



June 2009

Hello shipmates,

Summer is almost upon us and everything is green here in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. The mountain laurels are in bloom and have more flowers than at any time since we moved here. I guess the rain we've had is responsible. As I write this, we are under a flash flood watch. After three years of drought, it seems strange to have so much rain.

We received sad news last month. Jack London, one of our Korean era officers and also a fixture at reunions, passed away on Wednesday, May 20 of complications from cancer. Jack's stories and wonderful sense of humor will certainly be missed. In the last few years, we've lost several of our shipmates who had attended reunions. We're glad they were able to attend reunions and reconnect with their shipmates. It's always a pleasure to watch when shipmates haven't seen or heard from one another in many years see each other for the first time.

Plans for the 2010 reunion in Wilmington, NC are moving along. We have a signed contract with a hotel and Dave Harrington has been to Wilmington more than once looking into tours, etc. I believe it's going to be an excellent reunion. Please see the letter from Dave and Chuck Hughes (page 4) who will be co-hosting the reunion. Dave and Chuck's daughters and Dave's son-in-law are actively helping with the planning.

There have been emails circulating (every year about this time) about instituting a fee for Tricare for Life (medical insurance for military retirees over age 65) and raising fees for Tricare Standard and Tricare Prime. If you're a retiree and are worried about this, I found the following article on the National Association of Uniformed Services (NAUS) website. It will not be in the 2010 budget. However, it's sure to be discussed again next year. Something you might want to write to your senators and congressmen about.

White House Gives Welcome News to NAUS: No TRICARE Fee Increases in 2010 Budget

5/6/09 - NAUS President Bill Matz was called by the White House and told that the President's 2010 Budget, due to be released in the next few days, will not include any TRICARE fee increases. This is welcome news for military health care system beneficiaries, who have battled against Defense Department plans to increase TRICARE fees for the past three years. Until receipt of the White House call, the new Administration plans were uncertain. It was widely thought that the Pentagon would continue its attack on TRICARE fees as recommended by the Defense Department's hand-picked 2007 Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care. Bill was told that the President used words to the effect of, We're not touching TRICARE. The President also said, "We have a sacred trust to those who wear the uniform of the United States of America. It's a commitment that begins at enlistment, and it must never end."

Gary O'Neil, with help from many shipmates, has recently updated the history on the website. This has been an ongoing project and it's amazing how far it has come. It is not complete, by any means, but Gary is now looking into having the history printed in book format. There are several directions to go on this project and he has already received some suggestions. If you have any "connections" with printers or any suggestions, I'm sure Gary would like to hear from you. He can be reached at goneill@new.rr.com.

If your address, phone number or email address has changed, please contact us immediately so we can update your information. If you don't, there's a chance you'll stop receiving newsletters. If you are currently receiving newsletters via US Mail and you have an email address (except WEBTV or Mailstation), please send us your email address. The more we can send via email, the lower the cost of postage and printing. Currently, we email over 800 and send about 600 via US Mail. Each time, we receive several email returns due to email addresses being incorrect or not in service. We then have to remove those email addresses from our distribution list and send the newsletters by US Mail until we receive a new email address. This is a time consuming process because we also have to remove those email addresses from the links on the crew lists on the website, as well as the main database/ mailing list. We also receive returns from the Post Office. Some of the returns from the Post Office have new addresses. We then have to send the newsletter to the new address (additional postage). Others have no forwarding address, so we're unable to send to those people. So please send us new addresses, etc. as soon as possible. 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. We make every effort to keep information up-to-date so you keep receiving newsletters.

Fair winds and smooth sailing!
Bill & Pat Siler

Additions to the Crew List

Adams, Robert F. "Magoo", ICFN, 58-59

Harris, Joseph R. "Joe", RM2, 67-68

Barney, Raymond L., SM3, 68-69

Johnson, Ishmael "Ish", YN3, 69-71

Derringer, Richard D. , BT3, 68-70

Additions to the Memorial List

London, J. W. "Jack", LT, 51-53

Rosie, Jr., Marvin H. "Rosie", FTC, 59-63

Luttrupp, Laurence L. "Larry", SN, 58-60

Steele, George C. "Hank", SN1/c, 45-46

Malzman, Leonard J., YN3, 68-70

Tam, Bobby G., CS3, 53-54

Sick Bay

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Dale, Cecil "Mike", BTFN, 61-64

Kipping, Stanford K. "Stan", CSSN, 51-55

Harris, Joseph R. "Joe", RM2, 67-68

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

Update on 2010 Reunion in Wilmington, North Carolina

Hello Fellow Shipmates and Families.

First off, and most importantly, Chuck Hughes is doing much better and getting around quite well! We hope that he, and his wonderful wife, will lead off the first dance on Saturday night at the banquet.

It is still early, but plans are moving along for the 2010 reunion in Wilmington. The biggest step is that we have reserved a hotel. We will be using the Holiday Inn at 5032 Market Street, in Wilmington. The rooms are very nice and we have a set price of \$79/night. The hotel is conveniently located to attractions, shopping and dining. There is a restaurant and bar in the hotel. The hotel is easy to get to off of route 40, the main road into town, and the Wilmington airport has a shuttle to the hotel if you fly in.

Because of the success of the room in Seattle, we have arranged for a very large meeting room to be available for displays, and just hanging out and talking. This will be the banquet room on Saturday night. The room is quite large and very long so that when the band starts up you can select you volume level by choosing how far away you sit. It should work out very well.

The menu for the banquet will have several choices, but they will not be firmed up until we get closer to the actual date.

We decided in Seattle to expand the reunion one day, so check in will be on Tuesday October 26, 2010, and the "doings" will continue until Sunday the 31st.

Wednesday will be a "free day" to get orientated and visit attractions as desired.

Thursday will our "tour day". We have yet to set the places we are going to visit, but we have a lot of "expert help" to assist us: Of course Chuck Hughes and his wife have lived all of their life in the Jacksonville area, just up the coast, and their 3 daughters are anxious to get involved. And my Son-in-law was born and lived in Snead's Ferry, just across the river from Camp LeJeune, also just up the coast. He and my daughter are also actively helping out. We have a meeting with a representative of the coach line we are hoping to use set up for mid July, just to get an idea of the options, so we would love for any of you to send any ideas, requests or suggestions that you might have.

In Seattle we passed out Visitor Bureau books that listed the areas attractions, but an updated one will be mailed to you free if you call them at: 800.222.4757.

On Friday we have reserved space on the USS North Carolina (BB-55) for touring and a memorial service. After the ship the buses will take us back across the river to the historic River Walk area with a lot of historic sites and plenty of specialty shops.

Any thoughts or comments, Please let us know. I can be reached at: b105866@yahoo.com, At home at: 828.256.4785 or by cell at: 828.638.3640.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from any of you, and especially seeing all of you in Wilmington!

Dave Harrington and Chuck Hughes

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Baseball Caps

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 the address above.

USS Henry W. Tucker DD/DDR 875 Reunion Association

Our 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.