



June 2016

Greetings!

The 2016 reunion in Jacksonville, FL is just a few months away. We hope you are all making your plans to attend and have made your hotel reservations. It looks like we will have a lot of first timers, which is wonderful.

Ronnie "Sweetpea" and Jerry Ann Holt will be our hosts. Those of you who attended our reunion in Nashville know that they know how to put on a good reunion. The reunion will run October 11-16, 2016 at the Doubletree Hotel Riverfront which overlooks the St. Johns River. We met with the Holts at the hotel last year and were very impressed.

From the Holts: Our Jacksonville. Reunion is just around the corner. October will be here before you know it. We have some fun outings planned, including a dinner theater on Friday night. Our banquet will be a "Mask-oween" night. We're asking everyone to bring an original Halloween mask. A prize will be given for most original man's & woman's mask. So get your hotel reservations made and mail in your sign up sheet & check to Bill Siler today! We are looking forward to seeing our Tucker friends & shipmates in Jacksonville this October.
Jerry Ann & Ronnie Holt

Hotel:

DoubleTree by Hilton Jacksonville Riverfront
<http://www.doubletreejax.com/>
1201 RiverPlace Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Local Phone: 904-398-8800

Reservations:

Phone: 800-222-8733 (available 24 hours a day). Ask for USS Henry W. Tucker or Group Code USH
Internet: https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/dt/reservation/book.htm?execution=e1s1
If you make your reservations using the internet, be sure to type USH in the Group Code box.

Room Rates:

\$99.00, Sunset View, \$109.00, Waterfront View, \$139, Waterfront View junior suite. Prices do not include tax. We suggest Waterfront view. It has a lovely view overlooking the river and downtown Jacksonville, just across the river. If you are fortunate, you might see dolphins frolicking in the river. There are water taxis that you can take across the river. There is a lovely walkway along the river. There is a Lone Sailor statue at one point along the walkway.

For the banquet, we suggest the men wear sport coat/suit coat. Ties optional. Ladies, wear something dressy.

Unfortunately, the hotel does not have free airport shuttle service. Below are several shuttle services. We suggest you check them out and compare prices. If you can arrange airport arrival times with your friends attending the reunion, you might get a better price. A quick Google Search came up with the following shuttle services.

Safari Transportation Service: 904-729-0162 or www.safaritransportationfl/

Jax Airport Shuttles: 904-233-9574 or www.jaxairportshuttles.com/

Super Shuttle Jacksonville: 800-258-3826 or www.supershuttle.com/Locations/JacksonvilleJAX

Go Airport Shuttle: http://goairportshuttle.com/jacksonville_international_jax_airport_shuttle

Floridian Transportation: 904-415-9779 or www.southerncomforttransportation.com/

Tours:

We have three tours planned.

October 12, St. Augustine Tour

October 14, Memorial Service, Jacksonville Tour and Lunch

October 14, Dinner Theatre (no bluejeans or shorts, please)

We received word of the passing of Capt. Egon Werdelman, Commanding officer from 1961-1963. He attended the 2002 San Diego reunion.

Ronnie Holt had a mishap a few weeks ago. He fell and broke his left femur. He had surgery and is currently in a rehab facility. He hopes to be home soon and we hope he'll be fully recovered by the time of the reunion. Bill told Jerry Ann he was arranging for monthly shipments of bubble wrap and duct tape to Ronnie to keep him from having any more mishaps!!! If you'd like to send a card or call, let us know and we'll give you their address and phone number.

If you know of any shipmate who is not receiving newsletters, please send us contact information on him. Also, if you have a Tucker baseball cap, be sure to wear it when you are out and about. Guys have told us that they've been approached by someone who was on the ship and because they saw the baseball cap. We have a large database which includes names of shipmates we haven't been in contact with. Bob Miller has done an outstanding job finding people, but we know there are many more out there. On the website there is a list of "missing" crew members. If you see anyone on that list and have any information on him, even where he came from, we'd like to know.

We have a new website address: **www.uss-hw-tucker-dd-ddr-875**. The main page and the link to the newsletter page are working, but many of the other links are not. They lead to the old website, which has not been updated. The links probably won't be fixed until after the reunion. Besides the Tucker reunion, we will be attending another reunion in September and we do a lot of work for that reunion. Once both reunions are over, hopefully there will be time to work on the website. In the meantime, we apologize for any inconvenience.

!!!! IMPORTANT !!!!

If your address, phone number or email address changes, please let us know as soon as possible. We send over 600 newsletters by USPS and over 800 by email. After each newsletter goes out, the post office returns many. Some have new addresses and we incur additional postage to resend them. Some have no forwarding addresses and we have to remove them from future mailings. We also receive many email returns because people's email addresses aren't valid. This means we have to add them to the USPS mailing, incurring additional postage. Sadly, some of those have never informed us of mailing address changes, so they are returned as well. If we don't have a valid address or email address for you, you will no longer receive newsletters.

Fair winds and smooth sailing,
Bill & Pat Siler

Please fill out the sign-up sheet below and the information at the bottom of the page and return with your check, payable to **Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund**, to Bill Siler, 835 Claybanks Dr., Callaway, VA 24067-4524.

Time	Tuesday, Oct 11, 2016	\$ per Person	# of People	\$ Total
12:00 pm	Hospitality room opens, pick up name badges Registration:	\$40.00		
5:00 pm	Hospitality room closes			
6:30 pm	Welcome pizza party	\$10.00		
	Wednesday, October 12, 2016			
8:30 am	Hospitality room opens			
9:30 am	St. Augustine tour (return 4:00 pm)	\$65.00		
	Free evening			
10:00 pm	Hospitality room closes			
	Thursday, October 13, 2016			
8:30 am	Hospitality room opens			
	Free day and evening			
10:00 pm	Hospitality room closes			
	Friday, October 14, 2016			
8:30 am	Hospitality room opens			
9:45 am	Memorial service & city tour (return 2:15 pm)	\$75.00		
5:30 pm	Dinner Theater (return 10:45 pm) (no bluejeans or shorts)	\$65.00		
10:00 pm	Hospitality room closes (or before dinner theater if all go)			
	Saturday, October 15, 2016			
8:30 am	Hospitality room opens			
11:00 am	Business meeting and raffle (please bring an item for raffle)			
3:00 pm	Hospitality room closes			
6:00 pm	Cocktail hour			
6:30 pm	Banquet Buffet	\$60.00		
	Sunday, October 16, 2016			
8:00 am	Farewell Breakfast Buffet	\$25.00		
	Total Amount of Check			

Please include all information, so we can check to see if we have all your correct information on the database.

Name: _____ Rate/Rank: _____ Years: 19__ 19__

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Spouse: _____

Guest(s): _____

Is this your first reunion? Yes ___ No___ Will you be staying at the hotel: Yes___ No___

Additions to the Crew List

Harold D. "Harry" Byers, MM2, 68-70

Donald Shepard, MM2, 71-73

Additions to the Memorial List

Donald L. Bell, LTjg, 53-54

William J. Bruchert, ETRSN, 65-67

John A. "Cookie" Cook, BT3, 58-62

Theodore S. "Ted" Curtis, Jr., LTjg, 67-69

Ronald L. "Dave" Davis, GMM3, 64-68

Fred A. Fewin, Jr., FCT1, 48-53

Donald G. Hood, Sr., BM3, 53-55

Eugene A. Jumper, Jr., ET1, 51-53

Charles J. Kirschenheiter, TE3, 50-51

Winston F. "Winkie" Laurence, FN1/c, 45-46

Joseph D. Lewis, MMC, 68-70

Jesse J. Macari, MMFN, 50

John A. Maloney, SN1/c, 45-46

Steven H. Petersen, EN2, 67-69

Joe I. Rankin, RM3, 47-48

Kenneth Y. "Ken" Safrit, FN, 49-50

Jack L. "Jackie" Thompson, GMSN, 51-53

Roger F. Thurrell, LT, 51-53

Egon Werdelman, CDR, 61-63

Donald White, ENS, 46-47

Edsel Burch and Jackie Burch, father and sister of Jerry Ann Holt, passed away this Spring. Please keep Jerry Ann and Ronnie in your thoughts and prayers.

Ruth Seurer, wife of Leroy Seurer, BT3, 65-68 passed away last year.

If you know of anyone who is ill or who has passed away, please let us know. This includes spouses. All the names of those who have passed away since the last reunion will be read at the Memorial Service at the reunion in Jacksonville.

Contact Information

James W. "Bill" Siler, Jr.
Pat Siler
835 Claybanks Drive
Callaway, VA 24067-4524

Email: jwsilerbtc@gmail.com
silerpugs@yahoo.com

Phone: 540-483-5727

Bob Miller (Crew Locator)

Email: millerbrothers875@hotmail.com
Phone: 773-271-6848

Website

The **NEW** Tucker website address is www.uss-hw-tucker-dd-ddr-875.org. We had to move our website to a new "domain." Many of the links are still not working, but we are working on that. Note: Gary O'Neil has sent a revised history for the website and it has not been uploaded as of this newsletter. As we work on recreating the links, we'll upload the history pages as well.

Facebook

The Tucker Facebook group is USS Henry W. Tucker DD/DDR 875. If you're on Facebook, be sure to join the group. It has over 200 members and we know there have to be more of you who are on Facebook. The members are very active, posting pictures and communicating with one another, and discussions about getting VA disability for Asbestos and Agent Orange exposure-related illnesses. Family members are also welcome to join.

Baseball Caps

We have baseball caps for sale. They come in either cloth back or mesh back. They are navy blue with gold lettering and the ship's profile in gray. The price is \$12.00, which includes shipping. To order, please indicate your preference of solid or mesh and send a check payable to Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund to Bill Siler at the address above. Caps are also on sale at reunions.

Coffee Mugs

Mugs are cobalt blue with ship profile and the ship's name and hull number. We have both DD and DDR, so please indicate which you would like. Price is \$10.00, and shipping will vary depending on where it's sent. Please contact Bill Siler (information at the top of this page) and let him know where you live and how many mugs you want to order. He'll get the shipping amount from the post office and let you know how much it will be. If you will be at the reunion, they will be available with no shipping!

Cruise Books on CD

Bob Miller has had all Tucker cruise books put on CD and they are available for sale. They are \$25 each. To order, please contact Bob at the email address or phone number above.

USS Henry W. Tucker DD/DDR 875 Reunion Association Mission

The mission of the USS Henry W. Tucker Reunion Association is to bring together shipmates from the entire time the ship was in commission, 1945-1973, as the USS Henry W. Tucker (DD and DDR 875) USN and 1973-1993 as the Marcilio Dias (D25) of the Brazilian Navy. Our intent is also to keep alive the memory of this fine ship and the brave men who served aboard her. This includes Henry Warren Tucker, the World War II hero for whom she was named. See the ship's history for information on him. All shipmates of all rates and ranks and their families are considered to be part of the Tucker Family and all are welcome at reunions. This includes widows. We honor those who have gone before, our departed shipmates.