

USS HOLT (DE 706) NEWSLETTER

1994 Reunion Committee

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USS HOLT (DE 706)

December, 1993

SHIPMATES LOCATED

We have continued the search for shipmates through the Veterans Administration, the Navy Department, the Fleet Reserve and other organizations. Since mid-summer, we have located the following:

BERGSTROM, Lee E. (SM3/c)

DEFOSES, Philip J., (S1/c)

FORRESTER, Randol D., (S1/c)

MOSHER, Harold C., (S1/c)

PURKEY, B. A., (GM2/c)

SMITH, Leroy C., (TM3/c)

STEELE, Edward G. (CGM)

Sadly, we have learned of the deaths of several more of our shipmates. We add the following to our Honor Roll of Deceased Shipmates:

BRYANT, Carroll I. (S2/c) - 29 August, 1969

CUNNINGHAM, Joeseeph, (S1/c) - February, 1993

GEBUS, Charles J. (RdM2/c) - 16 June, 1993

MANVILLE, John W. (CQM) - 9 September, 1991

ROBERTS, Allen H. (MM1/c) - 11 April, 1991

ROGERS, Robert L. (MM3/c) - 8 September, 1967

We were advised of the deaths of Messrs Bryant, Roberts and Rogers by the Veterans Administration. Mrs. Gebus wrote a note advising of Charles' death. A call from Ginny Manville gave us the sad news of Chief Manville's passing and Harry Mosher called to advise of Joe Cunningham's death. That was particularly sad for Harry since we just located him late this summer and the first person he asked about was Joe Cunningham. Harry spent a career in the Navy, retiring as a First Class Boatswains Mate.

LATEST MUSTER

111 Shipmates with Addresses
126 Deceased Shipmates
72 We have not yet located.

If anyone desires to help in trying to locate these missing shipmates, please contact either Bill Morgan or Bob DeAngelis for a list of names and serial numbers. It is a little time consuming, but worth it when you actually find a long missing shipmate.

HOLT PERSONNEL NEWS

We have the addresses of about 25 HOLT next-of-kin so that we can make sure they get the newsletter and other information about our reunions. There are potentially more than 100 widows or children of our shipmates on which we have no idea where they are or how to go about locating them. Quite a few of the 25 we are in contact with have expressed plans to attend the 1994 reunion in King of Prussia, PA. We look forward to welcoming them and just wish we could locate more of them.

ON THE SICK LIST: At this time we know of just two.....Joe Conti (Water Tender 2/c) is confined to a nursing home. His niece handles his correspondence and says he really likes to hear from his old shipmates. Joe's address is [REDACTED]

Norman L. "Frenchy" Cournoyer (Ships Cook 3/c) is recovering from major surgery. The last we heard, he was recuperating at home and would like to hear from his old shipmates. "Frenchy's" address is [REDACTED]

There are several others that we have mentioned in previous newsletters.....Cecil H. Meyer (Electricians Mate 1/c) was aboard HOLT just a few months. He left for Sub-Chaser School in Miami prior to HOLT leaving the east coast. He later became CO of a PC out in the western pacific. Cecil's address is [REDACTED]

Francis Lynch (Water Tender 2/c) is in the Kaiser Steel Domicilliary, Fontana, CA. However, all mail sent to him has been returned. Bob DeAngelis has spoken with him at [REDACTED].

If you know of others who are ill, please let Bill Morgan know, so we can get the word out to our shipmates.

OTHER HOLT NEWS

We have been trying to locate B. A. PURKEY (GM2/c) for the past three or so years. All the address we had was Shamrock, TX. Well, sure enough, Purkey still lives in Shamrock (in the Texas Pan Handle). He's been ranching and farming for the past four plus decades, says his hair is a little thinner, otherwise, he's doing okay and is glad to find the HOLT crew.

We had a big surprise in August when we located Chief Gunners Mate Glenn Steele. Our efforts led nowhere until a letter to the Navy Department found its way to him. Chief Steele sent us two photos for the ships album.....one in uniform way back when and the other a more recent one. Put a uniform on him today and he still looks the same! We look forward to seeing Chief Steele at the 1994 reunion.

Speaking of photos, if anyone has photos they want included in the HOLT Photo Album, please send them to Bill Morgan. All photos are welcome, however we are particularly interested in "before" and "after" photos.....one in uniform back in WW II days and the other a more recent one. Where possible, we will use these in the Reunion Memory Book that we plan to have made up.

Earlier this year, we told you about the efforts of the Destroyer Escort Sailors Association to obtain a Destroyer Escort for historical preservation. They have been successful in obtaining the former USS SLATER (DE 766) which the Greek Navy was preparing to decommission. The ship was towed to New York City and now rests at a pier alongside the Aircraft Carrier INTREPID and is open for visitors. If you are in the vicinity of New York City, you can visit one of the very few DE's in existence.

REUNION NEWS

Enclosed with this newsletter is a short survey form asking about some of your preferences for the reunion. It would be very helpful for Bob DeAngelis and the planning group if you would take a moment to express your thoughts and desires. Remember, it is just for planning purposes only and is not a commitment on your part. So please, give us a hand by completing the survey and returning it.

Our reunion chairmen have arranged an interesting agenda for the June 1 - 5, 1994 reunion.

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| June 1 | Arrival |
| June 2 | "Get Acquainted" Breakfast |
| June 3 | Tour of historical Philadelphia sights, tour of Navy Yard, lunch at the Navy Yard |
| June 4 | Concluding Evening Banquet and Program.
In the morning, a short business meeting. |

You can see that plenty of time has been set aside for optional things, such as golf, a tour of Valley Forge, a short trip to Atlantic City (these things are dependent on having enough participation) and plenty of time to visit individually and as a group as the hospitality room will be open early and closed late....There will be plenty of snacks and beverages.

HOLT memorabilia will include the ships deck log, war diary, action reports, and muster roll for your perusal.

Mark your calendars and start making your plans for June 1 - 5, 1994

Use the enclosed Holiday Inn reservation form to reserve your room .

SEE YOU IN KING OF PRUSSIA, PA JUNE 1 - 5, 1994