



December 2009

Greetings:

We hope everyone has had a good year. For the most part, it's been good for us. Pat had a bad case of the flu in September and didn't really feel back to 100% until Thanksgiving. We hope you've all escaped it.

Plans for the reunion in Wilmington, NC are coming along nicely. We'll meet with the Harringtons, Hugheses and the hotel people sometime in January to firm up plans. Dave Harrington tells us that he's got some good tours set up and the Memorial Service will be aboard the USS North Carolina. We've been to a Memorial Service there before and it's impressive. Please see the next page for reunion information.

The event sign-up sheet and prices will be in the next newsletter. We hope to have a large turnout and look forward to seeing everyone. If you've never attended a reunion, we hope you decide to come to this one.

Be sure to check out the History section of the website. It has been updated recently with a lot more information.

There have been emails circulating recently that the health care reform bills in the house and senate include changes to Tricare and Tricare for Life (retiree health insurance). I forwarded one such message before verifying it. This is not true. Larry May sent me a link to an article on Military.com (<http://www.military.com/military-report/beneficiaries-vets-shielded-from-health-reform>) that addresses this issue. I have put this link on the Tucker website and the Tucker group page on Facebook.

If your address, phone number or email address has changed, please contact us immediately so we can update your information. Otherwise you may not receive newsletters. If you receive them via US Mail and have an email address, 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 We receive several email and postal returns due to incorrect or outdated addresses. Some of the returns from the Post Office have new addresses so we can resend, but this means additional postage. Others have no forwarding address, so we have to remove them from the mailing list. For those who have sent us updated information, thank you! We also encourage you to see Bob Miller at reunions to check your information on our database and make any changes. Very few do this, but it is really important to do so.

Fair winds and smooth sailing!
Bill & Pat Siler

26 October 2009

Fellow Shipmates and Families:

If you have been following the updates, you will realize that one-year from today we will be welcoming you to the 2010 reunion! Thanks to a lot of help from Chuck & Frances Hughes and the professional people in the area, we are at a point where the larger details have been arranged, and we have to get closer to the date to finalize the rest:

- Festivities will begin on Tuesday October 26 and will finish up on October 31.
 - We have the hotel set. The Holiday Inn at 5032 Market St in Wilmington, NC. The rooms are set at \$79.00 + tax of 13.75% (about \$10.00) per night. They can be found on the internet or you can call them at 800.833.4721. Learning from Seattle, we will have a large hospitality room for socializing.
 - Wednesday will be an “open” day to allow everyone to find their way around and get re-acquainted with old friends. A corner of the hospitality room will be set up to honor the 1940 era shipmates.
 - Thursday will be “tour day”. We expect to go to “Poplar Grove” a wonderful plantation with something for everyone. After that we are making arrangements to visit New River Marine Corps Air Base in the afternoon. The 1950 era shipmates will be honored.
 - Friday we will go to the USS North Carolina (BB-55) for a memorial service. The ship is right in Wilmington and we will bus back across the river to the Historic Shopping area of Wilmington after the ship. The 1960/70 shipmates will be honored.
 - Saturday we will hold our business meeting, there will be a lot of items to be won by bidding or the luck of the draw, so come prepared. The banquet and dance will be held in the evening.
 - Sunday will be the sad farewells.

This will be the 6th reunion and we have learned a lot with each one. We have kept all of the good parts and added a lot of new things to ensure that it will be the best one yet!

I hope that everyone is making plans to be there, and if there are any questions, please feel free to contact us or any of the businesses we are using. We will need to have an idea of how many wheel chairs we need to allow for on the tour buses, so if you could let us know we would appreciate it.

Contact information is listed on the Tucker website, or I can be reached a number of ways:

David Harrington
1630 33rd Ave NE
Hickory, NC 28601
Home: 828.256.4785
Cell: 828.638.3640
Email: b105866@yahoo.com

Thank you for your interest and cooperation!

Additions to the Crew List

Alexander, John F., BT3, 59-62
Bergstrand, Donald V., CS3, 53-56
Bolen, Patrick F. "Turtle", FTG3, 72-73
Cormier, John E., FTGSN, 64
Drapp, John E., HTFA, 73
Duran, Ruben, FN, 72-73

Gilbert, Jr., Charles E., ENFN, 57-58
Hubbard, Robert W., QM3, 60-62
Kendall, David E., FA, 71
Kiley, Wayne F., STG2, 68-70
Smith, Joseph R. "Smitty", BT2, 61-64
Wagner, Warren P. "Bob", SN, 61-63

Additions to the Memorial List

Adams, Jr., Joseph, SN1/c, 49
Alder, Jr., James T., SN2/c, 46
Anderson, Robert E., LTjg, 50-52
Bellen, Ivan D., SN1/c, 50-52
Bricks, Ronald D., RM3, 52-54
Broberg, Michael L., BM3, 69-71
Burger, Corbett A., "Booger", EMC, 60-62
Carey, Donald D., BT2, 60-62
Christenson, Robert J., EN2, 54-55
Clement, Leo L., MaM3/c, 46-52
Cole, Keith V., SN1/c, 50-53
Dashner, Paul L., PNC, 71-72
Davis, Nathan C., FN1/c, 53-55
Devlin, Thomas L., SN1/c, 45-46
Dignan, Warren W., SK2, 45-53
Firestone, Wayne R., RD3, 63-66
Fleckman, Daniel, MRFA, 49-50
Foster, John E., SN1/c
Fox, Jesse E., MM3, 58-59
Germany, Jimmy "Worm", SFP3, 63-66
Groom, Robert M., MM3, 50-52
Hastings, William L., LTjg, 57-59

Humphrys, Despard S., SN1/c, 50-51
Kolvek, Clarence R. "Beef", EN1, 47-49
Leach, Morrel L. "Bud", RD3, 48-49
Leaser, Leo D. "Dale", BT3, 48-52
Little, Hendle R., SN2/c, 45-46
Logan II, John A., ENS, 46-48
McElroy, John F., MM3, 47-51
McGeeney, Paul J., MM3, 50-51
Millichamp, John E., SN2/c, 48-50
Morelan, Roy N, BTFN, 50-53
Palmer, Ronald D., FN1/c, 47-49
Quackenbush, Robert D., SN1/c, 54-57
Roubidoux, James D., SH3, 57-59
Schlough, Richard R. "Boats", BMC, 70-71
Sydow, Ralph E., HT2, 71-72
Vinecki, Jack B., MM3, 57-58
Webster, John R., SN1/c, 49-50
West, David R., GM3, 51-54

Helen Werdelman,
Wife of CDR Egon Werdelman

Sick Bay

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Dayton Powell, BT2, 52-55
Harris, Joseph R. "Joe", RM2, 67-68
Julius, James C., "Jim" "JJ", MMFN, 63-65
Winland, Bruce J., BM2, 68-71

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

A Message from

Bob Miller MM3 62-65
USS Henry W. Tucker Crew Locator

In keeping with our ongoing efforts to preserve the history of our ship I've added space to our database so we can preserve another fact about our crew.

If you could take 30 seconds to send me your birth place [City or Town and State] I would appreciate it.

Please Send to
Millerbrothers875@hotmail.com

A reminder.

I still have CD's of all Cruise Books available if you're interested. Please e-mail me for information how to obtain.

Thanks for your support. Through your support I have been able to send former shipmates and their families CD's of the Cruise Book from their time aboard which they otherwise may not have been able to obtain.

We received the following by email and thought it would be of interest to some of our members. We'll be adding a link to their website on our site.

Hello,

I am contacting you regarding the USS Henry W. Tucker website.

My name is Doug, and I represent the Mesothelioma and Asbestos Awareness Center, a leading Internet resource for information about mesothelioma, a fatal form of cancer. I am also a veteran of the United States Navy, and a proud advocate for veterans. The MAA Center has been recognized by the Health on the Net Foundation as a reliable & trustworthy source of medical information on the web and is approved by Disability.gov as an excellent resource for veterans and all members of the military community.

As you may know, mesothelioma cancer is caused by previous exposure to asbestos. Countless veterans were exposed to asbestos while aboard naval ships, while repairing military vehicles and aircraft, and while residing in aging military housing. Troops currently serving in Iraq are also at risk of asbestos exposure, making this a very timely health and safety issue for veterans and all members of the military community. In addition to featuring information about asbestos exposure and the health consequences for veterans, we also provide content on a number of other veteran issues, including PTSD, addiction, and more.

Because the MAA Center has such important health information to share with all veterans, I would like to inquire about adding a resource link to our veteran information section on your website. I am confident that the information we provide, including content focused on military asbestos exposure, will benefit all who visit our site, and we are eager to share this content with as many veterans as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your support of veterans. As a veteran myself, I truly appreciate your efforts.

Yours in health and service,

Doug

**Douglas Karr, United States Navy Veteran
Veteran Advocate & Outreach Coordinator
Mesothelioma & Asbestos Awareness Center
www.maacenter.org**

Veterans Information

VA INCREASES AGENT ORANGE ILLNESS PRESUMPTIONS LIST

WASHINGTON (October 13, 2009) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is applauding Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki's decision to increase by three the number of illnesses that can now be linked to the herbicide defoliant Agent Orange, which was used extensively during the Vietnam War.

Today's addition of hairy cell leukemia, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease raises to 15 the total number of "presumed" service-connected illnesses the VA considers linked to Agent Orange.

"This is very significant," said VFW national commander Thomas J. Tradewell Sr., a Vietnam veteran from Sussex, Wis. "Veterans who contracted one or more of the 15 associated illnesses no longer have to prove their illness was due to their service in Vietnam during the war. The VA is saying 'We believe you,' which will enable more veterans to receive the healthcare and benefits they earned and deserve."

Shinseki's decision is supported by an independent study by the Institute of Medicine, entitled, "Veterans and Agent Orange," which was released on July 24, 2009.

Tradewell called the IOM report — the eighth in a series — extremely important because scientific research is continuing into the long-term effects of Agent Orange and other herbicides used during the Vietnam War.

"The report also means scientific research is continuing to validate what the veterans' community has been saying for decades — that Agent Orange is making people sick," he said.

"As a former Army chief of staff and twice-wounded Vietnam combat veteran of two tours, Secretary Shinseki knows how to take care of troops and their families. His acceptance of the IOM recommendations also proves that he will listen to the scientific community and act on their recommendations if it helps to better serve veterans and their families," said Tradewell. "The veterans community is extremely fortunate to have him in our corner."

The new list of 15 illnesses now recognized under VA's "presumption" rule are:

- Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy
- AL Amyloidosis
- Chloracne
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)
- Hairy Cell Leukemia
- Hodgkin's Disease
- Ischemic Heart Disease
- Multiple Myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Parkinson's Disease
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda
- Prostate Cancer
- Respiratory Cancers
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)

To read the VA press release with links to more information on each illness, go to <http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1796>

Contact Information

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Pat Siler
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Email: silerpugs@yahoo.com

Website – www.hwtucker2000.com

Please visit the website often as it is updated on a regular basis. Also, be sure to visit the history section. It contains a wealth of information about the ship and it's movements. It's a work in progress and is coordinated by Gary O'Neil. Many shipmates have contributed information and clarification. If you have any historical information to add, let us know and we'll put you in touch with Gary. You can also click on his name in the website to send him an email.

Ship's Store

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.

Jackets and shirts are also available. We don't keep them on hand, but contact us and we'll give you contact information for the company.

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 see the ship's name, click on it. Click on "Join Group" at the left of the page 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 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 and remember those who have gone before, our departed shipmates.