnson on "Black-ish"

89 Clan

91 Kett of comics

92 Bona fide

93 Lamb nurser

94 Israeli money

95 "Sixteen Tons"

96 hitmaker of 1955

100 See

102 Hi-fi discs

103 Sets off to the right of the margin

104 Fish also called "unagi"

109 Fury

110 Root in perfumery

111 R.E.M.'s debut single

117 Garlic

118 Old overlord

119 Pub projectile

120 Rapids craft

121 Jam-packed

122 "Don't look —!"

123 With

100-Across, sailor's greeting

124 Flee to marry

DOWN

1 Tack on

2 "Later!"

3 Styled like

4 Sob stories

5 Make a king

6 Sailor's positive reply

7 Performs

8 Era

9 Furious

10 Itinerary info

11 Big Apple

12 stage award

12 Wind quintet instrument

13 Lots of

14 Playground retort

15 Like a shallow bay in an atoll

16 Handy sort

17 Some sports awards

18 Per-unit cost

24 Color again, as hair

25 Rae of "Insecure"

29 Start for glottis or Pen

30 Joe of "Home Alone"

31 "To clarify ..."

32 Grade just above average

33 Man, in Berlin

34 Wall-climbing plants

37 Level of rank

38 Actress Sobieski

39 Fleece-lined boot brand

40 Insurance co. bailed out in 2008

41 General — chicken

46 1994 French Open winner

47 Actor Hawke

48 "I feel — coming on!"

50 Thunder god

51 Makes lovable

52 Olympic skater Ito

53 "The Waste Land" poet

55 Scantly

59 "Fat chance!"

60 Enlightened

61 Kin of "equi-"

63 Wifely title

64 Early PC operator, often

66 Gp. activated by a 911 call

67 Espresso with hot milk

68 Undisguised

69 Attacked

70 Sells online

71 Metallica drummer Ulrich

77 Beach bird

79 Inch along

81 Pentax rival

82 Roger of film review

83 Solders, e.g.

85 Tall marsh plants

86 Golf's Trevino

87 — Vegas

88 Is in the red

89 2017-19 HBO drama series

90 Doctor's pass-along to a specialist

94 Burn slightly

96 Itty-bitty

97 Science educator Bill

98 Greeting to 'Enry 'Iggins

99 Forty-five times two

100 Actress Dressler

101 Chef's wear

104 "The Grapes of Wrath" hero Tom

105 Mex. miss

106 Sunrise side

107 Dutch cheese

108 St. Pat's land

109 Prefix with space

112 Rx watchdog

113 Cheer word

114 Artist Yoko

115 Dad

116 Apt shoe

width to wear when solving this puzzle?