

# POWELL POST

Volume 13 Issue 4

September 2007

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HALSEY POWELL



### *Points of Special Interest*

- *A recap of the 2007 reunion is our cover story. A list of attendees follows on page two.*
- *Skipper Mike writes his final column as your coordinator. See page two. He will write a farewell column for the next issue.*
- *Ed Collender's story continues on pages three and four*
- *Read the preview of Nashville for the 2008 reunion and fill out the survey. See pages 4 & 5.*
- *Meet your new coordinator, James Wyatt, on page six.*

## NEWS FROM 2007 REUNION IN PORTLAND, OR

The Holiday Inn Lloyd Center in Portland, OR, was the site of the 2007 USS Halsey Powell, (DD-686) reunion. Thirty members and twenty-two guests attended the reunion which was held from Wednesday, September 19 through Sunday, September 23.

Wednesday afternoon was a busy time as attendees registered, settled into their rooms and got started on their "sea tales" in the hospitality room while enjoying the refreshments provided there. The first evening began at 1845 hours with the Welcome

Reception and the welcoming remarks by Mike Baker (Skipper Mike), the reunion coordinator. He made introductions and announcements and then a dinner buffet was served. Everyone enjoyed a relaxing evening making new friends or visiting with old buddies.

Thursday was a free day to do whatever one pleased. No formal activities were planned, giving everyone plenty of time for what reunions are all about—reconnecting with old friends and sharing stories.

Friday after breakfast at the hotel, most of the group participated in the tour aboard a sternwheeler for an exciting sightseeing excursion cruise of the Columbia River Gorge. During the cruise the group witnessed a huge fire at a wood plant right on the river as the sternwheeler cruised by. This fire was all over the news in Portland. After the cruise the tour continued on to Multnomah Falls, the second highest year-round waterfall in the United States. The falls plummet 620 feet from its

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origin on Larch Mountain. From the information center many in the group followed the 1.2 mile trail that climbs approximately 600 feet to the top of Multnomah Falls. The trail provided terrific views of the falls and the Columbia River Gorge. The tour showcased the beautiful scenery of the Northwest and will long be remembered. After returning to the hotel the rest of the day was free for activities of one's choosing.

Saturday at 9:00 AM the annual business meeting was held. Mike Baker announced that he is stepping down as reunion coordinator after many years holding that position. James Wyatt was chosen to replace him as coordinator and Nashville, TN was selected as the 2008 reunion site. The remainder of the day was free until the 5:30 PM Memorial Service. Mike Baker led the service where all those Halsey Powell shipmates who have passed away were honored. Names of those who had passed away since the last reunion were read and a short service was held. Following the Memorial Service it was time for the pre-dinner cocktail hour and to have everyone's picture made for the post reunion Memory Book. Then at 7:00 PM the USS Halsey Powell banquet commenced with the Colors being presented by the national distinguished award winning Mountain View/Bend/Summit High Schools Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. After the playing of the National Anthem, the members and guest of the USS Halsey Powell were welcomed to the banquet by Skipper Mike. He was given a standing ovation by everyone for all his hard work during his time as skipper of the group. Following the banquet meal, Captain Joe Chambliss spoke to the group about his Navy career. Everyone enjoyed his presentation and then were ready for some music to end the night. A DJ and Karaoke entertained the crowd, and a great time was had by all. The evening ended with everyone in high spirits after a great night of good food and good fellowship.

Sunday morning brought the reun-

ion to a close, with a private breakfast buffet and a short closing ceremony. Good-byes followed, with many hugs and handshakes and best wishes until everyone meets again in Nashville for the 2008 reunion.

## 2007 REUNION ATTENDEES

Trueman "Bill" & Gale Alley  
 Cornell & Charlotte Anton  
 Anthony & Ginny Areias  
 Michael & Ruth Baker  
 Richard Block  
 Jeanne Breaux  
 Henry Brown  
 Capt. Joe Chambliss & brother  
 James & Colleen Combs  
 Luciano & Janie De La Cruz  
 Erwin & Dorian Dillard  
 Ray & Janette Edwards  
 Glen & Shirley Hanne  
 Robert Jones  
 Richard Julala  
 Robert & Carolyn Sue Justis  
 Miller & Jo Ann Keplinger  
 Jackie Kimbrough  
 Robert & Patricia Lange  
 Mike McCartney & Mildred Tadlock  
 Ralph & Judy Miller  
 Stanley & Joan Miller  
 Gary & Beverly Moore  
 Gary & Phyllis Mootry  
 Stewart & Arlene Nephew  
 Willard & Dorothy Owen  
 Wesley Pomeroy  
 Etta Mae Smith  
 Alfred & Patricia Sparks  
 James & Joyce Wyatt

**Total Members: 30**  
**Guests: 22**  
**GRAND TOTAL: 52**

### Financial Statement

The cost of this issue is \$158.74 mailed to 74 members who returned the coupon for a paper copy. The newsletter is available on the web-site at [www.mlrsinc.com/hpowell](http://www.mlrsinc.com/hpowell).

# SKIPPER MIKE SPEAKS

August 7, 2007

### "NOW HEAR THIS"

Very hot, very dry summer in Holland. Less than 1/2 inch rain in past 3 1/2 months. More 90° + days than ever before.

Last week of July finally found us in Florida. Son got married. Disney World was hot and humid. We were on the go all the time. Ruth ended up in a wheel chair and I got an electric scooter. Our daughter from Mississippi came so she pushed Ruth and I followed behind the group.

Home now getting ready for daughter's visit next week. Also getting ready for trip to Portland.

Looking forward to seeing many of you there.

That is all,  
 Skipper Mike

### PRAYER LIST

Please pray for our POW's and MIA's. Pray also for those serving our nation today, especially those in harm's way. Pray for our shipmates and their families who are in trouble, sorrow, sickness, need or any other adversity. Pray especially for:

Harold Schmidt  
 Bob Miller  
 Willard Owen  
 Joe Doughty  
 Joan Traut  
 Pat Reese  
 Frank Costagliola

**Watch for the December issue for more details on Skipper Mike's resignation. He will have a farewell article for you in that issue.**



## WELCOME MAT

The USS HALSEY POWELL Association welcomes the following recently located crewmembers. We hope to see you at our next reunion, and trust that you will become an active member of the Association. Welcome Aboard!

**James Lemmon**

(1945-46) GM3  
24510 64th Ave S Apt C29  
Kent, WA 98032  
253-856-9975

**James "George" O'Donnell**

(1964)LT(jg)  
(1965)199 Carnelian Way  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
415-647-9492  
jodonn5052@aol.com

**Richard Julala**

(1964)ETR2  
12845 SE Where Else Ln  
Milwaukee, OR 97222  
503-659-3143

**Gerald "Jerry" Rost**

(1951-53) LT(jg)  
4650-143 Dulin Rd  
Fallbrook, CA 92028  
760-728-4640  
jerrost@yahoo.com

**The Powell Post is Published By:**

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc  
PO Drawer 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603

828-256-6008 (voice)  
828-256-6559 (fax)

dinamlrs@aol.com (e-mail)  
mlrsnewsletters.com (newsletter e-mail)

[www.mlrsinc.com](http://www.mlrsinc.com)

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



## TAPS

The Post was notified of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. Not all members died recently, but we just learned of their deaths. The entire crew sends our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased. Please let ML&RS know if you learn of the death of a former shipmate so he can be recognized in here and on the Honor Roll at the reunion.

**Leo F Green, Sr**

Died July 23, 2006

**James Alton (1963-65)**

Date of death not reported

**Bob Miller**

Died August 6, 2007

**Phyllis Mootry**, wife of shipmate Gary Mootry, passed away on Oct. 9, 2007. Phyllis became sick on her stomach at the 2007 reunion. When she got home, tests revealed that she had liver cancer. Phyllis attended all the reunions and was loved and respected by all who knew her. Gary's address is 102 Molalla Ct, Roseburg, OR 97470

## "THE STORY OF MY LIFE"

### BY ED COLLENDER

Continued from the last issue

#### FLAGSHIP

**5-5-44** We returned to Pearl Harbor for what turned out to be the assembling of the Saipan Invasion Force. During our absence our advance fleet anchorage had been advanced from Majuro to Kwajalein. Our new Squadron Commander came aboard that day with his staff and a mysterious piece of 4X8 plywood, all wrapped up. Referred to informally by cadets as "Uncle Beanie" when he had been Exec at the Naval Academy, Captain Harry Bean

Jarrett, USNA, '22, former Capt of DD Morris, moved in to the Captain's quarters and our Skipper shifted into his sea cabin, aft of the bridge. Uncle Beanie, properly addressed as Commodore in this case, was a pleasant sort and good shipmate. He had four Officers and six enlisted on his staff which crowded things up a bit but they were a congenial bunch and, it was prestigious being the Flagship of the nine Destroyers, now known as DesRon53. *(As he started down the deck for his morning constitutional on this first day on board, machinist mate Snake Owen sprang to attention at his approach, but he slipped and fell flat on his backside. As the Commodore helped him up he said, "Son, I'm not that important.")*

#### CAMERAS

Back in Pearl it was loading beans, bullets and black oil as a part of the process. One day I bummed a ride with a couple of Marines in a jeep as they headed for the Fleet Photo Center in downtown Honolulu where I checked out a roll of film, a camera and an 8 mm movie job, plus as much film as I could carry (*part of our authorized allowance*). While unloading my loot on the wardroom table there was a tremendous explosion. I crammed the movie film in my shirt and headed up, hardly stopping at the bridge as I went up the mast and out on the yardarm. Three LST's at West Lock, about a mile away were blowing all over the sky, and my camera was following each blast as it occurred. Reloading the camera was almost automatic as I was absorbed in the scene. When it all subsided I realized that I was sitting with my feet dangling in open space, 75 feet above the water, so I gingerly eased back to the mast, climbed down and hurried over to Naval Intelligence with the film. The next day I had a private showing of my film along with a little instruction in the art of movie making. The exposure and content were great, I

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just didn't have the "artiste" in me...and that was the last I saw of that film.

While we were here, I took a bus ride over the Nuanuu Pali Pass-to the Kaneohe Bay Marine Air Station on the east side of the island to see John Sauvage. This was quite a ride down a winding narrow road with strong thermal wind currents rushing up the side of the cliff. I don't believe passenger cars were permitted, and the bus drivers had to be certified for the run. (*It appears that this route has since been replaced by a tunnel.*) Fraternity brother John, ITT '41, was a Navy Lieutenant then and had been there since graduation. He headed up the aircraft maintenance department and took me for a tour of the place.

### VHF VOICE RADIO

Traditionally communications between maneuvering ships had been by signal hoist or blinker as well as by Morse code on High Frequencies which required a long wire antenna (*over 100 feet*). On shipboard the radio message would be received in the radio shack, typed and delivered by messenger to the bridge. About this time a new state of the art system, popularly known as TBS (*talk between ships*) came into use. It was VHF (*very high frequency*) and only required a 16 foot antenna, mounted in a vertical position, providing a line of sight transmission. Furthermore, the microphone and speaker were remotely located on the bridge. It was a new tool for the Captain and the Officer of the Deck; and a new hazard, it was "mike Fright," as one would be talking to the entire Task Group when pressing the push-to-talk button. Each ship had a two or three syllable, easily pronounced code name. One of our first was "Lone Tree" and Uncle Beanie's, as ComDesRon 53 was "Pin Up." (*One of Halsey's was "Jehovah."*)

To be continued in the December issue.

## DISCOVER WHAT NASHVILLE HAS TO OFFER IN 2008

"Music City USA" or the "Athens of the South" are two appropriate names for this Southern city, home to over 500,000 people. With so much to see and do in Nashville, the city is a great choice for your reunion. See what Nashville has to offer for your 2008 reunion.

### ATTRACTIONS

**Grand Ole Opry:** Take country music's greatest legends, mix in today's biggest superstars, add the hottest new voices on the charts, and you have the world-famous Grand Ole Opry. Come to be part of the live performance and share the music and the memories of country's grandest show—the Grand Ole Opry. (*Saturday nights only. For this reason, your banquet would have to be on Friday night.*)

**Country Music Hall of Fame:** See live performances, interactive exhibits and rare costumes, instruments and archival films all in one place. The Country Music Hall of Fame is a must-see for all country music fans.

**Jack Daniels Distillery:** The Jack Daniels Distillery is the oldest registered distillery in the United States and among the most prestigious. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors will receive personally guided tours of the distillery and observe the famous whiskey-making process.

**Grand Ole Opry Museum:** The museum pays tribute to the longest-running radio show in the country and its yesteryear's stars with exhibits honoring them and their modern-day counterparts.

**Military Branch of the Tennessee State Museum:** Located in the War Memorial Building as a tribute

to veterans, the museum features exhibits on America's involvement in foreign wars from the Spanish-American War to World War II. Exhibits showcase the weapons, uniforms and battle histories.

**General Jackson Showboat:** This \$12 million, four-deck paddle wheeler cruises the Cumberland River as you enjoy strolling the decks and listening to the lively entertainment found throughout the boat. Lunch and dinner cruises are available.

**Belle Meade Plantation:** Called the "Queen of the Tennessee Plantations" this 1853 Greek Revival mansion was once home to a thoroughbred stud farm and nursery. Today, docents in period costume guide you through the mansion and impart tales of a slower paced society, when plantations were way of life for a few select Southerners.

**Tour of the City of Nashville:** This fully narrated city tour will give you an overview of the sites around the city, including some of the stars homes, the **Ryman Auditorium** (original home of the Grand Ole Opry), the Parthenon and other places of interest. The tour also includes lunch at **The Hermitage Smorgasbord**, located at the beautifully restored home of President Andrew Jackson. At **The Hermitage** you will see personal belongings and furnishings of the president that reveal Old Hickory's sophistication and stylish tastes that remain elegant today.

We want your reunion in Nashville to be one you will remember, so please help in the planning by returning the survey to Military Locator & Reunion Service promptly. Then we can begin the process of putting together your reunion package to suit your wishes.

# USS HALSEY POWELL 2008 REUNION SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey so we can custom design your reunion to your wishes.

## The Reunion

Would you like a Welcome Reception the first evening of the reunion?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings? \_\_\_\_

Or only on Sunday morning? \_\_\_\_

Do you want entertainment after the banquet? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**Please check the attractions you would like to visit during the reunion.**

Grand Ole Opry (Saturday Night Only) \_\_\_\_

Country Music Hall of Fame \_\_\_\_

Jack Daniels Distillery \_\_\_\_

Grand Ole Opry Museum \_\_\_\_

Military Branch of the TN State Museum \_\_\_\_

General Jackson Showboat \_\_\_\_

Belle Meade Plantation \_\_\_\_

City Tour (including The Hermitage) \_\_\_\_

**Return to:**  
**Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.**  
 P. O. Drawer 11399  
 Hickory, NC 28603

**Or Fax:**  
 828-256-6559

**RETURN BY NOVEMBER 12, 2007**

## FOR SALE PATCHES & COFFEE MUGS

PATCHES \$10.00  
 COFFEE MUGS \$15.00

Make check payable to:  
 Mike Baker  
 109 Dunton Ave  
 Holland, MI 49424



U.S.S. HALSEY POWELL  
 DD-686  
 KOREA 1950-1953

MUG \$15.00  
 #PPM



MUG \$15.00  
 #BCM



4 1/2" 7 COLOR PATCH  
 \$10.00 #HPP

## MEET YOUR NEW COORDINATOR, JAMES WYATT

Having been elected to the office of Skipper/Chairman of the Halsey Powell reunion committee, I thought it only fitting that I tell you something about myself.

I was born and raised in Wellsville, Utah and joined the Navy in August of 1952. Following boot camp in San Diego and attending Electrician Mate "A" school in Great Lakes Training Center, I reported aboard the *USS Isherwood, DD-520* stationed in Newport, RI in January of 1953. After a Mediterranean cruise that year, I was transferred to the Navel Training Center in Anacostia, D.C. to attend FT-A school in January of 1954. Following graduation from FT school I was assigned to the *Halsey Powell* in November of 54. In March or April of 1956 I was assigned to the *Southerland, DDR-743* to ride out the final 4 months of my enlistment

After leaving the Navy in August of 1960, I moved to Chicago for three years and then returned to Utah where I still live. In 2001 I was contacted by Jerry Dwyasuk who told me of the Halsey Powell reunions. I was able to attend the reunion in Colorado Springs and haven't missed one since. Joyce, my wife of 47 years, has been with me to them all, and our daughter Brynne has been with us for the last four.

I consider it an honor to have been entrusted with this responsibility and will do my best, with the help of the rest of the duty section, to continue the great tradition that has become the "Halsey Powell Reunion." Skipper Mike Baker has done a great service for us all in establishing and maintaining this yearly event that has become such an important part of so many of our lives. I will try to live up to the standard he has set and I thank him for all his efforts throughout the years.

## RED'S JOKE CORNER

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shined his flashlight around, looking for valuables, and when he picked up a CD player to place in his sack, a strange, disembodied voice echoed from the dark saying, "Jesus is watching you."

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight out, and froze. When he heard nothing more after a bit, he shook his head, promised himself a vacation after the next big score, then clicked the light on and began searching for more valuables. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, "Jesus is watching you." Freaked out, he shone his light around, frantically looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.

"Did you say that?" he hissed at the parrot.

"Yep," the parrot confessed, then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you."

The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?"

"Moses," replied the bird.

"Moses?" the burglar laughed. "What kind of people would name a bird Moses?"

"The kind of people that would name a rottweiler Jesus."



## STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The POWELL POST is the official publication of the USS HALSEY POWELL Association. It is published quarterly in March, June, September and December, *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the Halsey Powell by sending contributions to Mike Baker USS Halsey Powell Association.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially to share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the editor of the newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations. Copyrighted material cannot be used without attribution to the author and publication. If you think an article printed in another publication would be of interest to your shipmates, send the entire article—do not paraphrase it and send it in your own words. Let the editor do that.

ML&RS, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of article submitted for publication. It would be a monumental task to check each story. Therefore we rely on the submitter to research each article.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family by submitting your stories and suggestions.