

HOLT HAPPENINGS

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE CREW AND THEIR FAMILIES



USS HOLT DE-706

May 2008 Vol. XVIII; No. 2

DEADLINES ARE FAST APPROACHING FOR THE 2008 REUNION:

PLEASE, DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WITH YOUR SHIPMATES: BOSTON, MA - JULY 31ST - AUGUST 4TH

We only have 17 persons registered for the 2008 Reunion and tour as of today.

Hotel Reservation Deadline is June 20th: Rooms reserved after this date are based on availability and standard hotel rates.

Tour Registration Deadline is June 20th: If we do not have at least 30 persons registered for the tour by this date, the tour will have to be canceled per the tour company's rules.

USS Holt Association Reunion Registration Fee: In order to cover the cost of the food and beverages for the hospitality room and the cost of the bingo prizes, The Holt Association must collect a \$25 reunion registration fee, as it has for every reunion. This fee is not to be confused with the \$10 Registration Fee which is being charged by the Military Reunion Planners. This \$25 fee must be sent with the enclosed form to Paul Pickett at the address below:

**Paul E. Pickett, Treasurer
USS HOLT (DE 706) Association
4805 Greenview Lane
Hixson, TN 37343**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REUNION, PLEASE
CALL PAUL PICKETT AT 423-877-7727.**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE IN BOSTON!!!

IN MEMORIUM:

Bernis Austin Purkey: The following note was received by Jeff Cope:

“My father, Bernis Austin Purkey, died 25 November, 2007 in Shamrock, TX. Thank you for sending him updates on "Holt Happenings". He enjoyed reading the information and spoke often of adventures he had on the USS Holt. I am interested in the book that you have written and would like to be contacted when it is published. I would like to purchase one. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kay Martindale - Daughter; [REDACTED]"

Vincent M. Cocca: The following note was also received by Jeff Cope:

“Hi Jeff,
Thanks for your work on the USS Holt website.

My grandfather, Vincent M. Cocca, served on the Holt in World War II. He proudly hung a photo of the Holt along with a map of its routes in his den for many, many years. Pop was also part of the infamous monkey soup incident you may have heard about. The story goes that while in port, some of his buddies bought a monkey and snuck it aboard the ship. They hid the monkey in the kitchen where Pop was making soup and as the ship rocked, the monkey fell in. Not able to reach into the scalding vat of soup to get the monkey out, they let the monkey stay there and Pop strained the soup with his t-shirt before serving it to the officers!

There are many other stories Pop shared with delight over the years. He suffered from a stroke in 1989, but he always enjoyed receiving notes from his crewmates. Pop passed away on March 19, and I wanted to thank you for helping keep his and the crew's memories alive for them and their families.

yours,
Christopher M. Cocca, Allentown, Pa”

NOTES FROM THE USS HOLT WEBSITE AND JEFF COPE:

From: David Latimer [mailto: [REDACTED]]

Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2008 9:36 AM

To: 'Jeff Cope'

Subject: RE: ussholt.com - website question

Hi Jeff,

Thank you for taking time out of your day to reply!

As you may have noticed, I am with the **Mesothelioma & Asbestos Awareness Center**. We aim to provide the most current and accurate information regarding asbestos exposure and its link to mesothelioma cancer. As you know, many Navy veterans were unknowingly exposed to asbestos while working in shipyards, and while onboard ships and submarines. I chose to contact you today because the USS Holt is one of those vessels. When built, asbestos was used as an insulator for many parts of the engine room and boiler room.

That said, in an effort to spread awareness about this terrible disease, I am trying to reach all those who understand this devastating disease and the importance to get good information out there. I would invite you to visit our site (www.maacenter.org), especially our Navy section www.maacenter.org/veterans. I am confident you will find that we have compiled a large resource for those who may be suffering from the disease or have family members who are. I would like to share this resource with your browsers, and would ask you to point a link to some portion of our navy section that you feel would be the most pertinent to your browsers.

I look forward to your reply and feedback. Thank you for all the work you do.

Kind Regards,

Dave"

USS HOLT BOOK

As many of you know, Jeff Cope has been working for several years on a book about the USS Holt and her crew. We have recently been notified by Jeff that the **BOOK IS NOW COMPLETE**. This is the latest news from Jeff about the book:

"The book won't be available at Amazon or other online retailers for probably a couple months. The publisher will have it available before then but then it's up to the retailers to determine when it gets on their website. The good news is that as soon as it is available, it can be ordered directly from the publisher's website:

<http://www.authorhouse.com/BookStore/ItemDetail~bookid~50215.aspx>

Or ordered from their book sales department (888) 280-7715. "

We are very excited about the book and appreciate all of the many hours of research, interviews, and hard work that Jeff has put into the book. Shipmates are very fortunate to have not only the book to look forward to, but also, the excellent website that Jeff created and maintains for the USS Holt. As a reminder, the web address is: <http://www.ussholt.com>. Jeff's email address is: [REDACTED].

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE IN BOSTON!!!

Is there someone from your military days you'd like to see?
they may be at the ...

USS HOLT 2008 REUNION

Boston, MA ~ July 31st – August 3rd, 2008

Welcome to Boston

Boston is the birthplace of freedom and a city of firsts. History is evident around every corner; from the Puritans, the revolutionaries, immigrants, and presidents. Boston is one of the most colorful cities in America. The 2008 USS Holt reunion tour program will provide the opportunity to see some of Boston's top attractions. The reunion tour includes the *Charlestown Navy Yard* where "Old Ironsides" - *USS Constitution* is berthed as well as the home of the *USS Constitution Museum*. Your tour includes a stop at the *Faneuil Hall Marketplace* and the historic *Freedom Trail*. There will be many opportunities to spend time with your friends and family. This is going to be a great reunion in a great city. Don't miss it!

Hotel Information

The reunion officially begins on Thursday, July 31st through Sunday, August 3rd. You will be staying at the full service *Sheraton Braintree Hotel* which is located at 37 Forbes Road, Braintree, MA 02184. The hotel is located close to many of the area's most popular attractions.

Reservation Information

The room rate is just **\$109.00** plus tax per night. For those of you who choose to arrive early or stay late, the same room rate is available 2 days before and 2 days after the official reunion dates, based on availability. Please make your hotel reservations NOW by calling the hotel directly at the following number 781-848-0600 between 9am-4pm EST and ask for in-house reservations. **Be sure to ask for the USS Holt Reunion rate** to assure you are associated with your group. You may request specific room types when you call to make your reservations (handicap accessible room, etc.). The hotel check-in time is 3:00pm. Please, do not expect to get into your room before then. Make your reservations NOW, you may cancel your hotel room up to 72 hours prior to arrival and not be charged. They will ask you for a deposit or credit card number to guarantee your room reservation. The hotel is holding rooms until they sell out or **June 20, 2008**, whichever comes first.

Airport Transportation & Parking

If you are flying to the reunion, Boston Logan airport (BOS) is the closest. There are several shuttle companies who offer transportation service to the hotel, please inquire when you make your room reservation. *Logan Express* offers bus service from the airport to Braintree, the fee is \$12 each way. The hotel shuttle bus provides complimentary shuttle service from the Logan Express Braintree station. For further information contact *Logan Express* at 800-235-6426. For those of you driving, the hotel offers plenty of free parking. The hotel is conveniently located at exit 6 off of Interstate 93.

Travel safely and

See you in Boston!

USS HOLT 2008 REUNION EVENTS

WELCOME DINNER

Thursday, July 31st (6:00pm at the Hotel)

Join your friends for a casual dinner at the hotel. This is a great chance to see who is here this year in a relaxed atmosphere. This is going to be a great evening, in a wonderful setting. Don't miss this first opportunity to reconnect with your friends and shipmates!

EVENT A: BOSTON'S FAMOUS DUCK TOUR, FANEUIL HALL & THE USS CONSTITUTION

Friday, August 1st (9:00am-4:00pm)

Your day begins with a unique and informative tour of Boston. The tour begins as soon as you board your 'DUCK', an authentic renovated World War II amphibious landing vehicle. Your narrated tour includes many of the places that make Boston the birthplace of freedom and a city of firsts. Some of the sights include the golden-domed *State House*, *Bunker Hill*, *Boston Common*, *Copley Square*, *Newbury St*, *Quincy Market*, and *Fenway Park*. Following the tour, there will be time for lunch and browsing on your own at *Faneuil Hall*; one of America's most famous shopping and dining experiences. The afternoon will be spent visiting the most treasured of all Boston landmarks; the *USS Constitution* and the adjoining Naval Museum. The *USS Constitution* is the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the entire world. Still part of the U.S. Navy ship roster, she is tangible evidence of America's proud naval heritage as well as a modern day representative of America's patriotism and pride.

FREE DAYS

Saturday August 2nd and Sunday, August 3rd

There is so much to see and do in Boston we are leaving Saturday and Sunday free for you to explore what interests you the most. Be sure to pick up a copy of your visitor's guide at registration.

BANQUET DINNER

Sunday, August 3rd (7:00pm at the Hotel)

Join all of your friends for your Banquet Dinner at the Hotel. Dinner will be served at 7:00pm. Group and individual photos will be taken prior to the Banquet Dinner. Please make your entrée selection on the reservation form.

TOUR CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by sickness, injury or any other causes that impact your travel plans. This insurance enables a refund of Tour & Banquet expenses up until three (3) days before the start of your reunion. If you need to cancel – please call our office immediately (817-251-3551) for a cancellation number. If you have not purchased cancellation insurance all tour and meal money is non-refundable 6 weeks prior to the reunion.

Important Event Notes:

- ~ Tours may be cancelled if a minimum of 30 people per bus is not met. In this case, full refunds will be given.
- ~ Please understand that a certain amount of walking is necessary from the bus to attractions and in some instances to also see the attractions. Please consider your abilities before purchasing tours.
- ~ Be sure to bring photo identification (like a driver's license) on all events.
- ~ All tour times are subject to change. A final itinerary is available at registration.

USS HOLT RESERVATION FORM

Complete and mail this entire form with a check payable to:
Military Reunion Planners, P.O. Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034

REGISTRATION FEE -- Everyone Please Pay:
{Fee is non-refundable}

_____ people at \$10 p.p. =

Group Welcome Dinner:

Thursday, July 31st (6:00pm at the Hotel)

_____ people at \$22 p.p. =

EVENT A: Boston's Famous Duck Tour, Faneuil Hall & The USS Constitution:

Friday, August 1st (9:00am-4:00pm)

_____ people at \$67 p.p. =

Banquet Dinner:

Sunday, August 3rd (7:00pm at the Hotel)

SELECT: Beef

OR: Chicken

_____ people at \$36 p.p. =

_____ people at \$36 p.p. =

Tour Cancellation Insurance: (Protect your money)

_____ people at \$8 p.p. =

Late Reservation Fee: (If received after June 20th, 2008)

_____ people at \$10 p.p. =

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$

>>> PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

Name (as it will appear on badge): _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone:(Home) _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Emergency contact during the reunion: _____ Ph: _____

Years Served 19 _____ to 19 _____

Reservations are due by June 20th, 2008. Late reservations accepted on a space available basis with a \$10 per person, late fee. You should make a copy of this form for your records. For information call weekdays: 817-251-3551 or Email: info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com Requests for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked before due date above. No refunds will be made after this date, unless you have purchased *Tour Cancellation Insurance*. There is a \$5 per person refund processing fee. Your cancelled check is your receipt and proof of purchase. There is a \$25 return check fee for NSF. For a written confirmation, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. MRP will not be held liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services, or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the reunion. Sorry, no refunds will be given starting 3 days before the reunion for any reason. Tours require a minimum of 30 people in order to operate.

Date Rec'd:	Check #	Amount\$	XCL #
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**REGISTRATION FEE FORM
USS HOLT DE-706 REUNION
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
JULY 31 - AUGUST 4, 2008**

The USS Holt Association 2008 Reunion registration fee is \$25.00 per person. This covers all miscellaneous expenses associated with the reunion, including the Hospitality room, food, beverages, and bingo prizes.

Number of Persons _____ @ \$25.00/Person = \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please make check payable to: **Paul Pickett, Treasurer**

Please send your check and this form to:

**Paul Pickett, Treasurer
4805 Greenview Lane
Hixson, TN 37343**