

# CAMBRIA PRESS NEWS

Volume 9 Issue 3

July 2003

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS CAMBRIA



### **Special points of interest:**

- *Read about what went on at the 2003 reunion in Baltimore in our cover story.*
- *The minutes from the meeting in Baltimore, the Treasurer's report and a list of reunion attendees are on pages two and three.*
- *We had a great response to our request for stories for MAIL CALL, which begins on page four. Thanks to everyone who wrote!*
- *We have a very special story to tell beginning on page five. Don't miss the update to the story of the "little boy in the sailor suit." What a great story!!!*
- *We have the dates for the 2004 reunion. Find out about Savannah and the reunion on page eight. Please return the survey promptly.*

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON 2003 REUNION IN BALITMORE, MD**

Thursday, April 24, 2003 the crew members of the USS Cambria started to gather at the Holiday Inn BWI in Baltimore, MD in the hospitality room and renewing old friends and making new ones.

Around 5:00 pm we had open bar and light hors d'oeuvres. We introduced ourselves and wives to the group who was there and talked for awhile. We broke up around 6:15 or so and went our way.

Friday morning, April 25, 2003, at 7:30 we had breakfast together in our dining area. At 9:00 we were on our bus for the tour of Annapolis. We got to the Capital Building and toured that, then we

loaded up on the bus and headed to the Naval Academy. We got there in time to see the noon day parade. After the parade we went to the Drydock Restaurant and had a box lunch. Then we had a tour of the Academy given by a retired Navy Captain. We loaded on the bus around 3:00 and headed back to the hotel, arriving there close to 4:00. When we arrived back to the hotel, we had some new people join us that had come in that day. At 7:00 we had a Maryland-style dinner. After the meal we had the new members introduce themselves and we chatted with each other until 9:00 pm. We were tired and most went back to our rooms and got some sleep.

Saturday morning, April

26, 2003, we ate breakfast from 7:00 to 8:30, then we got ready for our Saturday tour of the Lexington Market. Then we went to Fells Point and Mount Vernon of Baltimore. We ate lunch at Baltimore Inner Harbor and had a little time for shopping. Then we headed to Ft. McHenry for a film of the fort and a short tour. We loaded up on the bus and headed back to the motel for our business meeting at 3:45.

Our Vice President, Mike Newmann, resigned, and so we had to vote on a new Vice President. A. B. Henry, Jr. was elected to that position. We had nominations for the city for next year. Sa-

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

vannah, GA won and the dates suggested will be April 15 to 18, 2004, we hope. (The minutes of the meeting is in the newsletter.) At 6:00 we met at the hospitality room and had our pictures taken for the annual book. After the pictures were taken, we had an open bar and then we were served our evening meal. After the meal we were introducing ourselves again for the people who were not there before. During our introductions we had a visitor come in and walked around and entertained us for a while. (Barbara Moren) She does a great job impersonating her character. We did finish the introductions after she left and then we talked to the men and women and finally broke up around 9:30 pm.

Sunday, April 27, 2003, we gathered for the last time this year and had breakfast and a short Memorial Service to honor those shipmates who have died in the last year. After the service we started to say good bye and gave handshakes and hugs until next year in Savannah, GA.

Hope to see you all there. Let's make this one a big one. The most we have ever had was 47 men in 2002.

David Stoll  
President USS Cambria Assoc.

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

## USS CAMBRIA(APA 36) BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES, BALTIMORE, MD APRIL 26, 2003

The Cambria meeting was held at the Holiday Inn BWI on April 26, 2003 at 1545 hours.

Our President, David Stoll, opened the meeting with reading last year's minutes which was held in Charleston, SC. The minutes were reviewed and voted on to be accepted by Louis Balala and seconded by Arthur Massarini.

Ramon Stafford, Treasurer, gave his treasurer's report. He also mentioned that anytime anyone wanted to review his treasurer's record, they were welcome. (See *treasurer's report below minutes.*)

Richard Smith motioned that we accept the treasurer's report and Helen Balala seconded the motion.

Michael Neumann put in a request to resign as the Reunion's Group Vice President because less and less Coast Guard personnel are attending the reunions and Mike felt that it was only right that the Association Officers should all be Navy. A. B. Henry (Hank) was nominated by Aubrey Moren as the new Vice President and Arthur Massarini seconded the motion. Without further nominations, it was motioned by Arthur Massarini and seconded by Aubrey Moren that the nominations be closed. A. B. Henry accepted the nomination.

Selections for the next meeting location was discussed. The following cities were nominated:

Savannah, GA  
Mobile, AL  
Wilmington, NC  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
New York City, NY  
Philadelphia, PA  
Boston, MA

The largest nomination was for Savannah, GA. The initial meeting date will be 22-25 April 2004 and the alternative date is 15-18 April 2004. Richard Smith motioned that the city and date selections be closed and

Fred Staie seconded the motion.

Ramon Stafford mentioned that he has a complete list of everyone in our Cambria Group. He said to contact him if you would like a copy.

"How people found out about the Cambria Reunion" was generally discussed—the cost to mail our the newsletter is expensive. To wind up the discussion, a recommendation was made that if the people don't come to our reunions, they won't receive the newsletter.

David Stoll mentioned that last October 2002 at the Motts Museum in Ohio, a dedication was made to a landing craft from the USS Cambria. A total of fifteen people had attended.

Richard Smith motioned to close the meeting and Aubrey Moren seconded the motion. Meeting ended at 1630 hours.

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING  
EVERYONE IN SAVANNAH, GA!!!**

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Henry  
Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The USS Cambria APA-36 Reunion started in 1993 with our first reunion in Ft. Mitchell, KY, with 17 crew members present. At the present time we have increased our crew member list to over 700. We send out newsletters to around 550 crew members. The cost of producing and mailing the letter is over \$300.00 per issue with 2 issues per year. We have been collecting donations for the newsletter over the years and also decided that we would have a one time fee for

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Cambria Crew Members of \$10.00 each to help with the cost of the newsletter. Below is the Treasurer Report at the reunion in Baltimore, MD.

**Treasurer Report as of 4/24/03**

Balance at 4/26/02 Reunion \$840.80  
 Dues Received \$220.00  
 Hats/Patches Received \$362.00  
 Newsletter Received \$942.00  
**Totals \$2,364.80**

**Disbursements**

Postage \$55.05  
 MLRS Newsletter \$705.63  
 Hat Pins \$420.59  
 Hats from Eagle Crest \$328.00  
**Total \$1509.27**

**Balance as of 4/24/03 \$855.53**

**Received at reunion \$614.50**

**Balance as of 4/27/03 \$1470.03**

The USS Cambria APA-36 Association has hats -\$8.00, Pins- \$3.50, Patches- \$5.00, prices include postage.

If you do not want to receive the newsletter and want your name removed from the mailing list, make a donation for the newsletter, pay \$10.00 for membership dues, etc. fill out the form below and send to:

**Ramon J. Stafford**  
**Rt. 2 Box 150**  
**Gladstone, VA 24553**

**CAMBRIA REQUEST/DONATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Remove name from mailing list \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for newsletter \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Hat \_\_\_\_\_ Patch \_\_\_\_\_ Pin \_\_\_\_\_

Dues \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Continue Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

**2003 REUNION ATTENDEES**

- Louis & Helen Balala
- Oscar & Eva Buchanan
- William & Mary Ellen Burris
- Samuel & Leah Culotta
- John (Jack) & Bonnie Danze
- Lori Danze & Jane Alden
- Michael & Jeanne Del Pidio
- Martin & Joan Gilligan
- Richmond & Janice Hamby
- Andrew & Donna Henry
- Fred Kenny
- Raoul & Carolyn Laurent
- Henry Mantell, Jr. & Bonnie Dupree
- Arthur Massarini
- Aubrey & Barbie Moren
- Charles Neff & Ruth Haines
- Teddy & Julia Nelson
- Mike & Kay Neumann
- Robert Niezelski
- Rinold & Carol Nowack
- Anthony & Gloria Papajack
- Roland Parker
- William & Jean Popper
- Bennie & Jean Ann Reitan
- Charles & Peggy Riden
- James & Shirley Robertson
- James & Dorothy Roth
- Richard & Cheryl Smith
- Ramon & Phyllis Stafford
- Frederick & Roseann Staie
- Daryl & Karen Stanley
- Harry & Anna Stinchcomb
- Richard & Debra Stinchcomb
- David & Ellen Stoll
- Glen & Yvonne Tresler
- John & Mary Vorhees

**Total Members: 36**  
**Guests: 32**  
**GRAND TOTAL: 68**

**USS CAMBRIA 2004 REUNION**

**APRIL 15-18**

**DAYS INN SAVANNAH, GA**



**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. Due to the limited space in this issue, we will not be able to include the addresses, but if you see the name of an old buddy you would like to get in contact with, just drop a note to ML&RS at our address or e-mail on page two and we will be glad to give you the address.

- David Gauthier
- Ken LaRock (1963-66)
- Curtis Thompson
- John Douglas (E Div)
- Tim Cress
- Russ Moehlich (1961-63)
- Martin Gilligan (1956-57) E-3 Deck
- Joe Gallo
- Bill Norton
- Ralph Zimmerman
- James Lamke (1948-50)
- Trifon Soliman
- Marvin Raylerson
- Jerome Katz
- Harlan Schwendeman
- Stephen Connelton ('65-67) SFP3 R Div
- Robert Niezelski ('51-53) DT2
- George Clark
- Glen Treslar ('56-57) SN 3/c
- Robert Owens
- Gerald Hill
- Steve Stark
- Sam Hatfield
- Joseph Davis
- Herman Byler
- James Roth ('65-67) LCDR
- Robert Dempewolf ('50-55) BM
- Jerry Johnson
- Robert Fabel
- Carl Gallardo ('44-46)
- Bennit Pearson
- Mike Mazzeo
- Mike Retherford ('68-70)
- Harold Walmer
- Ron Huff (GM)



## 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.

*Werner Artus  
(Comm—1945) SS Laundry  
Died September 5, 2002*

*Howard Bartlemy  
(1956-59) YN3 X Div  
Died January 17, 2003*

*P. G. LeDoux  
(1943-45) CQM Bridge  
Date of death not known*

*B. J. Sikes  
Date of death not known*

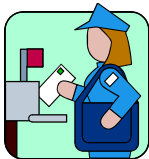
*Robert Stack (1945) GM3  
Died May 2003*

*Reginald Turner  
(1952-55) GM3 F Div  
Died January 8, 2003*

*Alex Dzilvelis  
Date of death not known*

*Edwin Shults  
(1959-62) BT 2/c  
Died February 24, 2003*

*Raymond Spilman  
Date of death not known*



## MAIL CALL

ML&RS,

I would like to point out an error in the history of the USS Cambria as reported in "Cambria Press News"

Vol. 9 Issue 2. Paraphrasing the article, "in 1946 the ship was transferred to Norfolk, VA, and placed in the hands of the decommissioned and eventually sold for scrap." I served on the Cambria as USN, roughly from September 1946 to April 1948. We were an active ship in the Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Force.

Sincerely,  
Dick Tolan  
R.Tolan@att.net

Greetings,

It is always good to receive mail pertaining to the Cambria. I remembered I have some pics on slide that were taken at anchor at St. Thomas. I will try to get those made into prints so I can share them. A couple are really good. They were taken around the Christmas Holidays in 1960. I so enjoyed the information on VP 7. I was coxswain on that boat for awhile besides #9 and 21. I still have the Med Cruise book from a 1962 cruise prior to the Cuban Crisis. My two years (1960-62) on the Cambria was when I changed from a boy to a man. It was a time when I longed for home and at times, wondered what I was doing there. Now I look back with fond memories and know it was just the place I needed to be. Thank you for all your time and devotion.

Don (Eaglin)  
Sn Second Div

ML&RS,

I joined the USS Cambria crew in April 1946 following my return from the Philippines aboard LST 1007. I was an Electrician's Mate 3rd Class and was assigned to the Engineering Force. The ship was being planned to leave for Europe with troops when it was discovered that someone had placed sand in the "shaft alleys." An investigation was begun, which included psycho exams, but no one was identified as the culprit.

This necessitated a trip to the Brooklyn Naval Yard for repairs. On our way to the Yard, the ship sailed the East River at flood tide. The mast containing the radar equipment clipped the Brooklyn Bridge and added to the dismay. I was transferred to Lido Beach for honorable discharge which I received June 6, 1946.

Stan Denison

ML&RS,

As a member of the christening of the Cambria, one of the memories that keeps coming back to me, when I think of the soldiers being killed in Iraq, involved our experiences in Saipan when we dispatched our troops for the initial assault on the island. We were anchored quite close to the beach-head and our troops encountered heavy resistance. We suffered many casualties and some of the wounded came back to our ship in landing craft. Some of them were very seriously wounded and near death. Some passed away while on board and were kept in body bags in a small compartment next to the sick bay. We chiefs were told to relocate our sleeping quarters to the focsel and our mess and sleeping quarters were turned over to receive the wounded. I vividly remember the bloody blankets and mattresses where the wounded were put after receiving or awaiting medical attention. I remember a pharmacist mate picking shrapnel out of a captured Jap who lay on our mess table and a wounded Marine, shot in the head, lying on another table dying. Some of the brave Marines who brought their wounded buddies back to the ship were crying when they learned from others that their buddy or buddies had been killed in the attack. Then, when the Japs were driven to the high end of the island, they leaped into the sea rather than be captured and were floating around in the bay around our ships. Some had been in the water for some time and were not a pretty sight.

We took the dead to sea and had a burial service as the bodies were slid

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

down into the sea and the chaplain said prayers. There were many wet eyes at such services.

There are many other memories that cross my mind from time to time, especially as I watch the TV pictures of what is happening in Iraq.

Ray Hernday, CRM

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ML&RS,

When I first went aboard Cambria in 1960, she was undergoing a yard period in Portsmouth, Virginia. She was a sad, dirty looking ship when I checked aboard. I remember how my heart sank. A few days later during a working party, we were moving hundreds of life-jackets from somewhere forward, to a secure place near the fantail to allow the forward spaces to be painted. As we moved them, a couple of them went over the side. They sank immediately, disappearing beneath the murky waters. My heart sank again. I learned to love that ole bucket before leaving her in 1963, but will never forget my first few weeks aboard.

John Partin, PNCS, USN (Ret)  
(Went from SN to YN3 while aboard Cambria)

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ML&RS,

My father, Reginald Stockett Turner, passed away from a stroke on January 8, 2003 in Baltimore, MD. He served on the Cambria around the late 1940s to around 1954. My mother would know more about the dates, but I thought I would send something to notify you. She might also send something since there is a reunion soon. I wear the Cambria hat my dad gave me often, as it reminds me of him! He was very proud of being able to serve our country and enjoyed the reunions. I think he attended a reunion in Kansas City a few years ago. Because of

my dad's love of the country, I served in the KY National Guard 8 years.

Thank you,  
Rev. Arthur C. Turner  
Hebron Presbyterian Church  
4765 N Preston Hwy  
Shepherdsville, KY 40165

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*Editor's Note: The following letters were received concerning the picture in the January 2003 issue of the little boy in the sailor suit.*

January 23, 2003

Gentlemen:

Thank you for sending your January, 2003 issue of Cambria Press News.

I should like to point out that the letter of Jabous W. Boyd in the January, 2003 issue mis-identified the boy in a sailor's uniform as a little "Jap." He is a native of the island of Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands and his name is "Koo-nee-wah" or "Kuniwa" (phonetically). I am the bare-chested young man with him in the picture which was taken by the ship's photographer, probably in early March, 1944.

Briefly, members of our U.S. Naval Assault Beach Party brought him to me. His body had many shrapnel wounds from our assault on Eniwetok. As a Pharmacist's Mate, I was given the responsibility of caring for his wounds, restoring him to health and returning him to his people on Eniwetok. About 30 days later, after he healed, I was ordered to deliver him to the USS Chincoteague, a sea-plane tender, because the Cambria was leaving the atoll area.

This little native boy, about 5 years old, became the Cambria's mascot. As you can see, members of the Coast Guard who manned the ship made a sailor's uniform for him.

Please find enclosed photocopy of two photographs: one similar to the one that was printed in your newsletter (photocopy enclosed) and the other, a photograph of "Kuniwa" totally covered in bandages, sur-

rounded by members of the crew and U.S. Marines.

"Kuniwa" was not a little "Jap." He was a very courageous and severely wounded "veteran" of a fierce battle when the Marines and our Beach Party invaded Eniwetok—a correction should be made.

Looking forward to seeing my Cambria shipmates in Baltimore on April 24th. I am

Sincerely,  
Samuel Culotta

U. S. Naval Assault Beach Party  
Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class  
USS Cambria (1944-45)  
Home address: 2430 Kentucky Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21213  
410-235-2271

P.S. On December 30, 2002, I wrote to the Embassy, Republic of the Marshall Islands, requesting assistance in determining if "Kuniwa" is alive and hopefully to make contact with him.

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*Here is Mr. Culotta's letter to the Republic of the Marshall Islands Ambassador:*

December 30, 2002

Dear Ambassador:

During World War II, I was a member of a Naval Assault Beach Party which participated in the invasions of Majuro on January 31, 1944, Kwajalein on February 3, 1944 and Eniwetok on February 7, 1944.

In the course of the Eniwetok invasion, a young native boy between the ages of 3 and 5, whose name phonetically was "Ku-Noo-Waw" or "Kuniwa", had been badly wounded by shrapnell, etc. and near death. I was delegated by the Commanding Officer to care for him and return him healed to his people on Eniwetok. When the time came that our ship had to leave, I left with him in a boat for transfer to the seaplane tender, the USS Chincoteague. It was difficult to part with him—he commenced crying. I remember placing a thermometer in his mouth and then leaving. I have never heard from him

since.

During the period that this boy was cared for aboard the USS Cambria APA-36, all of the crewmen and officers became attached to him. I enclose photocopy of photographs taken with the boy (I am the bare-chested one with his hand on his shoulder in the small photograph).

I remember the difficult time we had communicating. However, we each managed to learn a few words that I learned. He said to me through an interpreter who was with the U. S. Marine Corps that when I returned to Eniwetok, he promised me a box of the most beautiful sea shells he could find.

I always wondered what happened to "Ku-Noo\_Waw." I hope he is alive and well. If so, I should like to hear from him. Your consideration in locating him and telling him of my interest would be very much appreciated.

Respectfully,  
Samuel A. Culotta

*Here is the reply that Mr. Culotta received from "Ku-Noo-Waw."*

To: Samuel A. Culotta  
From: Mr. Kunio Joseph

Feb. 27, 2003

*Note:* The following messages or script is translated from Mr. Kunio Joseph Submissions.

**Subject:** Kunio and his mentor. The man that looked after him during his suffering— 2nd World War on the Enewetak, who Kunio refer to as his Papa.

Mr. Kunio Joseph remembers vividly of an America soldier that he was so attached during his suffering, however, he thought, all these years maybe he was killed during the war. He had tried in the past to locate his mentor, through visiting Military personnels to Enewatak, but due to no records or little information from Enewetak (Kunio) to them they have very little clue to work on.

During these events of time, Kunio never lost hope and the beliefs that his

Papa must still be alive. Upon receiving your communique through RMI embassy in Washington, DC, Foreign Affairs here, he proudly announce to every gathering/meetings of Enewetak people in Majuro, that he has found his Papa in the U. S. Kunio has two resolutions in mind: To meeting you and present the best shells of the Marshall Islands and Enewatak, and to bring you back to Enewetak to see Enewetak of that he is part of rehabilitating it.

#### A BIOGRAPHY OF KUNIO

Elementary School— Ujelang Atoll

Middle School— Majuro

From 1960-1984-Health Assistant in Majuro, Laura in Majuro dispensary, and in Arno atoll and Enewetak atoll.

1984— He ran for Island council for Enewetak atoll, and he got elected from then to now. He is executive member in the council and holds Education & Health portfolios and responsible of the infra-structure Development. That is now declared as the best well maintain school in the whole Marshall Islands. And have the biggest Dispensary too. He is now working with sub-committee on the Island-strategies in improving the standards in the school and also a better health system for the island. (Which he will discuss with you in Washington, DC).

1. In conclusion, from the time of injury to now Kunio only wears long trousers to hide the scars incurred upon his body.
2. He wants you to visit Enewetak—he says, please.

Thank you,  
Kunio Joseph

February 26, 2003

To: Kunio Joseph

Dear Kunio:

How pleased and delighted I am to receive your letter and biography, but especially to hear your voice over the telephone.

I believe that Divine Intervention has enabled us to communicate with each other after close to 60 years of separation. I now am an active 78 year old law-

yer.

I want you to know how happy you have made me to recall our time together at Enewetak during World War II (February, 1944).

I am amazed to learn you have 4 girls and 1 boy. I have 4 boys and 1 girl. You have been involved in the local government of Enewetak. I have been very active in the government, not only in the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland, but also with the Federal Government. Of course, the two of us were together during the War. Probably, we have much more in common.

My memory of you is as if we met yesterday—but you were only 6 years old at the time. I look forward to seeing you again in person in Washington, DC sometime in March of this year.

I have never forgotten you over the years. My children, as well as my parents, brothers and wife, Leah, know that I have spoken of you many times. You are an unforgettable person and experience in my lifetime.

I note in your letter that you refer to me as "Papa." I accept your affectionate word of our relationship and reciprocate that during the time I cared for you and your battle wounds, I treated you as I would have a son.

I look forward to meeting you and hopefully, one day to see you and your family. In the meantime, we shall talk from time to time on the telephone and by E-mail and give each other more information about ourselves. I attach a biography and a photocopy of our time together on board the APA 36, USS Cambria, which was the flagship for all the invasions in the Marshall Islands. Also, I attach a photocopy of a picture of the U.S. Navy Assault Beach Party, of which I was a member, that is Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class, otherwise known as "Corpsman". We participated in all the invasions of Majuro, Enewetak, and Kawjelein. Also, I attach a copy of a recent photograph.

In closing, I should like for you to know how proud I am of your personal growth as a man and member of the local government of the Marshall Islands. Give my greetings and salutations to the Mayor and especially to the Senator who is bringing you to Washington, DC for our reunion! God bless you.

Affectionately,  
Samuel A. Culotta

*And finally, the meeting! This is the Baltimore Sun's article about the long-awaited meeting of the two men.*

### **Finding the boy from so long ago, far away**

Dan Rodricks

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Originally published Jul 17, 2003

Dan Rodricks

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THERE HAD been 21,484 sunrises and sunsets since the day Sam Culotta, a teen-age Navy medic, put the thermometer in little Kunio Joseph's mouth to keep him from crying. All those days had gone by since he last saw the boy in the war-scarred paradise of the Marshall Islands, 7,000 miles from Baltimore. Time and distance did not erase the memories, and curiosity about the boy consumed him, so Culotta, now 78 years old, sat in his law office on Belair Road on Dec. 30, 2002, and dictated a letter to the embassy of the Marshalls in Washington.

"During World War II," Culotta began, "I was a member of a naval assault beach party, which participated in the invasions of Majuro on January 31, 1944, Kwajalein on February 3, 1944, and Eniwetok on February 7, 1944. In the course of the Eniwetok invasion, a young native boy between the ages of 3 and 5, whose name phonetically was 'Ku-Noo-Waw' or 'Kuniwa,' had been badly wounded by shrapnel, and [he was] near death. I was delegated by the commanding officer to care for him and return him healed to his people on Eniwetok."

As he dictated the letter to his long-time secretary (and wife), Leah, Culotta remembered the little boy, crying and soaked in blood, on the beach along a deepwater lagoon at Engebi, the Marshall island where he was stationed during the Eniwetok attacks. Culotta had been part of the atoll-by-atoll Marine and Army invasions aimed at breaking the Japanese grip on the Pacific archipelago. There had been naval bombardments of the heavily fortified islands, amphibious landings, hellish fighting and heavy casualties, especially among the Japanese.

Caught between the bullets, trying to survive the war, were the natives of the islands. One of them was the little boy carried to Culotta's beach station. He

couldn't remember exactly who brought the little boy to him - it might have been a Marine - but he remembered distinctly being ordered to ensure that the child survived so that the Marshallese might see the good their American liberators could do.

Culotta cleaned the boy up, wrapped him in bandages, got him on a boat and took him to surgeons on a ship, the USS Cambria.

"Take care of him," Culotta remembered being told. "Bring him back well so these people will see that we're not just here to kill, but to save lives."

Culotta continued dictating the letter: "During the period that this boy was cared for aboard the USS Cambria, all of the crewmen and officers became attached to him."

Culotta had in his files a photograph taken by a Coast Guardsman. It showed Culotta, the East Baltimore kid, bare-chested and lean at 19, looking down on the little island boy in a sailor suit made for him by the ship's tailor.

"I remember the difficult time we had communicating," Culotta went on dictating. "However, we each managed to learn a few words."

He reached for some Navy stationery, yellow and creased and dogeared now, on which Culotta had spelled phonetically some of the island words the little boy taught him - words for parts of the human body and commonplace objects.

Culotta remembered a promise the boy had made - to one day give his American "Papa" the prettiest seashells from the beaches of Eniwetok.

Then Culotta pulled out a sheet of paper marked, "USS Cambria, Plan of the day, executive officer's morning orders." It was for March 5, 1944, the day the Cambria was due to leave the lagoon and head into its next mission. Culotta had saved it all these years because it was from his last day in the Marshalls - and his last day with the little island boy. At 8 a.m., according to the orders, Culotta took the boy by boat to a seaplane tender, the USS Chincoteague, so that he could be returned to his family on Eniwetok.

"It was difficult to part with [the boy] - he commenced crying," Culotta recalled in his letter to the embassy. "I remember placing a thermometer in his mouth and then leaving."

He had become so attached, Culotta could not bear a long goodbye. Placing the thermometer in the little sailor's mouth, to keep him from crying, was his last memory of that distant time. He went on to serve out the war, taking part in nine is-

land landings across the Pacific. He returned to Baltimore, became a lawyer and ran for public office in the city many times as a Republican heavily outnumbered by Democrats.

"I always wondered what happened to 'Ku-Noo-Waw,'" Culotta's letter concluded. "I hope he is alive and well."

The letter went to Washington, and then to Majuro, the capital of the Marshalls, and then into the hands of one of the islands' elected officials, Ishmael John. John understood immediately that Culotta's letter referred to a colleague, also a local politician, one Kunio Joseph. And, indeed, Kunio Joseph, a 66-year-old member of the island council, recognized that the letter was from his "Papa."

He, too, had wondered for years about the kind sailor who'd taken care of him after he had been severely wounded by a grenade blast while hiding with his grandfather in a cave on Eniwetok.

He thought "Papa" might have died during the war.

"He had tried in the past to locate his mentor, through visiting military personnel to Enewetak," said a letter, translated into English and faxed to Culotta from the mayor's office in Majuro. "But due to no records or little information from [Kunio] to them they had very little to work on. ... Upon receiving your communiqué, [Kunio] proudly announced to every gathering/meetings ... that he has found his Papa in the U.S."

The men met in Washington last week for the first time since March 5, 1944. Ishmael John arranged for Kunio Joseph to join him on an official trip to the Capitol. Culotta, still trim and vigorous after nearly 60 years, embraced his "Ku-Noo-Waw," and Kunio Joseph, smiling broadly, gave his "Papa" a wall hanging made from palm fronds - and the prettiest seashells from the beaches of Eniwetok.

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

The cost for this issue of the *Cambria Press News* is \$493.18. We have received \$50.00 from a reunion reservation refund and the member generously requested it be put into the newsletter fund. That amount will be deducted from the amount due from the Association.

## USS CAMBRIA 2004 REUNION SAVANNAH, GA, APRIL 15-18, DAYS INN

Lovely Savannah, GA is your choice for the 2004 USS Cambria reunion. The reunion will be held on **April 15-18** at the **Days Inn**, located across the street from River Street and adjacent to City Market right in the heart of the city.

Savannah, Georgia's first city, will charm you with its beautifully restored homes, its tree-filled squares and its historic past. Georgia was founded in 1733 by James Oglethorpe and was the thirteenth and final American colony. It was named after England's King George II and Savannah became its first city. Oglethorpe laid the city out in a series of grids that allowed for wide open streets intertwined with shady public squares and parks that served as town meeting places and centers of business. Savannah had 24 original squares with 21 still in existence. These squares make Savannah a beautiful city and add to its truly Southern charm. Tall live oaks dripping with Spanish moss, along with fountains and statuaries, fill the squares, making the city one of America's most popular vacation spots.

There is a great deal to do in Savannah, much of which is in walking distance of the hotel that will host your reunion. There is also a city trolley which makes stops at the Days Inn, enabling you to explore the city on your own during your leisure time. Below are a small sampling of things to do and see in Savannah. Read through them and then let us know your wishes for the reunion by filling out the survey at the end.

### ATTRACTIONS

**Savannah Riverboat Tour:** Want to see a different view of Savannah? Take a cruise on the Savannah River Queen, a replica 19th century stern-wheel riverboat. Daily one-hour sightseeing cruises, as well as lunch and dinner cruises, are offered from River Street.

**Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum:** See artifact collections from the Mighty Eighth Air Force, whose headquarters were founded in Savannah in 1942. The Mighty Eighth's bombers and fighters operated during WWII and continue to be an important component of the US Air Force's Air

Combat Command. The museum contains thousands of historical objects, including three-dimensional items ranging from flight gear to materials crafted by veterans during their stay in POW camps.

**Old Fort Jackson:** Old Fort Jackson is the oldest standing fort in Georgia. Begun in 1808 and used in the War of 1812, it saw its greatest use as the headquarters for the Confederate river defenses during the Civil War. Visitors today can see military hardware including projectiles and cannons from the CSS Georgia, a Confederate ironclad that is sunk in the Savannah River. This is one of Savannah's most popular tourist attractions. A special program, including dinner at the fort, can be arranged for groups.

**Ships of the Sea Museum:** Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum exhibits ship models, paintings and maritime antiques, principally from the great era of Atlantic trade and travel between England and America during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is housed in the elegant home built for the president of Savannah Steamship Company, William Scarbrough. The site also boasts a delightful garden area.

**Roundhouse Railroad Museum:** Savannah's Central of Georgia Railway National Landmark District is the oldest and most complete Antebellum railroad manufacturing and repair facility still in existence in the US. Thirteen of the original structures, built in 1845, are still standing. The Roundhouse Railroad Museum now has permanent exhibits in five of the structures. Included are steam engines, belt-driven machinery, locomotives and railroad rolling stock, and model railroad layouts.

**Fort Pulaski:** Fort Pulaski was taken by Union troops in April of 1862 when they directed the first rifled cannon fire at the fort, breaching the southeast angle. The accuracy and range of rifled cannon rendered brick fortifications obsolete. The fort was the first military assignment for the young Robert E. Lee. This remarkably intact example of 19th century military architecture, with its estimated 25 million brick and 7.5 foot thick walls, is preserved for future generations.

## USS CAMBRIA 2004 SURVEY SAVANNAH, GA

In order to insure we provide the kind of reunion that you want, please take a few minutes to read over this survey, then complete and return to:

**ML&RS, Inc**  
**P O Drawer 11399**  
**Hickory, NC 28603**  
**or Fax:**  
**828-256-6559**

### REUNION ACTIVITIES

Please check any of the activities that you would like to see on the agenda.

**Savannah Riverboat Tour** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum** \_\_\_\_\_

**Old Fort Jackson** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ships of the Sea Museum** \_\_\_\_\_

**Roundhouse Railroad Museum** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fort Pulaski** \_\_\_\_\_

Your comments or suggestions are welcomed below:

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**Registration packets will be mailed out approximately 90 days prior to the reunion. Be sure to read the packets carefully.**