

USS HOLT (DE 706)

HOLT HAPPENINGS

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

REUNION COMMITTEE

Vol VIII - No1

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

FEBRUARY 1998

LAST CALL FOR MOBILE!

Early registrations indicate we will have a good turnout. As a reminder for those of you who have not registered, the reunion will be April 25 - 29 at the Radisson Admiral Semmes Hotel, 251 Government Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602. Your hotel reservations should be made no later than March 25th. After that date, our block of rooms will be released and late reservation requests will be on a space available basis.

Enclosed is a hotel reservation form and a reunion registration form. Hotel reservations should be handled directly with the hotel and reunion registration sent to Paul Pickett.

Although we hope you will avail yourself of all the planned tours, these are optional. We do need to know which ones you will take in order to finalize arrangements with the tour company.

NEWS of SHIPMATES

Shortly after the last newsletter was mailed, we received a letter from Mrs. Beverly Burch with the sad news that her husband, James M. Burch, had passed away on 1 November 1997. Jim Burch, (Seaman 1/c), joined the HOLT on 22 October 1945 in Subic Bay and served aboard until 1 May 1946 when he was transferred to Great Lakes, IL for discharge. Jim was on board HOLT during the time when major preparations were being made to decommission the ship. We extend our sympathy to Mrs. Burch and her family.

Bob Kent, Chief Machinist Mate, passed away on 9 January 1998. Bob was one of just five men who served on HOLT during the entire time the ship was in commission.

He stayed in the Naval Reserve and was recalled to active duty during the Korean War and later retired from the navy. Bob and his wife, Lee, attended the 1996 reunion in Charleston, SC. We all enjoyed seeing him after 50 years. He will be missed . We extend our sympathy to Lee and her family.

Some good news! After a long dry spell of not finding any shipmates, we just last week located Dorsey L. Thompson. (Seaman 1/c). Dorsey is a transplanted Tar Heel from North Carolina who long ago re-settled in Arkansas. So that you may update your roster, his address is [REDACTED]; phone number is [REDACTED]

We recently received a letter from Joe Errico (Fireman 1/c). Joe went back into the navy for a few years (1953-57) and served on three aircraft carriers. Quite a change from the bouncing destroyer escorts! After this tour of duty, he left the service but returned for yet another year of active duty during the Cuban crisis. By this time, Joe said, "that's enough". He had four children and returned to the Post Office where he served from 1948-1976 (time-out for the navy). In 1976, he was retired with a disability caused by a back injury which required surgery. Joe now has developed asbestosis which is the result of breathing asbestos dust many years ago aboard the WW II ships. Joe resides in West Haven, CT at [REDACTED] (We located Joe several years ago.)

OTHER

Bob "Skin head" Swartz had a photo of HOLT enlarged to 16 x 20 and donated it to us. We have had it framed and it looks great. We plan to have it on display at the reunion and will use it as a door prize at a later reunion. Thanks "Skin head".

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE

A veteran's family can receive a posthumous Presidential Memorial Certificate from "a grateful nation in recognition of devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country -----." The engraved certificate, which is signed by the President, honors the military service of the deceased veteran.

To receive a presidential certificate honoring the military service of a deceased veteran, the family should send a letter of request which provides identifying information (social security number, military service number, dates of service (fromto), units or ships served in and date of death) concerning the veteran and his military service to:

Office of Presidential Correspondence
Attn: Code VA - NCS 403
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Records

Anyone requesting a copy of their discharge certificate (DD 214), personnel records or medical/dental records should correspond with the:

National Personnel Records Center
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132
ATTN: NAVY

Requests for records are processed in four to six months. All requests should include full name, rate/rank, military service number, social security number, dates of service and date of birth.

Note: The emblem of the destroyer escort at the top of this newsletter is copied from a photo of the USS HOLT (DE 706) !! Thanks to Leonard Thompson for providing this .

SEE YOU IN MOBILE