

From the Association's Secretary



As of this writing (6/30/03), we have over 230 people registered for the upcoming reunion in Mobile, AL. If you are like me, those of you who haven't as yet sent in your Reunion Registration Form, have set it aside to do at a later date. Well, that date is nearly here . . . I need your form and funds sent in by August 10 to ensure we have adequate transportation to all of the tours. Secondly, you must make your hotel reservations by August 8, to GUARANTEE the reduced rate and availability. At the time, those rooms that we had blocked for our group will be released to the general public and you will be taken on a first come first served basis. You know the saying, "Snooze, you Lose."



Questions have arisen regarding the attire for Saturday evening's banquet. Since we will be providing you with plenty of beads and the like . . . make it CASUAL!!!! Also, there is no need to have your picture taken for the Memory Book in anything other than what you will wear to the banquet.

As always, we will need help with the Welcome Desk, Hospitality Room, Chinese Auction and Ship's Store. Can we see some new faces involved this year and allow the REGULARS to sit back and relax at this gathering? A sign-up sheet will be available at the Registration Desk.

I hope you all have an enjoyable summer and looking forward to seeing you in Mobile in Sept. Have a safe trip and be prepared for an outstanding stay in the DEEP SOUTH.

—Ron



P.S. If anyone is interested in obtaining uniform items, ie, rating insignias . . . I have a source for them . . . contact me for cost. Have purchased rating insignia . . . for blue uniform, cost \$6.



Keeping us informed of your address is very important ... to both of us!

- We want to ensure that our mail reaches you.
We want to make sure you receive your copy of the "News."

Send all address changes to:
RON CURTIS
207 W. Marvin Avenue
Owensville, Mo. 65066-1038

Name:

New Address:

New Phone #

Old Address:



DON'T FORGET
All dues payments and orders for merchandise are to be sent to DELL BANCROFT, Treas.

3474 Ennfield Way NW
Duluth, GA 30096
e-mail: signondell@aol.com

Membership Dues

Yearly dues for membership in our organization is \$20. Checks can be made out to any of the Associations.

Life Membership Rates

If you have already paid your 2003 dues, credit for that amount will be allowed toward a LIFE MEMBERSHIP. We trust your integrity, no proof of birth date required.

Table with 2 columns: AGE, LIFETIME DUES. Rows include age ranges from 40-55 to 76+ and corresponding dues amounts.



Next Issue:
NOVEMBER
2003



THE NEWS

IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR - FEB., MAY, AUG., and NOVEMBER.

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See you at the **REUNION**



Sept. 10 –14, 2003

**If you are
planning to
attend the
reunion,
please notify
Ron so that you
can receive a
“Reunion Packet”
with all the
details**

**ADAMS
MARK
HOTEL**

64 South Water St.,
Mobile, AL 36602

Phone: 251.438.4000
Fax: 251.415.0123
866.749.6073



The Chinese Auction

Remember to bring an un-wrapped gift that will be “auctioned off” to help subsidize the cost of the Hospitality Room. The article can be anything from a special handmade item to that really ugly clock that Aunt Clara sent you last Christmas. The “Auction” will be held on Saturday and items will be on display Thursday and Friday.



Ship's Store Volunteers

We've been very successful in past reunions in sharing this task among volunteers. Members volunteer an hour or so for a “watch” when the store is open. Don't hesitate to volunteer and put your name on the list ... it's effortless and a great way to meet others.



Hospitality Room & Desk Volunteers

Spend an hour or so meeting first and old timers with information at the front door or in the Hospitality Room. You are guaranteed an interesting time. Just ask the volunteers who stood watches previously - we had to talk them into being relieved.



Driving Directions to the Adams Mark Hotel

From the Airport:

Approximately 17 miles. Follow Airport Blvd East 8 miles to I-65 South. Take to I-10 East. Go 7 miles to the Water Street exit (exit 26-B). The hotel is at the end of the ramp on the left.

From the North:

I-65 South to 165 Connector -exit 9-. Follow 4 miles. Hotel will be on the right. 64 South Water Street.

From the East:

I-10 West to Mobile. Exit at the Water Street exit 26-B. The hotel is at the end of the ramp on the left.

From the West:

I-10 East to Mobile. Exit at the Water Street exit (26-B). The hotel is at the end of the ramp on the left.

From the South:

The Adam's Mark Hotel sits on the northern most edge of Mobile Bay and therefore driving directions are not applicable from the south. Please use directions coming from the east or the west



Mobile RV and Campgrounds

Alabama Port R.V. Park/15440 Dauphin Island Parkway/Coden, AL 36523

Phone: 251.873.5001

Fax: 251.873.5110 - 877.526.2467

Located on Hwy. 193 S., Dauphin Island Parkway across from Mobile Bay. 78 spaces with 30 & 50 amp, water/sewer/ electricity/ cable. Bath house/laundry. Pets ok. Open 7 days a week.

Brown's R.V. Park/1619 Jasper Rd./Mobile, AL 36618

Phone: 251.342.3383

3.5 miles west of I-65 on US 98 West (Exit 5B). Turn left between Moffett Rd. Baptist Church & B.P. Gas station (Howell's Ferry Road). South 1 block to Dover St. Left on Dover 0.2 miles to park.

Dauphin Island Campground/109 Bienville Blvd./Dauphin Island, AL 336528

Phone: 251.861.2742

Walking trails to Audubon Bird Sanctuary. Boardwalk to secluded beach on the gulf. Free boat launches - in gulf in 5 minutes! Large group pavilion with Bar-B-Q grill. Washers 7 dryers, playground and campground store.

I-10 Campground/6430 Theodore Dawes Road/Theodore, AL 36582

Phone: 251.653.9816

Mobile's only Campground with E-Z Off-On access to I-10 and U.S. Hwy. 90. Large shady lots. Easy pull-thru parking on lots shaded by huge oaks and pines. Complete Camp Store.

I-65 RV Campground/730 Jackson Rd./Creola (Mobile), AL 36525

Phone: 251.675.6347

800.287.3208

Jct. I-65 & Hwy. 43 - Exit 19. Recreational vehicle campground. 76 sites from primitive sites to full hookup pull-thru sites for big rigs. On-site management. Modern friendly.



Not Attending the Reunion?

Enjoy the Reunion with your copy of the Reunion Book. Fill out the form below, enclose payment of \$22.00 (includes tax & shipping) and mail to the address shown. Your Reunion Book will be shipped in about twelve weeks following the reunion. If you would like to include yourself in the Reunion Book, e-mail us an image (please 2"x3" color 250dpi file minimum) of yourself/family to the e-mail address below. In the body of your e-mail, please include the Reunion Name and your name(s) as you want them in the Reunion Book.

I Would Like to Reserve _____ Reunion Books.

Write checks to: **CLASSIC REUNIONS**

Total Order Amount: \$ _____

Reunion: USS CURRITUCK/EVERGLADES/TM ASSOC.

Member Name: _____ Spouse: (if in picture) _____
PLEASE PRINT PLEASE PRINT First Last First Last

Address: _____ Home Phone (_____) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

... For the Good Times Since 1965

Classic Reunions

2515 7th Avenue Greeley, Colorado 80631-8447

Phone: (800)334-6388

e-mail: CLAREUNION@AOL.COM

Available Tours

...should be pre-reserved

HISTORIC MOBILE

1:30 pm to 4:30 pm *Wed., Sept. 10*

As you tour historic Mobile, your guide will tell you the Architecture, history and customs of the area. You will tour Fort Conde and the Richards-DAR house where tea will be served.

The cost will be \$27 per person.

USS ALABAMA MEMORIAL PARK

9:00 am to 3:00 pm *Thur., Sept. 11*

Your coach will be at the Adam's Mark for a tour to the USS ALABAMA MEMORIAL PARK. You will tour the battleship, the Submarine USS Drum and the aircraft pavilion. A Memorial Service will be held on the fantail. Lunch will be served in the Pavilion. The tour will continue on to Chickasaw and a tour of the LST 325. They are grateful for any donations you would like to give.

The cost is \$37 per person.

BEAU RIVAGE CASINO

4:00 pm to 10:00 pm *Thur., Sept. 11*

Coach will depart the hotel for the BeauRivage Casino in Biloxi, MS for an evening of gaming. You will receive \$15 in play money. Dinner on your own.

The cost is \$20 per person.

COTTON BLOSSOM DINNER CRUISE

6:30 pm to 9:30 pm *Thur. & Fri., Sept. 11/12*

Meet in the hotel lobby for a short stroll to the Cotton Blossom for a dinner cruise. Dinner will be served as you cruise. The mobile river.

The cost is \$40 per person.

NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM-PENSACOLA

9:00 am to 4:00 pm *Fri., Sept. 12*

Board the coach for a tour of the naval aviation museum in Pensacola. Tour the museum and lunch will be served at the Mustin beach officers club.

The cost is \$37 per person.

The Imax Theater is \$5.74 extra.

BELLINGRATH GARDENS

11:00 am to 3:30 pm *Sat., Sept. 13*

Board the coach for beautiful Bellingrath Gardens and home. Lunch will be served in the Magnolia Restaurant before we tour the gardens and home.

The cost is \$39 per person.

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour price



Raffle Winner . . .

Jack Wittenborn was the winner of the raffle for the Room and Reunion package.



Did you know?

In 1907, when state legislation was seriously considering passing a prohibition bill, a delegation led by Mobile's mayor traveled to Montgomery to try to prevent it. N.J. McDermott, president of the Bank of Mobile, wired Mobile legislators that "unless anti-prohibitionists win, please give notice that Mobile is prepared to secede from the State of Alabama."



Web sites of interest

www.av7.8m.com/
Currituck pics, Assn. info

<http://home.att.net/~brisbane-adams>
Everglades pics, Assn. info

<http://leeschwan.home.att.net>
or

<http://home.att.net/~leeschwan>
Everglades pics, info

<http://personal.bellsouth.net/mia/p/r/printmn1/>
Assn. Reunion info

<http://65.109.76.241/>
TM pics, much more info

www.hullnumber.com
www.military.com

www.militaryconnections.com
www.classmates.com

You can leave your name on some of these sites for possible contact by others.

You can also check the sites of other vessels you have served on for other shipmates.

"Damn the torpedoes!" **Admiral David Glasgow Farragut** **the hero of Mobile Bay**

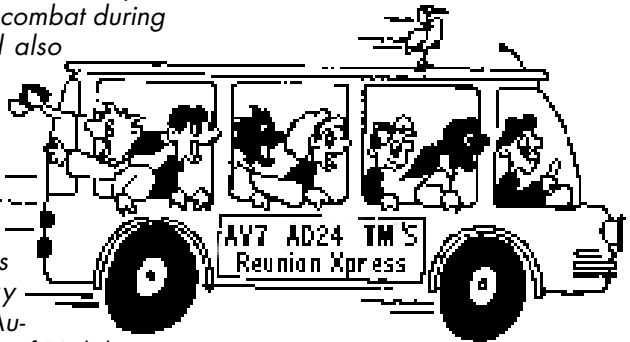
This famed American naval officer, who led the Union assaults on New Orleans and Mobile Bay during the Civil War, was the first United States naval leader to be advanced to the rank of Admiral. He also was among the first truly American heroes of Hispanic descent. Admiral Farragut was born July 5, 1801 near Knoxville, Tennessee, the son of a Spanish father, George Farragut, and a North Carolinian mother, Elizabeth Shine. Young David Farragut went to sea at age 8, and earned an appointment as midshipman in the United States Navy at 9. He first saw naval combat during the War of 1812 and also took his first command when he was made prize master of a captured British ship, the BARCLAY. He was 12 years old.

Admiral Farragut's place in naval history became assured in August 1864 at the Battle of Mobile Bay. Leading the attack on this Confederate resupply port, Farragut lashed himself to the maintop of his flagship, the HARTFORD, so that he could better direct the battle. Maneuvering his fleet of ships through a field of mines called "torpedoes" then he pressed the attack upon the defending forts, ordering "Damn the torpedoes! Four bells! Captain Drayton, go ahead! Jovett, full speed!"

Beyond the drama of these words and the circumstances in which they were uttered, Farragut's victory in the Battle of Mobile Bay is more significant for its strategic impact on the

course of the Civil War. By closing the South's last port open to world commerce, Farragut cut off the sources of war supplies that would otherwise have flowed unimpeded in the Confederacy's overland supply routes to battlegrounds. It became another classic case of control of the sea—a lesson learned from ancient times to the present. Farragut, a man who once said that "the best defense is well directed fire from your own guns," learned and taught the lesson well.

A grateful nation honored the hero of Mobile Bay with the rank of four-star admiral, and some even suggested he seek the nomination for President, an accolade he declined.



More history ...

Mobile's role in the history can still be seen during a visit to Fort Morgan at Gulf Shores and Fort Gaines on Dauphin Island. The 1864 Battle of Mobile Bay was a turning point in the Civil War when Union troops attacked both forts to take control of the last active Confederate Port on the Gulf of Mexico. Determined to take the Port of Mobile, after losing the ironclad Tecumseh to torpedoes Confederate defenders had planted, Admiral David Farragut cried, "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" and overtook the Port for the Union.



— Original Message —
From: "Pierre Lavigne" <pierre.lavigne@spray.se>
To: "Ron Curtis" <gunner1@fidnet.com>
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2003 4:41 PM
Subject: RE: Hello, do you recognize this plane?

Ron,

That plane, right now is parked in Toulouse, South of France in an "old planes" museum. (web site: <http://aatlse.free.fr/fr/index.htm>)

I wrote "parked" because the unknown American owner had parked it there without any explanations.

People can watch the plane, take photos of it (through the protections), but no guides can give any explanations about this plane's history.

The reason of that ignorance might be the lack of English knowledge in that museum.

I will check out more carefully, and ask people, next time I visit the Museum.

I will send you the few pictures I had taken of that Grumman, the newest will come soon.

In order to help the guides, can you please write some lines about that airplane, so I can translate it for the French guides, I'm pretty okay on translating some English to French.

I'm sure the guides would appreciate some personal stories about that airplane.

My slug mail address is: Pierre LAVIGNE 21, rue du Camélia 31400 TOULOUSE FRANCE

P.S.: Here are the addresses and phone numbers of the museum.

Webmaster : webmaster.aatlse@free.fr

Association : aatlse@free.fr

Téléphone /Fax :05.61.21.70.01 (Tel Bureau Président) 05.61.18.61.77 (Tel Atelier)
 05.61.86.86.26 (Fax) Ailes Anciennes Toulouse 31, rue du Rempart Matabiau 31000 Toulouse

E-mails from France

1

— Original Message —

From: Pierre Lavigne
To: gunner1@fidnet.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2003 4:44PM
Subject: Hello, do you recognize this plane?

Hello, Do you recognize this plane? It's parked in my town's airport. I'm interested about its history. Have a nice evening. Pierre LAVIGNE

3

Från: Ron Curtis
gunner1@fidnet.com
Ämne: Re: Hello, do you recognise this plane ?
Datum: Mon, 21 Apr 2003 13:52:50 -0500

Pierre, The plane you are referring to was assigned to the USS CURRITUCK, during her service in the Navy. I recall it being aboard when I served aboard in 1965-66. Was used to ferry parts and personnel to the ship. Last we knew it was owned by someone in Michigan I think. The association would love to have any additional photos that might be available and any information on the present owner. Look forward to hearing back from you.

Ron Curtis Sec
 USS Currituck Assn

2

Attention Sub vets in San Jose vicinity

Looking for sub vets in zip code 951 or cities from Big Sur north to San Mateo, from the ocean to the mountains (Calaveras) just to the East of I-680 in the San Jose area. Please check Archie Boccia's letter in the TM's Mail Call.



AV7 shipmate shares memories and photos with family and Ron

Subject: USS Currituck AV-7 Operation High Jump Antarctic photos. Ron Curtis, and Paz kin;

Kinfolk, as most of you know, the US Navy sent me on a cruise to the



Antarctic aboard the Seaplane Tender, USS Currituck AV-7 during our winter months of 1946-1947. Therefore, as a crewman of that fine ship, I qualified for, and became a member of USS Currituck and Combined Association, which is presided over by Ron Curtis.



Ron asked me to share my file of photographs I exposed during that assignment as a Photographer. Historically, these photos are important to shipmates, as well as to myself, as a record of the unique experience we shared; moreover, I would hope that my descendants are equally interested in the expedition itself for it's significance to the American story, and the role played out by one member of your family.

Attached, are two scenes depicting life aboard our vessel which are being sent to The Combined Assn. in care of Ron Curtis for possible further dissemination to other veterans of Operation Highjump, Task Force-68

For Posterity I am the Eureka Old Timer. -Herbert Paz

A personal mission to care for this Solitary table set for one, where no one ever sits

BY SANDY BAUERS. *Knight Bidder News*

ABOARD THE USS HARRY S. TRUMAN, EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN – Steven DeLuna approaches the tiny white table with reverence.

He picks up the white plate ever so carefully. Meticulously, he dusts around the small pile of salt in the center. He dusts the white tablecloth underneath,

Most of the time aboard this aircraft carrier, DeLuna, 19, of Piano, Texas, works with the Sea Sparrow air-to-air missile. But now, during a temporary duty in the wardroom, he's made it a personal mission to care for this solitary table, set for one, where no one ever sits.

The table is dedicated to the honor and memory of POWs and MIAs. While other chairs in the room have covers of royal blue trimmed with gold, the single chair at this table is covered in white.

Even when the room is rearranged for special events, the white table stays put. DeLuna knows and appreciates Navy traditions. He knew what the table meant and asked to clean it during his stint in the wardroom.

"The entire time I'm cleaning," he

said. "I just know that's one of those things to be solemn for. I try to be more on the respectful side, not rushing through it."

Similar tables exist throughout the military. There are variations, but most are small like this one.

Its size symbolizes "the fragility of one prisoner alone against the oppressor," according to a small placard on the table.

On it, there's a glass of water is "to quench their, thirst for freedom" and salt "to remind us of the pain they feel."

A maroon silk chrysanthemum signifies "the blood our fallen shipmates shed."

White china symbolizes "the purity of their hearts" and white linens "a clean bandage for their wounds."

A small American flag and small POW-MIA flag also stand in bases on the table.

"On certain days, it just hits you, what it represents," said Ensign Mike Bell, 35, a disbursing officer from Union Springs, Ala. "It keeps that memory alive."

Sandy Bauers reports for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.



REMINDER

- Have you made your room reservations?**
Should be made by August 8
- Have you received the tour info packet?**
Available from Ron
- Have you sent back your completed packet**
Should be returned by August 10

Welcome Aboard . . .

Due to some poor copies of original applications, some bad handwriting, and not to mention some weak typing skills and eyes of the typesetter, there can be errors in the following list—if you think the errors may prevent former shipmates from recognizing and contacting you please advise and corrections will be made in the next issue.

The following names are of shipmates who have joined the association since the last newsletter was printed.

Currituck

Allen, Garth M. 89 N. Main Street, Box 388, Mayfield, NY 12117	518-6616260	BTE1	1966-67
Austin, Adrian O. 145 Argyle Lane, Gadsden, AL 35904	256-546-2453	AO3	1952-54
Barronton, Douglas Harry P.O. Box 320, Rockford, AL 35136	256-377-2266	PN3	1959-61
Bush, Gary E. PO Box 213, Ogallala, NE 69153	308-284-0816	EM3	1965-67
Cockman, James D. 225 Stabgate Drive, Campobello, SC 29322	864-468-5281	BTFN1	1952-53
Conner, Orville W. 33194 61st Road, Arkansas City, KS 67005	620-442-4910	AN	1961-64
Davis, Perry E. 980 East Riverpark Lane, Boise, ID 83706	208-331-5045	LT.	1944-46
DePetrillo, Alfred 13 Fairview Avenue, Lebanon, NH 03766	603-448-3358	AGAN	1951-53
Dougherty, J. K. P.O. Box 542, Mayfield, KY 42066-0542	270-791-3888	YN3	1960-61
Garay, Mary Anne P.O. Box 37, Bullville, NY 10915	845-361-1725		See Mail Call
Griffin, James F. 24 Saddle Lane, Cartersville, GA 30121	678-721-1233	EN3	1965-67
McCaffrey, Thomas J. 428 Philo Street, New Windsor, NY 12553		QM3	1962-66
McDaniels, John M. 940 Goldenrod, Escondido, CA 92027	760-746-4862	AMM2C	1945-47
Mitchell, Herbert L. 333 Links Drive #606, Texarkana, AR 71854-8511	918-521-1281	SIRM	1945-47
Moore, Robert A. 1954 Philadelphia Ave., Chambersburg, PA 17201	717-263-0383	HN	1966-67
Murphy, Thomas R. 132 Greentree Road, Turnersville, NJ 08012	856-227-1558	FC3	1944-46
Pierce, Rodney L. 2770 Ranier Street. Clarkston, WA 99403	509-758-5005	E3	1966-67
Shea, Arthur J. 23 Grove Street, Terryville, CT 06786	860-589-3283	SN	1957-58
Uram, George 4521 Bridge Court, Shoreview, MN 55126	651-490-3131	RM2	1945-45
White, Joseph 5 Osprey Place, Barnegat, NJ 08005	609-607-9717	EM1C	1955-58
Wittbecker, Larry L. 1819 Sierra Court, Freeport, IL 61032	815-232-2983	MM1	1960-63
Woody, Johnny D. Route 2, Box 302-C, Sallisaw, OK 74955	918-775-2325	SK3	1963-65

Everglades

Barker, Nicholas H. 410 Forest Lake Drive, Wilmington, OH 45177	937-382-0254	SN	1961-63
Bland, Joseph D. 4701 Trowbridge Ter. #104, Louisville, KY 40207	502-897-3810	SN	1956-58
Doran, Jack 2833 62 Street, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710	727-343-1379	BMC	1957-59
Dreger, Horst C. 205 Norwood Drive, Bristol, VA 24201	276-669-2473	FNMM	1962-64
Edelman, Wayne E. P.O. Box 607 (308 E. Minnesota Ave.), McCloud, CA 96057	530-964-2417	YN3	1951-52
Graminski, David N. 5 Apple Circle, Goose Creek, SC 29445	843-553-1159	MR2	1959-62
Jones, Paul J., Jr. 7100 Travelers Rest Circle, Easton, MD 21601	410-822-8117	ENS'N	1966-67
Kalabus, John A. 2141 Old Parksville Road, Cleveland, TN 37323	423-559-1674	SN	1966-67
Mantz, Homer C. 3285 West Marie Drive, Citrus Springs, FL 34433	352-489-4927	EMC	1958-59
Monette, Douglas 60 Spear Hill Road, Merrill, NY 12955-3109	518-425-0125	E4	1960-64
Roussel, F. Allen 1220 Henry Clay Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118	504-897-6858	SN	1959-61
Sholtis, Donald P. 2308 High Street, Erie, PA 16502	814-452-4306	FT2	1954-57
Tillery, Thomas Leon 5539 116th Avenue, Fennville, MI 49408	269-561-2732	SF	1960-63
Watson, George G. 1401 North 14th Avenue, Kelso, WA 98626	360-578-2513	TM2	1957-58

Torpedoman's Assn.

Arn, Franklin Dale 2988 53rd Street, San Diego, CA 92105	619-264-9495	TMC	1952-72
Bancroft, Joseph 2951 W. Basin Avenue, Pahrump, NV 89060	775-727-5023	TMC	1945-66
Blank, Michael J., Jr. (Mickey) 5520 Tamberlane Circle, Apt. 110, Palm B'ch Gdns, FL 33418	561-624-0861	TMV2	1944-45
Doolittle, Robert P. 3674 Carmichael Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207-4779	904-398-7937	TM1	1964-87
Gonzalez Deane 336 Kikoo Place, Honolulu, HI 96825	808-395-4607	E4	1962-65
Jensen, Lyle M. 75 -796 Hiona Street, Holualoa, HI 96725-9601	808-329-4741	TMCS	1943-69
Kuhr, Lambert F. "Bud" 36 Tangerine Court, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936	239-369-5253	TMC	1943-65
Lussier, Martin 1622 Tiger Creek Lane W, Jacksonville, FL 32225-5820	904-220-6332	TMC(ss)	
Morgan, Tom 19241 Upper Skyline Drive, Eagle River, AK 99577	907-696-8353	TMC	1968-91
Rittoper, Ernest 711 Spring Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018	610-868-3792	TM3	1943-46
Sharp, Burt W8118 Prairie Road, Box 295, Oakfield, WI 53065	920-583-4605	TM3	1943-47
Wilczewski, Florian E. 321 Judson Street, Bensenville, IL 60106-2648	630-350-8915	TM2	1944-46

Mail Call



Please address
all correspondence to:

Ron Curtis,
207 W. Marvin Avenue,
Owensville, MO, 65066-1038.

Please note that these letters have been edited
due to space considerations.

Dear Ron . . .

Currituck

. . . I decided it was time to get the form in the mail. I tend to put things off in the golden years (bull). Pat and I hope you have had a good year so far and look forward to seeing you at the reunion. We had a mini-mini one in CT this week with the Parks, Gabels and ourselves. It's always nice to see old friends. See you in Sept.

—Ed DuGray

. . . Hope you're doing well! Enclosed are my dues for a couple of years. Thanks for the reminder. I always enjoy the newsletter, especially when I recognize letters from known shipmates, like Roy Larsen and Steve Haupt. I hope our old acquaintances of OA, OI, OP and COM divisions are enjoying "the good life" of good health and fortune.

—Cecil Parkerson

. . . My father, Francis Gaudette, served on the USS Currituck in the early fifties. He recently passed away, and a member of my wife's family wanted to make a small donation to some good cause in his honor. I think that his days on the Currituck were some of his best, and I know that he enjoyed reconnecting with some of his shipmates in his later years. Can you tell me how to send this donation to the USS Currituck Association? Thank you for your help. Sincerely,

—Peter Gaudette

. . . Sorry for the delay in responding to your msg. I have been out of town for the past week. Your donation can be sent to our treasurer, Dell Bancroft, 3473 Ennfield Way NW, Duluth, GA

30096. The check can be made out to the USS CURRITUCK ASSN. On behalf of the association, I would like to thank you in advance for the thought and contribution and glad that we could reconnect Francis with some of his shipmates.

—Ron Curtis, Sec.

. . . My great-grandfather, Patrick Cashel, served aboard the "Steamer Currituck" from November 1862 through September 1863 as a "landsman."

—Mary Anne Garay

. . . I recently contacted an ex-shipmate (Jim Boyd) from the USS Currituck who informed me that you are Secretary of the Currituck Assn. I'm enclosing monies that Jim stated are the annual dues. I am planning to attend the Sept. reunion in Mobile, AL. I would appreciate receiving information where I might obtain photos of "Operation High Jump" since my album of the cruise has been lost.

—Herbert L. Mitchell

. . . Interested in finding members of original VPB that formed VP in '44 at Alameda Naval Air Station and spent 14 months in Philippine area operating from AV7

—Perry E. Davis

. . . I served on the Currituck from '55-'57 when it was decommissioned in the Philadelphia Navy Yard. I was transferred to the USS McCaffrey till discharged in June '58 as Electricians Mate 1st class. Enclosed please find dues to join the Assn. and please send me the application for membership.

—Joseph White

. . . You have chosen well to come to Mobile for the reunion. I'm looking forward to it. Inasmuch as I've done all the tours, however, and have a crowded schedule, I think it will be possible for my wife and me to attend only the banquet. We may be able to show up a bit earlier in the day, and, if you wish, I'll produce some sort of wood turning for the Chinese auction. Would a couple of bottle stoppers do the trick? My friends who sell them get about \$25 each for my level of quality. It is not clear to me what the cost would be for the banquet alone. Please advise. I'll include my dues when I send you the check. Thanks. Best wishes.

—Stan Virden

... Our reservations are made at the Adams Mark and Ethel and I are looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion. We wanted to attend the Colorado Springs reunion last year, but I broke my foot in early July and spent the next three months in a wheel chair. Enclosed is money for raffle tickets. Thanks Ron for everything you do.

—Dick Standish

... Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$100 for a lifetime membership in the association. The membership is for my father, James R. Player. His address is 62 Scarcliffe Drive, Malverne, NY 11565. Phone is 516-593-9160. You may remember, I sent you an e-mail in late March regarding the purchase of some of the items from you. I will be following up with that soon. Thank you for the response! Would it be possible for you to advise my father of his membership? I think he will be pleasantly surprised. Thank you for your help.

—Glenn Player

... Need some more time to work on ex-shipmates list—will get back to you. Still drive big-truck over-the-road.

—Robert A. Moore



TAPS

KENNETH MASON
WILLIAM C. KRAJEWSKI

Everglades

... We always enjoy reading the News Booklet. I am inquiring about your article on membership years. How many continuous membership years does Jim Burel have? Looks like you have a great reunion planned for Mobile. Sorry we cannot make this one. Unfortunately, your date is the same time we are attending another reunion in VA. Hopefully we will be able to see you all at the next year's reunion as we always have such a great time!

—Jim Burel

... I am writing to inform you of the passing on February 8, 2003 at the age of 73, of my brother, David Pugh, Jr., US Navy veteran who served aboard the USS Everglades (AD-24) 1951-54. His remains will be buried at sea. His family is thankful for his life and very proud of his military service to his country.

—Dorothy Pugh Eaton

... Homer C. Mantz had a stroke May 22, 1999. Left side paralysis and confined to a wheelchair. Old contacts are important to him now. He wants to know how many ship-mates ate still alive and active.

—Marilyn Mantz



TAPS
DAVID PUGH, JR

Torpedoman's Assn.

... I'm a member of the TM assn. as well as the Mare Island Base of USSVI. I live in San Jose and I have made 2 meetings to the USSVI over the last 3 years but were not in held their regular meeting place in Vallejo. We are starting a base (Dolphin Base) here in San Jose area. We had about 25 at the last meeting and 15 at the first one a month earlier. We mostly all belong to the Mare Island Base but some of us find it very hard to get to Vallejo including me. We have one guy who drove to Vallejo from Fresno in the Central Valley ... it's about a 190 miles one way trip for him. That is dedication! We were thinking up ways to get members to this area and I thought of the TM assn. Most of the guys I am in here with are all from the aft end of the ship, MM's, EN, IC, etc. We need "weapons types" to balance the ship fore to aft or will we have a large up angle. I am requesting a sorted by zip code 951 or from cities from Big Sur North to say San Mateo or Redwood City, from the Ocean to the mountains (Calaveras) just to the East of I-680 in the San Jose area, from the TM assn. database if that is allowed. This way we can shake the trees by sending a message to those in this area informing them of the new Sub Vets Dolphin Base. Or if that is not possible, could you put something in the newsletter about the new base? Right now we have had 2 meetings, one in Morgan Hill at a pizza place and the second one at a Harry's Hofbrau restaurant in SJ. I won the 50/50 raffle last meeting & got \$48, not including the \$10, I put in, so that was great! Thanks!

—Archie D. Boccia

... My complements on the Torpedoman's Association website. I find it both impressive and informational I only wish I'd found it sooner. I'm retired Army and am looking

to write a paper/article regarding torpedo testing (or lack thereof) prior to WWII. The central figure in this project is of course the Mark XIV torpedo. A lot has been written about Mark XIV problems, some of it well documented and some less well. I'm hoping that your membership might be able to provide answers to a couple of questions, so I might improve the historical record somewhat. My understanding is that every WWII torpedo was a (somewhat) unique item with its own operational characteristics. Each torpedo's individual maintenance history, as well as the operational conditions / results when fired were recorded. A picture of this log is at <http://www.members.aol.com/rayeso/index.html>. Click on "tropbook.jpg" at the very bottom of the index to see the form. The problem is that I'm not sure what the picture actually says. I think the picture is of a logbook, Standard Ordnance Form 32 (St Ord 32, the form being dated as Oct 1934). The title of the logbook is *Manufacture - Service Record of US Navy Torpedo*. The cover indicates that the document is for a specific Number (SN#'d) torpedo. But the picture is blurry and I am not sure whether it really says St Ord 32, or some other number (St Ord 32 and the publication dates are in fact my best guess). Could anyone please clarify what the numbers actually are? Perhaps more important is if anyone knows whether these logs have been kept, and if so where are they stored today as historical documents? The picture suggests to me that the logbooks might have been returned to Newport Torpedo Station (which is, of course no more). Also, CAPT Groneman's article "A Torpedo Called Alice" suggests that he had access to such documents. Neither the National Achieves (NARA), nor any of the Navy/Submarine Museums indicate that they have any St Ord 32 logbook(s). BUT admittedly I may not have been asking the question correctly, hence my first question above. NARA especially is famous for answer a research question exactly the way It's asked. Anyway, I would appreciate any info you or your members should shed on the subject. Thanks.

—Dwight Bonham

... Out here in Cleveland we have the USS COD (SS 224) submarine memorial. On board there is a Mk27 mod5 torpedo. One

of the directors advised me the other night that they have concern for the Mk27 mod5 torpedo that they have on board. He says he has noted a white powdery substance on the exercise head, and it seems to be expanding. I haven't looked at it yet, but I will be checking it out soon. He said he thought the head was made out of brass. I thought the heads were made of steel or aluminum which may be a reason for oxidation. Either case, I was wondering if he could put out a message for any Mk27 techs out there that I could contact once I start working on it. I'm an old Mk14 guy myself and never worked on the 27's. Thanks.

—Bob TMC (SW) Pallat



Don't forget to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. At previous reunions members who booked late had to be placed in other locations in order to be accommodated.



Shipmate visits with former Executive Officer of AD24



CAPT. ED HUNT, JUNE 12, SAN DIEGO

Capt. Hunt was XO, USS EVERGLADES in 1952 during the ship's first Med cruise. —photo by W. Johnson

Navy Accepts Delivery of Ronald Reagan

WASHINGTON (NNS) – The Navy accepted delivery of the newest aircraft carrier, PCU Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), June 20. The ship design and construction was executed under a contract awarded to Northrop Grumman Newport News (NGNN) in December 1994.

Reagan's first deployment is scheduled for 2005 from her San Diego homeport, which is home to two other U.S. aircraft carriers.

Reagan is the ninth of the Nimitz-class aircraft carriers. Expected to be in service for 50 years, Reagan will carry out our nation's tasking in both peacetime and in times of crisis. Its nuclear propulsion plant will power the ship for more than 20 years without refueling, providing virtually unlimited range and endurance, and a top speed in excess of 30 knots.

Reagan towers 20 stories above the waterline, and at 1,092 feet long, is nearly as long as the Empire State Building is tall. The ship displaces approximately 97,000 tons of water and has a 4.5-acre flight deck. The carrier will serve as home to approximately 6,000 Sailors and 80 plus combat aircraft.

The ship's four catapults and three arresting gear engines enable rapid and simultaneous launch and recovery of aircraft. Catapults thrust 60,000 pound aircraft 300 feet, from zero to 165 miles per hour in two seconds, while arresting cables are able to bring a planes traveling in at 150 mile per hour to a complete stop in about 320 feet. The ship will carry approximately three million gallons of fuel for its aircraft and escorts, and enough weapons and stores for extended operations without replenishment.

Design improvements include a completely redesigned island, integrated ship systems with increased capacity to support future upgrades and improved facilities for female personnel. In addition, Reagan has extensive repair capabilities, including a fully equipped Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department, a micro-miniature electronics repair shop and numerous ship repair shops. The ship is equipped with a fiber optic based network for improved communication and machinery monitoring.

CVN 76 was christened March 4, 2001, by its sponsor, Nancy Reagan. Vice President Dick Cheney joined Mrs. Reagan in the commissioning of Ronald Reagan July 12.



Sailors aboard the Precommissioning Unit (PCU) Ronald Reagan took the world's newest aircraft carrier out to sea for the first time during Builder's Sea Trials off the coast of Virginia