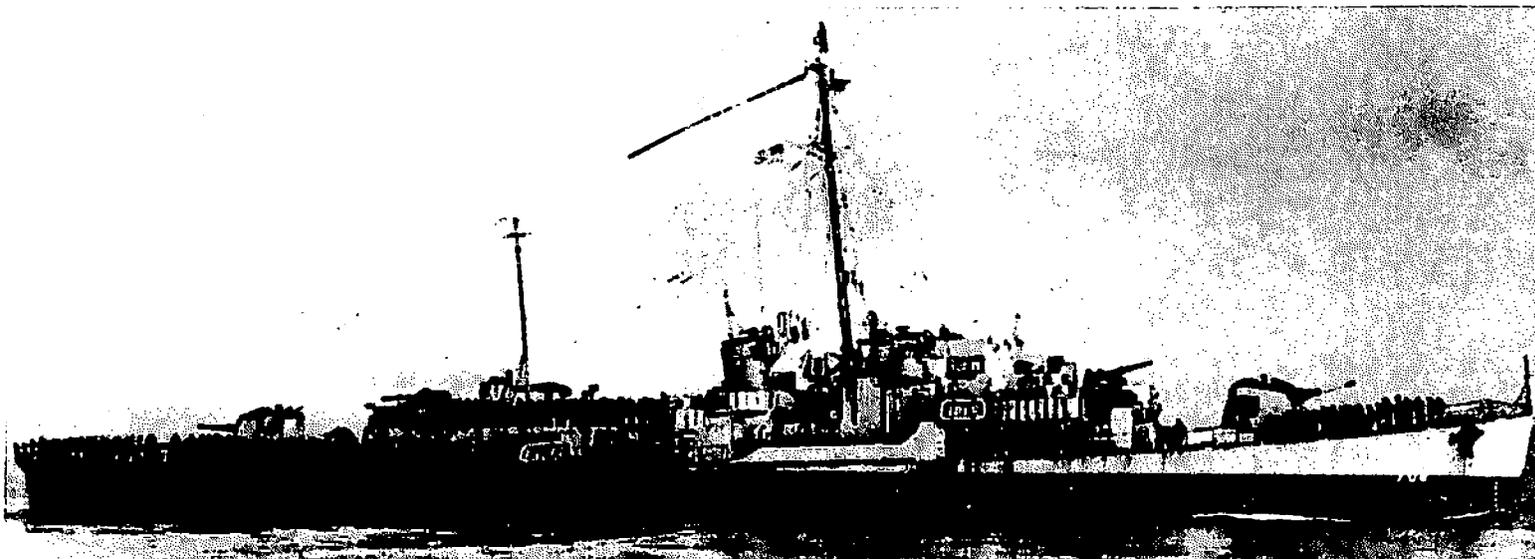


# HOLT HAPPENINGS

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE CREW AND THEIR FAMILIES



USS HOLT DE-706

NOVEMBER 2008 VOL. XVIII; NO. 3

## 2008 REUNION SUMMARY (By Jeff Cope)

**Sheraton Hotel, Braintree, Massachusetts**

**July 31 - August 4, 2008**

The 2008 reunion was held in Braintree, MA near Boston from July 31st through August 4th. A total of 36 people attended including 10 crew members.

On Thursday at the welcome dinner, everyone enjoyed meeting each other again and meeting new people who attended. As usual the hospitality suite was a hopping place and Bingo couldn't wait to be played. Raffle tickets were sold for a Lone Sailor statue. Lois Morgan's daughter-in-law, Jill, quilted a beautiful wall hanging to be sold at a silent auction. She also made two other wall hangings.

Friday was tour day starting with Boston's famous Duck Tour. During the tour, the group stopped at Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market (pronounced Maaaaket in a Bostonian accent) for lunch. After lunch it was time to visit the USS Constitution. Moored next to the USS Constitution was the destroyer USS Cassin Young which some people enjoyed visiting while others visited the USS Constitution Museum. After a long day it was back to the hotel where people recuperated while waiting for more Bingo prizes.

Saturday and Sunday during the day was free to do whatever people chose to do.

Saturday night started with a meeting to discuss the future of the HOLT reunions. Everybody was

in favor of continuing the reunions. There was no doubt that one person could not replace Bill Morgan, so if reunions would be held, volunteers would be needed to hold them along with other people helping out with various aspects of the reunion.

It was suggested since the reunion numbers were getting smaller, the reunions should be held once a year instead, and they be held in the location where the person volunteering to organize the reunion lived. This would make it much easier to organize the reunion. Debbie and Jerry Hightower volunteered to hold the 2009 reunion in Chattanooga, TN and they had brochures of the area to show people they have already started looking into what is there. The group agreed it would be a nice central location where hopefully more crew members would be able to attend.

Jerry Hightower volunteered to be the newsletter coordinator but he needs everybody to provide him with articles and stories for the newsletter. If you hear of an illness, death, or anything related to the HOLT group, please let Jerry know so it can be included in a future newsletter. Jerry can be reached by emailing him at [jerry@ussholt.com](mailto:jerry@ussholt.com).

After the meeting, Jeff Cope got all the crew members in a roundtable discussion of topics he briefly heard but never had a full story to include in the USS HOLT book. Jerry Hightower videotaped the discussion. The crew members and onlookers seemed to enjoy the discussion.

People went to dinner and Bingo again was held with many more prizes given out.

The banquet dinner was held Sunday night. It was suggested at the previous night's meeting the banquet dinners dress code should be business casual, so attendees can leave their suits and long dresses at home for future reunions. Before the dinner, Jerry Hightower took professional-quality photos of all families that attended. After a delicious dinner, some awards were handed out. The main organizers of the 2008 reunion, Debbie Hightower and Sandy Johnson-Oliver, were given "Thank you" gifts. Jeff Cope was given a Lone Sailor statue as a "Thank you" for writing the book about the USS HOLT. He jokingly asked what would happen if he won the soon-to-be raffled Lone Sailor statue. The raffle for the Lone Sailor statue was then held and wouldn't you know it, Jeff Cope had the winning ticket. There was one more quilted wall hanging remaining to be raffled and Jeff was given the choice of either, but chose to let others in the group win something.

The night ended and another successful reunion was completed. See everybody next year in Chattanooga!

## **2009 REUNION: CHATTANOOGA, TN - AUGUST 6 - 9<sup>TH</sup>**

Planning is continuing for the **2009 Reunion of the USS Holt Shipmates Association**. The following information is provided to assist in scheduling and encourage as many as possible to attend:

**1. Reservation Dates for Hotel Rooms:** Thursday, August 6th thru Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>,  
Departing on Monday, August 10th.

**2. Hotel:** Chattanooga Choo-Choo (Holiday Inn); Phone No.: 1-800-872-2529; web address: <http://www.choochoo.com/> Base room rate, not including taxes: \$92. Reunion attendees are again responsible for making their own room reservations. A block of 30 rooms is being held in Hotel Building No. 1 until July 19, 2009. The Reunion Hospitality Room will be located in this building. Building No. 1 also has an indoor pool. For those who would like to arrive early or depart after the 10<sup>th</sup>, the same room rate will apply two days before and after the schedule dates,

based on the availability of rooms. Since rooms may be canceled as late as 6:00 p.m. the day before arrival, we are encouraging persons to go ahead and make a reservation. If you do not reserve your room before July 21, 2009, you will have to pay the standard room rate, if rooms are available.

**3. Airport Transportation:** Free airport shuttle to and from the hotel from the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport. Reunion attendees are again responsible for making their own travel arrangements and reservations. The shuttle can be reserved ahead of time by calling the Choo-Choo Hotel, or by using the courtesy phone in the Chattanooga Airport Baggage Claim area to call the Choo-Choo Hotel. They will pick you up in approximately 15 minutes.

**4. Reunion Events:**

**Thursday, August 6th: Evening:** Welcome Dinner: "Fun and casual; details to be announced later" at the Choo-Choo Hotel

**Friday, August 7th:**

**A) Morning - Tour: Tennessee River Gorge Explorer:** 70 passenger high-speed catamaran is the first of its kind in the Southeast. Aquarium visitors can extend their "mountains to the sea" adventure by cruising into the Tennessee River Gorge aboard this sleek vessel. An Aquarium naturalist will lead you into this protected habitat, pointing out wildlife and historic points of interest along the way.

**B) Lunch** - near the TN Aquarium

**C) Afternoon: Tennessee Aquarium:** web address: <http://www.tnaqua.org/index.asp>  
The TN Aquarium is a "world class" fresh and salt water aquarium, designed by Boston Architect, Peter Chermayeff. The TN Aquarium features the twelve story, 130,000 square feet "River Journey" with fresh water and salt water exhibits from all over the world, and the ten story, 60,000 square feet "Ocean Journey" with exhibits including: Penguins, salt water fish, and an excellent butterfly exhibit.

**D) Evening:** Dinner on your own; followed by Bingo in the hospitality room.

**Saturday, August 8th:**

**A) Morning - Tour: Details still in planning; likely to include Tour of Lookout Mountain Scenic Attractions: Rock City, Point Park(National Military Park), and Incline Railway("World's Steepest Railway")**

**B) Lunch** - location to be determined

**C) Afternoon** - Visiting with friends in the hospitality room or sightseeing on your own

**D) Evening** - Banquet at the Choo-Choo Hotel, casual attire.

**Sunday, August 9th:**

**A) Morning/Afternoon** - Visiting/Bingo with friends in the hospitality room or sightseeing on your own. We may eat lunch as a group at the hotel or another location.

**5. Other Reunion Activities:**

- Socializing, catching up on family activities, and more sharing of USS Holt stories by her shipmates!

- Very exciting Bingo games on Friday and Sunday (and maybe on Saturday), with many prizes to be given away!

**We look forward to seeing everyone in Chattanooga!**

**If you have any questions about the reunion, please call Paul Pickett at 423-877-7727.**

**In order to continue with the planning of the reunion, it is important to get your feedback. Please respond by December 15, 2008 on the form below whether you would possibly attend or not.**

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**USS HOLT (DE 706) SHIPMATES ASSOCIATION  
2009 REUNION SURVEY**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ **YES**, I would likely attend the 2009 USS Holt Reunion in Chattanooga, TN

Probable number of persons attending, including yourself: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ **MAYBE**. I would like to attend the 2009 USS Holt Reunion in Chattanooga, TN; however, I am uncertain if I will be able to attend or not.

\_\_\_\_ **NO**, I would likely not attend the 2008 USS Holt Reunion

**PLEASE RETURN TO:**

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

# USS HOLT (DE 706) SHIPMATES ASSOCIATION

## DUES REQUEST

(For the period of 1 January 2009 thru 31 December 2009)

This request is for a voluntary contribution of \$20.00 ( or whatever amount you desire to contribute). This request is being sent to the shipmates of the HOLT and to friends and families of HOLT shipmates. As you know, we send the periodic newsletter to everyone, shipmates, widows of shipmates, children and in some instances, grandchildren, of deceased shipmates.

Your contribution will be used to partially offset the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter and other correspondence throughout the year.

Please remit your contribution to our treasurer, Paul Pickett with the form below. **Note: In order to save the monthly fees of a business bank account, the Holt Association bank account is set-up in the name of the treasurer. Therefore, please make checks payable to Paul E. Pickett.**

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USS HOLT (DE 706) ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL DUES CONTRIBUTION (\$20.00)

(For the period of 1 January 2009 thru 31 December 2009)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE REMIT TO:

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

**Note: Please make checks payable to Paul E. Pickett.**