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PT658

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OPERATIONAL WWII PT BOAT

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42 Squad Boatmen Crew
In accordance with Navy Rules
Landing Craft (LC) 17 (LVT(A)-4)
Maximum Load (Gross)
100,000 lbs.
Maximum wt 210 pounds
Maximum
1000 lbs. 1000 pounds of
weight of 210 lbs.
Maximum





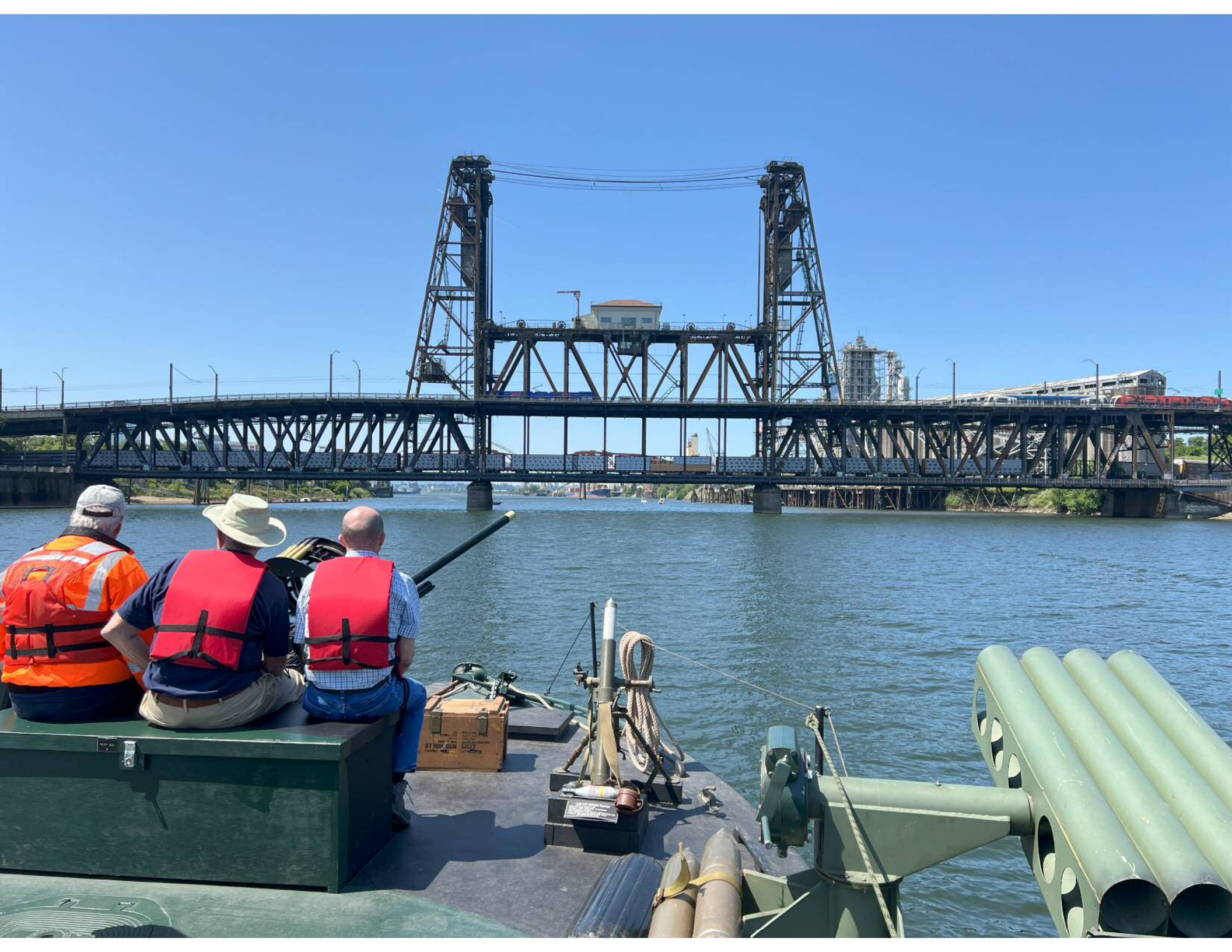




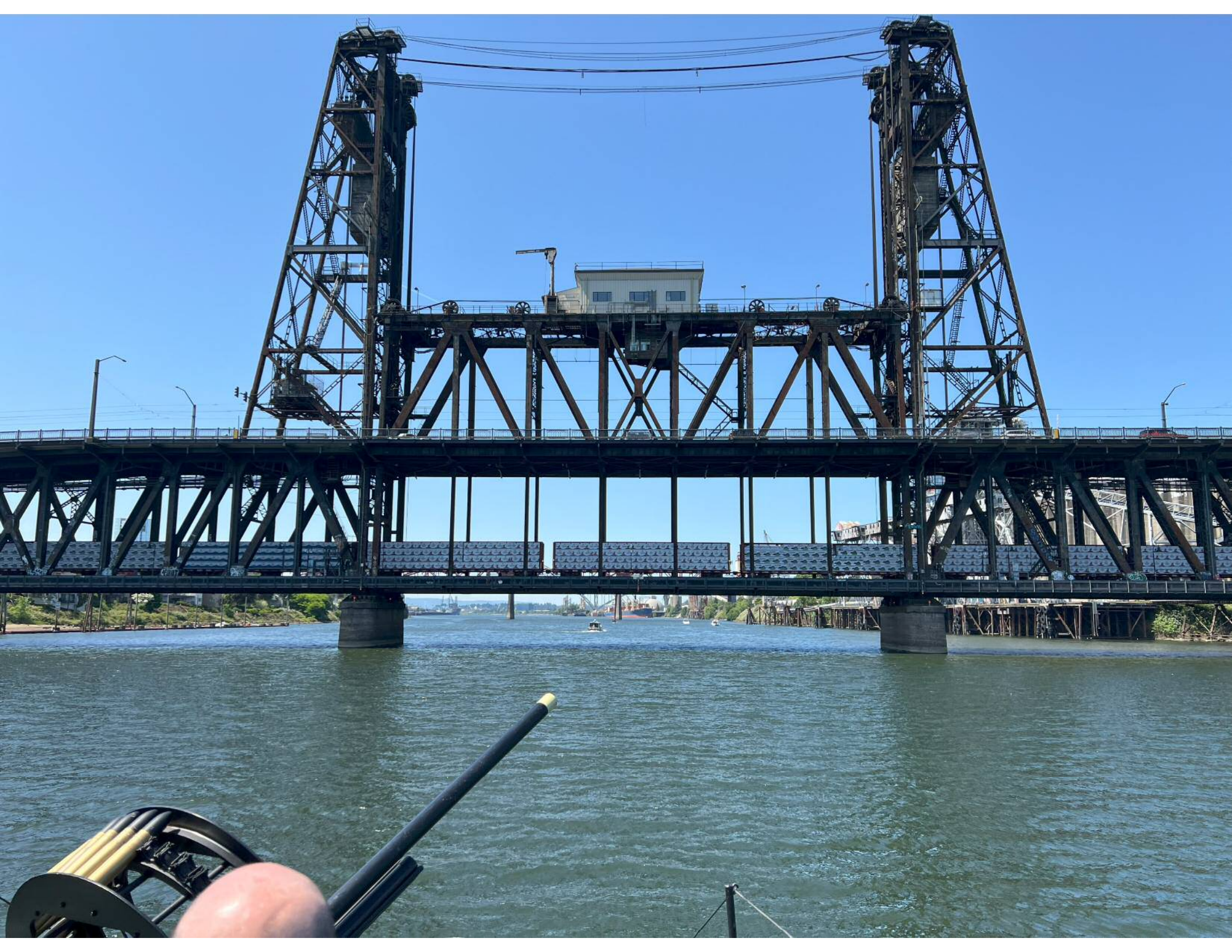




















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165 251 283 300 311 320 32



PT CREW BIOGRAPHY

34 37 43 44 109 111 112
165 251 283 300 311 320







PT 129

Born in Yuricuaro, Michoacan de Ocampo, Mexico, on September 13, 1918 Joe G. Lopez was inducted into the U.S. Navy on December 22, 1943 and reported to the U.S. Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois. As a citizen of Mexico without legal immigration papers, he learned from a Navy chaplain that non-citizens, even in the military, who left the continental U.S. before obtaining citizenship had a high risk of immediate deportation after returning from overseas deployment.

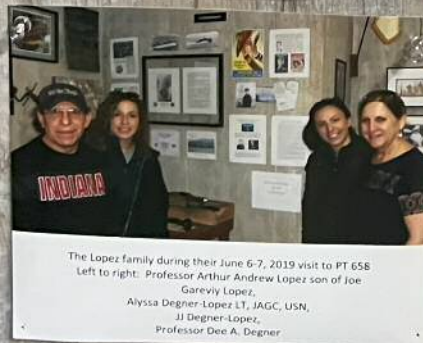
The chaplain assisted Joe with obtaining U.S. citizenship. He walked Joe through the citizenship process including orders to travel to Detroit instead of participating in graduation with his class. Once there, Joe entered Canada, had a cup of coffee, and walked back across the border. His immigration papers state "emigrated from Canada" although Joe had never been there before.



He was then arrived at the U.S. Naval Receiving Barracks in Shoemaker, California. There, he appeared in Federal Court and became a naturalized citizen on April 22, 1944. On June 1, 1944 he reported to MTB RON 7 in New Guinea and was assigned to PT 129, then nicknamed the "Artful Dodger".

While on PT 129, Joe participated in the New Guinea and Philippine campaigns and was in the Battle of Leyte Gulf and completed at least 35 patrols behind enemy lines. Joe earned the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of War Ribbon with one star, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 2 stars, and received a Navy Unit Commendation for action in the New Guinea area during the Aitape campaign and stayed with PT 129 until it was stripped and burned at Samar on October 28, 1945.

With the rating of MoMM3c, Joe was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy on December 18, 1945. Joe and his wife Mary A. are interred in Arlington National Cemetery.



The Lopez family during their June 6-7, 2019 visit to PT 658

Left to right: Professor Arthur Andrew Lopez son of Joe Garevity Lopez,
Alyssa Degner-Lopez LT, JAGC, USN,
JJ Degner-Lopez,
Professor Dee A. Degner



PT 129

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With the rating of MoMM3/c, Joe was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy on December 18, 1945. Joe and his wife Mary A. are interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

Joe Garevity Lopez
F1/c MoMM3/c
MTB RONs 7 and 8
PT 129



The Lopez family during their June 6-7, 2019 visit to PT 658
Left to right: Professor Arthur Andrew Lopez son of Joe Garevity Lopez,
Alyssa Degner-Lopez LT, JAGC, USN,
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Professor Dee A. Degner







































