

# POWELL POST

Volume 13 Issue 1

December 2006

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HALSEY POWELL



### *Points of Special Interest*

- *A report on the 2006 reunion in Warwick, RI is our cover story. See how much fun was had and then plan to join the 2007 reunion in Portland, OR.*
- *Page two has a list of the reunion attendees and a report on the business meeting.*
- *“Skipper Mike Speaks” is found on page three, along with the 2007 reunion dates announcement.*
- *Two stories written by your fellow shipmates are on page four. Please let us hear from more of you!*

## 2006 REUNION ONE OF THE BEST

The USS Halsey Powell (DD-686) held its 2006 reunion at Warwick, RI on October 4-8 at the Crown Plaza Hotel with twenty-five members and twenty-one guests attending. Mike Baker welcomed the attendees at the Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening at 5:00 PM. Introductions were made, the agenda was reviewed and then it was time for some fun. Those who had not already gotten acquainted in the Hospitality Room following registration, had a chance to meet and have a relaxing chat while enjoying a drink. Dinner was an Italian buffet served at 7:00

PM, followed by more time in the Hospitality Room looking over the memorabilia or sharing stories.

Thursday began with a private breakfast buffet and then it was off for a tour of Boston. There is so much history in Boston that one day is really not sufficient to take it all in. Some of the sites seen were Beacon Hill, the Old Meeting House, Granary Burial Grounds where John Hancock, Samuel Adams, Paul Revere are buried. Also the Old South Meeting House, Boston Massacre site, Paul Revere's house, Old North Church, Bunker Hill Monument, the Boston Tea Party

ship and more. A stop was made at the famous Quincy Market and then it was on to the Charlestown Navy Yard to visit the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) and the USS Cassin Young, a WWII Destroyer that was in the forefront of the Naval offensive against the Japanese. The tour returned to the hotel around 5:00 PM in time for everyone to make their own plans for dinner.

A breakfast buffet again awaited the members before the trip to Battleship Cove. At 9:00 AM the tour departed to Fall River, MA to one of the country's

*(Continued on page 2)*

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most complete collection of American WWII Navy ships, including the Battleship USS Massachusetts, the submarine Lionfish, the destroyer USS Joseph Kennedy, a landing craft and a couple PT boats. The bow of USS Fall River now graces the entrance to Battleship Cove and remains as a testament to those brave cruiser sailors who defend our country. Tour guides were available to accompany anyone who wished so, or self-paced, self-guided tours were also a choice. This was really a great day for all and greatly enjoyed! After returning to the hotel the rest of the afternoon and evening was free for storytelling and enjoying the company of old friends in the Hospitality Room and at dinner.

Saturday morning after breakfast the only thing on the agenda until evening was the 9:00 AM business meeting. Michael Baker was re-elected to serve as the Reunion Coordinator and Portland, OR was chosen as the 2007 reunion site. Board members will be Red Belden, Glen Hanne, Donald Connell, James Wyatt, and Luciano De La Cruz (alternate). Having a free day gave everyone a chance to explore Warwick, shop or drive to Newport to see the mansions of the rich and famous, or just relax in the hotel with friends. The Memorial Service was held at 6:00 PM in the Hospitality Room with Mike Baker leading the service, assisted by Luciano De La Cruz. The brief service honored all Halsey Powell shipmates who have passed away. Their names were read and a bell was tolled in their memory. Following the business meeting was the social hour and photo session where everyone had their picture taken for the post reunion Memory Book. Next came the highlight of the reunion—the USS Halsey Powell banquet. Everyone was called to the banquet by the playing of “Anchors Aweigh” and then joined in the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the National Anthem. Mike Baker welcomed all to the banquet festivities and made the

proper introductions. The dinner was served and then the 50/50 drawing was held. The winner was Erwin Dillard. Following the banquet proceedings, a DJ entertained the group with music. Some enjoyed just listening, while others got up on the dance floor and showed off some great moves. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and were reluctant to call it a night.

Sunday morning’s breakfast was the last item on the reunion agenda. The reunion, as usual, had been a great four days of companionship and rekindling friendships and no one wanted it to be over. But, reality must return, and everyone had to start on their trip back home, so good byes, handshakes and hugs brought the reunion to an end. Portland, OR will be the next reunion site, so everyone is looking forward to going to the West Coast next year.

**The Powell Post is Published By:**  
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*“Our Reunions Work So You Don’t Have To”*

## 2006 REUNION ATTENDEES

Cornell & Charlotte Anton  
 Anthony & Virginia Areias  
 Michael & Ruth Baker  
 Warren “Red” & Ardy Belden  
 Henry Brown  
 James & Colleen Combs  
 Donald & Marlene Connell  
 Luciano & Janie De La Cruz  
 Alden & Emily Deal  
 Erwin & Dorian Dillard  
 Joseph & Marie Doughty  
 Jerry & Colette Dywasuk  
 Glen & Shirley Hanne  
 Robert Jones  
 Robert & Carolyn Sue Justis  
 Jackie Kimbrough  
 Gilbert & Elvira Lege  
 Stanley & Joan Miller  
 Gary & Phyllis Mootry  
 Marvin & Doris Muck  
 Stewart & Arlene Nephew  
 Willard & Dorothy Owen  
 Robert Rivas  
 Alferd & Patricia Sparks  
 James & Joyce Wyatt

**Total Members: 25**  
**Guests: 21**  
**TOTAL MEMBERS: 46**

### Financial Statement

The cost of this issue is **\$119.48** mailed to **75** members who returned the coupon for a paper copy. The newsletter is available on the website at [www.mlrsinc.com/hpowell](http://www.mlrsinc.com/hpowell).

## 2006 BUSINESS MEETING

Officers were elected for 2007:

Skipper	Mike Baker
Vice Skipper	Cornell Anton
Duty Section	Warren Belden
Duty Section	Glen Hanne
Duty Section	Don Connell
Duty Section	Jim Wyatt
Alternate	Luciano De La Cruz

Dues for 2007 will remain at \$25.00. Make checks payable to:

USS Halsey Powell  
 %Michael Baker  
 109 Dunton Ave  
 Holland, MI 49424

2007 Reunion Location  
 Portland, Oregon

## SKIPPER MIKE SPEAKS

### “NOW HEAR THIS”

You have probably noticed that there was no annual letter this year after the reunion. Merely a cost saving measure. Everything I put in the annual letter will now be found in the Powell Post.

We had another good reunion, although I wish the attendance had been better. The hotel (Crown Plaza) was the best we ever had. The hotel was beautiful, the service was superb, rooms were great, and food was excellent. I had no complaints, and I know of no problems. Everyone was happy.

When Ruth and I arrived the Sunday before our reunion they were just finishing a dog show for over a hundred Springer Spaniels. During our reunion there was another dog show. Dogs were in rooms on the first two floors. My room was on the first floor but not one dog hair did I find. During our reunion they housed 172 beautiful Bloodhounds. Some of us even found time to take in some of the showing. Since I got home we went to Wisconsin to watch grandson play football, and have been busy with leaves.

Next it is the holidays, and then in January it's snow bird time and off to Mississippi. Probably be home the 3rd week of April.

### 2007 REUNION

I am working with ML&RS and we have the dates and hotel confirmed. Dates will be September 19-23 at the Portland Holiday Inn Convention Center in Portland, OR.

### DUES

If you paid dues last year THANK YOU, and please do so again this year.

If you didn't pay last year, please do so this year.

If you can't afford \$25.00, send what you can.

If you can, please send extra to help with those who can't.

If you don't wish to receive the Powell Post or be on the mailing list, please notify me. This would help reduce our costs.

Last year 19% of our mailing list paid dues. This has to change or we will be forced to make cuts.

Mail donations to:

USS Halsey Powell  
% Michael Baker  
109 Dunton Ave  
Holland, MI 48424

### PRAYER LIST

Please pray for our POW's and MIA's. Pray also for those who serve our nation today, especially those who are 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:

Jerry Pistor  
Willard Owen  
Stu Hoffman  
Sanford Whitehurst  
Felipe Salazar  
Ray Parker  
Joe Chambliss  
Joan Traut  
Phylis Mootry

### MERRY CHRISTMAS

Skipper Mike and Ruth wish to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## 2007 USS HALSEY POWELL REUNION

### SEPTEMBER 19-23 PORTLAND, OR

PORTLAND HOLIDAY INN  
CONVENTION CENTER



## 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!

**John Ingram (1965-66) SM1**  
11993 Clayton Lane  
Victorville, CA 92392  
760-948-9203

**Capt David L Honhart USN (Ret)**  
(1963-65) *Ens.*  
244 Norsan Dr  
Langhorne, PA 19047

**Stan Klein**  
sklein@accesswest.com



## 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 widows, 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.

**Charles Clary**  
CPO Fire Control  
Died September 10, 2006

**Thurman Breaux**  
(1952-54) SA/TM2 Gunnery  
Died September 17, 2006

**Richard Pranger (1960-62)**  
Died October 3, 2006

**Donald Towsley (1945-46)**  
Died October 7, 2006

## CHRISTMAS EGG NOG-HALSEY POWELL STYLE

By Robert A. Jones USN Retired

Bedtime stories all start out—"Once upon a time...". True sea stories start out—"This ain't no \_\_\_\_\_Bull." This is a true sea story.

Christmas Day I was ordered by the Chief Commissaryman to go to the Mess Deck and make a Eggnog using a dry ice cream mix.

The Cook Book of the United States Navy 1944, page 52, calls for nine pounds of ice cream mix and 1¾ gallons of cold water for 100 men.

Aboard the Powell, at the time, we had approximately 270 enlisted men and chiefs, approximately 25 officers. So I used the recipe of 300 men: 27 pounds of ice cream mix, 5¼ gallons of water, along with some nutmeg and mace for some Christmas flavor. I know that this recipe is correct because after all these years, I still have the Navy Cook Book.

I mixed all the ingredients in the "copper" on the Mess Deck. For

those of you who don't know what a "copper" is, it's a stationary pot which come in sizes 20 to 80 gallons. It comes with a steam jacket to cook hot and is also used for cold beverages. "Coppers" are made of aluminum with a spigot on the bottom to drain off liquids. Back in the "Old Navy", they were made of copper. I guess that's the reason for the name "Coppers."

I completed the mix and it tasted pretty good!

Along came Chief Hospitalman with a couple cases of sickbay brandy. Sickbay brandy is used to warm up sailors who have been working in the cold weather for long periods of time. We added the sickbay brandy, which came in miniature bottles. And because I was the maker of the eggnog, I also had to be the taster. Pretty Good Stuff!

Word got around about the eggnog on the Mess Deck. Soon, I was surrounded by officers, chiefs, and crewmen who all contributed some of

their own private stock to the eggnog. Fifths, pints, of "Whatever". And, of course, every time something was added, I had to be the taster again. Plus, because we had been at sea a couple of weeks, it did not take much tasting to get a "glow on."

Some of the officers who donated their private stock went on in the Navy. They became captains, admirals, and I as the "Official Taster" became a Chief.

This is my side of the "Eggnog Party." As I stated at the start, all sea stories start out: "This ain't no \_\_\_\_\_Bull."

This recipe cannot be duplicated.

CSC Robert A Jones  
53 Enders Dr  
Barrington, NJ 08007

## "THE STORY OF MY LIFE" BY ED COLLENDER

*Continued from the September 2006 issue.*

Before long, the *Iowa* was heading home and we, with two others, were detailed to meet her at mid ocean and escort her to Norfolk. We spotted them, dead ahead on the predicted minute, relieved their escorts, and headed in at 25 knots. That night the doctor had a worsening appendix situation and felt it necessary to operate. The weather was bad and we were pitching and rolling violently. Pleas to the *Iowa* to slow were denied but we did negotiate a more favorable course change. The wardroom was rigged, the stanchions were up, the Captain would administer the ether, and I was assigned a leg to hang on to, to keep the patient on the table. The operation was a success. There was an ambulance waiting for the patient on the dock when we arrived on the

16th. Fueling took an hour or so and the pay phones on the dock were busy as everyone wanted to make a call.

Then back to Bermuda where the Base Commander had been McGarry's Squadron Commander in the Med. The two of them worked out a deal where we would go to sea and stay there; and the Admiral would send out all of the various targets and training vessels so that we could complete all requirements to be back in Brooklyn by Christmas. We returned to Hamilton on the morning of December 23rd, and the Admiral came aboard with his staff for a final inspection and I commenced fueling from a barge...an aside here—Our Doc met the Staff Doc at the gangway, ready and eager to show him his sick bay. Staff Doc wasn't interested, but wanted to inspect the ship. Starting on the forecandle, SD said, "Doctor, do you know how to lower

the anchor?" OD, "Oh, no, Sir, I'm a medical man. SD, "Harumph." In the Pilot House SD says, "Do you know how to steer the ship?"—same reply, etc. throughout the ship including the engineroom and other unusual places but excluding the sickbay. His parting remark, at the gangway—"Doctor, some day there may be only two people left aboard this ship, you and the Captain, and somebody has to know how to run this damn thing!" The language was a bit more salty and not lost by those within earshot.

*To be continued in the March 2007 issue.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
FROM THE STAFF OF ML&RS, INC.