

# USS HOLT (DE 706) News Letter

## “HOLT HAPPENINGS”

For and about, the ship, its crew and their families

Vol VIII - No 2

**MAY 1998**

### REUNION COMMITTEE

Bob DeAngelis  
Judy Johnson Mansur - Ladies Activities  
Bill Morgan - Chairman  
Karl Nease  
Ralph Parks  
Paul Pickett - Treasurer

Normally, we would be sending this issue of the Newsletter in July. However, there are several items that may be of interest to you that will only be available for a limited period of time, so we decided to get this issue out a little early.

### **THE MOBILE REUNION**

We had a good turnout for the reunion....61 in total, including 28 shipmates. What makes a reunion successful is the work that everyone does to insure it. As with prior reunions, a WELL DONE goes to Al & Ann Gebauer who helped set up the hospitality room; John McGauley and Jay Decker for being super salesmen in selling the raffle tickets; to Paul & Jerri Pickett for making two trips with us to Mobile over the past two years to arrange the reunion; to Evelyn Parks for putting together the map of the U. S. with each crew members hometown on it; and for all the others who assisted in so many ways. A special THANKS to all those who brought cakes, cookies, candy and other goodies that made the snacking great.

We began arriving in Mobile on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. The first official function was Sunday afternoon when 22 of the group toured the battleship ALABAMA. Then, on Monday, 42 of us went to Pensacola to visit the Naval Air Museum, see the I-Max film on the History of Flight and have lunch at the Mustin Beach Club. This was followed by a tour of Bellingrath Gardens on Tuesday, and despite the rain, we enjoyed the flowers on the unique estate and had lunch cruising on the river boat from Bellingrath.

Between events and until late evening, the hospitality room was an active bee hive -----with snacks, drinks and good fellowship. As the saying goes, “Time flies when you are having fun” and it was evident there was much fun in Mobile!

As we mentioned above there are several items that will be offered for a limited time, so if you wish to order any of these, please do so right away.

## **HOLT T-SHIRTS**

These are good quality, white cotton T- shirts (with collar). There is an outline of the HOLT with the name on the left breast and your first name and rank/rate on the right side. See the enclosed order blank for details. Our thanks to Walter Johnson's daughter, Judy Mansur for making this possible.

## **Group photograph**

The 8 x 12 color photo of those attending the reunion is available for a short time at the all-inclusive price of \$12.50. See the enclosed order form for Palmer Studio, Inc for ordering details.

## **HOLT WATCH**

HOLT watches (mens & ladies models) are available . Those of you who saw the watch at the reunion will appreciate the quality. A description of the watch and an order form are enclosed for your convenience.

## **HOLT PLAQUE**

As a raffle prize, the 10 x 16 Ship's Data Plaque drew considerable interest. It has the ships name, hull number, date the keel was laid, date of launching, date of commissioning and the name of the ship builder engraved in brass and mounted on a walnut board. This would make an attractive addition to your den or office wall. Normally, these plaques are \$56.00 delivered, however, if we can get as few as five orders, we can get them delivered for \$47.00. If you have an interest, contact Bill Morgan at [REDACTED]

## **CERTIFICATES**

There are several ceremonial certificates available, each is 11 x 14 and very well designed. They are hand lettered with your name and the ship's name. Cost is \$8.00 each. Certificates available are: Plank Owner for anyone who was aboard HOLT when she was commissioned; Decommissioning - for anyone who was aboard HOLT when she went out of commission; Panama Canal Transit - for anyone who was aboard when the ship transited the canal; Neptune - For those who became shellbacks when we crossed the equator and Specific Actions - This certificate is personalized, eg, Leyte Gulf, Lingayen Gulf, etc....whichever specific action you desire. Contact Bill Morgan for ordering.

Note: On all of the foregoing, the prices quoted are the prices the vendors charge and in some instances require a minimum such as the ships plaque. These items would make good "memory" items for your children, grandchildren, etc.

## OTHER NEWS

Glenn and Margaret Smith-Light (she is the daughter of LT. Hugh Smith, Holt's Engineering Officer) have moved. Their new address is:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Don Fredette was overwhelmed with the response from his shipmates when his wife, Gloria, passed away. He asked that we let you know of his heartfelt thanks for your cards, letters, and prayers during that stressful time.

Leonard Thompson has asked that you scrounge around and find an old photo of yourself in uniform back in the WW II years and send it to him. He will scan these into his computer and make a badge for the next reunion showing how you looked as a young sailor. Spouses - do the same. Get a photo of yourself in those days. These should make good conversation pieces at the next reunion! Leonard's address is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Al & Ann Gebauer participated in the functions surrounding the commissioning of the USS MAHAN (DDG 72), the latest class of destroyer in the fleet. The MAHAN was commissioned in mid-February in Tampa, FL. This class of destroyer is as large as WW II cruisers! The crew of 350 is slightly more than a WW II destroyer but considerably less than a cruiser. Al says everything about that ship is different, from the type of armament to the engineering plant! Weighing in at 8900 tons, the Mahan is 505 feet long with a beam of 66 feet. One significant difference is that the MAHAN has 50 females in the crew. That's a big change from our days at sea!

## THE NEXT REUNION

After considerable discussion, those present at the Mobile reunion voted to have the next reunion in **APRIL 2000**. If possible, we will have it aboard a cruise ship on a 3 or 4 day cruise. We will have more info on that in a later newsletter. In the event the cruise is not feasible, the vote was to hold the reunion in the Norfolk, VA area. Watch for further information as the details are available.

**HAVE A GOOD SUMMER. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR SHIPMATES.**