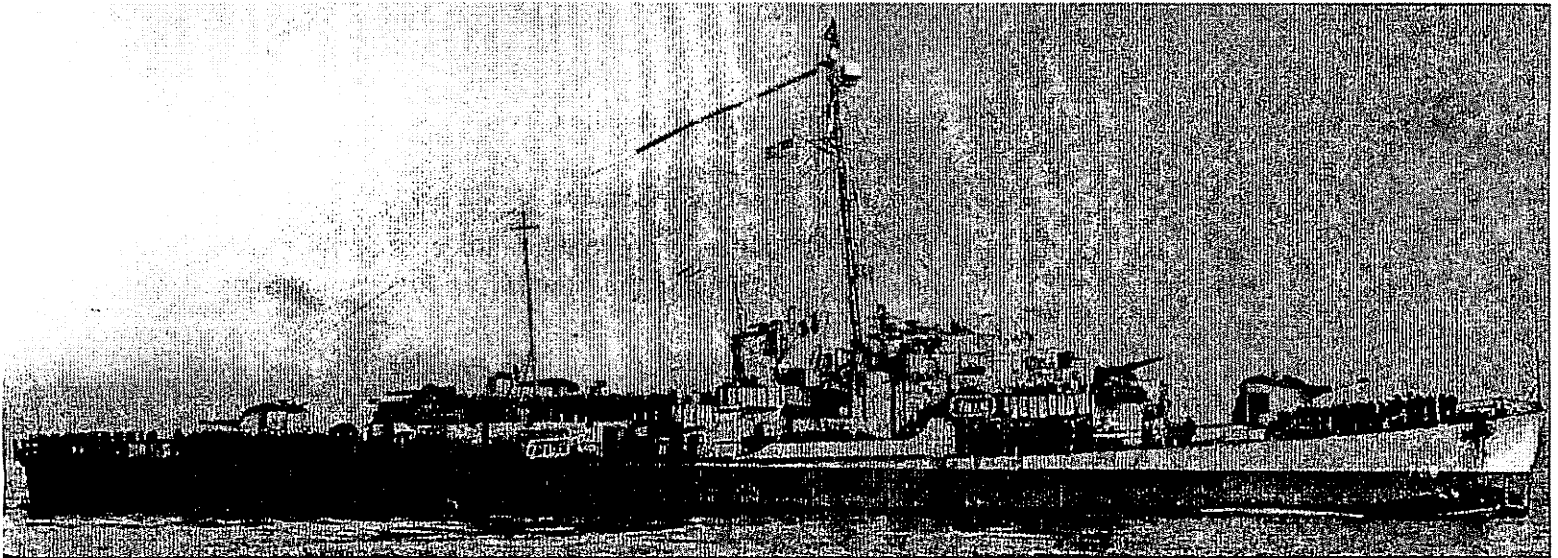


HOLT HAPPENINGS

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE CREW AND THEIR FAMILIES



USS HOLT DE-706

JANUARY 31, 2010 - VOL. XX, NO. 1

IN MEMORIAM:

Errico, Joseph E.:

Joseph E. Errico, Jr., age 82 of West Haven, CT passed away peacefully in his sleep Friday, June 12, 2009, in his home. Mr. Errico, the son of the late Joseph E. Errico, Sr. and Martha Potter Errico, was born in New Haven, on December 30, 1926. Besides his loving wife, Josephine E. (Corradino) Errico, he leaves four children: Martha Errico Carey and her husband, Robert, of West Haven, JoAnne Errico Davies, and her husband, Richard, of Woodbury, Diana Errico of Ocononowac, WI and Joseph E. Errico III, and his wife, Donna, of West Haven; four grandsons: Jason S. Carey, Richard W. Davies, Jr., Joseph E. Errico IV and John F. Errico; sisters Dorothy Marchitto, Teresa Masserelli and Marie Conlan; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sisters Edna Patricelli, Evelyn Cassesse, Gloria Dudek and Norma Pepe and his brothers Vincent and Louis. Mr. Errico served in the U.S. Navy for sixteen years, having served in the Pacific in World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Cuban Missile Crisis. He also retired as a letter carrier in West Haven for the U.S. Postal Service after 26 years.

The funeral procession will leave the West Haven Funeral Home at the green Monday morning at 10:30. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in Our Lady of Victory Church at 11:00. Interment with military honors will follow in All Saints Cemetery. The hours for visitation will take place Sunday from 4 to 8 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the V.A. Medical Center, Attention: Volunteer Services, 950 Campbell Ave. West Haven, CT 06516. The family wishes to thank the staff of the V.A. Medical Center, especially Dr. Chris

Ruser, for the special attention and valiant efforts in caring for Joe. Joseph E. Errico, Jr. will be deeply missed.

Mr. Errico's Naval Service included:

USS Holt (DE 706) - WWII 1944-1946

USS Randolph (CV 15) - 1953-1954 Mediterranean

USS Midway (CV 41) - 1954-1956 World Cruise

USS Saratoga (CV 60) - 1957

USS Coates (DE 685) - 1961-1962, Reserve Duty, Cuban Missile Crisis

A note received from one of the daughters of Joseph E. Errico:

"On behalf of my Mother and family, a heartfelt thank you for your condolences on the passing of my Dad, Joseph E. Errico, Jr. His death notice was published in the *New Haven Register* on Sunday, June 14, 2009 (which was on Flag Day -- how appropriate).

Daddy loved serving his country and proudly displayed his medals and photos in his home for his family to enjoy. **I will never forget how when my son was in the First Grade (1995) and his project was to do a presentation on his hero -- almost all of his fellow classmates picked sports or national figures. My son Richard picked his Grandfather. My Dad was so touched and honored. Richard interviewed my Dad and displayed all of his medals on poster boards. It was such a wonderful Granfather/Grandson connection. Daddy proudly talking about his experiences and showing photos and medals, and Richard listening attentively with awe. I am always so proud of my Dad and especially how his life so positively influenced the lives of his family. We all miss him so very much.**



On behalf of my entire family, please extend our condolences to the families of other shipmates that have passed during the past year.

With heartfelt sympathy,"

JoAnne Errico Davies

Hoover, Robert (Bob) Capps, PhD. :

Passed away at the St. Catharines General Hospital on Friday, January 22, 2010 at the age of 89. Beloved husband of Ellen Claire (Hoffman) for 67 years. Dear father of twin daughters Faith Ellen (Robert Scott) and Hope Roberta (Richard Coker). Loving grandfather of Kevin and Erick Coker and Katherine Scott. Loving brother of Janet Smithwick, Portland, Oregon, his brother in law, Ernest Hoffman and his wife Janice of Bloomington, Illinois. As a member of St. Paul St. (Silver Spire) United Church since 1971, serving as visiting elder; on Outreach Committee of Church Council; former member of Niagara Presbytery Missions Committee; Caribbean Workers Outreach Project (CWOP), co- author of Report on Casino Gambling; former member of Hamilton Conference Prophetic Witness Committee; General Council Environmental Committee. Professor Emeritus of Environmental Policy and Director of Urban and Environmental Studies (Brock University); Past President Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society (PALS); Past Board Member of Canadian Council of Churches; Niagara Peninsula Homes; Special Planning Council of St. Catharines and Thorold; Member: Royal Niagara Military Institute, Torch Club, St. Andrews Society, Probus Club,

Candidate NDP Brock Provincial Riding 1977, American Institute of Certified Planners (Life) and USS Holt Association (Lt. Commander DE-706 WWII). A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, February 13, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at Silver Spire United Church, 366 St. Paul St., St. Catharines. Those who wish make make a Memorial Donation to Brock University, designated for the Robert C. Hoover Bursary Fund or to The Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society (PALS).

Pickett, Paul E.:

Paul Edward Pickett Sr., 83, left this life surrounded by his loving family and went home to be with his Savior Jesus Christ on Tuesday, July 28, 2009.

He was a charter member of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church where he held several offices within the church; President, Elder, Trustee, Education and Stewardship positions. He worked for American Electric /Olin for 31 years. Then retired from TVA.

Mr. Pickett was a Navy veteran of World War II, Rank EM 2/c and was the treasurer for the U.S.S. Holt Destroyer Escort 706 Association.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Jerri Pickett; parents, Allen Pickett and Anna Schwieger Pickett.

Survivors include his daughter, Deborah Pickett Hightower and her husband, Jerry; son, Paul Edward Pickett Jr. and his wife, Dixie; grandson, LCpl Michael Austin Pickett; granddaughter, Courtney Rule Pickett; great-grandson, Harlen Mikhail Pickett.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, July 31, at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church on Hixson Pike with the Rev. Harry Smith officiating.

The family will receive friends for visitation from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today, July 30, at the North Chapel of Chattanooga Funeral Home.

Interment will be in Chattanooga National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church Organ Fund or Hospice of Chattanooga.

Please share your thoughts and memories at www.mem.com.

Arrangements are made by Chattanooga Funeral Home, Crematory & Florist, 5401 Highway 153, Hixson, TN 37343.

A few notes about Paul Pickett from Shipmate Families:

“Paul's passing is a great loss to all of us in the Holt family. To me, he was always a warm, gentle and open-hearted man, and he and the whole Pickett family always went out of their way to make me feel very welcome.

Here's to a great reunion for all... made more meaningful by our memories of Paul. And all those other shipmates we have recently lost.“ *Lile Anderson*

“Clem & I were so saddened to learn of Paul's passing. Our prayers go out to you and Deb and the rest of the family. Our plans are to be there for the reunion.” *Kathryn Thrift*

Ramsey, Amos O. "Oak":

Amos O. "Oak" Ramsey, 86, of Chillicothe, passed from this life Sunday evening, Nov. 15, 2009 at his residence following an extended illness. He was born Feb. 19, 1923 in Chillicothe, the son of the late Amos Andrew and Mary Jane (Jenkins) Ramsey. On May 11, 1947 he married Myrtle L. McCutchen who preceded him in death July 28, 2009.

Surviving is a daughter, Myrtle "Marlene" Ramsey, daughters and sons-in-law, Brenda and Les Wolfe, Deana and Fred Woodruff and Diana and Marion Moss, a son and daughter-in-law, Keith and Yvonne Ramsey and a son, Gregory D. Ramsey and his partner, Brad Smith, all of Chillicothe, 8 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, a sister and brother-in-law, Beatrice and Rev. Neil Park, Waverly and a brother and sister-in-law, Everett and Ann Ramsey, Chillicothe and a host of nieces and nephews including Roger (Donna) Ford, GA. His parents and a brother, John Ramsey preceded him in death.

Mr. Ramsey was an employee of Mead paper, retiring in 1985. **He was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving in WWII and was a Life member and Past Commander of American Legion Post 757, a member of VFW Post 108, AMVETS 4 and the 40 et 8.**

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 am Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009 in the Fawcett Oliver Glass and Palmer Funeral Home with Rev. Aaron Satterfield officiating. Burial will follow in Floral Hills Memory Gardens with military honors by the Ross County Veterans Honor Guard. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 5:00 to 8:00 PM on Friday. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Legion Post 757 Gifts for Yanks, 289 Cooks Hill Rd., Chillicothe, OH 45601

A note from Amos "Oak" Ramsey's granddaughter:

"It's with a heavy heart that I bring some sad news to you. The USS Holt family has lost another member. My grandfather, Amos Oakley Ramsey, passed away yesterday evening. Also, His wife, Myrtle, just passed away July 28th.

He was so proud of his service to his country and loved all who served with him.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
or his daughter, Brenda Wolfe, [REDACTED]
Jaymie Shirkey

Swartz, Robert L. "Bob":

Madison, Wisconsin: Robert L. "Bob" Swartz passed away on October 8, 2009 at Oakwood East Rehab. Center. He was born on May 13, 1924 in Brodhead, Wis, the son of Stanley and Ernestine (Ward) Swartz. They moved to Madison when Bob was four years old. He went to West High School and the UW-Madison. He graduated in 1950 as a chemical engineer. He then worked at Oscar Mayer for 33 years, retiring in 1983. During World War II, Bob served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Holt which was a destroyer escort. They survived two Japanese airplane attacks in the South Pacific. After the war, Bob enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Bob married Dorothy in 1965, and she survives him. He is also survived by nephews and nieces, Bob (Susan) Ashton, Bill (Ardis) Ashton, and Wally Anderson, eight great-nieces and nephews, their

families and many friends. He was preceded in death by his sister, Dorlyn Ashton, and her husband, Clay, and a niece, Nancy.

Memorial services will be held October 17, 2009, at 1:00 PM. At the TREE OF LIFE CHAPEL. Oakwood East, 5565 Tancho Drive, Madison. Inurnment will be held in Roselawn Memorial Park. Memorials may be sent in his name to The Oakwood Foundation, 6201 Mineral Point Road., Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

RECENT NEWS ABOUT SHIPMATES AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Phillip Corriher: We received a note from Wilma Corriher that her husband, Phillip, has been ill and is now located at the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Room 105 , 1601 Benner Avenue, Salisbury, NC 28144. Wilma asked for prayers and visitors for Phillip.

Al Gebauer: Is now in a Hospice facility near his home. Cards can be mailed to him at his home address: Al Gebauer, 5043 Northshore Drive, Polk City, FL 33868. Al's wife, Anne, is recovering from a broken leg.

Lois Morgan: Has fully recovered from a serious fall and injury that happened last November and required five days of hospitalization.

2009 REUNION SUMMARY, By Jeff Cope:

The 2009 HOLT Reunion was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Hotel from August 6th to 9th. A total of 53 people attended including 8 crew members.

Paul Pickett and his daughter, Debbie Pickett Hightower, arranged the entire reunion; however, Paul passed away one week before the reunion took place. Debbie and Jerry Hightower hosted the reunion, in Paul's absence, with help from friends and did a fantastic job with tours and ensuring everybody was entertained. Thursday night after people arrived at the hotel, a Luau held Southern Style barbecue was enjoyed by everybody with Luau decorations and attendees dressed in their favorite Hawaiian attire.

On Friday the crew members and families rode electric shuttle busses to the *Tennessee River Gorge Explorer* to enjoy a very scenic ride down the Tennessee River on a unique high speed catamaran. After the boat ride, lunch at the Big River Grille, and the impressive Tennessee Aquarium were enjoyed by all. Dinner at night was on your own and some enjoyed dining aboard the famous Chattanooga Choo-Choo railroad car.

Saturday brought more tours of the area including "the world's steepest passenger railway", the Incline Railway, to the top of Lookout Mountain. The bus then brought us to famed Rock City Gardens. You may remember many barns with the roofs advertising to "*See Rock City*" and we finally got to see in person the beautiful Rock City with its natural rock formations, trails, gardens and fantastic views.

Saturday night was the banquet for the reunion. People were greeted by World War II era music by the "Sweet Georgia Sounds" Band and enjoyed the music during the excellent dinner. After dinner, retired Rear Admiral Vance Fry gave an inspiring and entertaining speech. Following the banquet, a friend of Debbie and Jerry's, Keith Arimura, photographed all reunion attendees. A portion of Keith's and Jerry's photos are included at the end of this newsletter.

Sunday was a free day for everyone to do as they chose. Some people needed to leave, some visited in the hospitality room, some went shopping, some others were daredevils and went hang gliding (Jeff Cope, Sandy and Ken Oliver), and one, Jeff, added a cave exploring expedition to make his day complete.

There was discussion during the banquet if reunions should continue since the number of crew members attending was getting smaller. It was decided by the crew members they wanted to continue and everybody was in agreement since the Hightowers did a fantastic job arranging this year's reunion the next reunion in 2010 should also be held in Chattanooga at the Choo-Choo Hotel. We look forward to seeing everybody there!

Excerpts from a letter written by Shipmate Bob Hoover regarding the 2009 Reunion:

"What a time we all had in Chattanooga! ...The hospitality room was the best ever; wheelchairs and stuff for us members of the "cane gang" (we never were split into two groups: the lame and the sound of limb!). Bingo was a real rouser. And we all had a chance to renew old stories.

We were thoroughly entranced by the restoration of the 1940's railroad culture. (The Chattanooga Choo-Choo Hotel) deserves a medal for what they have accomplished.

The reunion provided an opportunity to know my shipmates in ways that were impossible during the artificial social caste system of the wartime Navy. ...**I was remarking to Ellen today that this is the first time I have ever felt like a real ship-mate.**

...the flag hoist signal for "Well Done" is T-V-G..." *Bob Hoover, August 14, 2009*

A Special Note of Thanks Regarding the 2009 Reunion - By Debbie Pickett Hightower:

The 2009 Reunion of USS Holt Shipmates was held at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Hotel in Chattanooga, Tennessee between August 6 - August 9, 2009. My father, USS Holt Shipmate Paul Pickett, spent most of the year between the 2008 Reunion in Boston and the 2009 Reunion in Chattanooga planning for the 2009 Reunion. He wanted to make certain that all of the arrangements were in place in a way that would be pleasing to Holt shipmates and their families. On June 19, 2009, however, Daddy was hospitalized and spent seven weeks in intensive care. On July 28, 2009 Daddy went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I was extremely close to my dad and was devastated by his death. However, I knew how much the USS Holt shipmates and their reunions meant to my dad; therefore, I knew that we needed to make the reunion happen. I also knew that it would be one of the most difficult things that I would ever have to do, but we had to do it for Daddy, the other shipmates and the shipmates' families. Thanks to the wonderful help from some of our very special friends in Chattanooga and from our USS Holt Family, the 2009 Reunion was a success.

I have become very close to the USS Holt shipmates and their families since I have been attending the reunions with my dad. My dad loved having the opportunity to see his shipmates every two years! I feel that it is very important for the shipmates to get together whenever possible. Therefore, we are planning another reunion in Chattanooga on August 5th thru 9th, 2010. We will be sending more information on the reunion arrangements as soon as we finalize them.

My husband, Jerry, and I have been helping Daddy with the USS Holt Shipmates Association Newsletter since Bill Morgan passed away. There is no way that we can do as good of a job as Bill did, but we are willing to continue with the newsletter and the reunions as long as the shipmates and families want us to do so.

If anyone has information that they would like to be included in the newsletter, please send it to: Debbie Hightower, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2010 REUNION: CHATTANOOGA, TN - AUGUST 5th - 9th:

Planning is continuing for the **2010 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 5th thru Sunday, August 8th, Departing on Monday, August 9th.
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(same as 2009). Reunion attendees are again responsible for making their own room reservations. A block of 25 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 9th, 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 21st, 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 5th: Evening:** Welcome Dinner: "Fun and casual; details to be announced later" at the Choo-Choo Hotel

Friday, August 6th:

A) Morning - Tour: Details still in planning; however, will likely include a cruise and lunch aboard the *Southern Belle Riverboat*.

B) Afternoon: On your own; visit with friends in the hospitality room or many options for sightseeing or visiting attractions, such as:

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.

C) Evening: Dinner in the hospitality room or nearby restaurant, followed by Bingo in the hospitality room.

Saturday, August 7th:

A) Morning: Tour: We are considering offering "Pick a Tour": the option of one of two guided tours. Instead of an expensive bus, we have several friends with vans who have volunteered to help transport people. This would also keep cost at a minimum:

a) Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park(nation's second largest military park behind Gettysburg), including a tour of a museum and renowned gun exhibit at the park. This battlefield was the site of a key battle in the War between the States. **Or:**

b) Tour of Lookout Mountain Scenic Attractions: *Rock City* and Point Park(National Military Park)

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 8th:

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 Debbie Pickett Hightower at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In order to continue with the planning of the 2010 Holt Shipmates Reunion, it is important to get your feedback. Please respond by February 28, 2010 (or as soon as possible) on the form below whether you would possibly attend or not.

**USS HOLT (DE 706) SHIPMATES ASSOCIATION
2010 REUNION SURVEY**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

____ **YES**, I would likely attend the 2010 USS Holt Reunion in Chattanooga, TN

Probable number of persons attending, including yourself: _____

____ **MAYBE**. I would like to attend the 2010 USS Holt Reunion in Chattanooga, TN; however, I am uncertain at this time if I will be able to attend or not.

____ **NO**, I would likely not attend the 2010 USS Holt Reunion

PLEASE RETURN TO:

**Debbie Pickett Hightower
USS HOLT (DE 706) Association
4805 Greenview Lane
Hixson, TN 37343**