



February 2017

Greetings Shipmates, Wives and Families!

As many of you know, our website hasn't been updated in over a year. We had technical issues with the webhosting company and finally got them resolved last month. Pat had created a new website, but couldn't get it working properly. So we are now back to our original website, [www.hwtucker2000.com](http://www.hwtucker2000.com). Some of the updating has been done. We have had word that some links aren't working. Pat has tested the links and they work for her. She will continue working on that. She will send out emails periodically as pages are updated. At this time, the newsletters page and the crew pages are up-to-date. Please be patient and let Pat know if you find any links that don't work.

The Jacksonville, FL reunion is now history and was a success, but we were biting our fingernails wondering if it would happen. Hurricane Matthew hit the coast from Florida to Virginia pretty hard. Fortunately, Jacksonville is a bit inland and the eye of the hurricane stayed about 60 miles offshore. The city was mostly spared. We found out Saturday morning, October 8, that the reunion was on and finished packing. We drove down from Virginia on Sunday. We are in the western part of the state and chose an inland route as we knew parts of I-95 in South Carolina were closed due to downed trees. Some of our attendees who were coming later had to be aware of the flooding in North Carolina. I-95 in Lumberton was closed for over a week. Attendance was smaller than usual and we had a few last minute cancellations, but those who attended had a good time.

In attendance were:

Carlos Aldunate, LTJG, 65-67  
Tom & Julie Byrne, RM2, 60-62  
Mike & Jane Cahoon, LTJG 65-67  
John Drapp, HTFN, 72-73  
Bill Edstrom, RG2, 48-51  
Jim & Vicki Gilbreath, YN1, 69-72  
Gene Hall, LCDR, 73-74  
Maurice & Sara Herzberg, BM3, 51-55  
Ronnie & Jerry Ann Holt, BT1, 63-65  
Richard Lutrick, FTG2, 59-63  
Paul & Maureen Machart, YN3, 61-65

Gene & Jackie Mialki, RM3, 61-62  
Peter & Carol Mockapetris, BT3, 72-73  
Newt & Nona Moore, LTJG, 58-59  
Gary, Betty & Douglas O'Neil, ET3, 63-66  
Walton Paxton, GMGSN, 51-55  
Rhonda & Tommy Zimmerman  
C.W. & Lena Fay Robinson, BT3, 52-55  
Donald Shepard, MM3, 71-73  
Francis & Deanna Smoot, GMG3, 63-66  
Charles, Sumiko & Sophia Vermillion, SH2, 65-70  
Mike & Claudette Volentine, EM2, 61-64

From our reunion hosts, Ronnie "Sweetpea" and Jerry Ann Holt:

We enjoyed seeing everyone at the Jacksonville reunion and we appreciate Hurricane Matthew sparing Jacksonville, so we could have the reunion. Everyone seemed to enjoy our tours, especially the Hank Williams Tribute at the Alhambra Dinner Theater. Our Saturday night "mask-o-ween" banquet was great. We appreciate all who participated & everyone joining in on the fun. The Sunday morning farewell breakfast was bitter sweet because we won't see most of you until 2018 in Branson.

We enjoyed hosting this reunion but we could not have done it without Bill & Pat Siler's help. If you don't know how much they contribute to our organization, let us tell you -- none of this would be possible without them. Thanks for making this reunion a success. We'll see you in 2018.

Jerry Ann & Ronnie Holt

We aren't sure why the attendance was low this year, but we hope to increase the numbers next time. Our next reunion will be in October, 2018 in Branson, MO. Our host will be Donald Shepard. Let's show a lot of support and plan to attend — and get your buddies to attend as well. If there is any interest in a west coast reunion for 2020, someone should plan to attend Branson with a proposal. If you can find us a good hotel, we can do the rest if you don't feel you can do the work. Think about it.

Our reunion banquets have had themes in recent years. This year it was "Mask-o-ween." Everyone was asked to wear a mask and there would be prizes for the best man's mask and the best woman's mask. It was lots of fun, but some of the wives didn't get the message from their husbands. Also, the dress for the banquet was to be coat and tie for the men and dressy clothes for the women. We encourage the wives to read the newsletters and not rely on their husbands to tell them these things. I know Bill wouldn't think to tell me. If I could get him to wear a coat and tie for the banquet, I'm sure you can get your husband to do the same. After all, it's just a few hours every two years! Wives, if you have email addresses separate from your husbands, please send them to Pat so she can add you to the newsletter distribution. If your husband receives the newsletter by USPS, make sure you read it.

Bob Miller wasn't able to attend and was missed. He is still working hard as our crew locator. Recently, he is finding more deceased shipmates, but has found a few who are living. If you are one of them and seeing this newsletter for the first time, Welcome!!! Please think about attending the next reunion. Even if you think you won't know anyone, you might be surprised. And you might make some new friends as well. Wives who think they don't know anyone should come as well. We will make sure you feel welcome and included. We are one big family.

We've included an application form for Tin Can Sailors. If you aren't a member, please check it out. They send out a quarterly newspaper and have an extensive website with a lot of information on destroyers, and a ship's store where you can buy merchandise. The website address is [www.destroyers.org](http://www.destroyers.org).

**!!!! 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 read the following. It contains very important information for veterans and their families!**

At the business meeting, Bill brought up the fact that all shipmates (and their family members) should know where their DD-214 (discharge paper) form and other paperwork relating to their military service is located in the event of their veteran's passing. He told about a man who called him about his father's recent death. His father had always told him everything he would need was in a box on the mantel. When he opened the box, there was nothing relating to his father's service. Below is listed what you need to have on hand and what you need to do in the event of your veteran relative's passing.

You can request your DD-214 form and other records online at: <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>. If you don't have internet access, here is the address and phone number.

National Personnel Records Center  
Military Personnel Records  
1 Archives Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63138  
314-801-0800

What to do when your Veteran family member passes away.

Contact the Funeral Director of your choice to arrange for interment. If the burial is at a military Cemetery, request a Military Funeral and Honor Guard from the National Cemetery or local VFW, DAV, VVA or American Legion group. You may also contact the military recruiter in your area and they may be able to assist you in locating people to assist. Bring to the Funeral Director a copy of the Veteran's discharge, separation notice or DD-214, VA Claim Number, if known, and Veteran's Social Security Number. If the Veteran was a member of any military group or unit association they will also assist you at this time. Contact your church to arrange for the services if you desire.

The Funeral Director will apply for any burial entitlements from the Department of Veterans Affairs toward burial expenses and also the allowance from Social Security for burial. The Funeral Director will also apply for the flag to drape the casket. If the Veteran is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Post Commander should be contacted for the Ritual Service, firing squad, if any and casket bearers if needed. If the Veteran had G.I. Insurance contact the County Veterans Service Officer for assistance in completing the forms. If it is commercial insurance contact an agent of the company that insured the Veteran. The spouse should contact the Social Security Office to file for benefits that may be available for self and for the children.

The Social Security Administration has a toll-free number that operates from 7AM to 7PM - Monday to Friday: 1-800-772-1213.

The County Veterans Service Officer can assist or you can call the Veterans Administration at: 1-800-827-1000. They will assist the spouse and children in obtaining any benefits to which they may be entitled to such as, survivors death benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs and headstone if burial is in a private cemetery. Bring to the County Veterans Service Officer the following information when applying for benefits:

1. Certified copy of the deceased Veterans service record (discharge). DD-214
2. The Department of Veterans Affairs Claim Number if there is one.
3. Social Security numbers of the deceased Veteran, spouse and dependent children.
4. G.I. Insurance policies, if any.
5. Certified copies of marriage license, birth certificates of children and, if any, prior marriages existed, the information regarding when, where, and how dissolved (death or divorce).
6. Certified copy of death certificate of Veteran.

**Tin Can Sailors Membership Application Form**

Please mail your registration form to: Tin Can Sailors, P.O. Box 100, Somerset, MA 02726  
Questions? Call us at (800) 223-5535 or contact us via e-mail at: tcs@destroyers.org

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Highest Navy Rank or Rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

List up to four ships you served on and the years you served aboard each:

USS \_\_\_\_\_ Hull #: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

USS \_\_\_\_\_ Hull #: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

USS \_\_\_\_\_ Hull #: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

USS \_\_\_\_\_ Hull #: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Membership:  \$30  \$35  \$50  \$100

Currently on Active Duty first year free - after that \$10 per year

Lifetime Membership: Call (800) 223-5535 for information

Please Select Payment Type:  Check  Money Order  Credit Card

If paying by credit card, please provide the following information:

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (if different from above):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Recruited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Additions to the Crew List**

Bates, Ronald C., SK2, 59-60

Eckman, William R. "Rick", FN, 63-66

Henderson, Dane C., MM3, 56-57

### **Additions to the Memorial List**

Several of these were not included in the Memorial Service Booklet at the reunion. They will definitely be in the booklet for 2018.

Boger, George, SH2, 51-55

Briggs, Gary, MM3, 63-65

Boltruczyk, Edward A., FCSN, 50-51

Close, David, FN, 72-73

Eisenga, Jr., Emi "Zeke", RD3, 50-53

Fender, Robert, MM2, 63-66

Fischer, Daniel, BT3, 68-72

Goldsworthy, SN, 60-64

Graham, Norman, RM3, 52-55

Haynes, Madison, FN, 69-70

Hooper, Donald, DK3, 53-55

Jordan, Billy, GMGSN, 52-55\*

Jordan, Landon, SN, 53-56\*

Kessler, Ronald, ETRSN, 57-58

Kimmit, William, MM2, 51-54

Lacey, Kenneth E., FC3, 46-47

Livingston, Robert L., SN1/c, 45-46

McElfresh, John A., QM3, 45-46

Parkhurst, George, BM3, 56-58

Quebedeaux, Aubrey, BT3, 55-58

Raus, Edward, FN, 56-58

Venegoni, John, EM3, 52-54

Wilson, James, LTJG, 55-56

\*Billy and Landon Jordan were brothers.

### **Wives who have passed away.**

Joan Lutrick, wife of Richard Lutrick, FTG2, 59-63

## Contact Information

James W. "Bill" Siler, Jr. (BT3, 62-64, BTC Ret)  
Pat Siler  
835 Claybanks Drive  
Callaway, VA 24067-4524

Email: [jwsilerbtc@gmail.com](mailto:jwsilerbtc@gmail.com)  
[silerpugs@yahoo.com](mailto:silerpugs@yahoo.com)

Phone/Fax: 540-483-5727

Bob Miller (MM3, 62-65)  
Crew Locator

Email: [millerbrothers875@hotmail.com](mailto:millerbrothers875@hotmail.com)  
Phone: 773-271-6848

## Website

We are back to the original website, [www.hwtucker2000.com](http://www.hwtucker2000.com). We didn't have access to that site for over a year after the provider sold their webhosting business. The problem has finally been resolved and the site is being brought up-to-date.

## 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. The price at reunions is \$10.00. To order, please indicate your preference of solid or mesh back and send a check payable to Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund to Bill Siler at the address above.

## 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.