



Hello shipmates,

Summer has flown by and it's hard to believe September is here. We had a hot, dry summer in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and are looking forward to cooler weather. We hope you all are well and had a good summer.

We've signed a contract with the Holiday Inn, Renton Washington (just outside Seattle) for the October 2008 reunion. We'll have more information after January 1, 2008: dates, prices, tour information, etc. Prices for catering, tours, etc. aren't set until after the first of the year, so we can't make any arrangements. Morgan and Kathy Barokas checked out some hotels for us and the Holiday Inn best suits our needs. The Barokases assure us the hotel is very nice. The next newsletter will contain contact information and room price. The room rate will be a bit higher than normal, but includes a full hot breakfast buffet each morning in our hospitality suite for those staying at the hotel.

If you haven't checked out the website lately, please do. The History is a work in progress and the guys have done an amazing job fleshing out the history and adding photos and maps. It is well over 80 pages long and growing. Gary O'Neil has compiled information sent to him by many shipmates. If you have anything to add to the history, please contact us and we'll put you in touch with him. Bob Miller has researched all the medals and ribbons that were awarded to the ship and there is a link from the history page to them.

The Veteran Information page has a lot of useful information, including newsletters from Lt. James "EMO" Tichacek, USN (Ret). He compiles all sorts of articles of use to veterans. We find the articles on Tricare (retiree health insurance) very useful, since we have Tricare. There's also a link to a form to request a replacement DD-214 (discharge) form. As we find information, it will be included. If anyone has any information that would be of interest to veterans, we'd be happy to post it on the site.

Bob Miller has sent us photos of Tucker lighters, ashtrays, paper clip holders and other items and Pat will be creating some new "Memorabilia" pages soon. These items aren't for sale, but should be of interest to shipmates. I know some Tucker items have been found on e-Bay, so if you're interested you might check them out.

As usual, Bob Miller has added quite a few names to the Crew List and Memorial List. He said he was going to take some time off this summer, but you'd never know it. If you have any information on our "missing" shipmates, please let Bob know. We send a warm "Welcome Aboard" to all our new members and hope to see many of you in Renton, Washington next fall.

Bob has acquired copies of most of the Tucker cruise books and has found a company that can scan them onto CDs. We've seen an example and the quality is excellent. See Bob's letter in this newsletter for what's available and pricing.

If your address, phone number or email address has changed, please let us know as soon as possible. We always have several email "bounces" and USPS returns. Email bounces make a lot of extra work and paper copies have to be mailed out, adding to the cost of postage. The USPS returns cost 82 cents and then we have to re-mail the newsletter to the new address for an additional 41 cents. It would save the association money if you would notify us when you move. Many thanks to all of you who let us know of changes in mailing and email addresses. It really helps.

Fair winds and smooth sailing,
Bill & Pat Siler

Additions to Crew List

If you see someone you know and would like to contact them, please let us know and we'll put you in touch with him.

Baker, Richard P. "Rich" FT1, 59-61	King, George L. "Tugboat" SN, 60-62	Shaw, Robert H. ENS, 45-46
Bell, Jimmie A. "Jim" STG3, 70-72	Nelson, Ronald BT2, 68-70	Strom, Robert C. ETN3, 59-61
Buckner, James M. SMSN, 61-62	Newman, Aaron G. "Gary" TM2, 66	Thompson, Dickie L. "Big Red" SKSN, 59-62
Calhoun, Bruce C. "Bob" FN, 66-67	Robles, Andres P. RM3, 72-73	White, Lester C. "Lester Babe" SF2, 64-66
Cody, Richard D. BT3, 60-61	Rogers, John R. MM2, 71-72	Witkowski, John A. "Ski" EM1, 64-66
Hendricks, Larry J. CS2, 57-59	Russell, Glenn A. SN, 71-73	
Johnstone, David R. "Dave" MM3, 66-68	Sarko, David E SN, 69-71	

Additions to Memorial List

Dodge, Jerome "Jerry" BTFN, 50-52	Kuhns, Richard D. TM3, 59-60	Simons, Frederick W. GM3, 53-55
Every, Larry A. ETN2, 68-70	McNamara, Harold J. ET1, 48-52	Sod, Russell MM3, 48-52
Gunter, Joseph L. MR2, 68-70	Miller, Norman K. SN1/c, 49-50	Theiler, Brad M. RMSN, 72-73
Hayes, Alan P. IC2, 68-69	Miller, Oakley D. 57-58	Titus, Stanley J. RD1, 59-62
Hook, Pickford R. SN1/c, 45-46	O'Brien, Billie FTG3, 58-61	Turner, Silas SN2/c, 49-50
Kasen, Gerald D. "Gerry" SN2/c, 45-46	Rardon, Randolph L. "Pa Pa San" EN1, 59-61	Ventimiglia, Michael MM2, 59-62
King, John J. DCC, 52-54	Rath, James T. "Tony" BT1, 49-53	Wease, Hugh D. GM3, 50-53
Kruse, Bud L. SN, 62-65	Schroeder, Dennis J. RD3, 58-60	

Hello Shipmates,

Requests for USS Henry W. Tucker Cruise Books have been slow. I have however had enough requests for the 1953, 1956, and 1963-'66 Cruise Books to go ahead and have these books professionally scanned. The scanning procedure turned out fantastic, in fact some of those who received these CD's were so pleased with their results they've sent me more than the \$20.00 I asked for. These books are now available on CD's for those interested.

Each book consists of two CD's. The first is a pdf file while the second are jpg files. They are enclosed in a jewel case and adorned with the books cover on the front. The cost is **\$20.00.**

[This price is made available to former shipmates or their families only]

Similar CD's sell on E-Bay for over \$40, however, they don't have Tucker Cruise Books.

For those of you who don't have computers but would like copies of a book/s from your era, these CD's can be taken to Kinko's or a comparable business and be printed into a booklet.

For those who might be interested USS Henry W. Tucker Cruise Books they range from 1953 to 1973 a total of 12 books.

1953	1956 - '57	1963 - '66	1969
1955	1958	1967	1971
1956	1959	1968 - '69	1972 - '73

If you're interested please send me.

Your name and the year/s you're interested in. [*As they become available I will notify you*]

By: E-Mail

Millerbrothers875@hotmail.com

U.S. Mail

Bob Miller
3009 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.
Chicago, IL 60659-3724

We received the following from Jim Alvarez. Jim works with the VFW and is a former employee of the VA. He sends us information about getting VA disability, especially for Agent Orange exposure. If you were on the ship in the 60s and believe you have illness related to AO exposure, this could be of use to you.

The following instructions were given to VA adjudication personnel in the last few days. Encourage veterans to file claims if they served in Vietnam and have been diagnosed with hypertension. Please ensure that the veteran understands that it may be months before VA makes a decision as to whether to grant a presumption. Explain that should VA decide to establish a presumption it may still be another 6-12 months after that date before VA can decide their claim.

Note: if a Vietnam veteran is already service connected for diabetes and is newly diagnosed with hypertension, file the claim alleging that it is secondary to the diabetes.

Hypertension and Herbicide Exposure

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies recently published its biennial update, entitled Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2006. In the report, the IOM found only limited or suggestive evidence of an association between exposure to Agent Orange and the subsequent development of hypertension. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) must now determine whether a presumption of service connection is warranted. If the Secretary determines that such a presumption is warranted, VA will propose the appropriate regulations. If the presumption of service connection is not warranted, VA must publish a notice to that effect in the Federal Register.

In the interim, VA will not adjudicate or develop a claim for high blood pressure based on exposure to herbicides. Instead, *VA will establish end product (EP) 695 with a diary of 120 days (4 months).*

At a later date, VA will provide sample language for an acknowledgement letter to send to the veteran and, if any, his/her representative.

VA will develop and adjudicate as normal other issues received with claims of hypertension related to herbicide exposure.

We will be posting other information that Jim sends us on the website and will include articles in newsletters as space is available.

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### **Definition of a Veteran.**

A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America", for an amount of "up to and including my life."

That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

Author unknown

### **Contact Information**

J.W. "Bill" Siler, Jr. BTC USNR Ret  
835 Claybanks Dr.  
Callaway, VA 24067-4524

Tel: 540-483-5727

Email (Bill): jwsilerbtc@earthlink.net  
Email (Pat): silerpugs@yahoo.com

### **Websites**

<http://www.hwtucker2000.com>

### **Yahoo Group**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HenryWTucker>

### **Baseball Caps**

We have baseball caps for sale. They are Navy Blue with the ship's name and hull number in gold. Ship profile is in white.

The caps come in solid cloth or mesh back. Please specify which you prefer when ordering.

To order, send a check for \$12.00 (covers postage) payable to:

### **Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund**

Send the check to the address at the left.

## **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.

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.