



January, 2012

Greetings shipmates:

It's 2012 and plans are almost complete for the reunion in Nashville, TN. It's being hosted by Ronnie & Jerry Ann Holt and here's what they have to say about the reunion plans.

Events for our Nashville Reunion 2012 are almost finalized. The dates are October 9-14, 2012. We have chosen a centrally located hotel on Music Valley Drive within walking distance of several attractions & restaurants. Our activities this year will be a little different. Since we will be in the Heart of Country Music, we didn't want to miss out. So all of our activities, except the Saturday morning memorial service & business meeting, will be held in the evening. We will, of course, be attending the Grand Ole Opry on Friday evening after a meal at the Hermitage House. We will also be attending the Nashville Nightlife Dinner Theatre on Thursday evening. Our banquet will be held at the hotel on Saturday evening, with a farewell breakfast on Sunday morning. The hotel will host a wine & cheese party for us on Wednesday evening, October 10.

We will be staying at the Guest House International Inn & Suites, 2420 Music Valley Drive, Nashville, TN 37214. Their phone number is 615-885-4030. The hotel is totally non-smoking -- so smokers, be sure to ask for a first floor room. They also allow well behaved dogs on their 5th floor. Be sure to mention that you are with the USS Henry W. Tucker Reunion group. Here are some other points:

- ✓ The hotel offers a free expanded breakfast
- ✓ The room rates are:
 - 1-4 people (all inclusive) \$88.94 per night
 - Family suite rooms – two queen beds, hide-a-bed & kitchen - \$139.65 (all inclusive)
 - King suites – two rooms, kitchen, \$151.17 (all inclusive) per night
- ✓ We will have the hotel ballroom all week for our hospitality suite & raffle items
- ✓ They offer complimentary airport shuttle
- ✓ All rooms have refrigerators
- ✓ Rooms rates are good three days before/after our reunion
- ✓ The hotel has a lounge with live music
- ✓ Free underground parking
- ✓ Free business area so you can check emails, surf the web

The Opry Mills (outlet shopping at its finest!) is only a stone's throw away and the ladies will have plenty of time to shop since our daytime hours will be "free".

We hope everyone will join us. It seems like each reunion is more fun than the last (if that's possible). If you need any more information, please either send an email (jerryannholt@aol.com) or call me – 256-571-0428.

Anyway, we hope you will make your plans to be with us in **Music City USA!!**

Ronald Holt
'63-'65

Bob Miller has been hard at work finding shipmates. Unfortunately, there are more for the Memorial List than the Crew List. But he has found quite a few living shipmates. Hopefully, we'll see some of them at the reunion.

If your address, phone number or email address has changed, please be sure to let us know as soon as possible. After every newsletter goes out, we receive many returns from the USPS. Most have new addresses but some don't and we can't send those people newsletters. Also, a lot of emails will bounce back. When that happens, we have to begin sending paper copies. With high printing and postage costs, the more we can send via email the more money stays in the bank account for reunions.

See the last page of this newsletter for information on baseball caps, mugs, the Tucker history book "Hachi Nana Go", cruise books on CD, and our Facebook Group page.

We hope all of you have a Happy, Healthy 2012.

Fair winds and smooth sailing,
Bill & Pat Siler

Additions to the Crew List

Barefield, Bryan W. "Bare", EM2, 62-64
Bulfer, Kenneth R., BTFN, 68-69
Camarena, Braulio "Joe", RM1, 64
Coggins, Roy "Little Guns", GMGSN, 61-63
Concha, Jim R., GM3, 53-54
Cox, Gregory L., ETRSN, 73
Crider, Royce R., SN2/c, 45-46
Davidson, Nolan G., RD3, 67-68
Dearborn, Ray W., RD3, 52-55
Dewitt, Luther W., MM3, 52-53
DuFresne, Paul R., SN, 53-55
Esmele, Jaime "Jimmy", TN, 56-57
Grogg, Von Richard, GMM1, 65-69
Hand, Ernest L. "Ernie", SK3, 71-73
Harrelson, Melvin L. "Harry in 1st Div"
QM3, 65-66
Macalus, Frank J., SN1/c, 46-48

Margelewski, Richard J. "Ski", MM3, 69-72
Maurer, Mark J., SN, 69-70
McHenry, Victor W., SN, 61-62
Michie, Danny L. "Big Mitch", EM3, 73
Morse, Randolph R. "Muscles", SF3, 65-69
Mullins, James A., MM2, 66-68
Musgrave, Orval F., SN, 68-70
Nace, John A., SN2/c, 45-46
Payne, Ronald L. "Ron", STCS, 67-70
Pierce, Jr., James E., SN, 66-68
Poingsett, Jr., Carl S., SN, 66-68
Popejoy, Paul L., BT3, 63-64
Remley, William J. "Doc", HMC, 48-49
Sterling, Charles P. "Chuck", RM3, 70-72
Vera, Jr., Porfirio, FN, 59-60
Vopelak, Robert J., GMG3, 63-66

Additions to the Memorial List

Adams, Max L., MaM3/c, 47-49
Anzelmo, Joseph C., BT3, 55-56
Arndt, Gary I. "Bogus", MM2, 68-70
Baity, Chester C., WT3/c, 45-46
Baker, Phillip M. "Mike", CS3, 71-73
Beisel, Ronald J., ETRN3, 64-67
Bly, Robert I., SM1, 47-48
Boss, Francis R., FTG1, 64-66
Branum, Henry F., YNC 67-68
Brown, Floyd D., SN1/c, 45-46
Buheit, Kenneth D., FN, 49-52
Carson, Wilfred A. "Will", FN, 61-64
Casillas, Arturo E., PCSN, 61-63
Castro, Miguel P., SK1, 72-73
Chambers, James E., SF3, 45-46
Clemmons, Rufus, BM1, 71-72
Coates, Ralph E., MM1, 67-69
Crippen, Roger K., FN, 58-59
Crist, Kenneth C., MM2, 64-67
Cruz, Francisco B., SH3, 59-63
Dale, Cecil M. "Mike", BTFN, 61-64
Danaher, Eugene J., MMC, 54-55
Daniel, Worthy C., SN, 52-54
Dembrowski, Robert M., RMSN, 63-65
Denney, Frank L., EMC, 59-60
Devries, Bernard J., MM3, 47-48
Dombkowski, Casimir G., FN2/c, 47-48
Dossey, Lloyd G., CS2, 55-57

Dye, William N., FN, 50-52
Eberlein, Patrick J., "Ebie", STG2, 66-71
Eck, Francis S., CS3, 48-49
Ellis, Lloyd R., HMC, 62-65
England, Archie W. "William", SN, 58-60
Ensign, Hugh, A., RD3, 49-51
Erick, Ronald E., STG3, 64-65
Francisco, Felix, V., BT3, 57-62
Franks, Charles, IC3, 57-59
Frech, Gerald B., SN, 57-59
Free, Donald, R., 54-56
Gaddy, Jr., Benjamin L., SN1/c, 45-46
Gilbreath, Royce L., SN, 51-53
Gillen, A.P., MM1, 47-48
Grant, Jr., Archie, EM1, 51-52
Grimes, Clinton R., "C.R.", MM3, 48-50
Gunning, Patrick, SN1/c, 45-46
Hicks, James M., SN2/c, 45-46
Hiles, Wilford M., "Willie", SK3, 65-66
Hoepfner, Frederick R., CDR, 53-54 (C.O.)
Holdt, Hugh D., SN, 59-60
Holman, David R., FC3, 48-49
Hopkins, Jr., Benjamin G., QMC, 54-56
Hurst, George L., SN2/c, 47-48
Hutchison, Parley L., CS2, 67-68
Ingram, Jerry W., FTG3, 67-68
Jenkins, Allen, EN3, 60-62
Jones, Benjamin "Ben", RD1, 64-66

Kershner, William F., SN, 52-54	Roice, Harold R., RDSA, 49-50
King, Bruce R., RM3, 45-46	Ross, Macsimond F., MM1, 45-46
King, Donald T., BT2, 56-57	Rule, Peter "Pete", SN1/c, 46-48
Kitch, Frederick J., "Fred", EMC, 64-66	Ryan, Edward P., FC3, 47-48
Lasley, Cecil V., RM1, 70-72	Schultz, Martin D., RM2, 63-64
Lawen, James L., DK3, 63-64	Simmons, Stephen L., BT3, 66-69
Loyd, James L., BTFN, 48-49	Smith, Alton L., PNC, 48-49
Manley, Eugene B., EN3, 49-52	Snipes, Raymond L., SN, 55-57
Mataya, Frederick S., GM2, 57-59	Staggs, Frederick L., YN1, 58-59
McClain, Jr., Carley, SN2/c, 47-48	Stancoff, Robert J., BM1, 71-72
McCool, Robert A., MM3, 59-60	Tapler, Louis R., SN1/c, 46-47
Medina, Paul L., SH3, 64-65	Taylor, Keith D., RM1/c, 45-46
Midkiff, John Q., BM3, 50-52	Terry, Vernon H., BT@, 67-68
Miles, Jack F., SN, 54-56	Thomas, William L., StM2, 45-46
Miller, Wayne A., RM3, 70-71	Toles, Jr., Sidney L. "El Cid", SN, 63-65
Millhouse, Claude R., 47-49	Trent, Jack M., MMFN, 52-53
Mitchell, Paul E., FN1/c, 46-51	Truesdell, L.E., SN, 60-63
Moehn, Thomas H., SA, 63-64	Unander, Theodore E. "Ted", CS3, 59-61
Monson, Jr., James A., YN3, 60-61	Villegas, Jesse L., FN1/c, 46-48
Murphy, James V., MMRFN, 50-52	Vowell, Allan, W., CS3, 67-68
O'Rourke, John R. "Jack", RM3, 64-67	Wallick, Charles D., SN2/c, 45-46
Palmer, David C., SN, 52-54	Wallis, Jr., Robert G., SN, 57-59
Payne, Sanders E. "Buster", MMFN, 59-62	Walston, Douglas L., QM1, 67-68
Peltier, Arnold G., SN1/c, 46-48	Ward, Lester C., RD1, 63-65
Perkins, Bill B., FCSN, 48-49	Weber, Sylvester P., FN1/c, 45-46
Peterson, Alfred W., DC2, 63-66	Whitehead, Edward O. "Pup", MM3, 64-66
Preston, Nelson J., FTG2, 65-69	Williams, Edwin C., SK1, 59-63
Rardin, Bernard L., BT1, 52-55	Woodson, Joe M., STGSN, 65-66
Rentz, Harvey F., MM2, 60-62	Wright, George A., MM2, 47-48
Robison, Elmer B., MM2, 67-68	York, Mark A., SFP3, 48-50

We received the following via email from Jim Alvarez, who is one of our Tucker shipmates (GMG3, 69-70). Jim has provided us with a lot of information on the VA and Agent Orange issues and we try to fit them into newsletters when we can. We also post them on the Tucker Facebook page.

Good morning everyone,

We just had our VFW 23rd District Meeting this past Saturday and I presented and talked about what the VA has not been doing in order to have the VA Approve all those US Navy and US Coast Guard Sailors who operated off the Coast of North and South Viet Nam who were also exposed from the many types of Herbicides used during the Viet Nam Conflict.

The VA has already listed 100 Ships that operated off the waters of Viet Nam and ONLY approved a few ships that did operate when they sailed into the rivers and harbors in support of the many Marines and Soldiers NGFS (Naval Gun Fire Support). But the VA had a very big problem in hand. Because of the Money issue, they needed to cut who would be getting C&P (Compensation & Pension) and had to cut the US Navy and US Coast Guard out by saying that we were NOT there long enough or that the ships had to either moor to a pier and also receive services from the Pier. So many Sailors found the Deck Logs which every ship in the Navy and Coast Guard maintain 24/7

from the day of Commissioning to the last official rights when she is no longer needed and Decommissioned. But the VA, many of those who work there are NOT Veterans or if they are Veterans may not know what the Navy does things differently as do the Army, Air Force and Marines do. But when some of these sailors sent in copies of the Deck Log, the VA denied the Deck Log because their names were not listed as going on shore. For this reason, the VA got plenty of flag by sending them letters and calling them on the phone to have it changed. So now that the VA is aware of this, I helped 23 former sailors get rated from 80% and 4 were given a rating of 100%. As Frank Contreras mentioned at the Meeting that we are and were members of the same Team to fight for Freedom and to protect the United States as we all pledged to do, but the VA had to Bench all of us Navy & Coast Guard Sailors and have been denied all these years as hundreds of Navy and Coast Guard Sailors have already died and the list is getting bigger and bigger because so many are NOT being treated from the effects of the may Herbicides that was sprayed all over North and South Viet Nam.

So I am asking all of you who receive this email to please pass it out to your Veterans and also since I live here in California, we don't have the names and addresses of Your Representative in your State, but please have as many Veteran mail a letter so that we can all get this Bill signed because so many have already died much faster than those Veterans that were in WWII and Korea 10-3 ratio of Viet Nam Veterans verses WWII & Korean Veterans combined.

I myself have been rated at 100% Disabled since February 2004 and lost my job at the VA Regional Hospital Loma Linda due to my many injuries and medical issues also from the effects of Agent Orange and also for many of us who served in Desert Storm have never questioned our Country about being sent to fight for our Freedom. But yet the same Government also has denied us who got sick or have died from the effects of so many elements that we were all exposed to and now the VA will be facing another new problem for those like me who were in Desert Storm/Shield and all those men and women that are coming back from the Middle East are facing the same issues as us Viet Nam Veterans are having fight for our lives because the VA will not approve or acknowledge the fact that we were also there. If we weren't, then why did we all get Combat Pay and also have received so many medals as the CAR-US Navy and USMC only receive this (Combat Action Ribbon) that so many of us received and yet that proves that we were in a Combat area by receiving live fire from the North Vietnamese or shot at with Small Arms Weapons we I was while serving on PBR's in my first 4 months in the Navy.

Currently, as many of you know I had Prostate Cancer Surgery last May and still on treatment for the next 2 years, then I developed DVT this past November on Veterans Day which is a blood clot from driving to and from El Paso and then again in March, I am scheduled for another surgery to correct a Hernia that I now have developed from the Cancer Surgery and because I am on Blood Thinners, they can't do the surgery until the Vascular Surgeon releases me some time in last February. But I have also had my share of over 32 other operations since I retired.

I thank you all for you Service to this county and I salute you all. May God Bless the United States of America.

GMG1 Jim Alvarez, (SW) (AW-LSE), USN, Retired
VFW State Field Service Officer VA Hospital Loma Linda 2006-2010
VFW 23rd District Service Officer 2006-2012
VFW Post 12023 Hemet (All State Team) 2007-2008
VFW Post 12023 Hemet 2007-2009
VFW Post 184 Jr. Vice Commander 2005-2006
VFW Post 184 Judge Advocate 2010-2012

Contact Information

James W. "Bill" Siler, Jr.
Pat Siler
835 Claybanks Drive
Callaway, VA 24067-4524

Email Bill: jwsilerbtc@gmail.com
Email Pat: silerpugs@yahoo.com
Phone/Fax: 540-483-5727

Robert J. "Bob" Miller, Crew Locator

Email: millerbrothers875@hotmail.com

Baseball Caps

Baseball caps are Navy Blue with the ship's name and hull number in gold. The ship profile is grey. We have solid cloth and mesh back. Please specify which you prefer. The price is \$12.00, which includes postage. Make check payable to **Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund** and mail to Bill at the address above.

USS Henry W. Tucker History book

Gary O'Neil has published the Tucker history. This book is 8 ½ X 11 in size. The title is "**HACHI NANA GO, An American Fighting Ship**". There are 234 full color images throughout the text, and is printed on heavy glossy coated paper. For one book the price is \$23 (\$3.75 to ship 1, \$4.50 to ship 2, \$5.25 to ship 3, \$6.00 to ship 4). He will fill orders upon receipt of payment. Contact Gary by email at goneil@new.rr.com, or phone: 920-738-0634 or by USPS at: 2519 O'Connor Way, Appleton, WI 54915.

Cruise Books on CD

Bob Miller has had all Tucker cruise books put on CD and they are available for sale. They are \$25. To order, please call Bob: 773-271-6848, or email: millerbrothers875@hotmail.com.

Mugs

Mugs are cobalt blue with ship profile and the ship's name and hull number. 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 plan to attend the reunion in Nashville, you might want to wait to save on postage.

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 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.