

CAMBRIA PRESS NEWS

Volume 12 Issue 1

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS CAMBRIA



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- David Stoll reports on the 2008 reunion in Philadelphia, PA for our cover story.
- Ramon Stafford's Treasurer's Report is on page two.
- Ten newly located shipmates are in Welcome Mat on page three.
- Mail Call begins on page three with a letter from the daughter of one of your shipmates. She attended the 2008 reunion. See what she has to say about it.
- William "Ike" Iacaruso remembers some of his days on the Cambria. See Mail Call.
- If you ever had your picture drawn by Jack Gates while on the Cambria, you'll want to read his daughter's letter on page 4.

REUNION REPORT FOR 2008

Submitted by David Stoll

Everyone started to arrive around noon on Thursday for the reunion in Philadelphia. We gathered in the Hospitality Room set up for us and talked with each other and reacquainted ourselves with each other. We met new members and were able to do what we wanted to do that afternoon.

Around five o'clock we had a Welcome Reception and some light hors d'oeuvres along with an open bar. Later on we introduced ourselves along with our wives or friends and told stories about the Cambria while we were on her. We ended around eight o'clock and got ready for our tour Friday morning.

Friday morning we had breakfast in our private

room, then we got ready for our first tour to the Battleship New Jersey, the most decorated battleship in the U.S. Navy. On our way there, the tour guide would point out different places and things to us as we passed them. We saw the Philadelphia Shipyard and a couple of ships docked up there. When we arrived at the ship we had two options. One was to walk the ship, or we could go to the ward room and watch a video of the tour. Some took the ward room and the rest took the walking tour. After the tour of the ship we were off to the Bourse Building for lunch.

After lunch we explored the "Most Historic Mile in History." We saw the Liberty Bell and were told the history of it. Then we walked to the Independ-

ence Hall and were given the history of that. Congress Hall was also included on this tour. On our way back to the hotel, we saw Benjamin Franklin Parkway and stopped at Rocky's stairs. Some got off the bus and walked the stairs and some ran them. We arrived back to the hotel around four-thirty and got ready for our evening meal.

At six o'clock we had a social hour and dinner and after dinner we reintroduced ourselves for the new ones that came in that day. After that we played Yankee Swap. This was a lot of fun. The ones who brought gifts from their area got a chance to get a gift from some other area. After this we chatted for awhile and then retired for

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the next morning's tour.

Saturday morning we had breakfast in our eating area and then we got ready for our tour at nine o'clock. We went to Valley Forge for a tour of the encampment area. Upon arrival we saw a film on the area and what they did there. Then we took the bus and toured the area and visited the house where George Washington stayed while he was there.

We returned to the hotel around 1:30 PM or so and at 3:00 PM we held our meeting. The minutes were read and approved and the Treasurer's Report was given. We had nominations for where we wanted to go in 2010, and Boston won out. We will be in Washington, DC, in 2009. We kept the same officers for another year.

After the meeting we had time to get ready for our evening banquet and had our pictures taken for the year book. There was a cash bar for those who wanted something to drink. After the meal was over we introduced three or four new members that came just for the banquet this year. We had the Memorial Service on Saturday evening because several people were leaving early Sunday morning.

Sunday morning we all met in the dining area and had breakfast together, then one by one started to leave and to say our good byes. We were on our way home by 9:00 AM.

Just a reminder to mark down Washington, DC in the Spring of 2009.

David Stoll
President of USS Cambria Association

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM ML&RS

Cost of this issue of the *Cambria Press* will depend on the number of copies mailed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Ramon Stafford

From the desk of treasurer

MONEY AT BEGINNING OF REUNION APRIL 2007	\$1,884.31
MONEY RECEIVED FOR DUES	\$ 280.00
MONEY RECEIVED HATS/PINS	\$ 609.50
MONEY RECEIVED FOR NEWSLETTER	\$2,472.00
TOTAL	\$5,245.81

MONEY EXPENDED

PAID FOR NEWSLETTER 7/2/2007	\$834.00
PAID FOR NEWSLETTER 1/23/08	\$741.43
PAID FOR 51 HATS EAGLE CREST	\$394.41
PAID FOR POSTAGE	\$ 57.15
	\$2,026.99

MONEY ON HAND AS OF 6/8/08 \$3,218.82

We have 471 crew members that received the last newsletter by mail. We have about 900 on the list. That includes about 150 Deceased crew members and about 150 with incomplete address. With the money we have, that will only be about 4 to 5 more issues. It is hard to keep asking for donations all the time, but our reunion group has been going on since 1993 and at our age it would be nice to keep it going for several more years. Any donation that you can make would be appreciated. We as a group several years ago decided to have a one time donation for dues of \$10.00 and any other donations go for the newsletter.

I have been working on the E-Mail list for several months and have made several phone calls trying to get E-Mail addresses so we can start sending the newsletter by E-Mail. The last newsletter that was sent by E-Mail a few of the crew members said they did not receive it. This time the newsletter is sent by E-Mail you must reply that you have received it or it will be sent to you by regular mail. I am finding that most that I have contacted can receive it as long as it is sent by adobe. If you have a E-Mail address please send it to me and MLRS to get the cost of our newsletter down. My E-Mail address is rstafford@kinex.net and Karen, who writes the newsletter, is karenmlrs@charterinternet.com

At our meeting in Philadelphia it was decided to increase our hats to \$15.00 if they are to be mailed, that includes the postage. At the reunion the hats will stay at \$10.00. If you want a USS Cambria cap, please send a check for \$15.00 to Ramon Stafford, 5324 Tower Hill Rd., Gladstone Va. 24553 and I will mail it in the return mail. Phone No. 434-969-4811.

Thank you.
Ramon Stafford, Treasurer

Editor's Note: Due to space limitations, the survey for the 2009 Washington, DC area reunion will be offered only on line. Go to www.mlrsinc.com/cambria to fill out the survey.



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.

Richard Gustafson
109 Southamptn PIN
Venice, FL 34293
941-493-8406

Bob Cleary
9 Quonset St
Hull, MA 02045
hullbob1@verizon.net

Stuart Shook
282 Covington Dr
Advance, NC 27006
336-940-4017

Harold Iman
1472 Butts Station Rd
Chesapeake, VA 23320
757-547-4462

Harold Towne
happyharry001@worldnet.att.net

Howard Brandt
(1956-58) ET3 OE Div
106 Arch St
Pittsburgh, PA 15025
412-655-9036
papabrandt@aol.com

Frank Longo (1948-49) BMC
5804 Meade Ave
San Diego, CA 92115
619-583-8237

William Francis (1945)
SM3/c Navy Flag, Navy Bridge
35 Grandview Pl
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
925-935-5696

Herbert Drucker
(1951-55) EN3 A Div

9599 Weldon Cir Apt 215
Tamarac, FL 33321
954-724-9311
druckerh@bellsouth.net

Vince Higgins
119 Ashley Ave
Brielle, NJ 08730



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.

Leonard Sujkowski
(1951-55) FA/MM2 Div A
Date of death not reported

Everett France
Died July 1, 2007

Harliss Hill
Date of death not reported

Robert Arnonsohn
(1956-58) SN 3rd Div
Died February 10, 2008

Frederick Smith
(1969-70) RDM 3/c Radio
Died March 25, 2008

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Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To

MAIL CALL

To the USS Cambria Reunion Attendees, Philadelphia, PA April 3-6, 2008,

I'm writing this letter as a great big "Thank You" to all those who were at the reunion in Philadelphia in April. This was my first year attending this annual gathering and I want to let everyone know how welcome my husband and I were made to feel. My name is Rosemary Haines and I was representing my dad, James Unglesbee, who served on board the Cambria in 1951-1952 on duty in the Mediterranean Sea as a radioman. Unfortunately, Dad left us in June of 2005. Amazingly, we never were aware that those reunions took place, and just by chance, as we were researching some of his Navy history, we came across the MRLS website and discovered this event. I know that if he had known about them, my dad would have made the effort to attend and meet up with old shipmates. After a call to Richard Halstead, who welcomed family members of deceased sailors to attend, I decided that someone in our family would come to represent a husband and father who proudly served aboard the USS Cambria. I cannot begin to tell you all how much I appreciated the kindness that was shown to me during the days in Philadelphia. I am proud and honored that I could be there to represent my father and to return home and share my wonderful and emotional experiences with my mother, brothers and sisters. I am looking forward to next year's reunion gathering in Washington, DC, and since we live only an hour away, I am hoping that others in our family will be able to attend some of the events there. I really want my mother to meet some of the wonderful men who served aboard the ship that her husband proudly served his country on, not too many years after they were married.

Unfortunately, I never talked to Dad about his service in the Navy during the war years, (he also served as a radioman on the LST 848 during WWII in the Pacific, before his duties

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on the Cambria, and this reunion was a tangible way of connecting to my father and his proud service to our country.

Thanks again to all of you and I hope to see you again next year in D.C.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Haines
Daughter of James Unglesbee

Cambria Press News,

I started my career in the Navy as a 17 and 5 month old youngster prior to my 12th year of high school. I managed to get my dad to sign me up for my first 3 years enlistment at the Navy Recruiting Office in Philadelphia, PA, after traveling to my sister's house in Atlantic City, NJ. The next thing I knew, I was placed on a train to Waukegan, IL. From there I was loaded on a bus, along with other recruits, to the NTC at Great Lakes, IL. Upon completion of Boot Camp training, I was transferred to my first ship, USS Cambria (APA-36) at Little Creek, VA.

I still remember the "Request Permission to Come Aboard, Sir" statement as I walked the plank to get on board.

My duties consisted of being the ship's Yeoman (YNSA). About six months later, my rate was changed to the new rating of Personnel Man (PN) due to the new rating structure. I spent two years aboard the Cambria and was transferred to the USS Holder (DD-219) as a Third Class Petty Officer.

While aboard the Cambria, I learned a lot of shipboard terms, such as "Port" and "Starboard", "Astern", etc. During many of my time offs, either at sea or in port, I would go up to the Bridge and spend time with my shipboard buddies such as Seaman James Fargo and Dwayne Haney. Also got to meet Chief Matlock. I believe he was a Chief Quartermaster, also Boatswain Mate Burton (I forgot his first name). I still remember Capt. Beard and also Capt. Shanze.

Take care,
William N Iacaruso (Ike

Hi,

My name is Margie Polk and I am writing on behalf of my dad Jack L. Gates. He served aboard the Cambria from March '44 to Feb '46. He is very proud of his ship and the crew and their contribution to war. Jack is now 86 and lives in a nursing home. He has pretty good long term memory and loves to talk about the crew and ship. He was an artist before he went into the service (CG). While on board the ship he drew many pictures of his shipmates for them to send home to loved ones. Capt Dean or one of the other officers found out about this and asked him to paint the ship numbers on the exterior of the ship. He said he was lowered in a bosun's chair over the side and painted all four sets of numbers. He said he thinks they were in the Philippines at the time. He has a framed picture of the Cambria and it was on his wall until just recently when we had to remove it for lack of room. I now have it and his portfolio of his time in service. He detailed very well and saved all kinds of things. We have a copy of the ship newspaper, a dance invitation(?), several pictures including: the typhoon, Jack on his landing craft and an entertainment where some of the guys are dressed up as gals. We have his pea coat, uniform and small sea bag, with the places and dates of battle listed on it, and a picture of his crewmates (Jack drove a LCVP). We have an article where it states he and his crew went out to pull another landing craft off a reef at Saipan. A large wave pushed his landing craft unto the reef and then they were stuck there with Japanese motor and U.S. shells passing overhead and all around. Several hours later, a Marine amphibious tractor pulled them both off. He said that was pretty scary.

My dad would like to continue getting the newsletter and we need it sent c/o me, address 3809 S. Pepper Chase Court, Bloomington, IN 47401. He would like to hear from any of his crew members who

remember him. He remembers some of them quite well.

Margie Polk

David Stoll,

Having served on the USS Cambria APA-36 from 1950-1952 was quite an honor. I received some very good training. Discipline was one of the best things that helped later on. I can remember when the basketball team won the championship. You'll never guess where we went for dinner. The team was all invited to Captain Allen's house. I sure would like to remember our coach's name—Lt or LTjg and some players. I enjoyed my years and shipmates.

William Nichols, EM3

Hi Karen,

Here's a tidbit about something regarding the USS Cambria APA-36:

I was visiting my dad, Frederick Smith, who suffers from advanced Alzheimer's, recently. He's staying at a place called the Holyoke Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, Massachusetts. He's 84 years old.

After the visit and while walking down a passageway to exit the place they had photos of various ships and other things. I looked at one of the photos in detail. It has some ship that I forgot the name of, but in front of that ship was a Mike Boat, or landing craft, that had the inscription APA36-19 on the side.

I wish I knew more about it. Hopefully on a future visit I can question people about where it was obtained or find out any history about it.

Frederick Smith, Jr.

Editor's Note: Regretfully, we received word shortly after this letter that Mr. Frederick Smith, former RM3 USS Cambria, had passed away on March 25, 2008.