

From the Association's Secretary



As of this writing the tour package has not yet been completed for a variety of reasons and consequently the mailing of the Reunion Registration Packets has been delayed. Hopefully, we can get something/someone to work with us and provide us with some affordable costs.



I am working on a City Highlight Tour, Dinner Cruise on Lake Michigan and the Museum of Science and Industry. While everything except the tours is in place for our 20th annual reunion it looks like we should have our usual good turnout. I have received 120 requests for information to date. If you haven't already requested the Reunion Packet, please do so ASAP.

In regards to the Oprah Show . . . we are unable to get any group tickets. The policy is that each individual must contact the show and request tickets. This must be done 1 MONTH prior to the date by calling 1-312-591-9222. I apologize for the confusing information that was in the previous newsletter.

Some of you also expressed an interest in visiting the US NAVAL RECRUIT TRAINING CENTER. I contacted the base and was told that they allow 125 maximum visitors on Friday for graduation ceremonies and September 30, 2005 has been solidly booked for a long time. NO other tours are offered.

Hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer and looking forward to seeing many of you in Chicago in September.

—Ron



**WIN
ROOM AND
REUNION PACKAGE
COSTS FOR
THE REUNION**

Check page 3
for Raffle information

**If you are planning
to attend the reunion,
please notify Ron so
that he can send you
a "Reunion Packet"**



Keeping us informed of your address is very important ... to both of us!

- We want to ensure that our mail reaches you.
- We want to make sure you receive your copy of the "News."

Send all address changes to:

RON CURTIS
895 County Road 703
Bland, MO 65014

Name: _____

New Address: _____

New Phone # _____

Old Address: _____



DON'T FORGET
All dues payments and
orders for merchandise
are to be sent to
DELL BANCROFT,
Treas.

18085 SW 77 Avenue
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157
e-mail: signondell@aol.com

Membership Dues

Effective November 1, 2004

Yearly dues for membership in our organization is \$25. Checks can be made out to any of the Associations.

Life Membership Rates

If you have already paid your 2005 dues, credit for that amount will be allowed toward a LIFE MEMBERSHIP. We trust your integrity, no proof of birth date required.

AGE	LIFETIME DUES
60 & under	\$250.00
61-65	170.00
66-70	135.00
71+	120.00



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JERRY JOTKOFF, Editor
10130 N.W. 22 Court
Pembroke Pines, FL 33026
(954) 431-1560

e-mail - printmn1@bellsouth.net

JACK WITTENBORN, Asst. Editor
10087 42nd Drive South, #103
Boynton Beach, FL 33436
(561) 735-7539

e-mail: jowittenbo@cs.com

*It is not necessary to use this form – a regular letter is OK.
Should be mailed back by June 15, 2005*

RAFFLE

WIN ROOM AND REUNION PACKAGE COSTS FOR THE NORTHBROOK, IL REUNION SEPT. 28 – OCT. 2, 2005

(additional costs, ie tours, room service, etc. is the winners responsibility)

I wish to purchase _____ raffle ticket(s) at \$10.00 each

Enclosed is \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Send entry to

RON CURTIS, 895 County Road 703, Bland, MO 65014

The number of winners depends on the number of entrants.



SPECIAL



New monogrammed AV7 ball cap

Regular \$12 (plus shipping)

Limited time special \$10.75
(free shipping in the USA)

Save the Date

20th Annual Reunion

Sept. 28 - Oct. 2, 2005

From the hotels website

Radisson

Hotel Northbrook
2875 North Milwaukee Avenue
Northbrook IL 60062
US Toll Free (800) 333-3333
Telephone: (847) 298-2525
Fax: (847) 298-8965

The Radisson Hotel Northbrook has brought the energy and luxury of Chicago's Gold Coast into the north suburbs with its newest location in Northbrook, Illinois. Located just 9 miles from the O'Hare International Airport and 20 minutes from downtown Chicago, the Radisson Hotel Northbrook is the perfect destination for a business trip, family vacation or romantic getaway.

This completely renovated hotel offers superior accommodations and remarkable service including over-sized guestrooms with Sleep Number Beds by Select Comfort, a state-of-the-art health club, swimming pool and whirlpool, and full-service banquet facilities. The Radisson Hotel Northbrook also features exciting dining options. Enjoy regional cuisine at The Willows - An American Grill or cheer on your favorite Chicago team at The Scoreboard-Neighborhood Pub. In addition, the Radisson Hotel Northbrook is close to area attractions such as the Ravinia Festival, Chicago Botanic Garden, Six Flags Great America and the Arlington International Racecourse.

The Radisson Hotel Northbrook offers:

- 318 deluxe guest rooms, including 19 spacious suites, featuring large work desk, High-Speed Internet Access, speaker phones with data ports, voicemail, 25" Web TV with infrared keyboard capability, movies and computer games, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board
- Sleep Number Beds by Select Comfort
- Complimentary High-Speed Internet Access in all guest rooms
- State-of-the-art fitness facilities
- Swimming pool and whirlpool
- The Willows - An American Grill. Full service restaurant

- The Scoreboard-Neighborhood Pub, a Chicago-style sports bar
- 15,000 Square feet of flexible meeting space
- Complimentary 24 hour business center
- Gift Shop, ATM
- Same day dry cleaning and guest laundry
- 24-hour room service
- Complimentary on-site parking



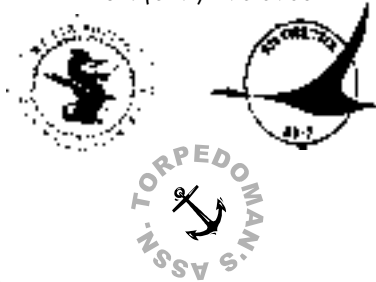
**See you at the
REUNION**



Sept. 28 – Oct. 2, '05
**If you are planning to
attend the reunion,
please notify Ron so that
he can send you a
“Reunion Packet”
when all details are
finalized.**

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An introduction to Chicago

The third largest city of the United States (after New York and Los Angeles), with a population of nearly 3,000,000 people (8,000,000, including the suburbs), Chicago was forever marked as a rough, rowdy, and rather heavy-handed sort of place in the poetry of Carl Sandburg ("hog butcher to the world...stacker of wheat...city of the big shoulders"). In reality, it is today a far more sophisticated site of major cultural and learning institutions (Chicago Art Institute, University of Chicago, Northwestern University in nearby Evanston), fine dining, elegant restaurants and hotels, and a big bohemian district (Old Town). And yet it basically, at heart, remains Sandburg's commercial and industrial powerhouse, with major factories, giant office towers, commodities and stock exchanges, and more annual conventions and trade shows than anywhere else. It is the capital of the Midwest, home to the nation's busiest airport (O'Hare), a mighty air hub and rail center, a place of massed and immensely tall skyscrapers, and a city that so mirrors the business outlook of the United States that it is sometimes visited by foreign tourists for that very reason.

Apart from coming here to attend conventions and trade shows, visitors from our own country are attracted to Chicago by its many theaters and museums (Lyric Opera, The Goodman Theater), the Art Institute (Georges Seurat's Sunday on the Grand Jatte), the Museum of Science and Industry, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Field Museum of Natural History, its nighttime entertainment, its architecture (Mies van der Rohe, Helmut Jahn), its vast sweeping boulevard lined with grand apartment houses along Lake Michigan (Lake Shore Drive), its monumental Michigan Avenue cutting through the downtown district, with the "Magnificent Mile" of upscale shopping. The city's ethnic communities add to the attraction, and in recent years a great many tourists have been drawn to the city's many Eastern European gathering spots (restaurants, clubs, nightspots), of which the Polish-American community is perhaps the largest supplier.

No longer host to either the huge stockyards of the past or to gangsters in heavy suits and white spats, Chicago is, if nothing else, a manageably sized version of the quintessential American city. It has, as we've pointed out, much of the good a city



brings to the visitor, from world-class museums and innovative architecture to hundreds of really good restaurants. But it also has a goodly sampling of the bad, from derelict inner-city buildings and a troublesome crime rate to under-financed public schools and a continuing flight to the suburbs.

-From Frommer's Budget Travel



***A Special
Thanks to our
Life Members
for their
contributions***

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Nukes, S Samuel AV7	100.00		
Palmer, Walter J AV7	25.00		
Parlee, Kenneth AD24	100.00		
Peereboom, Dirk AD24	70.00		
		Total	\$9,139.00



During December 1946, the seaplane tender USS Currituck AV7, ventured south toward the Antarctic Ocean from the US Naval Air station located at San Diego, CA. the voyage down the Pacific Ocean went from the earth's Northern hemisphere to the Southern hemisphere, past the Equator. Our crew of swabbies included old salts with mega years of shipboard duty, and others who were new to the rituals of equatorial enlightenment. the above photo is proof of the inhuman initiation rites meted out to "Polywogs" during the tortuous path to the realm of the "Shellback." –Submitted by Hugh Paz



Q	P	N	V	R	E	K	C	O	L	T	A	O	G	O
U	B	O	T	M	S	Q	U	A	D	R	O	N	X	B
A	N	R	P	K	N	A	L	P	O	N	A	O	S	E
R	O	S	A	I	H	O	K	N	W	O	N	W	T	A
T	O	R	E	S	N	N	S	I	P	W	A	Q	N	B
E	H	G	F	A	S	K	L	L	X	B	H	A	B	A
R	O	L	W	O	M	D	L	R	R	L	V	G	P	G
D	F	E	H	I	G	A	E	A	G	Y	A	D	A	N
E	F	V	N	O	V	T	N	M	D	L	F	E	N	A
C	I	O	O	A	A	J	X	J	F	Y	K	E	A	M
K	C	S	X	M	L	A	W	A	N	I	K	O	M	R
N	E	R	P	C	A	P	T	A	I	N	V	H	A	I
O	R	I	S	G	E	L	A	E	S	X	V	K	J	A
B	H	F	M	B	F	R	S	E	A	S	I	C	K	Y
S	F	I	R	E	M	A	N	X	S	L	C	J	O	W

- PINKLADY
- WILDGOOSE
- OKINAWA
- SQUADRON
- PANAMA
- MARLIN
- SEAPLANE
- CAPTAIN
- AIRMAN
- SHIPMATE
- GOATLOCKER
- QUARTERDECK
- GANGPLANK
- SEAMAN
- FIREMAN
- OFFICER
- FLAG

Word Puzzle

*(answers on page 16)
Submitted by
Nathan Good,
AV7 webmaster*

“What’s The Score?”

A long time ago (it seems like another lifetime), but it’s the same old one minus 54 years, I was a young sailor. The scene was the San Diego Naval Training Center, which translates into Boot Camp.

At some point during the nine weeks of training we recruits were to sit for our GCTS. (General Classification Tests). This exam consisted of four parts: General Knowledge (IQ), Mechanical, Mathematics, and Clerical. Doesn’t sound too intimidating, does it? The scary thing is that these scores follow you throughout your enlistment, and have a very large influence whether good, bad, or indifferent as to schooling, specialty rates, postings, etc. Pretty damn important!!

As I recall, they had been running our asses off on the day of the tests, plus half of the company was sick from either the flu or the inoculations we were given to keep us healthy. We went around in a fog most of the time, coughing, hacking, and feverish. Sick bay was all booked out. So suck it up sailor!! We took the test.

Towards the end of our training we were interviewed individually to discuss the scores we had achieved, and just how these scores affected our qualification for naval schools. It seems it went something like the following:

Interviewer: “OK Wittenborn, what is your first choice for a school?”

Me: “Aviation photographer’s school.” (I chose that because Cornwell’s dad had been the aviation photography officer on the carrier Lexington, and had shown us priceless WWII films that he had taken.)

Interviewer: “Wow! That’s a very unusual, but a darn good one. I see no reason, considering your test scores, why that should not be within reach. I’d say you have a great chance of getting it, however just in case you don’t get your first pick, what would be your second choice?”

Me: (and I’m pumped up now!) “My second choice is Sonar school.” (I’d seen the submarine movies.)

Interviewer: “OK. Now let me tell you that you’ve got that one in the bag. A 100% lock. Now, just on the outside possibility that by some fluke you don’t make Sonar school, which I know you will, what’s your third choice? I’ve got to ask this question, even though it’s unnecessary.” (No doubt, this guy became a top automobile salesman in civilian life.)

Me: “Well, if I’ve got to name a third, I guess I’ll pick Radar school.” (I’d also seen the movies about blips and bogies.)

Interviewer: “Great choice! “Great choice! OK, Wittenborn you’ve made three wise choices, and you can rest assured that you will be attending a naval school after Boot Camp. Good luck and happy school days. Next!!” . . .

For the first time Boot Camp didn’t seem quite so bad.

Well, we’ve come this far in the narrative, and I’m assuming that the reader would like to know the outcome. Was it 1, 2, or 3? As it can frequently happen in real life, the answer was none of the above, but in retrospect I’m grateful for the Navy’s wise decision. No aviatational photos, no Sonar pings, and no Radar blips nor bogies were in my naval future. They were replaced with other more essential items such as swabs, buckets, chipping hammers, paint and brushes, ropes and marlin spikes. Tools of the trade for a member of the 2nd Division (deck force) U.S.S. Everglades AD-24. Welcome aboard!! (I wouldn’t have wanted it any other way.)

—Submitted by Wittenborn, J. H. Jr. QM2

I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR

Hear my voice, America! Though I speak through the mist of 200 years, my shout for freedom will echo through liberty's halls for many centuries to come. Hear me speak, for my words are of truth and justice, and the rights of man. For those ideals I have spilled my blood upon the world's troubled waters. Listen well, for my time is eternal –yours is but a moment. I am the spirit of heroes past and future.

I am the American Sailor. I was born upon the icy shores at Plymouth, rocked upon the waves of the Atlantic, and nursed in the wilderness of Virginia. I cut my teeth on New England codfish, and I was clothed in southern cotton. I built muscle at the halyards of New Bedford whalers, and I gained my sea legs high atop mizzen of yankee clipper ships.

Yes, I am the American Sailor, one of the greatest seamen the world has ever known. The sea is my home and my words are tempered by the sound of paddle wheels on the Mississippi and the song of whales off Greenland's barren shore. My eyes have grown dim from the glare of sunshine on blue water, and my heart is full of star-strewn nights under the Southern Cross. My hands are raw from winter storms while sailing down round the Horn, and they are blistered from the heat of cannon broadside while defending our nation. I am the American Sailor, and I have seen the sunset of a thousand distant, lonely lands.

I am the American Sailor. It was I who stood tall beside John Paul Jones as he shouted, "I have not yet begun to fight!" I fought upon the Lake Erie with Perry, and I rode with Stephen Decatur into Tripoli harbor to burn Philadelphia. I met Guerriere aboard Constitution, and I was lashed to the mast with Admiral Farragut at Mobile Bay. I have heard the clang of Confederate shot against the sides of Monitor. I have suffered the cold with Peary at the North Pole, and I responded when Dewey said, "You may fire when ready Gridley," at Manila Bay. It was I who transported supplies through submarine infested waters when our soldier's were called "over there." I was there as Admiral Byrd crossed the South Pole. It was I who went down with the Arizona at Pearl Harbor, who supported our troops at Inchon, and patrolled dark deadly waters of the Mekong Delta.

I am the American Sailor and I wear many faces. I am a pilot soaring across God's blue canopy and I am a Seabee atop a dusty bulldozer in the South Pacific. I am a corpsman nursing the wounded in the jungle, and I am a torpedoman in the Nautilus deep beneath the North Pole. I am hard and I am strong. But it was my eyes that filled with tears when my brother went down with the Thresher, and it was my heart that rejoiced when Commander Shepherd rocketed into orbit above the earth. It was I who languished in a Viet Cong prison camp, and it was I who walked upon the moon. It was I who saved the Stark and the Samuel B. Roberts in the mine infested waters of the Persian Gulf. It was I who pulled my brothers from the smoke filled compartments of the Bonefish and wept when my shipmates died on the Iowa and White Plains. When called again, I was there, on the tip of the spear for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

I am the American Sailor. I am woman, I am man, I am white and black, yellow, red and brown. I am Jew, Muslim, Christian, and Buddhist. I am Irish, Filipino, African, French, Chinese, and Indian. And my standard is the outstretched hand of Liberty. Today, I serve around the world; on land, in air, on and under the sea. I serve proudly, at peace once again, but with the fervent prayer that I need not be called again. Tell your children of me. Tell them of my sacrifice, and how my spirit soars above their country. I have spread the mantle of my nation over the ocean, and I will guard her forever. I am her heritage and yours.

I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR

Author unknown

–Submitted by Don Dillon

OOPS!! WE MESSED UP

In the previous issue, the article “Facts about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier” contained some wrong information as pointed out by Dan Stricker (AD24–Mail Call). The following information is from the website “Society of the Honor Guard Tomb of the Unknown Soldier” at the site www.tombguard.org/. Hopefully, this should clear up any of the misinformation.



How does the Guard rotation work? Is it an 8 hour shift?

Currently, the Tomb Guards work on a three Relief (team) rotation – 24 hours on, 24 hours off, 24 hours on, 24 hours off, 24 hours on, 96 hours off. However, over the years it has been different. The time off isn't exactly free time. It takes the average Sentinel 8 hours to prep his/her uniform for the next work day. Additionally, they have Physical Training, Tomb Guard training, and haircuts to complete before the next work day.

How many steps does the Guard take during his walk across the Tomb of the Unknowns and why?

21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

How long does the Sentinel hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time, and if not, why not?

He does not execute an about face. He stops on the 21st step, then turns and faces the Tomb for 21 seconds. Then he turns to face back down the mat, changes his weapon to the outside shoulder, counts 21 seconds, then steps off for another 21 step walk down the mat. He faces the Tomb at each end of the 21 step walk for 21 seconds. The Sentinel then repeats this over and over until he is relieved at the Guard Change.

Why are his gloves wet?

His gloves are moistened to improve his grip on the rifle.

How often are the Guards changed?

The Guard is changed every thirty minutes during the summer (April 1 to Sep 30) and every hour during the winter (Oct 1 to Mar 31). During the hours the cemetery is closed, the guard is changed every 2 hours. The Tomb is guarded, and has been guarded, every minute of every day since 1937.

Is it true they must commit 2 years of life to guard the Tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives.

No, this is a false rumor. The average tour at the Tomb is about a year. There is NO set time for service there. The Sentinels live either in a barracks on Ft. Myer (the Army post located adjacent to the cemetery) or off base if they like. They do have living quarters under the steps of the amphitheater where they stay during their 24 hour shifts, but when they are off, they are off. And if they are of legal age, they may drink anything they like, except while on duty.

Is it true they cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives?

Again, another false rumor.

Is it true after two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as Guard of the Tomb, that there are only 400 presently worn, and that the Guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin?

The Tomb Guard Identification Badge is awarded after the Sentinel passes a series of tests. The Badge is permanently awarded after a Sentinel has served 9 months as a Sentinel at the Tomb. Over 500 have been awarded since its creation in the late 1950's. And while the Badge can be revoked, the offense must be such that it discredits the Tomb. Revocation is at the Regimental Commander's discretion. But you can drink a beer and even swear and still keep the Badge. The Badge is a full size award, worn on the right pocket of the uniform jacket, not a lapel pin.

Are the shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet?

The shoes are standard issue military dress shoes. They are built up so the sole and heel are equal in height. This allows the Sentinel to stand so that his back is straight and perpendicular to the ground. A side effect of this is that the Sentinel can "roll" on the outside of the build up as he walks down the mat. This allows him to move in a fluid fashion. If he does this correctly, his hat and bayonet will appear to not "bob" up and down with each step. It gives him a more formal and smooth look to his walk, rather than a "marching" appearance.

The soles have a steel tip on the toe and a "horseshoe" steel plate on the heel. This prevents wear on the sole and

allows the Sentinel to move smoothly during his movements when he turns to face the Tomb and then back down the mat.

Then there is the "clicker." It is a shank of steel attached to the inside of the face of the heel build-up on each shoe. It allows the Sentinel to click his heels during certain movements. If a guard change is really hot, it is called a "smoker" because all the heel clicks fall together and sound like one click. In fact, the guard change is occasionally done in the "silent" mode (as a sign of devotion to the Unknowns). No voice commands - every thing is done in relation to the heel clicks and on specific counts.

How many times will a Soldier be on duty during the shift?

Each Relief (team) has a rotation during the 24 hour work day. This rotation is dependent on the number of Soldier-Sentinels who are proficient enough to guard the Tomb. The standard is 3-4 qualified Sentinels, 1-2 Relief Commander/Assistant Relief Commander, and 1-2 Sentinels in training. Generally, the Sentinel will be on guard duty for a tour and have two tours off in between - then go out for another tour. However, in extreme cases, Sentinels have been known to go back-to-back for the entire 24 hour shift.

How do the Soldiers get to and from the quarters without being seen?

Most wear civilian clothes - although the short, tight haircuts tend to give us away.

There is a small green shack next to the Tomb. What is it for?

"The Box" is used primarily during wreath-laying ceremonies for the Sentinel to retreat to while flowers and Taps are being presented. There also is a phone with a direct line downstairs to the Tomb Guard Quarters - this is used in times of emergencies or just to notify the next shift of something.

Has anyone ever tried to get past the Tomb guards, or attempted to deface the Tomb?

Yes, that is the reason why we now guard the Tomb. Back in the early 1920's, we didn't have guards and the Tomb looked much different. People often came to the cemetery in those days for picnics during which time some would actually use the Tomb as a picnic area (probably because of the view). Soon after, 1925, they posted a civilian guard; in 1926, a military guard was posted during cemetery hours; and on July 1, 1937, this was expanded to the 24-hour watch. Since then, the ceremony has developed throughout the years to what we have today. Today, most of the challenges faced by the Sentinels are tourists who want to get a better picture or uncontrolled children (which generally is very frightening for the parent when the Soldier challenges the child).

What happened to the soldier that was in the Tomb from the Vietnam War?

The remains of the Vietnam Unknown Soldier were exhumed May 14, 1998. Based on mitochondrial DNA testing, DoD scientists identified the remains as those of Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, who was shot down near An Loc, Vietnam, in 1972. It has been decided that the crypt that contained the remains of the Vietnam Unknown will remain vacant. (http://www.defenselink.mil/news/fact_sheets/vubackgr.htm) (<http://www.dod.mil/topstory/tomb.html>)

What is it like to guard in bad weather?

The guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (we call ourselves "Sentinels") are completely dedicated to their duty of guarding the Tomb. Because of that dedication, the weather does not bother them. In fact, they consider it an honor to stand their watch (we call it "walking the mat"), regardless of the weather. It gets cold, it gets hot - but the Sentinels never budge. And they never allow any feeling of cold or heat to be seen by anyone.

Do you guard in a blizzard or a bad thunderstorm?

YES, BUT the accomplishment of the mission and welfare of the Soldier is never put at risk. The Tomb Guards have contingencies that are ready to be executed IF the weather conditions EVER place the Soldiers at risk of injury or death - such as lightning, high winds, etc. This ensures that Sentinels can maintain the Tomb Guard responsibilities while ensuring soldier safety. It is the responsibility of the Chain of Command from the Sergeant of the Guard to the Regimental Commander to ensure mission accomplishment and soldier welfare at all times.

It was erroneously reported that during Hurricane Isabel, the Sentinels were ordered to abandon their posts for shelter and that they refused. No such order was ever given. All proper precautions were taken to ensure the safety of the Sentinels while accomplishing their mission. Risk assessments are constantly conducted by the Chain of Command during changing conditions to ensure that soldier welfare is maintained during mission accomplishment.

Do you guard all night long, even when the cemetery is closed?

The Tomb is guarded 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In fact, there has been a Sentinel on duty in front of the Tomb every minute of every day since 1937. And the Sentinel does not change the way he guards the Tomb, even at night when there is no one around. The Sentinels do this because they feel that the Unknown Soldiers who are buried in the Tomb deserve the very best they have to give.

Welcome Aboard . . .

~~Due to some poor copies of original applications, some bad handwriting, and not to mention some weak typing skills and eyes of the typesetter, there can be errors in the following list – if you think the errors may prevent former shipmates from recognizing and contacting you please advise and corrections will be made in the next issue.~~

The following names are of shipmates who have joined the association since the last newsletter was printed.

Everglades

Boyd, Gordon W.

3108 Cedarville Rd., Chesapeake, VA 23322-1557 757-421-3603 MR2 1957-59

Kelz, Joseph

26151 Lake Shore Blvd., Euclid, OH 44132 216-731-2631 MM2 1959-62

Litrenta, John F., Jr.

2511 7 4th Avenue #3, Elmwood Park, IL 60707 708-452-6767 ET3 1961-63

Pardue, Ralph H.

513 S. College Street, Heath Springs, SC 29058 803-273-4261 SK2 1959-61

Schaffer, Ralph A.

701 N. Lacrosse Street, Allentown, PA 18103 EM3 1952-54

Torpedoman's Assn.

Cobb, Robert

12963 Julington Road, Jacksonville, FL 32258 904-260-6077 TM1 1958-79

Dickey, Leon

P.O. Box 327, Trafford, AL 35172 205-647-3082 E7 1948-68

McDowell, Gary S.

4024 Blue Bird Dr., Modesto, CA 95350 209-545-5839 TM1 1963-86



Underway Replenishment

*The U.S. Navy is one of the few navies in the world that can do it –
It's the mobile delivery of munitions, fuel and other supplies to our ships at sea.*



Mail Call



Please address
all correspondence to:

Ron Curtis
895 County Road 703
Bland, MO 65014

Please note that these letters have been edited
due to space considerations.

Dear Ron . . .

Currituck

... Got our newsletter today. Have made reservations at the Radisson today. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Northbrook. Ticket's to Oprah's show sounds like fun to us. After years of driving in and around Chicago area, have always known there is a lot of interesting things to see. Les has decided to retire from trucking. Though he will be busy fishing I will be finding something part time to do. After 30 years of driving can't tell you how much we are enjoying being home all the time instead of home only 5 times a year. Don't know if you knew or not but Jim Holzapfel from Vancouver, WA passed away last year. He was one of the original plank owner's on the Currituck I believe. Got a Christmas card, from his wife Betty with the sad news. If you already knew this, "sorry." Please send us the Reunion package so we can celebrate the big 20th reunion with friends. P.S. if you send a list will try to help out. Already hoping we can talk Currituck sailor from Wisconsin into joining us.

—Les and Sue Siems

... We have always enjoyed receiving the Currituck news - but right now, I have to tell you that my husband, Commander

Ret. Vance A. Schweitzer passed away on January 22, 2005. He was 87 and really had enjoyed his life - what with a good education at Purdue, Naval Academy and Michigan - 21 years in the US Navy and then 14 years as an Aeronautical Engineer with TRW in San Bernadino, Los Angeles offices, plus five years at NASA in Houston, Texas.

I would like to continue receiving the news letter and should I send the dues to Dell Bancroft, as listed in the last newsletter? Thank you for your help in this.

—Freda Schweitzer, wife of 61 years

... We have moved back to PA to be close to our daughters. Enclosed you will find new address and phone... have sent dues on to Dale. Sorry we won't be able to make the reunion this year - hopefully, we will see you in Virginia. Thanks for all your hard work. It is appreciated.

—Harry (Dan) VanSickle

... I am hoping to attend the 2005 reunion. I am sending in my dues and a donation to Mr. Dell Bancroft, Treasurer. I ALSO WISH TO PURCHASE TEN TICKETS FOR THE RAFFLE. Enclosed you will find a check for \$100. See you at the reunion if all goes well. Thank you for all the time and effort that you and your staff have put into this affair. The Las Vegas reunion was terrific and I am sure it was enjoyed by all who attended.

—Larry A. Heldreth

... I just found a reference to my father on the Torpedman's website, and you were listed as the contact person for the USS Currituck or at any rate, for correspondence. A writer had noted that he had read an obituary for my father, Marvin Daryle Putzier, who passed away on December 2, 2004. My Dad was a proud sailor aboard the Currituck, having served aboard her in

the early to mid-50s. He talked about his Navy service often, and spoke fondly of his service aboard the ship. He attended a reunion in the last few years in Seattle, but otherwise had not been able to be in touch with old shipmates, as he was not a big "computer guy." He would be flattered and touched to have been remembered on your website. Dad died after bypass surgery in Richland, Washington. He was 75. After his service in the Navy, he devoted his life to horse racing, running Thoroughbreds in the northwestern states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. He raised 4 children with my mom, and was a sports fan extraordinaire. He was above all, a great father, a cowboy without equal, and most proud of his status as a veteran. Just hours before his passing, he and I had been talking about our servicemen in Iraq, how proud he was to have served himself, and how proud he was of our men in the armed services. He never, ever forgot his duty or pride in his country and was literally speaking of it until the hour he died. On his behalf, I would like to continue paying yearly membership dues, if that would be possible. Being married to a Navy man myself (USS Kankakee), I know that the older generation is rapidly disappearing, and I'd like to send dues in my Dad's name. Let me know where, and how much, if you would be so kind.

—Marvol Putzier Barnard

... I am enclosing check for a raffle ticket for the reunion. Please add us to the "Reunion Packet" list. We will try our best to keep off the Binnacle List and look forward to the next reunion.

—Earl P. Park

... Please send packet for reunion at Northbrook. Paula and I really enjoyed the reunion in Las Vegas. After we came back I noticed she wasn't acting like herself so I took her to the doctor. She died Dec. 17th from a brain tumor. We

were married for 52 years. Of course things will never be the same but I'm OK. See you in Northbrook.

—John Bonnel

... I have sold my house in Littleton and am moving to a smaller house that is only 4 blocks from my daughter. If I can talk her into going to the reunion I would like that.

—Mary Jo Elston

... I've moved and enclosed is my address change. I enjoy reading the "News" so enclosed also is a small donation to help defray the cost of postage. If possible, I'd like to make it to the reunion this fall.

—Norma Granger (widow of Robert)

... I want to thank you for sending my wife's tag. Also to let you know my new address and another \$25 for the fund. I like receiving the newsletter and the information on the annual reunion. I hope to make it next year now that my wife and I have settled down in Florida.

—John M. Volpe Jr.



TAPS

LEAMON A. RAY

VANCE A. SCHWEITZER

Everglades

... We have thoroughly enjoyed every reunion we took with the Association. Thanks for a job well done to everyone involved. Could you please send us the packet for the Chicago reunion.

—Paul A. Couture

... Ol buddy. Finally got me one of these new fangled contraptions, an affin I can figger out how to use it, I'll ask you to send me the package for the Chicago whindig. Barb has been trying to get tickets for Oprah, it's about impossible. They say to call less than one month in advance, keep hitting the redial button until you get thru. Maybe if you cry on their shoulder about a group of old Sail-

ors, it might help. Lots of luck with that. We've been to Los Vegas too many times, but everyone I know is planning to go to this next one. See you there.
—Russ and Barb Baker

... Please send me a reunion packet. By the way, the article about the Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier is about half B.S. -check out www.snopes.com, the Urban Hoax site, type in "The Tomb . . ." and you can get the straight facts. See you in Chicago!
—Dan Stricker

... Please send a reunion packet to me. Also, Donna has expressed a desire to attend the Oprah Winfrey Show should it be available to us. I would also go with her if men are allowed I have noted that my email address is incorrect on the inside of the front page of the newsletter. It should be as follows: jblaird_888@msn.com. Thanks a lot and best wishes for a successful reunion turnout.
—Jack Laird

... I would like to have a reunion packet for Chicago. I have talked with Joe & Ruth Prol and Jim & Dolores Morken over this past weekend and they have all requested their packets and made their room reservations so I better make mine. Hope you are in good health and ready for all the requests for the 20th reunion? My wife goes for a partial hip replacement Wed., April 6th. She should be ready for the reunion in Sept. Looking forward to seeing you then.
—John Unger

... Yes we do plan on attending this year's reunion in Northbrook, IL. As I was in boot camp way back in 1952 at Great Lakes and hope we can tour the place at this reunion. Delores and myself would be interested in going to the Oprah Winfrey show. Also sending a check for the R&R raffle ticket.
—James C. Morken

... I was told that you could possibly help me obtain a plaque from the U.S.S. Everglades. My father was aboard her when I was a little girl and I would like to get him a plaque for a surprise. Sincerely,
—Yvonne Marie Hopkins

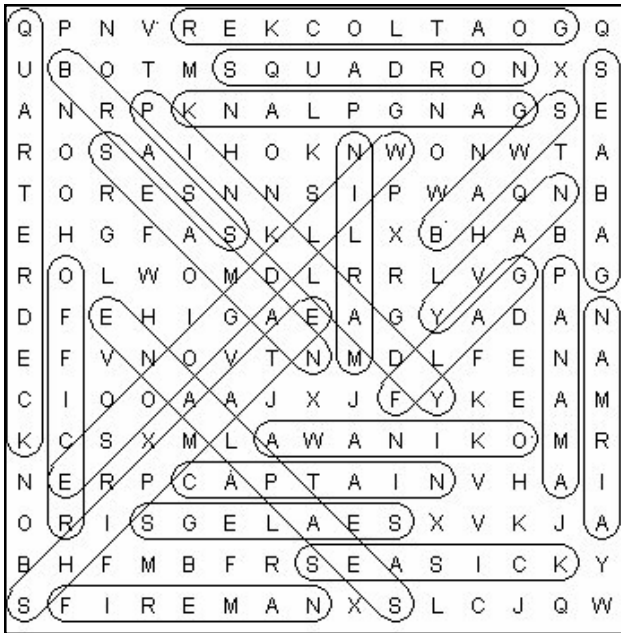
... It was very good to hear from you. I will put a check in the mail by this coming weekend to the treasurer and address you indicated. Thank you so much. I just know my father will be overjoyed with the plaque!!! Respectfully,
—Yvonne Hopkins

... I received the plaque today! Thank you so much for your help. I'm going to have a small gold plate made for it and have my fathers name (Stanley K. Jensen) and his rate engraved and add it to the plaque. Thank you again. This means a great deal to me and I know my father will really be surprised. Sincerely,
—Yvonne Marie Hopkins

Torpedoman's Assn.

... I just wanted you to know that I was only one month late this year paying my dues, last year I was three months late so you can see I am getting better. Maybe next year with the Lord willing and the creeks don't rise I will pay them on time. My wife and I had a great time in Las Vegas meeting you and some old shipmates.
—Ricky Smiddy





**Answer to
puzzle
page 4**

Puzzle submitted by Nathan Good, webmaster of the Currituck website at <http://wildgoose.000k.net/> e-mail at kc5vlf@leaco.net



**Currituck History
on a CD**

Currituck Historian Steve Eakin has prepared an excellent record of the ship's history. It contains 234 photos and an index of 6522 crew members plus nine complete cruise books.

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Members interested can contact Steve Eakin, 4545 Hugo Road, Grants Pass, OR 97526. His e-mail address is sseakin@earthlink.net.



If you find mistakes in this publication, PLEASE consider that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone, and some people are ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MISTEAKS!!!