



April, 2010

Hello shipmates,

The Wilmington, North Carolina reunion is six months away and we believe it's going to be a good one. Dave Harrington has worked hard on the reunion. Information on hotel reservations below and the event sign-up sheet is included in this newsletter.

**Ramada Conference Center Wilmington**  
**5001 Market Street**  
**Wilmington, NC 28405**  
**Toll Free: 800-433-7144**  
**Local: 910-799-1730**  
**Dates: October 26-31, 2010**  
**Room Rate: \$59.00 per night plus tax**  
**Reservation deadline: September 1, 2010**  
**Be sure to mention the USS Henry W. Tucker Reunion.**

Alan Shook, one of our Tucker shipmates, is a travel agent. If you'd like help making your travel arrangements, he can be reached at 702-208-1923. His website address is:

<http://www.ezytravel.worldventures.biz>.

If you are interested in participating in a golf tournament while at the reunion, please contact Dave Johnson at 757-426-8482, cell 757-615-5441 or email [davejohn@cox.net](mailto:davejohn@cox.net).

Gary O'Neil has ordered the Tucker History books from the printer. The book is a high quality 8 ½ X 11 size. The History is named "**HACHI NANA GO, An American Fighting Ship**". There are 234 full color images interspersed throughout the text, and it is printed on heavy glossy coated paper. For one book the price is set at \$23, and the shipping cost is \$3.75. If you want 2 books, the total shipping cost is \$4.50. Shipping 3 books will be \$5.25. Four books will be \$6.00. He will be filling orders upon receipt of payment.

**Update on the History Book:** Gary received a shipment of books, but unfortunately there were errors in the printing. The printer will take the books back and reprint them. As soon as Gary receives the new shipment he will contact those of you who have placed orders. Thank you to all who have placed orders and we ask your patience with this SNAFU. We know the final product will be excellent. If you haven't ordered a book, please contact Gary.

**Gary O'Neil  
2519 O'Connor Way  
Appleton WI 54915  
Ph 920-738-0634  
Email goneil@new.rr.com**

**VA Information:** Jim Alvarez sent the following information back in December and we didn't get it into the February newsletter. "As of December 3, 2009, the VA has changed the standings on Brown Water Navy and they are saying that any US Navy ship operated inside the harbors of South Vietnam were to be considered as Brown Water Navy. The Tucker was in Da Nang and Cam Ranh Bay in July 1969 and October 1969, then again in April 1970, June-July 1970 and two days in August 1970." If you've been denied a claim, you might want to resubmit your claim.

If your address, phone number or email address has changed, please let us know your new information as soon as possible. If you don't, there's a chance you'll stop receiving newsletters. If you are currently receiving newsletters via US Mail and you have an email address (except WEBTV or Mailstation), please send us your email address. The more we can send via email, the lower the cost of postage and printing for the association. We also encourage you to see Bob Miller at reunions to check your information on his database and make any changes. He sends all changes to us. Very few do this, but it is really important to do so.

If you are in contact with or know the whereabouts of a shipmate who is on the Missing List on the website, please contact Bob Miller at millerbrothers875@hotmail.com. Even if you know the person's hometown when he was in the Navy, Bob might be able to find him. He has found that the great majority of servicemen return to their hometowns, or nearby, after being discharged.

Fair winds and smooth sailing!  
Bill & Pat Siler

17 March 2010

Happy St. Patrick's Day, Fellow Shipmates, Friends and Families!!

I hope that this finds all of you well and preparing for the October Reunion. I had no idea how much was involved in pulling it all together and I have been enjoying every step of the process!! Ideas and opportunities show up around every corner. Every time I have needed advice or help, I just called Chuck & Frances Hughes or Pat & Bill Siler. Their assistance has been invaluable and made this all, not just possible, but enjoyable as well.

The Ramada Inn is ready and waiting for us. They have already received a lot (20) of reservations for the rooms. We have blocked out 40 rooms, so we are half way through our guaranteed allotment. We can ask to increase that allotment, but we need the reservations to justify it, so please book early. They have a lot of rooms, but it is a 2-story hotel and there is no elevator, so if you need a first floor room, reserve early and if you can handle the stairs, please let them put you on the second floor. The room rate is \$59 per night and reservations can be made at: 800-433-7144. Be sure to mention the Tucker Reunion.

There is a complimentary Continental breakfast that is very satisfying, and there are restaurants of all types very close to the hotel.

The activity sign up sheet is being sent out and we ask that you return it as soon as possible. We need numbers to know how many buses are required, how many people we will be feeding and so on.... You return them to Pat Siler and her job is hard enough as it is, so please help her help you.

If a couple stays all 5 nights and attends all of the functions, the cost adds up to \$575 per couple. The last reunion ran \$776 for all activities and 4 nights. I think this will be a great reunion and we are \$221 below the last cost. I hope that will encourage more shipmates to attend.

This time we are going to have a great many items to raffle off to build up the kitty, so come prepared with a lot of extra dollars and room in your luggage to take all of this great stuff home! And it would be great if you all bought along some memorabilia to donate for the cause.

Once again, if you have any questions, please call or email me!

David Harrington (ETR2, '69-'72)  
1630 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NE  
Hickory, NC 28601  
home 828.256.4785  
cell 828.638.3640  
email b105866@gmail.com

### Additions to the Crew List

Anderson, Vance G., GM3, 56-57  
Brewer, Bobby F., EN3, 55-57  
Dutcher, Herbert A., FN2/c, 46-47  
Dutcher, Phillip S., FN1/c, 46-47  
Funderburk, Carson, MM1, 55-57  
Gary, Orain L., MR3, 58  
Higgins, Harlen, SN, 56-57

King, Norman D. "Norm", GMM2, 65-66  
McDaniel, Louis R., BM3, 64-65  
Pardue, Michael J. "Mike", SN 71-73  
Stone, Jr., Kelly F. "Rocky", FTA3, 55-57  
Tetherow, Donald D., BT/Deck Force, 64-65  
Tuttle, David R., MMFN, 55-57  
Watts, John A., YN3, 56-57

### Additions to the Memorial List

Beck, Lavett G., QM1, 56-57  
Busse, Gaylord, J., BM1, 56-57  
Chojnowski, Milton J., WT3, 45-46  
Cochran, Robert E., MM3, 56-57  
Cody, Richard D. "R.C.", 60-62  
Cooley, James C., SN1/c, 45-46  
Degenhardt, Peter A., FC3, 45-46  
Douglas, Charles R., SM3, 45-46  
Driver, Thomas J. "T.J.", BM2, 56-57  
Ebster, Joseph A., BT3, 55-56  
Fiedler, Jarrell N., GMC, 49-51  
Garabedian, Howard B., "Gabby", RTC, 45-46  
Helm, Richard M., LCDR, 44-46  
Helsby, William P., FN, 56-57  
Hites, Burton L., FA, 57-58  
Hope, Bill J., TE2, 51-53  
Hoyt, Kenneth J., SN1/c, 45-46  
Hull, Paul W. "Shorty", RMSN, 56-58  
Hunn, Carleton R., RD3, 56-57  
Kasabian, Leon C., FCC3, 45-46  
Larsen, Martin L., EN1, 55-57  
Lavender, Robert E., BTC, 49-50  
Lentz, Michael C., RD3, 59-60

Lipka, Claude F., MMC, 45-46  
Lovelady, Fred E., RD1, 61-63  
McCollum, Sr., Robert L., FN, 56-57  
McNeil, Condon C., MMC, 58-59  
Michels, Robert J., CSC, 56-57  
Mischel, John F., CS2, 56-57  
Morlin, Walter E. "Rope Yarn", BM2, 56-62  
Morris, Jr., James V., FT3, 56-57  
Norman, Claude H., SN2/c, 45-46  
Northcutt, Loren D., SN, 55-57  
Perkins, Herman, WT1/c, 45-46  
Petree, Donald H., GMG2, 65-66  
Phillips, Jr., Tommy D., FA, 56-57  
Phipps, James W., EMC, 56-57  
Poepper, Walter P., CSC, 45-46  
Quackenbush, Robert D., SN1/c, 53-55  
Riney, Kerry "Hoot", ADJ2, 68-69  
Shevetz, Michael J., RD2, 64-67  
Swicegood III, Madison A. "Sandy"  
EM1, 65-66  
Yenter, Beauford E., BM1, 55-56  
Zickefoose, Hudson L., CSC, 53-54  
Zudonyi, Frank B., SN1/c, 45-46

We had reported earlier that Robert Quackenbush had passed away. We were contacted by his daughter informing us that he was living. Within a few months he passed away. This explains why you've seen his name in a previous newsletter.

The list of deceased shipmates is quite long this time. It's not because so many have passed away. Bob Miller has come into some information allowing him to find crew members he hadn't been able to locate in the past. Unfortunately, he finds more deceased shipmates than living ones.

**Binnacle List (formerly Sick Bay)** Received an interesting email from Harold Zimmerman regarding the fact that Sick Bay isn't a term the Navy uses, but Binnacle List is the correct term.

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Dale, Cecil M. "Mike", BTFN, 61-64  
Holt, Ronald "Sweetpea", BT1, 63-65  
Julius, James "Jim", MMFN, 63-65

Powell, Dayton, BT2, 51-55  
Servidio, Anthony "Tony", BM3, 62-64  
Winland, Bruce "Packy", BM2, 68-71

If you know of any shipmate or wife of a shipmate who is ill, please let us know.

Please fill out the form below and return it with your check payable to **Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund** to Bill Siler, 835 Claybanks Dr., Callaway, VA 24067 by September 1, 2010.

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>October 26</b>	<b>Price Per Person</b>	<b># People</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>
1200 (12pm)	Hospitality Room Open Pick up Welcome Package Displays, drinks and snacks	Kitty \$25.00	_____	\$ _____
2230 (10:30pm)	Hospitality Room Closes			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>October 27</b>			
0800 (8am)	Hospitality Room Open FREE DAY & EVENING			
2230 (10:30pm)	Hospitality Room Closes			
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>October 28</b>			
0800 (8am)	Hospitality Room Open			
0900 (9am)	Board buses at hotel for Memorial Service & tour			
1000 (10am)	USS North Carolina BB-55			
1200 (12pm)	Board buses for Mayfair Mall (lunch & shopping)			
1430 (2:30pm)	Board buses for Poplar Grove Plantation			
1800 (6pm)	Board buses for return to hotel	\$40.00	_____	\$ _____
	FREE EVENING			
2230 (10:30pm)	Hospitality Room Closes			
<b>Friday</b>	<b>October 29</b>			
0800 (8am)	Hospitality Room Open			
0900 (9am)	Board buses for New River Marine Air Base Tour of base and lunch on our own at a club on base			
1600 (?) (4pm)	Board buses for return to hotel	\$20.00	_____	\$ _____
	FREE EVENING			
2230 (10:30pm)	Hospitality Room Closes			
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>October 30</b>			
0800 (8am)	Hospitality Room Open			
1000 (10am)	Business Meeting & Raffle in Hospitality Room			
1730 (5:30pm)	Hospitality Room Closes			
1830 (6:30pm)	Cocktails, cash bar			
1900 (7pm)	Banquet, followed by dancing	\$45.00	_____	\$ _____
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>October 31</b>			
0700 (7am)	Farewell Breakfast	\$10.00	_____	\$ _____
	<b>Totals</b>		_____	\$ _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ Years Aboard \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Will you be staying at the hotel or elsewhere? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first reunion? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out all information. This will make it easier when we make name badges.

This page deliberately blank.

## **Navy Veterans and Mesothelioma**

By Randy Cohn, [Asbestos Lawyer](#) at the Simmons Law Firm

No doubt you've heard the word "mesothelioma" before. Possibly you heard it on a late night television commercial, but unfortunately, it's more likely that you heard about it when one of your fellow shipmates became ill.

I'm reminded on a daily basis of the tragic link between asbestos exposure, Navy veterans and mesothelioma. Sadly, many of the clients I represent are Navy men. In fact, more than 30 percent of Americans that develop mesothelioma were exposed to asbestos during military service.

Asbestos exposure can cause a number of diseases, including [mesothelioma](#) and lung cancer. Mesothelioma is the most aggressive, attacking the internal lining of the lungs and abdomen decades after the exposure took place.

Most military divisions utilized the cancerous substance for insulation purposes, but more than 300 products containing asbestos were used by the military, primarily by the Navy from the 1930s through the 1970s. Every ship and shipyard built by the Navy before the mid-70s was fitted with numerous asbestos-containing materials. Products such as turbines, generators, pumps, valves, gaskets, packing, cements and pipe covering all contained asbestos.

The infuriating part is that many of these [asbestos products](#) were specified by the ships' equipment manufacturers. The Navy looked to these companies for best practices when constructing asbestos gaskets, packing and insulation. In other words, the manufacturers called for asbestos; not the Navy.

The result? Over 300 products were designed, built and specified by these companies for the Navy to use throughout its ships, and virtually no portion of a naval ship was asbestos-free between the '30s and mid-70s, making Navy veterans and shipyard workers one of the most at-risk groups for developing asbestos-related diseases.

These materials were extensively used in engine and boiler rooms and other areas below deck for fire safety purposes. Navy personnel who worked below deck were heavily exposed to asbestos, but all sailors are at risk, as the deadly compound was used in navigation rooms, sleeping quarters, and mess halls.

If you are ever looking for more information about asbestos exposure for navy veterans or have questions about lung cancer or mesothelioma, I'm happy to share what I know and help in any way possible. And if you or someone you know has been diagnosed, please know that you are not alone. Help is available. Our firm works with families and medical experts throughout the country fighting this rare disease. Please do not hesitate to contact me toll free at 866-468-8631 or [rcohn@simmonsfirm.com](mailto:rcohn@simmonsfirm.com).

## Contact Information

J.W. "Bill" Siler, BTC USN Retired  
835 Claybanks Drive  
Callaway, VA 24067-4524  
Home Tel/Fax: 540-483-5727  
Cell: 540-420-5809  
Email: jwsilerbtc@earthlink.net

Pat Siler  
Cell: 540-420-5808  
Email: silerpugs@yahoo.com  
Website: www.hwtucker2000.com

If you call us, please call our home number. If we are not home, please leave a message or call Pat's cell. Bill's cell is not always turned on. At reunions, both of our cell phones are on so please put our cell numbers into your cell phones. On reunion event sheets, we ask for cell numbers, which we program into our phones. It's really helpful to be able to reach people easily.

## Baseball Caps

We have baseball caps for sale. They are Navy Blue with the ship's name and hull number in gold. The ship profile is in grey. We have solid cloth and mesh back available. Please specify which you prefer when ordering.

The price is \$12.00, which includes postage. Make check payable to **Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund** and mail to Bill Siler, 835 Claybanks Drive, Callaway, VA 24067-4524.

## Facebook Page

If you're on Facebook, be sure to join the USS Henry W. Tucker Facebook Group. It's a place where you can find shipmates, share sea stories and post pictures. Just type USS Henry W. Tucker in the search box in the upper right corner of any page. When you find the page, look for "Join Group" at the left or top. Click on that and you're in. If you know of other shipmates on Facebook, you can "Invite" them to join as well. If you're not on Facebook, it's easy to sign up. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and follow the instructions.

---

## *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 mission also is 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.*

*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 and children of our departed shipmates.*

*Our mission is also to honor those who have gone before, our departed shipmates.*