

# From the Association's Secretary



**B**y all outward indications, our 18th Annual Reunion in Mobile, AL was a success. We reverted back to doing it without the "assistance" of Armed Forces Reunions" and while there were some minor glitches and last minute changes, everything seemed to work out for everyone in attendance. Speaking of attendance, there seems to be a difference in count between myself and Dell Bancroft, our Treasurer. His count at the banquet on Saturday evening was 233, while my count from reservations was 230, so I decided to split the difference and say we had 231 and a half.



Unfortunately, we had some last minute cancellations, due to health or family situations and hope those have resolved themselves at this time. We certainly missed seeing some of the regulars this year, but look forward to having you with us in Vegas. While Mobile offered a lot in the way of tours and sightseeing, it was a bit difficult to make connections to if you were not driving. Transportation to Vegas shouldn't be a problem as they fly in there from EVERYWHERE!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ladies that assisted in running the Chinese Auction and to all of the attendees for their outstanding choice of items. We managed to net \$2490, which I think, might be a new record. Also, a thanks to all those that assisted in tending the Ship's Store and Hospitality Room. Yes, Jay, that includes you and you are more than welcome back next year to keep our members entertained.

During the General Meeting, we gave away some authentic Navy shipboard china to all those in attendance over 80 yrs old... would you believe there were 9 of them in the room. The oldest being Joe Stewart from St Louis who is 88. This was cause for me to realize that our group is getting up there in years. Consequently, I have begun reviewing our Master Lists, in an effort to update the status of many of our number that we haven't heard from in years. Unfortunately, initially, I have found a significant number to be deceased.

As I am sure, elsewhere in this publication, Jerry has given you the details on next years reunion site ... Palace Station Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, NV. As I stressed at our General Meeting in Mobile, we will need to have an early and accurate count of the people attending the Vegas reunion. While the hotel personnel at Mobile were very cooperative with my constant changes in the numbers for meals and the tour company was very lenient about last minute changes, that will not be the case in Vegas. We will need to give them some HARD NUMBERS a month in advance.

Other than a tour to Hoover Dam and Lake Mead, there isn't much else in the way of sightseeing, unless you are prepared for somewhere in the neighborhood of a six hour round trip bus ride. Consequently, we will try to give you information of shows and such that will be available during our stay in Vegas. You will have to make reservations for these on your own.

Now that all the accounting has been completed following the closure of the reunion ... we find we

Continued on Page 6



**K**eeping 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**  
 207 W. Marvin Avenue  
 Owensville, Mo. 65066-1038

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.**

**8135 SW 206 Terrace**  
**Miami, FL 33189**

e-mail: signondell@aol.com

### Membership Dues

Yearly dues for membership in our organization is \$20. Checks can be made out to any of the Associations.

#### Life Membership Rates

If you have already paid your 2003 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
40-55	\$170.00
56-60	135.00
61-65	120.00
66-70	100.00
71-75	80.00
76+	65.00



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**2004**



### THE NEWS

IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR – FEB., MAY, AUG., and NOVEMBER.

**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: jjwittenborn17@aol.com

**Attention all  
Reunion  
attendees**

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS YOU  
TOOK AT THE REUNION  
TO RON FOR INCLUSION  
INTO THE REUNION BOOK



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
ORDER A REUNION BOOK  
CONTACT RON



**SHIP'S STORE  
INVENTORY  
REDUCTION  
SALE**

**20% OFF  
ALL ITEMS  
(See inside Back Cover)**



**Att. All Members**

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING  
CHANGE OF ADDRESS:ES

**RON CURTIS**

Sec'y

895 County Road 703  
Bland, MO 65014  
(573) 943-2349

e-mail: [gunner@direcway.com](mailto:gunner@direcway.com)

**DELL BANCROFT**

Treas.

8135 SW 206 Terrace  
Miami, FL 33189  
(305) 232-4181

e-mail: [signondell@aol.com](mailto:signondell@aol.com)



**19th  
Annual  
Reunion**



**Sept. 26, 2004**



## **Att. Currituck (mid '50s)**

*E-mail sent to Nathan Good's  
Currituck web site*

From : "Paul Stephens"  
paulandann@pastep.freemove.co.uk  
To: Watch@av7.8m.com  
Subject: uss currituck - mid 1950's  
Date: Tue, 5 Aug 2003 22:13:23 +0100

My uncle was assigned to pilot the American Sea Plane Tender 'Currituck' into Milford Haven - West Wales - in the mid 1950's. The ship was visiting us as part of a larger tour, my uncle witnessed the commanding officer announce to the crew "should any of them cause any form of violation whilst ashore, then all liberty on this tour or following the ship's return to home waters, would be cancelled." All behaved, as they were like gentlemen, and local children soon learned the phrase - "Any gum Chum."

Alas, this was not the case with Royal Naval Ships, for long before the arrival of the 'Currituck' and long afterward.

N.B. Our town although not founded by Americans, was enlarged by a reverse colonisation by people like the Starbucks of Nantucket.

TO THE CREW OF THE 1950'S - THANK  
YOU VERY MUCH

TO THE PRESENT CREWS - YOU HAVE A  
LOT TO LIVE UP TO



*In a postscript to the above, Paul  
reported to Nathan:*

"For the record the pilot that brought the ship into Milford Haven was Charles O. Hyatt, he sadly died at the age of 47 in 1963."

## **Chinese Auction Re\$ult\$**

*Thanks to everyone who donated the great gift items for the auction. Each year the prizes get better and many more are donated. Congratulations to all the winners too. As for the losers, there's always next year.*

*Thanks to those who "worked" to sell the raffles and do the verifying.*

*The raffles earned our association a whopping \$2490. The money goes toward defraying reunion expenses.*

*One more "Thank You" goes to the members who just simply made a donation rather than accepting the tickets.*



## **Closeups wanted**

*The AV-7 website is looking for photos of any and all former crewmembers, showing them as they look today. If you are interested in having a recent photo of yourself for your shipmates to see, please send them to Nathan Good at [kc5vlf@leaco.net](mailto:kc5vlf@leaco.net)*

*A good quality facial shot is preferred, but any will be OK. About any format will be OK, as I can change it with no problem to jpg, which is preferred. Please try and keep the file size to less than 500 Kbytes. If you don't understand about file size, send it anyway.*

*Your name, and if you like, your profession after discharge, will be nice to have. I will use last name and first initials only, and no other info will be used.*

*I appreciate your participation.  
-Nathan Good, webmaster at,  
<http://av7.8m.com>*

# Reunion Roster

*This listing does not include member's guests and shipmates who "just dropped in."*

- |                   |                    |                        |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| ADAMS WAYNE       | ESPOSITO TONY/MARY | KUMLIN ALLAN           | SCHMALZ HERMAN           |
| ARRIGO GENEVIEVE  | FERRELL EVERETT    | LARKI N CLARENCE       | SCHWARZ EARL             |
| ALBERT PAUL       | FIGLIO FRANK       | LEAGUE MILFORD         | SCHWINDINGER THOMAS      |
| BAKER RUSSELL     | FORT LEONARD       | LOGAN HARVEY           | SCIULLI ALBERT           |
| BANCROFT DELL     | FRANCIS ROGER      | LONG JACK              | SCOTT ALBERT             |
| BANCROFT HAROLD   | FRAPS HOWARD       | LOUGH HARRY            | SEAGRAVES DAVID          |
| BARNEY IVAN       | FREDERICK HARRY    | LEONOWICH CHESTER      | SEIDENSTICKER JOHN       |
| BARTSCH WALTER    | FREDRICKSON GORDON | MANGHAM ORRIS          | SETTLE RUSSELL II        |
| BAUER HENRY       | GABEL ARTHUR       | MCCLELLAN RICHARD      | SILVA STACY              |
| BERRY ALLEN       | GUEST JAMES        | MCLAIN RONALD          | SKUDLER JAMES            |
| BOHNSACK GUNTHER  | GENTRY RONALD      | MCNAMARA DONALD        | SMITH WILLIAM            |
| BONNEL JOHN       | HATUPIIS ANDREW    | MEYER THOMAS           | STANDISH RICHARD         |
| BOREM DONALD      | HELLER FRANK       | MITCHELL HERBERT       | STEINMANN DELMAR         |
| BOSTICK CHARLES   | HICKS EDWARD       | MORELLO BENEDICT       | STENSLAND JOHN           |
| BURCAR ROBERT     | HILSMAN GORDON     | MORKEN JAMES           | STEPHANSKI ROBERT J. JR. |
| CHOCOLOUSEK PEGGY | HOTCHKISS EDWARD   | MOLLER DONOVAN         | STEWART JOSEPH           |
| CHOCOLOUSEK JAY   | HOY JON            | NELSON BRUCE           | STEWART WAYNE            |
| CLOSSON GUY       | HATTENBRUN WARREN  | NORCROSS MARGARET      | STRICKER DANIEL          |
| CLYNCH J. MICHAEL | JACOBS GERALD      | NORTON DONALD          | SUNDBERG WALTER          |
| COLES DONALD      | JANSSEN BETTY      | PAHL SIEGFRIED         | TALEN EARL               |
| COLLINS HARVEY    | JARED CHARLES      | PALMER WALTER          | TEAGUE LEMUEL            |
| CONRAD GRANT      | JARED RONALD       | PARK EARL              | TETZLAFF JAMES           |
| COOPER JAMES      | JENKINS JAMES      | PETRONE EARL           | TRAVERS EDWARD           |
| COTE ROBERT       | JOHNSON WALTER     | POPLIN DOYLE           | UNGER JOHN SR.           |
| COUTURE PAUL      | JOTKOFF JERRY      | POTTS JOHN JR.         | VAN SICKLE HARRY         |
| CRITES RAYMOND    | JOHNSTONE JOHN     | PRATT GEORGE           | VIRDEN RANK              |
| CUDGMA JOHN       | KATZ MARTIN        | PROL JOSEPH            | WALL MAHLON              |
| DANIEL JAMES      | KEENEY ROBERT      | PYLAND ERCHEL          | WALTEMATH RICHARD        |
| DELORI WILLIAM    | KENNEDY STANLEY    | RATEKIN DOUGLAS        | WEAVER LAURA             |
| DILLON JAMES      | KING FIRMER        | RITTERSHAUS FRANCIS H. | WITTBECKER LARRY         |
| DORLEY FRANCIS    | KORTH BERNARD      | RITTWEGER NICK         | WITTENBORN JOHN JR.      |
| DUPRAY EDWARD     | KOSEK WILLIAM      | RUSSELL JAMES          | WOOSTER EARL             |
| EARLEWINE WILLIAM | KRUGER RALPH       | SAUNDERS PAT           | WORLEY EARL              |
| EMERY HAROLD      | KRULLER NICHOLAS   | SARGENT JOHN           |                          |



**Copy of large color photo that appeared in the daily Mobile Register, Fri. Sept. 12, 2004**



Peggy Chocouseck, widow of veteran Dean Chocouseck, tosses a wreath into Mobile Bay at Battleship Park on Thursday in remembrance of the veterans of the USS Everglades, USS Currituck, Torpedoman Mates and the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Looking on is her son, Jay.

Continued from Page 1

## Secy's Column

have a few dollars with which we can do a special project. Since these reunions are intended to reunite old/former shipmates, I think those monies could be well spent in providing an all expense paid trip to our next reunion for one of our number, whom could not otherwise afford to attend. If you know of such a person, please contact one of your Advisory Board members and we will make a selection.

Since this is the last letter before the start of a new year, I would like to extend my best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to all our numbers and look forward to seeing your smiling faces next year.



Mary Ann Polin was gracious enough to bring some goodies for us to share at the reunion. It disappeared pretty fast after she put it out (along with the tray!!). Below is Mary Ann's recipe for those who would like to enjoy it again.

### CARROT-APPLE- RAISIN-NUT CAKE

#### Sift together and set aside:

2 cups plain flour      1 tsp. salt  
2 tsp. soda              1 tsp. cinnamon

Cover ½ cup white raisins with hot water and let stand 5 minutes. Then drain well on paper towel.

#### Prepare the following:

Chop ½ c. pecans, Grate 3 cups carrots, Chop fine 2 cups apples

#### In a large bowl, beat together:

2 cups sugar      4 eggs      1½ c. Oil

Mix in dry sifted ingredients. Add raisins, pecans, apples and carrots, stirring well.

Pour into a greased & floured (or sprayed with Pam) 9X1 3 pan. Bake at 350 degrees F. for 45 minutes. Cool thoroughly before frosting.

Can be baked in bundt pan (1 hr.) or 3 - 9" pans for 30-35 mins.

Cream Cheese Frosting:

Beat together until fluffy:

1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese and one box powdered sugar

## **Las Vegas in '04 . . . start planning now**

*The Palace Station Hotel and Casino is a superior first-class hotel located five and a half miles from McCarran International Airport and three miles from the heart of the surreal landscape known as the Las Vegas Strip. Do not miss the opportunity to visit Nevada State Museum located three miles from the hotel as well as the Fremont Street Experience also three miles away. Many other attractions are within a comfortable driving distance from the palace Station. The hotel was Las Vegas's first local hotel and recreates the ambience of the turn of the century days of the railroad baron.*



*The hotel's decor is clearly Victorian in character with its polish brass, marble, and wood trim. The guest rooms are clean, well appointed, and thoughtfully designed to enhance the stay of its visitors. The hotel has several award winning restaurants that offer a wide variety of fare to delight any taste. The Palace Station Hotel and Casino offers onsite dining and is convenient to many shopping and entertainment venues.*

*-Above from a web travel site*



## **Hotels Are Attractions**

*The Las Vegas skyline includes Paris, Egypt, Rome, New York, Venice, and San Francisco, to name a few. The megaresorts truly span the globe and are attractions in themselves.*

## **Entertainment Options Galore**

*Dropping a few coins in a slot machine is just the beginning of the entertainment options Las Vegas offers. They don't call this America's Playground for nothing. Ride roller coasters, play some cards, watch a pirate battle unfold before your eyes, spy some dolphins, take a simulator ride through Egypt, bowl, golf, spa, shop, get married, swim, and play, play, play.*



## AD24 shipmate seeks info/help

*From: Lisa Gibertoni*  
*To: gunner1@fidnet.com*  
*Subject: shipmate?*  
*Dear Mr. Curtis,*

I was wondering if you remember a man by the name of Edward Simmons. I was also wondering if you remember any of the names and/or hull numbers of the ships serviced by the Everglades. Thank you very much for your time.

Respectfully yours, Lisa M. Gibertoni  
Early, Ludwick & Sweeney, L.L.C., One Century Tower,  
265 Church Street, New Haven, CT 06510, phone:  
(203) 777-7799, fax: (203) 785-1671

*From: ron curtis*  
*Subject: Re: ship mate?*

My records show an Edward F Simmons reported aboard the USS Everglades in 1968 as an FA. I was not aboard at that time. The ship had a long career in the service of this country and it would be nearly impossible to list all the ships serviced by her. What is the purpose of your inquiry?

Respectfully, Ron Curtis

*From: Lisa Gibertoni*  
*Subject: Re: ship mate?*

We are his attorneys. He is terminally ill. We need help with his case, and since there seems to be a great deal of fraternity amongst shipmates I thought I'd turn to you guys. Do you have any suggestions? Thanks so much for anything you can offer.

*From: ron curtis*  
*Subject: Re: ship mate?*

Over the years, I have gotten numerous requests for names of members from former shipmates that are suffering from debilitating illnesses that could be attributed to being aboard the ship. However, due to our by laws and the Privacy Act, I am unable to provide that information. I will be glad to place a notice

in our next newsletter, should any of our number wish to contact you regarding Edward Simmons. If you will provide me with a brief article, I will be happy to see that it is included in our next edition in November 2003. Unfortunately, we have just gone to press with our August issue.

Best Regards, Ron Curtis, Sec

*From: Lisa Gibertoni*  
*Subject: Re: ship mate?*

Dear Mr. Curtis,

I would appreciate that very much. Mr. Simmons is very young (55), and his disease, which is a very aggressive type of cancer, is known to be caused only by the inhalation or ingestion of asbestos fibers. In fact, Mr. Simmons may not be living still by the time the article is printed in October, but I am sure his family would appreciate your assistance very much. In fact, I'll be sure to tell them that you will be printing this (article below).

Thanks again, Lisa

**Mr. Edward Simmons was aboard the Everglades from 1968 until 1970 or so. He is currently suffering from an aggressive, terminal cancer called mesothelioma, which has no known cause other than exposure to asbestos. He is very ill, and he needs your help. If you have any information at all regarding the names or hull numbers of ships serviced by the Everglades between 1968 and 1970, and/or you worked alongside Mr. Simmons at any point, please contact Greg Robertson at Early, Ludwick & Sweeney. Our toll-free number is 800-336-0086, or you can email him at grobertson@elslaw.com. Sincerest thanks from the Simmons family to anyone willing to help.**



# Tender fights to keep ship safe in fire

From the Navy News Service

LA MADDALENA, Italy (NNS) – The crew of USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) sprang into action July 8, keeping their ship, the port support installation and the eastern part of Santo Stefano Island – where Land is homeported – safe from an advancing brush fire.

The fire erupted on the western side of the island and raced toward the ship in the late afternoon, after many crew members had already left for the day.

In response to the threat, an all-hands work force was assembled by the command duty officer to combat the fire, which was then rapidly nearing buildings filled with hazardous material, fuel and berthing facilities.

From there, Land, with the assistance of fire fighting teams from USS Providence (SSN 719) and Naval Support Activity La Maddalena, worked to keep the fire from reaching the ship and its immediate surroundings.

“There was at least a half-mile of territory that we needed to defend from the flames,” said Land Commanding Officer Capt. David Volonino. “One of the initial problems was how to get enough sources of water and a sufficient number of hoses out there to stop the rapidly-spreading fire. Our first order was to establish 10 hoses and teams. We eventually had 13 hoses and teams fighting the fire.”

Volonino, along with Executive Officer Cmdr. Jack Gustafson, coordinated the fire response from the brow of the ship using VHF radios and cellular phones. With an overall view of the blaze, they were able to orches-

trate, through direct lines of communication with on-scene leaders, the wetting down of a perimeter about 220 yards from the fire.

Then, as the fire drew near, the hose teams attacked the advancing flames directly.

“Many of the fire fighters wanted to charge up the hill and attack the flames directly. I had to keep pulling the teams back over the VHF radios,” said Gustafson. “My fear was that... there was a possibility of hose teams getting to far ahead of adjacent teams and getting cut off by pockets of flames behind them. Defending against a half mile long wall of flame took the establishment of a half mile long wall of water.”

Command Master Chief (SS) Joel Allison reported more than 5,000 feet of ship’s hoses were used to combat the fire, including one hose that extended out to 1,300 feet. Even at that distance, Land’s bank of fire pumps put out enough pressure to shoot water 50 feet from the hose nozzle.

In addition, hazardous material was removed from the storage areas near the fence line, and ladders were positioned to allow rooftop access for the firefighters. Also, a medical support team was established on the pier in front of the recreation center to treat any potential victims of smoke inhalation or heat stress, and to monitor hydration levels.

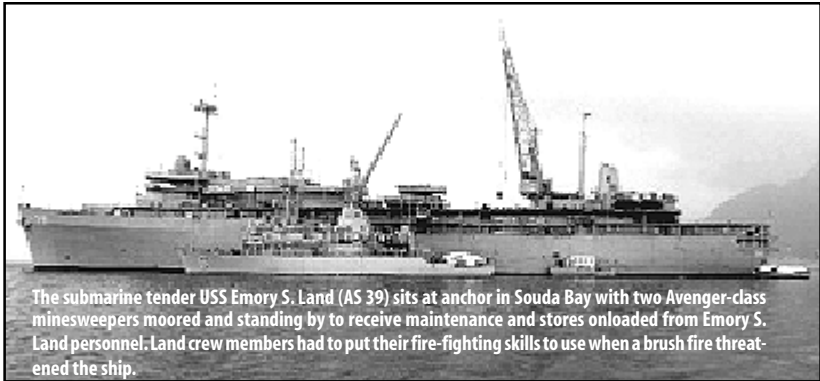
Fortunately, there were no personnel injuries reported.

Land has a crew of about 1,300 Sailors, but some people had already gone home for the day when the fire erupted. Santo Stefano Island has no fire department, but Italian water-car-

rying helicopters rendered vital assistance. The ship's chief engineer, Lt. Cmdr. Timothy Ledbetter, estimated more than 350 of the ship's personnel were directly involved in combating the casualty. Most worked from start-to-finish with no breaks.

All told, the crew fought the fire for more than four hours.

"I do not have the words to describe how proud I am of them," said Volonino. "Together the crew of Emory S. Land, along with Sailors from USS Providence (SSN 719) and from the Naval Support Activity La Maddalena, demonstrated courage, strength, teamwork and the value of proper damage control."



The submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) sits at anchor in Souda Bay with two Avenger-class minesweepers moored and standing by to receive maintenance and stores unloaded from Emory S. Land personnel. Land crew members had to put their fire-fighting skills to use when a brush fire threatened the ship.



## Seal Chips . . .

One day a squad of Navy Seals was making for an objective in their rubber boat. With each stroke of the paddle, they whispered that particularly unique Seal grunt - ooyah. Ooyah . . . ooyah . . . ooyah. God looked down from above and was beside himself with pride knowing that He could not have done any better than when He made HIS Seals.

Thinking to Himself, God decided to test precisely just how good His Seals were in fact. God raised His arms and "ZAP", took away 1/2 of all the Seals brains in the dingy. There they were, seven Seals in a dingy, still making for their objective - ooyah, ooyah, ooyah.

With glee God rub his hands, then raised his arms again and "ZAP", He took away 1/2 of the Seals remain-

ing brains. The Seals in their rubber dingy, making for their objective now had only 1/4 of their original brains. Still, determined, they stroked on - ooyah, ooyah, ooyah.

God was nearly hysterical with joy over knowing that His creation could still function as a viable, forward deployed, tactical fighting force with very nearly all of their brains removed. Dare I, thought God? Shall I? YES! And God raised his arms and in an instant, "ZAP"! God took away all of the seals remaining brains.

And there they were, a seven man forward deployed, tactical fighting force, in a rubber dingy, with no brains, making for their objective - singing - "From the hills of Montizuma, to the shores of Tripoli. We will fight our countries battles . . ."

# 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.*

## **Currituck**

<b>Ambrose, Bruno V.</b> 425 Penn Boulevard, Woodbury, NJ 08096-2821	856-848-2886		1953-
<b>Barge, David B.</b> P.O. Box 987, Evansville, WY 82636		BTC	1964-66
<b>Brittain, Hubert K.</b> 1950 Midway Road SE, Bolivia, NC 28422-8018	910-253-5320	FN	1954-
<b>Conner, Orville Wesley</b> 33194 61 <sup>st</sup> Road, Arkansas City, KS 6700	620-442-4910	AN	1961-64
<b>Emery, Harold W.</b> P.O. Box 32, Sturkie, AR 72578	870-895-3459	ABM3	1963-66
<b>Heller, Frank</b> 36 Frances Boulevard, Holtsville, NY 11742	631-732-3380	TE/RM3	1957-
<b>Hilsman, Gordon Ray</b> 1206 N. Carlisle Street, Albertville, AL 35951	256-891-7171	ADR2	1960-61
<b>Lewis, Alan M.</b> 1800 N. Tuckahoe Street, Arlington, VA 22205	703-534-4924	AG3	1953-55
<b>Majied, Ahmad</b> 2710 Cambridge Road, Albany, GA 31721-1574	229-431-1144	MACM	1963-66
<b>Neaman, Robert M. "Bob"</b> 18906 Heartland Street, Reseda, CA 91335-3920	818-343-0131	AD3	1953-59
<b>Pola, Hank</b> 16 Voyage Street, Marina Del Ray, CA 90292	213-627-7152	AGAN	1954-55
<b>Roberts, Stanley W. Jr.</b> Box 329, Huntington, UT 84528	435-687-2576	DT3	1953-53
<b>Scott, Carl S.</b> 122 The Oaks Avenue, Goose Creek, SC 29445-3219	843-818-1281	ET2	1954-55
<b>Willard, Gilbert A.</b> 801 Palomino Court, Simpsonville, SC 29681-6602	864-228-6828	SN	1951-53

## **Everglades**

<b>Barker, Nicholas H.</b> 410 Forest Lake Drive, Wilmington, OH 45177	937-382-0254	E3	1961-63
<b>Bland, Joseph D.</b> 4701 Trobridge Terrace, Louisville, KY 40207-3556	502-897-3810	SN	1956-58
<b>Collins, Harvey Kilroy</b> 1347 High Street, Paducah, KY 42001	270-441-7864	SN	1965-66
<b>Comfort, Terry</b> 80 Remington Court, Youngsville, NC 27596	919-556-2336	ETN2	1965-66
<b>Cornell, Monty D.</b> 69 Oak Ridge Drive, Apt. 52, New Haven, CT 06513	203-469-4535	RD	1965-67
<b>Smith, Nathan "Dale"</b> 3580 Forest Glen Trail, Lawrenceville, GA 30044	770-696-5491	E2	1960-61

## **Torpedoman's Assn.**

<b>Harris, James F.</b> 2300 Siverado Ranch Road, Apt. 1035, Las Vegas, NV 89123	702-270-0835	TMC	1950-72
<b>Marine, Dennis L.</b> 4145 Sioux Camp Road NE, Longview, MN 56655	218-363-2616	TMC	1958-78
<b>Small, Ed</b> 308 Wellington Drive, Matthews, NC 28104	704-821-7349	TM3	1962-65

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# Mail Call



Please address  
all correspondence to:

**Ron Curtis**  
895 County Road 703  
Bland, MO 65014

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

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*Dear Ron . . .*

## **Currituck**

. . . We have recovered from a great reunion and are trying to get back to normal living. Was looking at the membership list and noticed my phone number is wrong and has been transposed. It is 321-868-6738. Just the middle three numbers are reversed. Really enjoyed the Saturday night fair Mardi Gras. Thanks again for all your efforts and successes.

—Don Norton

. . . Just a note of appreciation for all your hard work in making the reunion such a success. It was our first reunion and we enjoyed it so very much. We met old friends and made new ones. Everyone was so gracious and friendly. We know how hard you and your committee worked but it was truly a success. Again, thanks. Hope to see you in Las Vegas.

—Dan and Carol Van Sickle

. . . Just returned to our home in Sarasota, FL a little while ago and am taking a break from unpacking to let you and the other shipmates my thoughts on the Mobile reunion. It was a "great" meeting and I want to write down some of the things that made it so "great". The location, the hotel, the hotel staff, the planned trips and

weather we were blessed with!!! As always, it was great to see the numbers of shipmates who turned out for the meeting, I just wanted to say "Thank" to everyone who worked so hard in planning such a great reunion. The location will be a very hard one to beat or match with the location of Mobile Bay and all the ships and shipyard to see from our hotel. I wish we had a lot more of our ole buddies to show up at a reunion like this one and I'm sure that it would make them all be ready and waiting for the next reunion. They don't stop and remember the years that were spent together and the bonds that were made so many years ago.

—James "Rod" Guest

. . . We are still riding high from Mobile reunion. Went as strangers and left with the warm glow of new and wonderful friendships. The reunion was beautifully planned and made most enjoyable by all the wonderful folks in attendance. Patsy says it is the most enjoyable gathering she has ever attended. We hope we can make Las Vegas so that we can see them all again. Enclosed are some photographs to do with as you please.

—Joe and Patsy Stewart

. . . Congratulations on another great reunion. We all owe you a real debt of gratitude for all you have given to these projects. I particularly enjoyed this one because of the high number of people who were on board during my own tours. Thanks again. I noticed when I got home and read the list of names and addresses that I need to give you some corrections on mine. My phone has changed it is (850) 455-6337; my email is [stewpreach@cox.net](mailto:stewpreach@cox.net). Hope to see you in Vegas!!

—Wayne Stewart

. . . Enclosed check is for the insignia you sent to me. Many thanks! The rangefinder on the insignia recalled some memories of the rangefinder on

the Currituck. As a plank owner I was assigned to this rangefinder on the initial shakedown cruise. That was the only time it had any official use. The rest of the time it served as my personal binoculars. I would watch the natives over on the beach or jungle, when we were anchored. We always were in some secret remote place. I sometimes wondered if even God knew where we were.

—Everett P. Barker

... I want to thank you and the Assn. for inviting me to attend the reunion. This is to advise you that Mrs. Laird and I are unable to attend. You should be proud to have such a viable group. I was a 26 year old Lt. with two combat tours on the old Saratoga (1943-'44) with not much experience in shipboard navigation. I was lucky to have a whiz of a Chief Quartermaster in Rod Taylor. We made the Highjump cruise without incident except for a few bumps when we were too close to the ice. Sleep was the problem, I averaged about 4-5 hours for the cruise. All I wanted to do was sleep when we arrived in Sydney, Australia but Capt. Bond tagged me to be his aide for our visit. It was a great trip but I sure was glad it was over!! I hope that the reunion is a great success. The Aviation Museum (Pensacola) is a must. I was there for the 75 year anniversary.

—Don Laird, Cmdr., USN Ret.

... Found your newsletter in my father-in-law's mail, and I wanted to let you know of his death. Francis G. Schwegmann died of natural causes on 03/18/03 in St. Joseph Medical Center in Reading, PA. Thank you for the happiness and companionship that your group brought to him, especially throughout his later years.

—Wendy Frank,

... On behalf of my wife and I and my shipmate Ed Hotchkiss I would like to thank you for putting together a fine reunion package for us. We enjoyed it

immensely and look forward to seeing everyone in Las Vegas next year . . . Thanks again.

—Frank Heller

## TAPS

JOE B. WEISS

CHARLES KRETZER

FRANCIS G. SCHWEGMANN

## Everglades

The enclosed is for postage to mail me an Everglades membership roster, put any overage in the pot. This was my first reunion, but it certainly won't be my last—well organized and lot of fun.

—Daniel Stricker



Mary Ann Polin was gracious enough to bring some goodies for us to share at the reunion. It disappeared pretty fast after she put it out (along with the tray!!). Below is Mary Ann's recipe for those who would like to enjoy it again.

### CARROT-APPLE- RAISIN-NUT CAKE

#### Sift together and set aside:

2 cups plain flour      1 tsp. salt  
2 tsp. soda              1 tsp. cinnamon

Cover ½ cup white raisins with hot water and let stand 5 minutes. Then drain well on paper towel.

#### Prepare the following:

Chop ½ c. pecans, Grate 3 cups carrots, Chop fine 2 cups apples

#### In a large bowl, beat together:

2 cups sugar      4 eggs      1½ c. Oil

Mix in dry sifted ingredients. Add raisins, pecans, apples and carrots, stirring well.

Pour into a greased & floured (or sprayed with Pam) 9X1 3 pan. Bake at 350 degrees F. for 45 minutes. Cool thoroughly before frosting.

Can be baked in bundt pan (1 hr.) or 3 - 9" pans for 30-35 mins.

Cream Cheese Frosting:

Beat together until fluffy:

1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese and one box powdered sugar

# ***Navy Museums: An armada of history and heritage***

By Miles Hadley, Naval Historical Center Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) – Although they attract 2 million free admission visitors annually, a rich Navy resource that is often overlooked by Sailors is its “armada” of museums located on shore installations throughout the United States.

From The Navy Museum in Washington, D.C., to the Naval Museum of Armament Technology at China Lake, Calif., the 11 official museums use more than a million artifacts to ensure that the Navy’s history is maintained and built upon.

The flagship museum is **The Navy Museum** located in the historic Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. Recently reaccredited for excellence by the American Association of Museums, its permanent exhibit spans the entire 200-year history of the U.S. Navy. And this year, it is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its establishment by Adm. Arleigh Burke. Web site: [www.history.navy.mil/branches/nhcorg8.htm](http://www.history.navy.mil/branches/nhcorg8.htm).

Affiliated with Navy Museum, and located nearby, is the **Navy Art Gallery**. It exhibits examples from the Navy’s world-class collection of over 17,000 artworks. Web site: [www.history.navy.mil/branches/nhcorg6.htm](http://www.history.navy.mil/branches/nhcorg6.htm).

**The Naval Civil Engineer Corps/Seabee Heritage Center** is unique in that it is one museum with two locations. The exhibit areas are at the Seabee installations in Gulfport, Miss., and Port Hueneme, Calif. And like the force they represent, both sites have been literally buzzing with activity. Since its inception in 1947, this museum continues to lay foundation stones by reminding members of the Naval Civil Engineer Corps and Seabees of their illustrious history. Web site: [www.nbc.navfac.navy.mil/cecuseum](http://www.nbc.navfac.navy.mil/cecuseum).

**The Hampton Roads Naval Museum in Norfolk, Va.**, is different in that it is not located on a Navy installation. Part of a vast maritime museum complex called The Nauticus National Maritime Center, visitors are treated not only to a first-class museum, but also a battleship. The moored USS Wisconsin (BB 64) is still in reserve, despite now being over 50 years old. The ship’s deck is very popular for functions, and there is even a “Wisky” walk in the museum explaining all about it. Web site: [www.hrmn.navy.mil](http://www.hrmn.navy.mil).

**The National Museum of Naval Aviation**, Pensacola, Fla., is one of the largest and most beautiful air and space museums in the world. It boasts over 140 meticulously restored aircraft representing Naval, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviation. Perhaps the piece d’resistance is the dazzling seven-story glass and steel atrium that is home to four suspended “Blue Angels” A4 Skyhawks. Another popular feature is part of the flight deck from the World War II aircraft carrier USS Cabot (CVL 28). This museum pulls in droves of visitors each year, even if for only a flying visit! Web site: [www.naval-air.org](http://www.naval-air.org).

**The Naval War College Museum, Newport, R.I.**, is located in a National Historic Landmark at the college ironically called the “Poorhouse.” This museum focuses on the milestones in the evolutionary development of war at sea. It also chronicles the close relationship between the Naval War College and the surrounding populace. Web site: [www.nwc.navy.mil/museum](http://www.nwc.navy.mil/museum).

Not only does the **U.S. Naval Academy Museum**, Annapolis, Md., serve as an educational and inspirational resource for the Brigade of Midshipmen there, but also to other students of naval history and thousands of visitors each year. Special emphasis is given to objects that illustrate the role of the naval officer, and those who have attended the Naval Academy. Web site: [www.nadn.navy.mil/Museum](http://www.nadn.navy.mil/Museum).

At the **Naval Undersea Museum**, Keyport, Wash., visitors can immerse themselves in Navy underwater history. This museum combines naval history, underwater technology, and marine science to create an exciting and educational experience for visitors. The museum is particularly child

friendly, and has many interactive facilities that provoke further interest and learning. Web site: <http://num.kpt.nuwc.navy.mil/>

**The Navy Supply Corps Museum**, Athens, Ga., is housed in the historic 1910 Carnegie library building in the center of the Navy Supply Corps School campus. Artifacts on exhibit include an 1841 purser's uniform and lots of World War II era memorabilia. The museum archives contain supply related documents ranging from old cookbooks to photographs and command histories – a truly abundant “Lucky Bag.” Web site: [www.nscs.cnet.navy.mil/service2.asp?ID=6](http://www.nscs.cnet.navy.mil/service2.asp?ID=6).

Visitors can submerge themselves in submarine history at the **Submarine Force Museum**, Groton, Conn. Artifacts, documents and photographs relating to the submarine service continue to resurface, and it is the job of the museum to collect them for the benefit of all. The museum even has its own submarine moored nearby that visitors can board, the historic USS Nautilus (SSN 571), the first nuclear submarine in the world. Web site: <http://www.ussnautilus.org/>.

One of the younger museums in the museum “armada” is the **Naval Museum of Armament and Technology**, China Lake, Calif. Established in 2000 after a ten-year effort by volunteers and Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) employees, it showcases the advance of air warfare weapons development in the Navy. Web site: [www.chinalakemuseum.org](http://www.chinalakemuseum.org).

**The Patuxent River Naval Air Museum** is currently located in a temporary building on NAS Patuxent River, Md., but will soon be reopening at a new location in nearby Lexington Park. It is the only museum in the United States dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of the research, development, test and evaluation (RDT & E) of naval aircraft. It is hoped that the new museum will eventually display a stripped down F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet. Web site: [www.paxmuseum.com](http://www.paxmuseum.com).

“The Navy’s “armada” of museums is eclectic, and continues to provide a vital role in the education of Sailors and civilians alike. The museums represent the Navy’s heritage; and amongst them, its past, both in war and peace, is collected, stored and exhibited for the benefit of young and old,” said Dr. William S. Dudley, director, Naval Historical Center.

For related news, visit the Naval Historical Center Navy NewsStand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/navhist](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/navhist).



### *Don't Waste Water*



*Save Water, Don't Let This Happen!!*

*–Submitted by Ed DuPray*

## A Final Salute

Thanks for the memories . . .

### Bob Hope

Thanks for the memories  
Of movies by the score  
The "Road to Singapore"  
You got to sing with your pal Bing  
But seldom kiss Lamour  
How charming it was  
And thanks for the memories  
Of listening by our dials  
That gave us happy smiles  
We paid your rent, bought Pepsodent  
We bought it by the miles  
How lucky we were  
Many a year there were tough times  
And many a day we had sad times  
But with Hope it would change into glad times  
You did your job and we loved you Bob  
So thanks for the memories  
Of all those many shows  
For G.I. Janes and Joes  
Just like a pal you'd boost morale  
And chase away their woes  
The magic of Hope  
Now here's to the memories  
Of shows on foreign soil  
They never were a toil  
I'm here to say you saved the day  
For every boy and "goil"  
The wonders of Hope

Somehow you lived for a century  
And somehow you kept the world jolly  
T'was work that was real, not a folly  
You stayed true blue. Hooray for you  
So thanks for the memories  
We'll miss the classic pose  
Your jokes, your smile, that nose  
Now there's my cue, a fond adieu  
It's time for me to close  
Awfully glad to know you  
Cheerio and toodle-doo!  
And thank you so much  
– Jack Wittenborn



–Submitted by Donald I. Dillon II



The officers of the  
Association wish all  
our shipmates and their  
families a joyous  
Holiday Season and a  
happy and healthy New Year!

