



May 2018

Greetings Shipmates, Wives and Families!

I have to begin this newsletter on a sad note. I don't know where to begin. Anyone who attends reunions knows that Jerry Ann Holt, wife of Ronald "Sweetpea" Holt, has been the "Den Mother" at reunions, especially to our World War II shipmates. She also has been of invaluable help in putting these reunions on. She and Ronnie hosted our reunions in Nashville, TN and Jacksonville, FL. Jerry Ann passed away in February after a short illness. I am heartbroken. We had become fast friends over the years. The four of us made annual trips to Gatlinburg, TN and visited back and forth to each others' homes. Needless to say, Ronnie is lost without her, but is doing the best he can.

Plans for our 2018 reunion have been finalized. 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. The sign up sheet with pricing is in this newsletter. Also reservation information for the Grand Plaza Hotel in Branson. We've been to Branson twice and can assure you that our reunion is going to be a good one.

From Don Shepard: 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 hotel bar is next to our hospitality room. We no longer supply alcohol at reunions, so this will be convenient.

Bill had back surgery on January 31. The surgery was successful and he is doing physical therapy. I was hospitalized for five days, 24 hours in ICU, in March with pneumonia. I know of several others who've had pneumonia and this year's strain seems to be particularly rough. I had the pneumonia vaccine and the Prevnar 13 vaccine, but it didn't keep me from having pneumonia. After I got home, I developed an eye infection, and then fluid around the lung. I had a procedure on Wednesday, May 2 to remove the fluid. There was a LOT. The relief was immediate and I finally feel back to normal again.

!!!! 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 at the last reunion, 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.

Additions to the Crew List

Aubrey, Alan M. RM3, 60-62
Jones, Eddie Wayne, PC3, 65-66

Additions to the Memorial List

Beaver, John, FN 56-57
Briggs, Gary, MM3, 63-65
Cooper, Howard F., GM2, 45
Edstrom, Bill, FTC2, 48-51
Gerber, John E., SN2/c, 45-46
Haynes, Madison, FN, 69-70
Kindy, Cecil L., BM3, 50-51
Kueter, James C., MM1, 47-48
Remley, William J., HMC, 48-49
Stetham, Lewis D., ET3, 50-52

Memorial List—Spouses

Holt, Jerry Ann, wife of Ronald "Sweetpea" Holt, BT1, 63-65

Please fill out this form completely and return with your check, payable to Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund, to Bill Siler, 835 Claybanks Drive, Callaway, VA 24067.

Time		\$ per Person	# of People	\$ Total
	Tuesday, October 2, 2018			
12:00 pm	Hospitality Room Opens	\$25.00		
6:00 pm	Registration	\$20.00		
10:00 pm	Welcome Pizza Party Hospitality Room Closes			
	Wednesday, October 3, 2018			
8:00 am	Hospitality Room Opens	\$95.00		
9:15 am	"Ride the Ducks" Duck Boat Tour, followed by			
12:00 pm	Showboat: Branson Belle, includes lunch			
TBA	Return to hotel			
10:00 pm	Hospitality Room Closes			
	Thursday, October 4, 2018			
8:00 am	Hospitality Room Opens	\$45.00		
TBA	College of the Ozarks Tour, includes lunch at the Keeter Center, followed by a patriotic play and Memorial Service			
TBA	Return to hotel			
10:00 pm	Hospitality Room Closes			
	Friday, October 5, 2018			
8:00 am	Hospitality Room Opens	\$60.00		
TBA	Board coach to Dixie Stampede			
TBA	Return to hotel			
10:00 pm	Hospitality Room Closes			
	Saturday			
8:00 am	Hospitality Room Opens	\$30.00		
TBA	Business Meeting and Raffle			
TBA	Hospitality Room Closes			
TBA	Banquet: Prime Rib___, Baked Chicken___, Fried Shrimp___, Baked Tilapia___. Please indicate choices and number.			
	Sunday			
8:00 am	Farewell Breakfast			
	Total \$			

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___

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.