



January 2018

Greetings Shipmates, Wives and Families!

We hope everyone is staying warm this winter. Here in Virginia, we have been on a rollercoaster. Most of December was much warmer than usual. Then we went into the deep freeze with wind chills below zero. January has been mostly cold, but we've had a few days in the mid-60s. We have only had one measurable snow, which we are thankful for. I know other parts of the country have had a lot of snow. I don't know if any of our folks have been affected by the hurricanes in Texas and Florida, or the wildfires and mudslides in Southern California, but they have been devastating. We were to attend a reunion for another ship in Jacksonville, FL at the same hotel where we had the Tucker reunion in 2016. It was to be in September last year, but Hurricane Irma made a direct hit. The reunion was cancelled two days before it was scheduled to begin. If any of you were watching the Weather Channel that Monday morning, you would have seen coverage from the parking lot of the hotel. The storm surge came up the river and overflowed the banks. The parking garage under the hotel was flooded! That ship's next reunion will be in Knoxville, TN, hopefully far enough inland to not be affected by any hurricanes!

Plans for our 2018 reunion are well underway. This year's reunion will be held in Branson, MO. The dates are October 2-7, 2018. Our reunion host is Don Shepard, MM2, 71-73. Below is some information from Don.

The 2018 Henry W. Tucker (DD/DDR 875) reunion will be held in Branson, Missouri. Branson sits on the edge of the Ozark Mountains and retains the rustic nature of the area. The area supports many types of entertainment, including fishing, boating, hiking, zip lining, and swimming. There are world class golf courses for those interested in playing on courses designed by the top names in golf. Silver Dollar City is nearby for a day of entertainment and thrill rides. The people of Branson have declared that every day is Veterans Day and are enthusiastic in showing their appreciation for all veterans. There are over a hundred family oriented shows in Branson, including comedy, acrobatics, variety and many more. Our host hotel will be the Grand Plaza Hotel, located just off the 76 strip. There are many other hotels and RV parks nearby. Looking forward to seeing you on October, 2, 2018.

Grand Plaza Hotel
245 N. Wildwood Drive
Branson, MO 65616
Tel: 417-336-6646
Toll Free: 800-850-6646
Website: www.bransongrandplaza.com
Reservation Code: USS Henry W. Tucker Reunion
Room Rate: \$88 per night + 11.6% tax
(good for 3 nights before and 3 nights after the reunion)
Dates: October 2-7, 2018

The proposed itinerary is:

Tuesday: Check in and in the evening welcome pizza party
Wednesday: Ride the Duck Tour to Branson Bell dinner show/cruise
Thursday: Memorial service at College of the Ozarks, lunch and tour of campus, enjoy Branson Landing
Friday: Dolly Parton's Dinner Stampede
Saturday: Business meeting and Banquet
Sunday: Farewell Breakfast

The next newsletter will have signup sheets and pricing. You may make your hotel reservations at any time. We are looking forward to the reunion. We've been to Branson a couple of times and there is much to see and do. They have an excellent veteran's museum that is a must see.

Recently, we received a Facebook message from the son of one of the commanding officers of the Marcilio Diaz (formerly USS Henry W. Tucker). He was looking for a copy of the ship's history book that Gary O'Neill had published. They are out of print, but we had an extra copy. We sent the book, a couple of baseball caps, a couple of mugs and some patches to him. He planned to surprise his father with the book. Hopefully, he's received it by now. He said he might try to bring his father to the reunion in Branson. That would be terrific.

As I write this, Jerry Ann Holt is in the hospital. We're not at liberty to give details except that she has some serious health issues, but please keep her and Ronnie in your thoughts and prayers.

Bill will be having back surgery on Wednesday, January 24. We are hoping that the surgery will give him pain relief and enable him to walk better. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. We usually spend the last week in February with the Holts in Gatlinburg, TN. Needless to say we will not be there this year. We hope Jerry Ann and Bill will be healthy soon and we can reschedule.

Gary O'Neill has also had some health issues, but has assured us he is doing well now.

We received word from Mary Lou Miller that Bob Miller passed away on June 13, 2017. To say that this is a huge loss to our association would be an understatement. Bob worked tirelessly finding crew members. We began in 1998 with about 100 names and addresses. Many of those addresses were out of date. Bob found us and began work. We now have a database of 4,755 names, including living and deceased members and people we haven't located as yet. At this time, we are at a standstill. Occasionally, someone will find Bill on Facebook and join the crew, or we'll receive notification of the passing of a shipmate, but we don't have the "detective" skills Bob had. If there is anyone who has an interest in finding our missing crew, please let us know. There are a lot of resources on the Internet for finding people. I (Pat) have the "knowhow" but don't have the time to devote to it.

!!!! 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

Additions to the Crew List

Hess, James "Jim," MMFN, 73

Patterson, Osbourn F. "Ozzie," FN, 56-57

Additions to the Memorial List

Beaver, John, FN, 56-57

Close, David, FN, 72-73

Dewey, Otis P., SN, 52-53

Finlay, Lee, RD2, 64-67

Haynes, Madison, FN, 69-70

Hov, David G. "Dave," GMG3, 68-70

Livingston, Robert, SN1/c, 45-46

McElfresh, John A., QM3, 45-46

Miller, Robert J., MM3, 62-65

Morifuji, Kenneth, YN1, 68-70

Ruthart, Nicholas L., RD2, 62-66

Schatz, Ralph J. RD3, 54-56

Shryock, Louis J., RD3, 54-55

Skoraszewski, Edward J., RM3, 52-54

Usery, Gary, SN, 61-64

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 at the VFW 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 services and 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 him/herself 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.

No one wants to think about death, but it is very important to be prepared.

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: _____

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
silerpugs@yahoo.com
Phone/Fax: 540-483-5727

Website

www.hwtucker2000.com. 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 300 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.