



# USS Henry W. Tucker DD 875

Commissioned: 12 March 1945 (Orange, TX)  
Decommissioned: 3 December 1973 (San Diego, CA)



June 03

Greetings Shipmates:

This is being written on June 21, the first day of summer, although you wouldn't know it here in Massachusetts. It is about 65 degrees and raining – again! We had no real spring and it's still chilly and rainy most days. More like the Northwest than the Northeast.

Please note the wonderful new banner at the top of the newsletter. It was created by Kevin Skislock, son of John F. "Jack" Skislock, SN1/c, 45-47. Kevin is a professional website designer and has redesigned our website. The banner above is the banner for the main page on the site. Bob Miller recently found Jack. Kevin offered to redesign the website as a tribute to his Dad and to make our site **"the best DD site out there"**, and we have all benefited tremendously from his work. We hope to see Jack and Kevin at the reunion in Charleston so we can thank Kevin personally. The new website isn't "Live" as this is written, but hopefully some of it will be up by the time you receive the newsletter.

Bob Miller will be taking over some of the responsibility for the website. He plans to expand the Commanding Officers page to include photos and bios. He is talking about doing the same for Executive Officers, so you COs and XOs might want to get in touch with Bob to supply him with photos and bios. Also, we don't have a complete list of XOs, so if you could include the names of the XOs you relieved and those who relieved you, it would be helpful in completing the list. Bob will also be adding photos to the site. We have wanted to do that but just can't seem to find the time.

Bob "Inspector" Miller has been even more productive than usual, if that's possible. He has scored his biggest coup ever. He found Bernard H. "Barnie" Meyer, the first Commanding Officer of the Tucker. Our Crew List is growing by leaps and bounds. Unfortunately, the Memorial List has grown as well. The additions are listed in this newsletter.

We have included three email messages from Chuck Kass with information on the Charleston reunion. They have found a great hotel. The room rate is a bit higher than San Diego, but he assures us that there are other hotels close by that have lower rates for those on fixed incomes. We'll have names and phone numbers in a newsletter closer to reunion time. The hotel is also going to arrange for discount airfare on USAir and Delta, which is really appreciated. We will look into area campgrounds for those of you who will be in RVs.

A group of guys from the 50's (Dayton & Lavelle Powell, Bruce & Mary Cardin, Fred & Nora Hudgins, Bob & Phyllis Jordan, Holland & Florence Dickey and Wayne & Lena Faye Robinson) had a mini-reunion in Branson Missouri. Lavelle Powell emailed and said they all had a wonderful time and that Branson would be a great place for a reunion. Perhaps the 2006 "midwest" reunion could be there. For those new to the group, we try to move the reunions (every two years) around the country so that everyone has a chance to attend. The 2004 reunion is the third and will be in Charleston, SC. The first two were in Biloxi, MS and San Diego, CA. It's nice to hear that shipmates are getting together for these mini-reunions. One group of officers went to Ireland for one and had a great time.

Pat and I will be in the process of building a new home in Virginia over the next several months. If we seem a bit "distracted", that's why. We'll try to keep up-to-date with Tucker business, but will have to make frequent trips to Virginia to check on progress. Pat takes her laptop on our trips so we are in touch via email, but might not return phone messages until we return home.

Fair winds and smooth sailing,

**From:** [KASSMGMT@aol.com](mailto:KASSMGMT@aol.com)  
**Date:** Thursday, June 19, 2003 9:24:39 PM  
**To:** [MillerBrothers875@hotmail.com](mailto:MillerBrothers875@hotmail.com); [FJCOLVIN@aol.com](mailto:FJCOLVIN@aol.com); [vegjag@charter.net](mailto:vegjag@charter.net);  
[PatsPugs@earthlink.net](mailto:PatsPugs@earthlink.net); [Shellis88@aol.com](mailto:Shellis88@aol.com)  
**Cc:** [e.mezger@3dag.ch](mailto:e.mezger@3dag.ch)  
**Subject:** Charleston Hotel and HQ selection

Lady and Gentlemen,

After tedious communication, negotiation and focus on the "balance" we require, we have arrived at **OUR** recommended selection for the 2004 Reunion, **IN** Charleston...The Francis Marion! We are elated with their ability to meet our needs.

It really all boils down to the primary reason for our selection as Charleston as the city for the 2004 reunion. The charm and the quaint coziness of this genteel southern city is why we are going, not to be marooned in the burbs. This puts everything: historical sites, restaurants, shopping, horse drawn carriages and all "Charleston Highlights" within walking distance for everyone. Our demographics dictate ease of access to the amenities and joys of Charleston. We have created a package, that at the end of the day will not cost any more when you take the cost elimination of operating in ONE location into consideration.

The pertinent facts are:

**Dates:**            **October 6-10, 2004 Sunday thru Thursday checkout (4 night duration)**  
**Hotel:**           **The Francis Marion a 4-Star Hotel located IN the Historic District**  
**Room Rate:**    **\$119.00 per night**

We have enclosed (attached) a spread sheet that provides an objective comparison that made our final decision extremely easy. The two obstacles: Banquet facilities ON SITE and an affordable Room Rate have been overcome.

Thanks, for your patience. With this behind us, we can complete the other necessary elements of Reunion 2004!

Thanks,

Chuck, V.E., Frank and Sam

**From:** [KASSMGMT@aol.com](mailto:KASSMGMT@aol.com)  
**Date:** Friday, June 20, 2003 12:05:23 PM  
**To:** [patspugs@earthlink.net](mailto:patspugs@earthlink.net)  
**Cc:** [FJCOLVIN@aol.com](mailto:FJCOLVIN@aol.com); [vegjag@charter.net](mailto:vegjag@charter.net); [Shellis88@aol.com](mailto:Shellis88@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Re: Charleston Hotel and HQ selection

Pat,

At your convenience, I would like to discuss the whole 2004 Plan to establish some guidelines; define roles and responsibilities; and develop and document process protocol. I believe we can get the hotel and the tour conductor we are working with to handle most, if not all registration. The Francis Marion also is allocating a number of rooms prior and post reunion for us....a limited number at the negotiated rate and more at a discounted rate from "rack rate." The Francis Marion is working on, and to date has successfully negotiated discounts with US Airways and Delta for HWT 2004 Reunion air travelers.

Sam Ellis (a Charleston native) has worked closely with the tour conductor (and the ladies) to create tours of the plantations and other venues that really present the real "flavor" of Charleston and the "Low Country."

Frank Colvin has the Yorktown, Patriot's Point, a "Memorial Service" location and timeframe established as well as a golf outing planned.

V. E. Graves is defining and negotiating the Hospitality and Banquet details with the Francis Marion.

Our tentative scheduled plan:

Day 1 Sunday:	Arrivals - Hospitality Room open all day - No HWT Events
Day 2 Monday:	Tours of Plantations, etc. during the day - Hosp Room Open
Day 3 Tuesday:	Golf AM - Military Tours - Memorial Svc PM - Hosp Rm Open
Day 4 Wednesday:	Business Meeting PM - Banquet Evening
Day 5 Thursday:	Departure - Hospitality Room Open in AM

Obviously, Day 2 and 3 may be reversed and golf may occur on Day 4 AM, all as a result of final scheduling issues and conflicts.

Locating ourselves at the Francis Marion puts all of the Charleston "experiences" at everyone's beck and call. Those who can't walk easily or prefer, can ride around ALL of the "Historic District" by horsedrawn carriage.

Lot's to discuss....HWT Reunion 2004 "In Charleston" will be a great time!

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**From:** [KASSMGMT@aol.com](mailto:KASSMGMT@aol.com)  
**Date:** Friday, June 20, 2003 12:36:56 PM  
**To:** [PatsPugs@earthlink.net](mailto:PatsPugs@earthlink.net); [MillerBrothers875@hotmail.com](mailto:MillerBrothers875@hotmail.com); [FJCOLVIN@aol.com](mailto:FJCOLVIN@aol.com); [vegjag@charter.net](mailto:vegjag@charter.net); [Shellis88@aol.com](mailto:Shellis88@aol.com)  
**Cc:** [e.mezger@3dag.ch](mailto:e.mezger@3dag.ch)  
**Subject:** The FRANCIS MARION ...Wow!

Pat,

I would be remiss if I did not tell you and request that you emphasize the effort, goodwill and real southern hospitality put forth by the Francis Marion. They are a 4 Star, respected hotel and for them to "cater" to our needs and wants, especially to offer a \$119 room rate, is phenomenal! Additionally, they are putting together other areas for savings and "special touches" as well.

Chuck Kass

Bob Miller received an email from Harold Cassidy, whose son Frank spent two years aboard the Tucker sometime between 67 and 71. Harold's letter is below. If any of you remember Frank and want to contact his wife, please do. I'm sure Frank would like to hear from his shipmates. We will keep him in our prayers and hope to have good news about his health in the next newsletter.

From: "Harold M. Cassidy" <[k3omx@juno.com](mailto:k3omx@juno.com)>  
To: <[millerbrothers875@hotmail.com](mailto:millerbrothers875@hotmail.com)>  
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2003 9:45 PM  
Subject: USS Henry W. Tucker

Hi. Mr. Miller,

Thanks for your phone call and e-mail.

My son Frank E. Cassidy was on active duty from September 27, 1967 to August 4, 1971. He served more than 2 years on the Henry W. Tucker. I do not know the date that he first joined the Tucker but he was on it right up to almost the end of his service. I know that he was on it more than the usual two years of arduous sea duty. It was a very busy ship.

He is listed on the U.S. Navy Memorial Log online. I have a web address for it.

<http://www.lonesailor.org/log.php>

If you type in his name and hit search it will come up with a picture of him taken in Japan in 1970.

His e-mail address is [N3luy@aol.com](mailto:N3luy@aol.com) However, as I told you on the phone, he is presently in a hospital in Toronto which is a two hour drive from where he and his wife live. His wife gets back to the house about once a week and usually checks the e-mail then. They are going to install a mechanical pump on Monday to assist his heart until a heart transplant is available.

I will let him know about your call and the names of his two shipmates as soon as I can. I know that he will like hearing about them and the reunion planned for next year.

Thanks for your call.

Harold Cassidy

**Additions to Crew List**

Carlos P. Aldunate  
LTJG, 65-67

Allen Alford  
QM3, 51-55

Allen D. "Andy" Anderson  
BT3, 66-68

George A. Anderson  
ET2, 5861

John D. Anderson  
SN, 62-64

Joe Ayala  
STGSN, 72-73

Richard L. Bean  
GMM3, 64-65

Richard E. "Bo" Boisvert  
RM2, 65-66

Hubert F. Boswell  
SN, 52-57

Malcolm C. "Mac" Bourg  
RD3, 50-51

David P. Bowler  
ETR2, 71-72

Kenneth C. Bullock  
STG3, 67-69

Thomas O. "Tom" Byrne  
RM2, 60-62

Raymond J. "Frenchie" Charest  
FN, 48-51

Sam P. Cichirillo  
SN1/c, 45-47

Hiram W. "Ward" Clark  
LT, 66-68

Michael C. "Mike" Connor  
LTJG, 67-69

David R. "Dave" Core  
GM3, 65-66

Norbert M. "Jody" Cotnoier  
SN, 51-54

Paul E. Day  
SO3, 58-60

Melvin C. "Mel" Dormaier  
RDSN, 51-54

Wesley C. "Butch" Farnum  
GM3, 65-68

Robert Ferrell  
BM3, 65-69

Ronald D. Fisher  
MM2, 58-60

Albert M. Forget  
YN1, 56-57

Thomas K. Glenn  
FN1/c, 49-50

Charles D. "Chuck" Graves  
ET3, 48-50

Edward W. "Gyro" Guerro  
GM3, 45-46

Carl A. "Gus" Gusie  
RMSN, 53-56

Tom V. Hammond  
QM2, 71-73

Billie S. Harland  
IC3, 72

Michael L. Houtz  
TM3, 72-73

Edwin L. Knaus  
CS3, 50-51

James E. Litteral  
BT3, 49-50

Tomas C. "Tom" Mayeux  
RD2, 68-71

Roger C. McCommon  
RD2, 68-72

Jack D. McFarley  
RDSN, 68-72

Stephen J. "Mac" McGree  
RD2, 69-73

Jimmie N. McLin  
FN, 65-67

Bernard H. "Barnie" Meyer  
CDR, 45-46 (Commanding Officer)

Michael D. "Jake" Moomey  
GM3, 66-68

Kenneth K. "Ken" Morifuji  
YN1, 68-70

Richard L. Munson  
PN2, 68-70

Terry L. Patty  
SN, 65-66

Danny R. Platz  
SK2, 66-70

Danny R. Pogue  
RD3, 68-72

Richard L. "Dick" Pollard  
TE3, 56-57

Bobby "Iggs" Power  
GM2, 52-55

Richard Darwin Prichard  
PN1, 70-72

Charles F. Roe  
ETSN, 54-55

James D. Roubidoux  
SH3, 57-58

Robert T. "Bob" Sanders  
LTJG, 66-68

Dennis J. Schroeder  
RD3, 58-60

Leroy L. "Lee" Seurer  
BT3, 65-67

Stephen L. "Steve" Simmons  
BT3, 66-69

Rickey D. Slingluff  
SH2, 71-72

Rex D. Smallie (formerly Smeelie)  
ENS, 51-53

Robert E. Stockton  
MMFN, 48-59

Ronnie D. "Strict" Strickland  
EN3, 71-73

Charles Taconi  
STGSN, 71-72

John R. Webster  
SN1/c, 49-50

Rande W. Wicks  
RM3, 67-68

Mike Wilson  
BT3, 69-70

**Additions to Memorial List**

James H. Armitage  
LTJG, 56-57, Supply Officer

Calvin W. Barner  
SO2, 45

George E. Barrack  
BT3, 45-47

Stephen L. "Biggie" Bigham  
EM3, 68-69

Edgar E. Bostick  
SN1/c, 45-46

Stanley B. "Doc" Craig  
HMC, 55-56

Douglas E. Felbinger  
SN, 52-54

James D. Ferguson  
CDR, 46-48 (Commanding Officer)

Harold Givens  
BT2, 48-53

Daniel Herrington  
SKCA, ??

James V. Huff  
FN, 47-52

Sammy K. Kellett  
FN1/c, 48-52

William F. Kihm  
RD3, 52-53

Gene E. Klinger  
TM2, 45-47

Paul T. Kuter  
SH2, 48-50

Arthur N. LeMunyon  
CSC, 68-71

Henry A. Liedke  
BT3, 48-50

Raymond R. Like  
GM2, 48-52

Arnold O. Mazzi  
SN1/c, 49-51

Donald H. McClung  
??, 47-49

Jack V. McKenzie  
MM2, 57-61

Gilbert J. Milano  
RM3, 49-51

Jack V. McKenzie  
MM2, 57-61

James H. "Jimmy" Morris  
SN1/c, 48-50

Billy James Moton  
SN1/c, 50-52

Murphy B. Mullis  
SN1/c, 45-46

Henry A. "Hank" Nockerts  
BT2, 47-52

Frank L. Pangburn  
MM3, 52-54

Everett F. Price  
MM3, 48-51

Harold F. Rancourt  
GM1, 49-51

Robert P. Stimson  
MM2, 51-54

Leland F. Swift  
BMC, 45

Clinton M. "Clint" Williams  
GM3, 47-50

Kenneth E. Woldt  
FC2, 45

***“Attention All Hands”  
Please read and Comply***

The U.S.S. Henry W. Tucker DD/R 875 Reunion Group is ~~one~~ of the fastest growing Destroyer Reunion groups on the Web. We have been contacted by other groups asking how we do it. Example, The U.S.S. Rupertus DD 851 Group has been in existence for over 10 years and they have far less people in their personnel database than we do. Our Database has over 3,600 names of Officers and Enlisted men. These names have been gathered in many ways, Cruise Books, P.O.D.'s, Cruise Logs, and shipmates' memories etc.. With all of the information we have compiled thus far, and a lot of hard work, we have been able to roughly locate 1,200 former shipmates in the past 3 years. This has not been done by the Silers and myself alone, many of you have searched your Salt Drenched Memories for bits of information on missing members and have passed this information onto us, for this we are especially grateful. So you ask, "What's the problem?" Well, my quest as large as it may seem, is to locate every person who served aboard the Tucker. I can hear the laughs now. "What an optimist." I feel like Captain Ahab looking for Moby Dick, you might say I'm almost obsessed in my endeavors to locate your former shipmates. Perhaps you say to yourself, "I don't want to be a part of this mad man's dream," I only ask to consider these facts and perhaps I can win you over.

In early 2000, we had located a little over 75 men. By the 2002 reunion, we had 3,000 names with the whereabouts known of about 1,000 of them. At our first reunion, in Biloxi, we had 106 crew members and 200 at the banquet, in San Diego 2002, we had approximately 175 crew members and 298 at the banquet. Where's this leading? The Reunion, our Database and Web Page are yours. Their purpose is to enable you to reunite with lost friends and rekindle old memories. I'm sure you have little desire to contact people from different eras, people you don't know, like most of us, you want to make contact with your shipmates. There is nothing wrong with that, the problem is, we don't know who they are, or where they're from, or anything about them.

Considering this newsletter goes out to over 1,000 shipmates. If everyone sent me some small fact about someone they served with, we would enormously expand our association. I'm not asking you to find someone, I'm only asking you to check our Missing Crew List, examine the list, and send me any information about a missing member you can. No amount of information is too small. I've been highly successful in finding people, but we can't do it alone, we need your help. With your help, we will find these guys, which I'm sure will make your involvement with this group more enjoyable. Our goal is to be the **Best Destroyer Reunion Group** on the web, and with your help there is no question we'll accomplish that goal with ease.

If anyone knows of any officer as being on the Tucker and a graduate of the US Naval Academy, please let us know his name and an approximate year of his class.

Don't think all these guys have gone to their eternal rest. I have found over 50 gentlemen who were members of the original crew (Plank Owners) and are still chasing women. That's according to their accounts.

I have to go now. I've got bilges to clean, so the rest of you, "TURN TO" and start searching your memoirs and brains and send me some information on these guys. Here's the best part, "That goes for you Admirals as well." "I love that part." I've always wanted to tell an Admiral what to do, only in my younger **daze** it was something else.

One last thing, check out the other Destroyer sites and if you find a site with more shipmates than we have, I'll buy you a drink at the next reunion in Charleston, SC.

No excuses, you guys without computers can send me something through the U.S. Mail or call. As Dean Martin would say, "*Keep those Cards and Letters Coming In.*"

***Fondest Regards to All***

Bob Miller  
U.S.S. Henry W. Tucker DD/R 875  
MM3 62-65  
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Chicago, Illinois 60659  
773-271-6848 ( Chicago )

### A "Shipmate" Update from Bob Miller

Some of you guys might remember my best friend Bubba from the Tucker, here's what I found out.

Bubba was bragging to his boss one day, "You know, I know everyone there is to know. Just name someone, anyone, and I know them."

Tired of his boasting, his boss called his bluff, "OK, Bubba how about Tom Cruise?" "Sure, yes, Tom and I are old friends, and I can prove it."

So Bubba and his boss fly out to Hollywood and knock on Tom Cruise's door, and sure enough, Tom Cruise, shouts, "Bubba! Great to see you! You and your friend come right in and join me for lunch!"

Although impressed, Bubba's boss is still skeptical. After they leave Cruise's house, he tells Bubba that he thinks Bubba's knowing Cruise was just lucky.

"No, no, just name anyone else," Bubba says. "President Bush," his boss quickly retorts. "Yes," Bubba says, "I know him, let's fly out to Washington." And off they go. At the White House, Bush spots Bubba on the tour and motions him and his boss over, saying, "Bubba, what a surprise, I was just on my way to a meeting, but you and your friend come on in and let's have a cup of coffee first and catch up."

Well, the boss is much shaken by now, but still not totally convinced. After they leave the White House grounds, he expresses his doubts to Bubba, who again implores him to name anyone else. "The Pope," his boss replies. "Sure!" says Bubba. "I've known the Pope a long time."

So off they fly to Rome.

Bubba and his boss are assembled with the masses in Vatican Square when Bubba says, "This will never work. I can't catch the Pope's eye among all these people. Tell you what, I know all the guards so let me just go upstairs and I'll come out on the balcony with the Pope."

And he disappears into the crowd headed toward the Vatican. Sure enough, half an hour later Bubba emerges with the Pope on the balcony.

But by the time Bubba returns, he finds that his boss has had a heart attack and is surrounded by paramedics. Working his way to his boss's side, Bubba asks him, "What happened?"

His boss looked up and says, "I was doing fine until you and the Pope came out on the balcony and the Japanese tourist standing next to me asked, "Who's that on the balcony with Bubba?"

**Contact Information**

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**Website**

<http://www.hwtucker2000.com>

**Baseball Caps**

Baseball caps are available. They are US made, Navy Blue with the ship's name and hull number in gold. Ship profile is in white.

To order, send a check for \$11.00 (covers shipping) payable to:

**Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund**

Send the check to the address at the left.

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**USS Henry W. Tucker DD/R 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.

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.

The mission is also to honor those who have gone before, our deceased shipmates.