

USS HOLT (DE 706)

A periodic newsletter for and about the ship, her crew and their families

REUNION COMMITTEE

Bob DeAngelis
Judy Johnson Mansur - Ladies Activities
Bill Morgan - Chairman
Karl Nease
Ralph Parks
Paul Pickett - Treasurer
"Doc" Steinhauser - Golf Committee Chairman

"HOLT HAPPENINGS"

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THE 1998 REUNION

We have finalized the plans for the 1998 reunion to be held in Mobile, AL, April 25 - 29, at the Radisson Admiral Semmes Hotel. Arrival and check-in is Saturday, April 25th. However, if you want to come early or stay later after the reunion, the hotel will honor the special rate of \$59.00/day.

Nothing is planned for Sunday morning, April 26th. We left this open for those who wish to attend church. Sunday afternoon, we will have a short tour of the downtown historic area, then proceed to the battleship USS ALABAMA where we will be on our own to tour the ship, a nearby WW II submarine. Also you can see the many military aircraft in the shore side area. Our bus will depart the hotel at 1:00 pm, arrive at the battleship park at 1:30 pm, with the first return shuttle back to the hotel at 3:30 pm. The second and last return shuttle bus will depart for the hotel at 4:30 pm.

Monday, April 27th, we'll depart from the hotel at 9:00 am, arriving at the Naval Air Museum aboard the Pensacola Naval Air Station at 10:30 am. Ending the tour of the museum at 12:30 pm, we go to lunch at the Mustin Beach Officers' Club. At 1:30 pm, we'll view the film at the I-Max theater (don't know yet what film will be showing). If it is the one about a day in the life of an aircraft carrier, you are in for a treat). Then, at 2:30 pm we'll depart the Naval Air Station for a scenic drive via the Gulf Shore route back to our hotel in Mobile.

Tuesday, April 28th, we'll board our buses at 9:30 am for Bellingrath Gardens (about 15 miles out of Mobile). Arriving at the gardens at 10:00 am, we'll view a short eight minute film on the gardens, then tour the gardens. At 11:45 am, we'll board the "SOUTHERN BELLE" for a luncheon cruise in the bayou. We will visit the Bellingrath home at 1:00 pm, then depart for Mobile at 2:00 pm, arriving at our hotel by 2:45 pm.. That evening, we'll enjoy our closing banquet at the hotel. For our raffle drawing, we have TWO items that we think you'll like...first is a 10" x 16" brass plaque mounted on a walnut board that names the builder of the ship, gives the date the HOLT keel was laid, the date she was launched and the date of commissioning. The second raffle item is a set of the ship's deck logs.

Wednesday, April 29th is departure date for those who must return home. Several have expressed interest in staying over and playing golf or going deep sea fishing. If you have an interest, contact either Doc Steinhauser for golf or Paul Pickett for fishing. **Doc Steinhauser wants to know of your interest in golf as he needs to make advance reservations for tee times. So please, if you think you may play, give**

Doc a call at [REDACTED] or drop him a note at [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] If you have an interest in fishing, call Paul Pickett at [REDACTED] or drop a note to him at [REDACTED].

We are enclosing a hotel reservation form. If you have not yet made your reservation, please do so as soon as possible.

The reunion registration form is also enclosed. Please complete it and send to our treasurer, Paul Pickett.

Air Lines serving Mobile, AL include Delta, Continental, Northwest and Air Trans. Since most air lines require a Saturday night stay over to get the best air fares, we scheduled our reunion accordingly.

News of Shipmates

We received a note from Leroy Smith's wife advising of his death on October 5th. Leroy was a Torpedoman in the Gunnery Department aboard the HOLT. He joined the crew just before we left the east coast for the voyage to the southwest pacific and remained aboard until December 1945. On behalf of the officers and crew our heartfelt condolences to Leroy's wife, Gertrude.

Address change for your roster: Frank Shepherd, [REDACTED]

OTHER NEWS

In response to a follow up letter to the Military Attache of the Philippine Embassy last July, we were advised that the medals for which many of you have previously applied, are still not available. These are the Philippine Liberation medal and the Philippine presidential unit citation badge. In customary bureaucratic language, they indicated these medals should be available in "three or four months" (about now according to my calendar). Don't despair. Eventually, they will become available and should be shipped in the order in which the requests were made. There will be no charge for these medals, despite earlier reports that a nominal charge was to be levied. Those of you who have not applied for these medals, may do so by contacting Bill Morgan.

Response to our voluntary request for a \$10.00 annual donation to defray the expense of searching for shipmates and mailing the quarterly newsletters has been slow. Anyone wishing to contribute may send their check to our treasurer, Paul Pickett.

We recently submitted a list of 26 names to the Veterans Administration with a request that they forward our letters to these shipmates if they had the address. The VA advised that 18 of the letters were forwarded, however, to date, none of these shipmates have responded. This is the third time in the last three or four years that we have attempted to reach these men to no avail. Unfortunately, the VA is prevented by federal statute from giving us the address of these shipmates, which puts the onus on them to contact us. Despite this roadblock, we keep trying other avenues of communication hoping to get in touch with the remaining few who served a significant tour of duty aboard HOLT.