



CANAL GATOR TALES

September 2018

The Man in the Middle



Who is the “man in the middle” shown in this 1898 photo taken in Cuba? He served in the Medical Corps during the Spanish American War. He went to Panama in 1905 to work in the construction of the Panama Canal. He is a recipient of the Roosevelt Medal. His name is Walter D. Peterson, and he is the grandfather of Cheryl Peterson Russell.

Cheryl is looking forward to seeing the monument at San Juan Hill dedicated to the Spanish American War while she is on the January 27 - February 3 Cuba/Caribbean fundraising cruise with Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection. For more information about this 7-day cruise, see the [2019 Cuba Cruise Flyer](#) and contact Travel Leaders at 386-445-0007.

Zonians in the Military

During the American Era of the Panama Canal in the 20th Century, Zonians established a rich tradition of service to the nation in the U.S. uniformed services. Thousands of other Americans also served tours of duty in the Canal Zone and Panama during the American Era, thereby laying claim to being a Zonian.

To honor the Zonians who served, Bob Zumbado created a list of *Zonians in the Military*, which was maintained on the former Panama Canal Museum website and which has been available on the PCMC website since 2012. Recently, we changed the process for submitting information for the list (based on Bob's recommendations), and we added several new entries for Zonians who served. The *Zonians in the Military* list is accessible at: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/pcmc/links/MilitaryZonians>.

We would like to continue to develop this list with new entries for Zonians and to fill in gaps where we are lacking information. To submit a new name to the list, or to add new information to existing entries, please send an email to John Nemmers, jnemmers@ufl.edu, with the following information:

1. Zonian's Name
2. U.S. Uniformed Service(s) (Air Force, Army, Army Air Corps, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Merchant Marines, Navy)
3. Years Served / Year Retired
4. PCC/CZG Division
5. Canal Zone School(s) Attended and Graduation Year(s)

Served in the Zone Online Exhibit

We are pleased to announce the release of a new online version of the exhibition currently open to the public in the Albert Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery at the University of Florida. The exhibition, *Served in the Zone* (<http://exhibits.uflib.ufl.edu/ZoneServed/>), examines the role of food in Zonian experiences and culture, as well as the Zonian cuisine that developed during the American Era of the Panama Canal. The exhibition features excerpts from oral histories and narratives contributed by Zonians, as well as a variety of historical photographs and objects from the PCMC. The exhibits address diverse themes relating to food, including popular recipes, dinner staples, community and social events, restaurants, holiday meals, school lunches, cultural influences, and shopping at the commissary. Although the online exhibit does not replicate the entire exhibition currently on display in the Panama Canal Gallery, it does provide a sample so that online visitors can get a "taste" of the visitor experience in the Gallery.

Consider a Planned Gift

Many of you are already supporters of the PCMC, and your generosity ensures that the historical materials in the Panama Canal Museum Collection will be accessible to future generations. If you haven't already, please consider including the PCMC in your estate plans. Planned gifts, including bequests and living trusts, support the collection in perpetuity and strengthen our research services and education programs. For more information or assistance, please call the UF George A. Smathers Libraries Office of Development at (352) 273-2505 or visit the UF Foundation Gift Planning home page.

Save These Dates

January 27 - February 3, 2019

7-Night Cuba and Eastern Caribbean Fundraising Cruise on Royal Caribbean's *Empress of the Seas* with Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection. For more information, see the [2019 Cruise Flyer](#).

March 16, 2019

Joint meeting of the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection and Panama Canal Society at the University of Florida's Smathers Library in Gainesville, FL. Includes the grand opening of the 2019 exhibition in the Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery and guest speakers.

July 3-7, 2019

Exhibit, Auction and Cultural Seminar at the Panama Canal Society Reunion at the Orlando Marriott World Center. It's never too early to start identifying items that you would like to donate to the auction! Please contact Kathy Egolf (pankee@aol.com) if you have items to donate.



