

# CAMBRIA PRESS NEWS

Volume 9 Issue 4

January 2004

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS CAMBRIA



### Special points of interest:

- See why you should consider going to the reunion if you've never been before. David Stoll tells his experience at his first reunion in our cover article.
  - Ten newly located crewmembers are listed in WELCOME MAT on page two.
  - One of the newly located shipmates writes about his experience in the Navy. See MAIL CALL on page three.
- See a picture of the SEA SWALLOW (the Cambria before the Coast Guard took it over) on page three.
- Pictures of Samuel Culotta's meeting with Kunio are on page four.
  - Read about the planned tour to Old Fort Jackson that is on page five.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here it is January already and just three months or so down the road we will be having our 12th reunion in Savannah, GA. I understand it is a beautiful city and a lot of history to it. I have never been there, so this will be a new experience for Ellen and me. I hope that a lot of you men will come and join us at the reunion. We have a lot of fun and get to know new people every year. Some of these friendships last a long time.

I remember the first reunion Ellen and I went to in St. Louis, MO. We knew no one there, but before the reunion was over, we seemed to have known each and everyone there for a lifetime. We still have friends from the first reunion and we make new ones every year.

It is interesting to talk to these men and listen to the stories they can tell. You listen and then you think of one you remember. It is really fun. In the past we have had as many as forty to fifty men from the Cambria and I would like to see more than that there this year. Stop and think, we have over six hundred names of men who served aboard the Cambria over the years. For the men who have never been to the reunion, we need your support and input at the reunions. Every year the men and wives at the reunion get to pick where we will be going the next year. If you have a spot that you would like to go to, or have us come to your area, be at the reunion and have us vote on it.

Also, we need news articles for the newsletter and if you have a story to tell, write it down and send it to the

Military Locators and they will be happy to put it in the newsletter the next time.

As you know, we put two newsletters out a year, one in January telling about the reunion and one in July telling about our reunion we just had and where we will be going the next time.

Remember for those who have not contributed to the newsletter and you receive one, it does cost to put one out and any contribution would help. Please send money to:

Ramon Stafford  
Rt. 2 Box 150  
Gladstone, VA 24553

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and are having a Happy New Year. See you all in Sa-

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)  
vannah, GA in April.

David Stoll,  
Pres., USS Cambria Assoc.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By Ramon Stafford

Since the Reunion I have ordered and received more hats. I sent a few through the mail. I still have plenty of hats still at \$8.00 per hat including the mailing. I also have Cambria pins for \$3.50 and Cambria patches for \$5.00. All prices include postage. Membership Dues are \$10.00—a one time fee. I will accept any amount you wish to donate for the newsletter so we may continue it in the future.

### TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF 12/8/03

Balance at 4/24/03 Reunion  
**\$855.53**  
Dues Received  
**\$230.00**  
Hats/Patches/Pins Received 4/27/03  
**\$268.00**  
Hats/Patches/Pins Received after  
4/27/03  
**\$175.00**  
Newsletter Received 4/27/03  
**\$346.50**  
Newsletter Received after 4/27/03  
**\$244.78**  
**TOTALS: \$2,119.81**

### DISBURSMENTS:

Postage: \$11.81  
MLRS Newsletter \$393.18  
Eagle Crest Hats \$334.45  
**TOTALS: \$739.44**

**BALANCE AS OF 12/8/03**  
**\$1,380.37**



## WELCOME MAT

We are proud to announce that the following USS CAMBRIA shipmates have recently been located. Welcome Aboard and we hope to see you at the next reunion. Also, you are invited to become an active member of the Association.

*William Kincaid (1960-63)*  
Rt. 2 Box 139-B  
Keyser, WV 26726

*Charles Kincaid (1963-66)*  
23 Mineral St  
Ridgeley, WV 26753

*Richard Houston (1967-70)*  
Richard.houston@ubs.com

*Leonard Sujkowski (1951-55)*  
FA/MM2 A Div  
450 Blue Mountain Lake  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301-8653  
570-420-8771  
lensvj@chilitech.net

*Freddie Grice (1957-58) SD3*  
1118 McCollough Ct NW Apt 403  
Washington, DC 20001-3781

*Gentry Bush*  
Box 332  
Ekalaka, MT 59324  
genbu@midrivers.com

*Daniel McKeown*  
2302 North Blvd  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
231-510-9559

*Theodore Toedt (1944-45) BM1*  
11 Hennequin Rd  
Columbia, CT 06237-1309  
860-228-9865

*Eddie Neufeld (1953-55)*  
SKSN Supply  
26 Ensign Dr  
S. Hutchinson, KS 67505-1716  
620-662-7991

*Melvin Mosselman (1953-56)*  
EM 3/c E Div  
115 Lodge St  
Woodbury, PA 16650  
814-766-2150



## TAPS

The Association was saddened to learn of the following shipmates' deaths. The entire membership extends our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased.

*Earl Donley (1944-46) S 1-c*  
Date of death not known

*Don Satterlee*  
Date of death not known

*Edward Jamison*  
(1951-53) PO 2/c  
Died February 11, 2002

*Raymond Peters (1942-46) F/3/c*  
Date of death not known

*Richard Smith (1956-59)*  
SF3 R Div  
Died December 2003

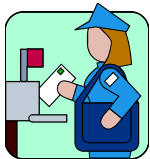
*Charles Morehouse*  
Died April 27, 2003

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Phone: 828-256-6008  
Fax: 828-256-6559

**NOTE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES:**  
**dinamlrs@charterinternet.com**  
For newsletter e-mail only:  
**karenmlrs@charterinternet.com**

**Web site: www.mlrsinc.com**

**Our Reunions Work So You Don't  
Have To**



## MAIL CALL

Hi Dina,

I have been referred to you by John Partin.

My question is that I saw a name of a shipmate that I have served with on the USS Cambria, listed on your July 2002 Newsletter.

I would like to know if you have an e-mail address, or some way that you can use to contact this person, whose name is Terry Holsonback.

We served together as Radiomen onboard USS Cambria, and I was also informed by Mr. Partin that there is a listing of the crew that are members of your service, and I would appreciate more information regarding this.

As for myself, I served on the USS Cambria from Dec. 67 to Sept 70 as a Radioman. After this tour, I left the Navy and re-enlisted about 4 years later in the Ready Reserve and served on numerous vessels and shore stations. I could not stand serving in a Reserve center, simulating being on a ship, etc., so I volunteered to serve on various ships and available shore stations such as Sub Base, Groton, CT; Coast Guard Station, Search and Rescue at Governor's Island in New York City harbor, and Military Sealift Command in Bayonne, New Jersey, to name a few, doing communications and whatever else was available or needed assistance in.

I retired from the Navy in 1995 and served about 21 years. I really miss the hell out of it. I never had a better job, and miss the camaraderie that is not there in the civilian sector. The citizens have no clue about military life, and don't really understand why we feel the way we do. I wish I could do it all over again. Anyway, this is a small portion of my background and if you need more info, please let me know and I will (as they say) fill you in. (Ha, Ha)

One last thing. Thanks to my Very Understanding Wife! I am now a member of the Tin Can Sailors (Destroyer Veterans) and I volunteer myself to the USS Intrepid Museum in New York City on various weekends. We maintain the destroyer, USS Edson (DD 946) and provide any service to aid the museum. We recently served a BBQ to celebrate Firemen Appreciation Weekend and in August we are also going to serve the Police Officers for Police Appreciation Weekend, not to mention Fleet Week we had in the week of Memorial Day. We also have Seaworthy Saturday where we teach young children how to be a sailor. They are taught how to salute while boarding a ship, peel a potato, tie knots, tour the various sections of the ship such as the engine room, radio room and I teach them a small lesson about how to send Morse code and other functions. They are given a certificate which states that

they are Honorary Sailors and they and their parents have a great time.

I will stop here and hope to hear from you.

Thank you,  
RM 1 Richard Houston USNR-(Ret)

Shipmates,

Here is a picture I received for the Sea Swallow. The Sea Swallow was the name of the Cambria before the US Coast Guard got in and converted it to a Coast Guard Ship. Robert Hamilton sent this picture to me from Wells, Maine. He was with the first group that started the Cambria Reunions. He will try to make it to a Reunion if it's close by. His health isn't very well.

Ramon Stafford

(See picture below.)

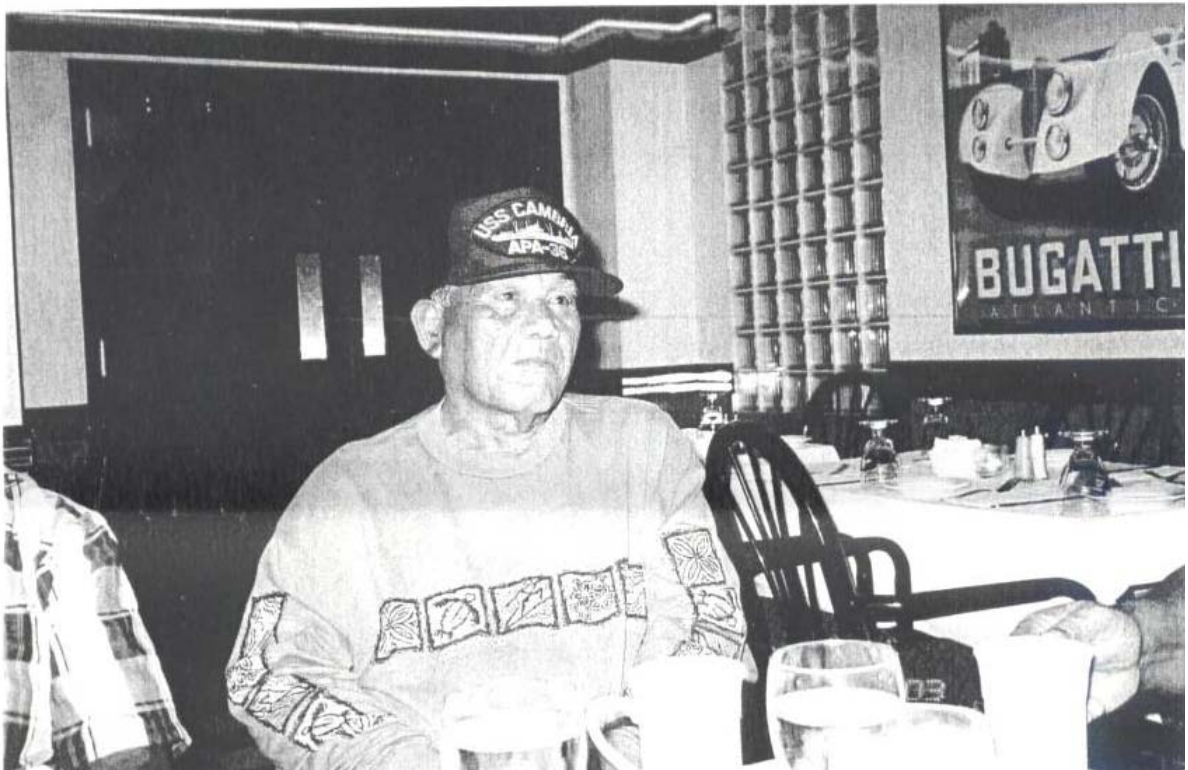
*THIS IS THE CAMBRIA - FOUND  
THIS PICTURE IN SEA CLASSIC SEPT 01*



The C3 passenger-cargo ship *SEA SWALLOW* seen as a Pacific transport. "C" ratings denoted the general size of a ship and the numeral designators pointed out special types and machinery.

**USS CAMBRIA (APA-36)  
2004 REUNION  
APRIL 15-18  
DAYS INN, SAVANNAH, GA**

These two photos were sent by Samuel Culotta and were taken during the course of his first meeting with Kunio Joseph on July 8, 2003. Kunio is wearing the USS Cambria hat which Mr. Culotta presented to him. Their story was printed in the July 2003 issue of the Cambria News.



## OLD FORT JACKSON

During your reunion in Savannah, one of the tours available to you will be the visit to Old Fort Jackson. The visit had to be scheduled for Thursday, because both Friday and Saturday were unavailable. Be sure to arrive at the reunion well before the departure time of 3:30 PM on Thursday, April 15th, so you don't miss the Savannah River cruise followed by the visit to Old Fort Jackson for dinner. This will be a wonderful trip that you won't want to miss out on.

Old Fort Jackson is the oldest standing fort in Georgia. The original brick fort, named for James Jackson, was begun in 1808. It was manned during the War of 1812, when British privateers were setting fire to American sloops and schooners just off the coast of Georgia, and again near the end of the war when a British fleet under the command of Vice Admiral Alexander Cochrane was reportedly in the area. The fort was enlarged and strengthened between 1845 and 1860, and saw its greatest use as the headquarters for the Confederate river defenses during the Civil War. On December 21, 1864, being overwhelmingly outnumbered, the fort and the city of Savannah surrendered to General William T. Sherman. During the next 40 years the fort saw limited use, eventually being de-commissioned in 1905. Today the fort is owned and run by the Coastal Heritage Society. Military hardware on display includes projectiles and cannons from the CSS Georgia, a confederate ironclad that is sunk in the Savannah River.

Your trip to Old Fort Jackson will include the exclusive use of the fort, a 10 minute narration on the fort's fascinating history, access to the museum, an Old Fort Jackson film, a dramatic cannon firing, live 19th century music, a drawbridge honor guard, and a delicious Southern-style dinner.

This is such a great experience that ML&RS did not want you to miss it, even if it had to be scheduled for Thursday. We're sure you'll agree.

## OUR VIEW

*Larry H Eckard, President, ML & RS, Inc*

We truly appreciate the support and loyalty the members of the Cambria have shown to Brenda and me and the staff of ML & RS, Inc. We intend to keep providing you with the first class service that you deserve and expect at reasonable prices and hopefully maintain your loyalty and support.

Ten years ago or less, we were in a so-called "buyer's market". Hotels competed for our business by offering excellent rates and amenities, but by the late 90's, this was changing. Hotels still competed for our business, but almost as if by collusion, the rates began to creep up. Even though we still were able to get bargain rates compared to "rack rates" or individual planners, the rates were (and remain) higher. With the downturn in the economy, everyone thought that we'd see the market swing back to where it had been in the early to mid 90's. Not so. Surprisingly the hotels did not buy into that theory. At the risk of losing business, rates were kept high, and that is where we are today. There are still some good rates out there (compared to today's average prices) but they are becoming harder to find, and certainly will not be found in major cities, especially in downtown hotels. Food prices have increased, but not to the extent that room rates have.

All you have to do is drive by the gas pump or look at your gas credit card and you'll see how fuel prices have increased. It's easy to see why our costs have risen significantly.

With that brief background, this would be a good time to review exactly how using our services benefit your organization. Once you fully understand just what is included in your reunion price, you'll find it is actually a bargain. Just to refresh your memory:

- We started, and are continuing to this day, assisting you in locating members of your ship, unit, organization, etc.

- We place reunion announcements (using the reunion coordinator's name as contact person) in over 400 newspapers throughout the country and forty veterans publications. Dozens of your members have been found this way.
- For those who want us to, we maintain your database. Even though a member of the group may duplicate our efforts (and there is no real reason for someone to do this), we have the most up-to-date roster of members.
- We subscribe to a postal service that tracks change of addresses provided the member leaves a forwarding address with the post office. That is not a free service; it costs \$.70 per change of address.
- We also subscribe to a label printing service, updated quarterly by the postal service, that automatically corrects address, adds the last four digits of the zip code, and prints the bar code which is required for discounted postage rates.
- The two subscriptions referred to above allows us to maintain a postal permit for "automation" which lowers the postage from \$.37 to \$.219.
- Once the city has been selected, we take it from there. Our experienced negotiators get the best possible prices, rates that you as an individual planner cannot get.
- We know how to negotiate, what to ask for, and just as important, what not to ask for.
- We get lower rates by not accepting or giving anything complimentary to anyone, so everyone pays the same price.
- We get lower rates by reserving a block of rooms on your behalf instead of each individual calling the hotel freeing up the hotel's reservations staff to handle their face-to-face customers. This is especially significant at

check out time. If you don't have any incidental charges, turn in your key and walk out – bill paid. You can't do that with an individual reservation.

- Hotels, tour companies, entertainers, and other vendors see us as repeat business, they see an individual planner as a one-time deal. Who gets the best deal consistently? We do!
- We prepare, print and mail all reservation material.
- We pay all the deposits (and unless you have a treasury this is significant)
- We receive all reservations from members
- We make all reservations with the hotel
- We are able to accept VISA and MASTERCARD
- We are on site to manage the reunion, freeing up your members to enjoy the reunion
- We act as liaison between the hotel and the group
- We create and print banquet and memorial service programs
- We provide each member with a memorabilia item commemorating the reunion
- We arrange for entertainment, guest speakers, Color Guards
- We have a host of first quality memorabilia items (caps, T-shirts, sweat shirts , etc)
- There is absolutely no cost to the coordinator or the association. (We are compensated by charging a registration fee to everyone who attends the reunion)
- At the end of the reunion, we start over again.
- We truly care about your reunion. We want it to succeed just as much as you do.

Let's make it clear from the onset, there are some reunion groups that do successfully plan and manage their own reunions. Let me make it equally clear, doing your own reunion is not less expensive and it is a heck of a lot more trouble and work. We know, there is an organization or two out there that charges you to attend special seminars they call FamTours (which by

the way are sponsored and funded by the host city's Convention & Visitor's Bureau, so they actually are free). Hmmmmm! If you Reunion Chairmen are really interested in visiting a city, tell us and the next time they have a FamTour, we'll make arrangements for you to attend—free. (You'll still have to provide your own transportation.) Many Chairmen of our groups have gone free—and many more have been invited— to Fam's in Norfolk, Buffalo, Colorado Springs, Albuquerque, Asheville, Jacksonville, Virginia Beach, just to name a few, so you know first hand it can be done.

These seminars claim to “teach you how” to plan your own reunion by giving you a few common sense pointers and then trying to sell you liability insurance. You may learn something at one of these seminars that you don't know, but I challenge you to discover something that we are not already doing. My point is, if you pay to go to one of their planner events, (and I am sure some of you have); don't be fooled by how easy they make it sound. Planning and managing a reunion from start to finish is not nearly as easy as the classroom instruction would have you believe. Remember the old adage, “Them that can do – Them that can't teach.” We don't mean this to be critical because some of things they are now “teaching” are things we've been doing for years; but other things being taught are downright foolish.

Make no mistake, experienced hotel Sales Directors can spot an inexperienced individual planner a mile away. Unless you know how to negotiate, you won't get the best available deals, you'll get what the hotel wants to have. So, if the subject “doing it our selves” ever comes up, ask your self one question. Am I (me, personally, not one of the other guys) willing to accept total responsibility for all of the items we have listed above, plus the unforeseen things that will happen. If you are not willing to do it, why would you pass it off to a buddy?

With the increased use of the

Internet, a lot of “fare saver” businesses, such as Expedia, Priceline, Travelocity, Orbitz, to name a few have emerged. Often you can get what seems to be a good room rate (sometimes even at the reunion hotel) from one of these services. Getting a room through one of these services may save you a couple of dollars (but we can document a couple instances when the reunion rate is less than the fare saver rate. But in the long run, it hurts the rest of your friends. The hospitality room, and banquet rooms are provided without cost, based on the number of guest rooms that are occupied by members of the group and reserved through ML & RS, Inc. Why do you think the first question you are asked is, “How many rooms will you require”? Then the next step is for the sales director to ask the past couple of reunion hotels to confirm your room history. Therefore, each person who gets his/her own room, either through one of these services, or even at another hotel, does not pay their fair share of hospitality and banquet room charges, passing this cost instead to those who stay in the hotel.

This is a serious matter, and unless we nip it in the bud, I can foresee the time when it will be necessary to charge folks not staying in the hotel a sur charge to cover their share of the rooms in question. Folks, there ain't nothing free.

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#### **FINANCIAL REPORT FROM ML&RS**

The cost for this issue of the *Cambria Press News* is \$414.16. We received a \$15.00 donation from Lawrence Harmston and will deduct that amount from the cost.

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