

USS Henry W. Tucker DD/R-875

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

Volume I, Issue 2

June 2000

Hello Tuckermen:

Well we're three months closer to the reunion and the response has been terrific! So far we have 18 people registered at the hotel. If you haven't, you should register soon. There are 50 rooms reserved and they will be filled up quickly. If you aren't sure you can attend, why not register anyway, you can always cancel (without penalty) up until the day before.

We started with less than 100 names on the crew muster and now have almost 550. Unfortunately, we don't have addresses for all. We received a complete list of men who were aboard in 1962 that came from the book, *Destroyers 60 Years*. We've found a few addresses for them. If you know of anyone who was aboard in 1962 and know where they are now, please let us know, or contact them and give them my address, phone number and e-mail address. We will bring a copy of the muster list to the reunion in hopes of jogging some memories. We'll have an extra copy available that people can take to KINKO's or CopyCop to have copies made for themselves. After the reunion, copies will be available by mail for the price of postage. As soon as I know the price, I'll publish it.

In the last newsletter, we mentioned the possibility of having a dinner aboard the USS Alabama in Mobile (an hour from Biloxi). In the interest of keeping things simple and keeping costs down, we've decided to have a buffet dinner at the hotel. It will be on Saturday, November 4. We have the menu and the price per person and will put it on a form included with this newsletter. Please fill out the form and send it to me at the address listed. There will also be a place on the form to check off if you plan to play golf. As soon as we have a number, we will make arrangements and let you know the price in the next newsletter. We will have a 1,000 sq. ft. hospitality room ("Quarterdeck") open to us throughout the reunion. This will give us plenty of room to spread out and visit. Also plenty of space to display photos, cruise books, etc. that we hope everyone will bring to share. The dinner buffet will be held in this room as well.

So far, the following people are registered at the hotel: Joe Brubaker (45-46), Mike Dak (61-64),

Mike (Dough Head) Doran (49-52), Harry Felder (52-55), Rudy Freyman (52-55), Gene Gau (early 60's), Jim Gilbreath (70-73), Bill Hargraves (61-64), David Harrington (69-72), Holt (?), Jim Julius (63-65), Lou Ladnier (51-54), George (Juice) LeBlanc (60-63), Bob Miller (62-65), Dave Richards (55-56), Chuck Ruth (63-65) Bill Siler (62-64), and Bob Sipole (60-64).

The following people have said they're hoping to attend but haven't registered yet: Walt Arnold, Paul Beierschmitt, Bruce Bender, Frank Colvin, Bill Edstrom, Burrel Fortenberry, G. Donald Fisher, John Frederici, Virgil Graves, Louis Hari, Troy Krause, B.W. Lawson, Harlan Lippincott, Glenn Mehalick, Frank Murphy, James Rawlins, Ray Schmiedecke, Donald Sprawls, Mike Volentine, Terry Williams and several others.

In addition to the dinner and a golf outing, we plan to have a reception the first night in the Quarterdeck. It will be a good way to get reacquainted with old friends and meet new ones. We'll have a business meeting on Friday afternoon. We need to set up a formal association, elect officers, decide an appropriate dues, and plan for future reunions. We need volunteers to host future reunions, so please give some thought to whether you might be able to be a host a reunion close to where you live.

We have been notified of several shipmates who have died. They are: Bud Branstrom, Ken Little (served in the 60's, died in a motorcycle accident in Japan), William B. Miller (1962-65), W.O. (Bill) Mincey (we have his widow's address and phone number if anyone would like it), Norman Nichols (1956-57, died June 12, 1999) (had a nice letter from his wife, who might attend the reunion with their son), Christopher Palmaffy (1960's, his son and daughter-in-law plan to attend the reunion), J.W. Sipole (early 1960's), Warren Spurrier (early 1960's, we have been in contact with his son), Norman Veasart (1950-54, died September 12, 1998), and three from the early 1960's that we have no information on, Queen (died in January 2000), McCracken (died about 1995), John Harville (died 1996). We'd like to have a memorial service of sorts to honor these men. If there is a clergyman or layperson who'd be willing to conduct a service, please let us know.

Many thanks to Bob Miller and Mike Volentine from the early 1960's who have been doing all sorts of searches and finding many of our shipmates. Many others have send us additional names, but Bob and Mike have really gone above and beyond the call of duty on this.

Included in this newsletter is a poem about the Tucker by Troy Krause (CS3, 1972-73). He is hoping to write a series of poems about Tucker crewmen who have died while aboard.

We are in the process of ordering baseball caps. We'll have information on price as soon as it is available. We will charge a few dollars more than cost to help build a "Treasury". At present, we have no funds. We have received a donation from a former officer and a former crewman and would encourage donations from others. So far my wife and I have paid for the postage to mail the newsletters (saving receipts to be reimbursed once we have a Treasury established). We will open a checking account soon and checks should be made out to USS Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund.

We have had offers for help during the reunion and will need more to help with bartending, registration the first day, coordinating the golf outing (I don't play) and other duties. We will be arriving on November 1 and if you want to help out, please see us as soon as you arrive and we'll put you to work.

If anyone has anything they feel should be put in a future newsletter, please let us know and we'll include it.

Looking forward to seeing you in Biloxi.

James W. (Bill) Siler, Jr.
BT3 – 1962-64
BTC USNR Ret

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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

Many restaurants in the area

USS Alabama BB-60, Mobile, AL – 1 hour

New Orleans just 90 miles away

The following is a poem by Troy Krause, CS2, 1972-73, printed with his permission.

" TUCKER'S END - 92 "

By Troy A. Krause

She swiftly sinks into the sea,
Friendly fire breached her side,
She came to rest in the briny deep,
And some say she died.

It seemed such an ignoble end,
At first we could only cry,
But one day soon, she'll sail again,
For the Tucker shall never die.

Yes fate had cruelly played her hand,
She was gone in the blink of an eye,
They may have sunk our beloved tin can,
But the Tucker shall never die.

They said like us, she was past her prime,
No mission could she try,
Yes for her, tis the end of the line,
But the Tucker shall never die.

She no longer sails upon the waves,
On the bottom she now lies,
Yes, gone down to a watery grave,
But the Tucker shall never die.

For the moment she sleeps, in her liquid tomb,
Cut off from the sunny sky,
And while it appears, that she is doomed,
The Tucker shall never die.

Say not farewell, to our mighty friend,
For as ghosts we'll sail the tide,
Rest well, rest well, tis not the end,
For the Tucker shall never die.

