

USS Henry W. Tucker DD/R-875

<http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/7401>

Volume I, Issue 3

August 2000

Ahoy Tuckermen:

It's hard to believe it's August already and the reunion is just 3 months away. The turnout has been fantastic! As of August 3, there were 55 confirmed reservations. There are also people registered at other hotels, timeshares and at RV parks. If you're one of those and haven't checked in with us, please make a note on your form. The hotel had originally set aside 50 rooms for us and has had to add another 20. If you haven't made your reservation yet, please do it ASAP. We wouldn't want anyone to miss out. We expect about 100 people, possibly more. There's a lot to cover so this newsletter will be a bit "long-winded". Please be patient. If anyone wishes to have something included in the newsletter, please contact Pat and me and we'll make sure to get it in the next newsletter.

The hotel representative told me that 11 people have registered to arrive on Wednesday, November 1. We've heard from a few who said they would and would be willing to help set up. We definitely appreciate any and all help we can get from the "early birds". We'll need help throughout the reunion and will be "recruiting" as soon as people start arriving.

Attendees

As of August 3, there were 55 people registered at the Biloxi Beach Resort. There is a check mark after the names of people who are registered at the Biloxi Beach Resort. Others are tentative, or are staying at other hotels, RV parks or timeshares. (* denotes those registered as of 8/7/00.)

Assentato, Joe
Beiershmitt, Paul *
Blackwell, Carl *
Brown, Mrs. Hubert
Brownlie, James *
Brubaker, Joe *
Catalanotto, Joe
Coll, James *
Conrad, Baltzer J.
Craft, Kenneth *
Dale, Cecil "Mike" *
Davis, Gordon *
DiCori, Ralph
Doran, Mike *
Duke, Louie *
Edstrom, William *
Felder, Harry *
Finlay, Lee *
Fortenberry, Burrell *
Fowlkes, Betty *
(widow of Robert)
Freyman, Rudolph *
Gable, Jim *

Gau, Gene *
George, Kenneth *
Gilbreath, James *
Grochowski, Frank *
Hargraves, William *
Harrington, David *
Harris, Eugene
Hawley, Harry *
Hoepfner, Fred *
Holt, Ronald *
Hooper, Michael *
Julius, James *
Juutilainen, Jerry *
Krause, Troy (tentative)
Ladnier, Louis*
Leaser, Leo*
LeBlanc, George *
London, Jack
Lutch, Leonard *
Machart, Paul *
McCann, Carl *
McDermott, Michael *
Mezger, Erik *

Miller, Robert *
Moore, Leon *
Morrison, Terry *
Napier, Edward *
Nazworth, Thomas *
Newell, William *
Rawlins, James *
Richards, David *
Ruth, Charles *
Salo, Donald *
Salo, Marlow *
Samuelson, Errol "Sam"
Siler, James "Bill" *
Sipole, Robert *
Spencer, Bill *
Steele, Roy *
Terry, Dillon *
Valentine, Mike
Williams, John H.D.
Williams, Terry *
Wilson, Richard *
Wood, Leroy *

Biloxi Area Information

There are many restaurants near the hotel, ranging from fast food to fine dining. The hotel serves a continental breakfast every day but does not have an “in-house” restaurant. There are also casinos for those inclined to play a game of chance or try their luck with the one-armed bandits. I, for one, plan to walk up to a casino, open the door, and throw \$100 in. It will save time, and in any case, they’ll have my money! There is a shopping center for those who like to “shop till they drop”.

Deadline for Forms and Checks SEPTEMBER 1, 2000

We need to have an accurate count for golf Friday, the Mobile trip and dinner Saturday, as well as all the names for name badges, so we ask everyone to fill out the form at the end of the newsletter and return it to us by September 1st, along with your check. **Please make your check payable to Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund.** It is very important to return your forms and checks by the deadline of September 1st because we will need to make deposits for the reception, the golf outing, the buffet dinner, and the trip to the USS Alabama. We also have to supply the hotel, golf course and tour company with accurate headcounts well in advance of the reunion.

Planned Events

Thursday, November 2

There will be a registration table set up in the hospitality room during the afternoon and evening. You will be asked to pay a registration fee at that time and pick up name badges and tickets for the Mobile trip and the buffet dinner on Saturday. There will be a reception with hot and cold hors d’oeuvres on Thursday evening. There will be a bar set up throughout the reunion and we’ll be recruiting bartenders. Jim Julius (who owns a bar) will be setting up, so see him if you’d like to help out. Or you can e-mail him at lhju@webtv.net.

Friday, November 3

In the morning, there will be a golf outing for those who are interested. We have arranged an 8:30 a.m. tee time at the Seabee base in Gulfport (7 miles from the hotel). The green fee is \$18 for Navy retirees and those holding “red” ID cards, and \$24 for all others. The green fee includes golf carts. We need a volunteer to be the coordinator for this, since I don’t play golf. The coordinator will be responsible for getting everyone to the base by 0830 and arranging carpooling to and from the base. I will send a list of the people who plan to play golf to the coordinator and to the golf pro at the base, who will give a list to the guard at the gate so you can get onto the base.

In the afternoon, there will be a business meeting. We will discuss future reunions (how often and where), dues, whether to set up a formal association, and elect officers. I think even if we don’t set up a formal association with a constitution and bylaws, we will need a President, Secretary and Treasurer. Currently, Pat and I are acting as all three, but we need to have official officers. I’d rather not be one of the officers, but Pat and I want to continue to maintain the crew muster list (along with Bob Miller) and write the newsletters. **If you would like to host a reunion near where you live (not really all that difficult), please speak up at the meeting.**

After the meeting we will have a raffle. Each person will be allowed to purchase one ticket (so most people will have a chance to win a prize). We ask that people bring items for the raffle. At another reunion we attend, there have been items such as hand made afghans, water colors painted by the widow of a crew member, watches with the ship’s name and an anchor on them (one of the guys gets them made up and sells them at the reunion, reserving two for the raffle) and some novelty items. Use your imagination. These items shouldn’t be expensive. There will be a grand prize drawing at the end (all the tickets will be put back in the bowl for that drawing so everyone will have a chance to win) for a very nice prize. The money raised will be deposited into the reunion fund account as seed money for future reunions.

Saturday, November 4

In the morning at 0830, we will travel by motor coach to Mobile Alabama to visit the USS Alabama BB-60. We will have the memorial service while there, tour the Alabama, the submarine USS Drum and the aviation exhibit. We will have a barbecue buffet lunch in the Wardroom aboard Alabama. One of the Engine Rooms is open to the public. The Snipes should enjoy that. The all inclusive price is \$25.00 per person, based on 100 people (2 buses). If less than 100 go, the price per person will be higher. We need a list of people who will be going to Mobile by no later than September 1st so we can finalize the trip. At this point, we have well over 100 people registered at the hotel, so it is assumed we will have over 100 people on the Mobile trip. We will not be able to get a third full size bus (a minibus is possible, but not guaranteed), so the first 104 (bus capacity) people who send in their forms and checks will be guaranteed a seat on the bus. If we can't arrange a minibus, we will have to arrange carpooling. Please check off on the form if you will have a car in case we need to recruit you to drive a carpool. We will do our best to accommodate everyone who wants to make the trip.

We will have a cocktail hour and buffet dinner on Saturday evening. This is not a formal affair, but please, no jeans or shorts. The menu for the buffet is varied, so everyone should find something they like. It will be in the Quarterdeck, so we will have to move out of the room about 2 hours before so the caterers can set up.

Aside from these planned events, our time will be free. We've been asked by many people not to plan too many activities for this first reunion. Everyone wants plenty of time to visit. Please bring cruise books, photographs, POD's, and anything about the ship that might be of interest to people. We will have a large hospitality room "Quarterdeck" with plenty of space to spread out and look at these materials. Just be sure to mark each item in some way so you'll get your materials back. Please have photographs in albums with your name on the album. Any papers should be in binders with your name on the binder (in sheet protectors to protect the fragile paper and so you don't have to three hole punch them). This way they will be protected and you will be sure to get all your stuff back. Also, others will know who brought what so they can talk to each other about photos and papers.

Charles (Chuck) Ruth, who lives in Mississippi has offered to arrange a tour of Ingalls Shipbuilding where he works. He says there will be a DDG and an LHD nearing completion at the time of the reunion. If you are interested please contact Chuck at 601-947-7629 or RuthCMJr@ingalls.com. Chuck has also offered to send tourist information to anyone.

Reunion Fund

As usual, we're asking for donations for the reunion fund. Since this is the very first reunion, we have started out with no money. So far we have received \$555 in donations. ***Many, many thanks to those who have made donations!!!!*** We haven't sent individual thank you notes out yet, but we promise to do so. This is a big help, but with the mailing list nearing 300 (and growing daily), the postage will take a big chunk out of that. We will even accept donations of rolls of stamps. Please make checks payable to **Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund.**

Volunteers Needed to Contact People

The list of names we have has increased from less than 100 six months ago to over 1,150 today. Unfortunately we have addresses for just over 300. Bob Miller has done a tremendous job finding people and we've managed to find some too. Burrell Fortenberry's wife Jean and several others have been feeding names and addresses to us. A big ***Thank You!*** to everyone who has called, e-mailed and written with information on shipmates. We couldn't do it without you. Please keep the names coming, or contact the shipmates you know and ask them to get in touch with us. A lot of people are finding us, through the website and reunion postings in Navy and veteran's publications. ***Shift Colors***, a retirees' newsletter, has by far brought us the biggest response. Bob and Pat are doing internet telephone directory lookups on people and called them, but they could use some help. Bob has put together lists of names, addresses and phone numbers that he's found on internet "White Pages" directories. There are ten or fewer people with each name listed in the entire U.S. If any of you would be interested in telephoning some of these people

in an effort to find shipmates, please let me know and I'll send you a list. The names are listed below. If you see a name of an old buddy, you might want to be the one to try to find him. We will also have lists at the reunion that people can take home with them.

Abell, Peter
Benson, Douglas
Blackshere, B.
Bullock, Kenneth
Carbaugh, Terry
Craft, Verle
Dabney, Dennis
Eley, Wilber D.
Emmons, Clarence
Fisher, Don
Firestone, Wayne R.

Grassa, Joseph
Hall, Ted R.
Harvey, Steve
Klingaman, H.Q.
Menegay, Richard
Motley, Frank
Nawrocki, J.A.
Parker, Edwin B.
Pellon, Edward R.
Pfiester, Richard D.
Quint, Peter A.

Rosie, M.H.
Sheinost, D.E.
Stephenson, Melvin
Thistlewaite, G.L.
Walmsley, Walter
Ward, Grady O.
Whitman, Eugene
Yourko, John
Zupinski

We will have a printout of the crew muster list at the reunion. We will ask everyone to check their own information for accuracy and completeness and to look through for familiar names. If anyone has any idea of the whereabouts of those without addresses, we'll ask that they write in all they know under the person's name. With your help, we can reach more and more shipmates. Make sure you have paper and a pen handy to jot down names, etc. of people you find that you want to contact. We've already been able to bring some people together, which is very rewarding.

Brothers Who Served on HWT

Bob Miller, who served from 1962-1965 with his brother Bill, is particularly interested in finding other brothers who served together (or at different times) aboard HWT. He is compiling a list and we'll ask him to bring it to the reunion to be displayed. If you served with your brother(s), know of anyone else who did, or have first names and addresses of the ones we don't have first names for, please contact Bob at: **MILLERBROTHERS@aol.com**.

Anderson, Norman C. & Thomas E.
Ashbrook, Melvin & Gene H.
Brown, Darrel V., Donald Francis & Robert
Driver, Clifton Duane "C.D." & Delton Don
Fender, Robert D. & William
Ferrell, Blount C "Pee Wee" & James F.
Fortenberry, Burrell W. & James D. "J.D."
Givens, Edward H. & Harold
Hari, Edward & Louis G.
Hight, Terry & W.D.
Hill, (first names not known)

Jaspering, Kenneth & Raymond W. "Tony"
Kimmitt, Jack L. & William P.
Kirby, (first names not known)
Leaser, Billy W. & Leo "Dale"
Litts, Donald D., Gerald, F., James E & Robert A.
Miller, Robert J. & William B. "Slick"
Morrison, Patrick & Terry A.
Nagel, (first names not known)
Reynolds, Bernard H. & Robin L.
Sipole, J.W. & Robert

Memorial List

One of the sad parts of contacting people is finding out how many of them have passed away. We plan to honor them with the memorial service. We need someone to conduct the service. If you are a priest, minister, rabbi or lay minister and would be willing to conduct a service for us, please let me know as soon as possible. One thing we'd like to do is have several guys take turns reciting the names of our deceased shipmates. I've listed names in the past two newsletters, but I'll name them all in this one. If anyone has any information on others not on this list who have passed away, please let us know as soon as possible so we can add them to the list for the memorial service. We have heard that a couple of widows of shipmates plan to attend. Let's make them feel welcome. We hope everyone will feel, as we do, that this is a family organization. We're in touch with the sons and daughters of some deceased shipmates and have told them they are more than welcome to attend reunions.

Beeman, Carl
Bosshardt, Joseph
Branstrom, Bud Lewis
Brown, Darrell V.
Brown, Donald Francis
Brown, Hubert
Brown, Jack
Brown, Robert
Driver, Delton Don
Dudley, Merle
Fender, William
Ferris, Carl C.
Fortenberry, J.D.
Fowlkes, Robert
Frye, Elroy
Harville, John C.

Irwin, Kay Sanford (CO)
Jaspering, Raymond W. "Tony"
Kimmitt, Jack L.
Leaser, Billy W.
Lewis, Paul
Little, Ken
Little, Rex (CO)
Litts, Gerald Fred "Gerry"
Loye, David S.
Manka, Douglas
McCracken, Michael J.
"Mac"
Miller, Andrew Dixon
Miller, William B. Jr.
Mincey, William O. "Bill"
Nason, Ellis

Nichols, Norman T.
Pacillo, Michael J.
Palmaffy, Christopher
Pope, John
Powers, Ed
Queen, Stephen C.
Ringhausen, Robert J.
Riss, Albert M.
Rogers, George P.
Runions, Finandal
Sipole, J.W.
Spurrier, Warren
Stachak, Timothy E.
Stromie, Larry
Thompson, Ronald Neal
Veesart, Norman E.

Need Correct E-mail Addresses

We have five people whose e-mail addresses don't work. If you see your name or the name of someone you know, please contact me with the correct address:

Bell , Edward	elbell@qconline.com
Finton , Larry D.	storm87@webtv.net
Jones , Philip	dd875@mail.charter-internet.com
Rossmann , Marvin	Mross6449@aol.com
Sagrignano , Michael	oldsag@aol.com

If any of you have cruise books, would it be possible for you to either scan (as an image file, ex. jpg, tif) and e-mail the pages with crew names on them, or photocopy and mail them to me (e-mail address and home address at the end of the newsletter)? We will then compare them to the existing list and add the ones we don't have. If you have contact with any of your shipmates, please let them know about the reunion and give them my phone number and/or e-mail address and ask them to contact me.

If you're looking for an old buddy you've lost touch with, contact Bob Miller or me and we'll look them up. We've been able to "reconnect" quite a few old friends. That's the most rewarding thing about all this. Hearing from someone who has spoken to an old friend for the first time in 30, 40, or 50 years! Seeing my old buddies at the reunion and seeing others get together for the first time since they left the Tucker will be really exciting.

T-Shirts and Baseball Caps

Bill Hargraves is having T-shirts made. From his description, they sound really nice. You can read a description in the Message Center on the website. We are having baseball caps made, Navy blue good quality, USA made, with the ship's name and number in gold embroidery and a profile of the ship on it. I don't know the price of the shirts, but the caps will probably be \$15. We'll have them at the reunion for sale and then will take mail orders after the reunion (\$3 for postage). We've had requests from one who can't attend and the son and daughter of a former CO, which we will send as soon as the caps are in, but will not fill any more mail orders until after the reunion.

Internet Websites of Interest

Bud Kruse has a website with the 1963-1966 cruise book on it. I think all who were on HWT at the time will be interested.

<http://www.skat.net/home/bb49fans/>

Here are a few more:

The Navy Memorial Foundation

<http://www.lonesailor.org>

Tin Can Sailors, Inc.

<http://www.destroyers.org>

Military Connections

<http://www.militaryconnections.com>

(sign up free, look for USS Henry W. Tucker section)

Of course, be sure to visit the HWT website. The URL is at the beginning of the newsletter.

If anyone knows of websites that might be of interest to shipmates, let us know and we'll publish them in the newsletter. Also, if you have any items you'd like published in the newsletter, please send them to us. We'll be glad to include them.

Hope to see you all in Biloxi!.

Fair winds and smooth sailing.

James W. "Bill" Siler, Jr.

BTC USNR Ret

Contact:

Bill Siler

34 Burnside St.

Plymouth, MA 02360

psiler@ix.netcom.com

(508) 888-3049

Shipmate information can be sent to me or to Bob Miller

MILLERBROTHERS@aol.com

(773) 271-6848

The following e-mail message was received by Terry Williams from a crew member of the Brazilian ship Marcilio Dias D-25, formerly USS Henry W. Tucker. Included is his e-mail address. Please feel free to e-mail him and welcome him to the HWT family.

From: Ricardo Ibsen Pennaforte Campos

Date: 08 Aug 2000

Email: lbsen@defesa.gov.br

Hello Shipmates! I was Brazilian Tuckerman!

My Name is IBSEN, Ricardo P. Campos. I had served on other Brazilian ships but the old "Tucker" (Ex-Marcilio Dias) has a special place reserved in my memories.

She was a great ship with a great crew! My function on board - Comm's officier.

I was a crew member on the Marcilio Dias (Henry W. Tucker) from January 1990 until June 1991.

Reunion Information:

November 2-3-4, 2000

Biloxi Beach Resort

2736 Beach Blvd.

Biloxi, MS 39531

Tel: (800) 345-1570

Email: biloxibeach@travelbase.com

Mention USS Henry W. Tucker reunion

Attractions:

Casinos

Restaurants

Shopping

Beach across the street

New Orleans just 90 miles away

If you call the hotel and they are full, here are some other hotels nearby. I know nothing about these hotels, just that they are on Beach Blvd. in the 2000's. Biloxi Beach Resort is at 2736 Beach Blvd. All phone numbers are toll-free.

Biloxi Travel Inn & RV Park

2010 Beach Blvd.
800-676-4465

Gulf Beach Resort

2428 Beach Blvd.
800-323-9164

Ocean Manor Inn

2484 Beach Blvd.
877-796-9922

Breakers Inn

2506 Beach Blvd.
800-624-5031

Holiday Inn Biloxi Beachfront

2400 Beach Blvd.
800-441-0882

Red Carpet Inn

2752 Beach Blvd.
800-251-1962

Broadway Inn Express

2688 Beach Blvd.
800-651-2827

Holiday Inn Express

2416 Beach Blvd.
800-468-2102

Days Inn – Biloxi

2046 Beach Blvd.
800-526-5656

Motel 6 Biloxi

2476 Beach Blvd.
800-466-8256

Schedule of events

Please fill out how many people will be attending each activity in your party and return to me.

Deadline is September 1st

Bill Siler, 34 Burnside Street, Plymouth, MA 02360-1402

Thursday, November 2, 2000 **Price Per Person** **# People**

Afternoon

Check in at hotel.

Reunion registration and pick up name badges in "Quarterdeck" \$10 for "kitty"***
 \$10.00 per couple registration fee to be paid at registration *

1830 Welcome reception in "Quarterdeck"

Free evening for dinner/sightseeing/casinos

Friday, November 3, 2000

0800 Golf Outing

0830 Tee Time	(Navy retirees & red ID card holders)	\$18.00	_____
Fee includes golf cart	(all others)	\$24.00	_____

1500 Business meeting

Discuss forming association, dues, election of officers, future reunions
 Financial report, raffle

Free evening

Saturday, November 4, 2000

0830 Trip to USS Alabama BB-60

Travel by motorcoach to Mobile, Alabama	\$25.00	_____
Memorial service, tour Alabama, USS Drum (sub) and aviation exhibit. BBQ lunch in the Wardroom of Alabama		
Price is based on 100 people. More or less will affect the price.		

1830 Cocktail Hour

1900 Buffet Dinner

Menu	\$22.75	_____
Fresh Garden Salad		
Shrimp Alfredo with Fettucini		
Roasted Sirloin Strip with Mushroom Sauce and Rice		
Roast Turkey with Sage Dressing w/Cranberry Sauce & Giblet Gravy		
Parsley Buttered Potatoes		
Green Beans Almondine		
Rolls & Butter		
Strawberry Shortcake		
Coffee & Tea		

* The registration fee will be deposited into the reunion account to defray expenses. This has been increased to \$10 from \$5 due to expenses being higher than expected.

** The "Kitty" will cover liquor, soft drinks and snack items for the "Quarterdeck".

Name: _____ # in party _____ Total: \$ _____ Car: Y: _____ N: _____

Staying at: Biloxi Beach Resort _____ Other hotel/RV park/timeshare _____