

POWELL POST

Volume 14 Issue 1

December 2007

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HALSEY POWELL



Points of Special Interest

- A letter from your new reunion coordinator is on the cover.
- Skipper Mike Speaks in his farewell article as out-going reunion coordinator. See page two.
- Welcome Mat has one new shipmate. Let's see if we can find more in the next few months.
- How did the Navy benefit your life? This question was posed by e-mail and the responses are printed on pages two through four. Thanks to everyone who answered, and if you don't have e-mail, send us your answer for the next issue.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At this time of year our thoughts go to family and friends, those close to us and those far away. I was thinking about the past reunion and how many people I became better acquainted with this year, people who had been to the other reunions I had attended but with whom I had not had much interaction. To me it seemed like we spent more time with each other talking and reminiscing. Perhaps it was because we only had one tour or that we were all just more interested in gathering together than in rushing from place to place.

As many of us toured

the Saturday outdoor market, several people came up to us and thanked us for our service to our country. People noticed our Halsey Powell hats and our navy tee shirts and felt moved to talk to us about our service.

At the Saturday business meeting, Glen Hanne made a motion that rather than bringing gifts that we have always exchanged at the final banquet, we would donate that amount of money to a fund for shipmates in need. This resolution was passed and our first donation was made by Bob Justice. He donated seventy dollars to get the

fund started.

As Christmas approaches, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and until we meet in Nashville next year, I wish you all fair winds and following seas.

James Wyatt

2008 HALSEY POWELL REUNION

**SEPT 10-14
NASHVILLE, TN**

**HOLIDAY INN SELECT
OPRYLAND**

SKIPPER MIKE SPEAKS

I hope everyone reads this. The September issue must not have made it clear to everyone.

At the reunion in Portland I resigned as the Reunion Coordinator. It's no longer Skipper Mike, just Mike.

Your new Reunion Coordinator is James Wyatt. Jim will do a great job, so please give him your cooperation, ideas and questions.

All dues and donations should be sent directly to:

Halsey Powell DD-686
%Mr. James Wyatt
344 East 600 South
Logan, UT 84321

I still plan on seeing many of you at the reunions. I thank you all for the cooperation and the kindness shown to both Ruth and I during the past 13 years.

Mike

Financial Statement

The cost of this issue is **\$123.14** mailed to **77** members who returned the coupon for a paper copy. The newsletter is available on the web-site at www.mlrsinc.com/hpowell.

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



WELCOME MAT

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

Leslie Harte
2313 NW Estaview Cir
Corvallis, OR 97330
541-753-0280

THANK YOU NOTE

To the men and women of our organization:

I want to thank you so much for the cards and kind words. Thanks again.

Gary Mootry



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.

Harold Smith
Died October 16, 2007

Ronald Christensen
(1952-56) GM3
Died October 2007

Robert Parker Smith
(1945-46) Ensign D(L) Commun/Gunnery
Died October 3, 2007

HOW THE NAVY BENEFITED MY LIFE

Editor's Note: ML&RS, Inc sent out an e-mail asking everyone to answer the question above. Thank you so much to everyone who answered. Here are the responses we received:

Harry Vosburg RM2C:

I got out of high school during World War II and joined the Navy. I grew up in a small town in Michigan and had never been to a "big city" or seen much of the world. The Navy gave me an opportunity to "see the world" and be in many big cities—New York, Chicago, New Orleans, San Diego, Los Angeles, Seattle, Honolulu, etc. And then, of course, there was the meetings of many shipmates, many of whom became lifelong friends. The big thing, though, was the WAR. We were in many of the major battles in the Pacific, accumulating 8 battle stars, we were kamikazed, almost sunk, I lost some close friends, watched burials

at sea, etc.

The Navy, in its wisdom, decided to make me a Radioman (a rating for which I had not applied). But that turned out to be very significant in my life as I spent my entire career in communications, and it was quite a successful career. I worked my way up to becoming an Area Manager (for one third of the country) in a company handling communications for the airline industry. I also met my wife at that same company and we have been married over 55 years.

So, in many ways, the 3 years I spent in the Navy changed my life forever.

Tom Diaz (1959-62) Sonarman:

I joined the Navy when I was 17 years old. The Navy offered me opportunity plus as they say, "a way to see the world." I got to see the wide expanse of ocean from a ship which

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

is totally mind boggling. I was completely unaware of the size of the ocean; when they say it is big, you understand when you travel across it.

Henry Brown:

It allowed me to see parts of the world that I would never have seen. I met people that I never would have met. It also allowed me to get the G.I. Bill which allowed me to go to school to get an education, which gave me the job that gave me my livelihood. Last but not least, I met Jeanne Breaux at the 2007 Halsey Powell reunion and we are now a couple looking forward to going to the 2008 reunion in Nashville.

Jim Winnefeld:

Let me reorient the question as to how my cruise in Halsey Powell benefited my life.

No one forgets their first ship. And if it is one's only ship, it is even more unforgettable. Fresh from the Naval Academy in 1951, my shipmates in the second division of Halsey Powell were an unforgettable bunch. A mixture of old Navy and reserve recalls, they bore with me and made me a division officer.

We manned condition watches together around the clock during the freezing winter of the Sea of Japan in 1951-52. They taught me seamanship and gunnery in the practical school. They taught me that at the end of every chain of orders there is a sailor who must carry it out.

Years later when I was in an air squadron during the Vietnam War and a command duty officer on the bridge of a carrier underway and conducting combat flight ops, I had an opportunity to recall my Halsey Powell experience.

Even later when I had command of my own ship, I again reached deep into the well of that experience to fully understand

what the Navy's business is all about. Thank you shipmates one and all for making possible a life of service and a firm bond with the sailors of my youth.

Miller M. Keplinger, LT jg:

I have always told people when the subject of service came up, that for me, the time spent on the Halsey Powell was a terrific education.

1. As a new "green" ensign assigned as the E Division officer, I learned how to relate to the people with whom I had to work. They all knew what and how things were done, and I learned from them, as well, the technical part of the operation.

2. I used the education, about the machinery, later as a manager of agricultural waste powered steam electric generating plant when the co-generation fad was at its height in the early 1980's. I wrote for the co-generation plants the operation manuals and casualty manuals using my experience on the Halsey Powell and the succeeding year or so in the Navy.

3. The ship's organization, from the captain down, I learned, worked as any civilian business and that made it easier for me to get along in businesses for which I worked.

I had a lot of great memories.

Skee Lisle:

It gave me two 30 day leaves during WWII so I could bring into this world two wonderful daughters.

C.A. Smith:

Serving my country as a member of the United States Navy benefited my life in many ways that I really did not think much about at the time. I entered the Navy as a Seaman Recruit and left as a Lieutenant when I returned to civilian life. I was fortunate enough to serve on three destroyers under five Commanding Officers and six Executive Officers, first as an enlisted man and then as an Officer. I served in Halsey Powell from December 1961 to May 1965.

Some of what seemed like mundane repetition starting in Boot Camp and then on to your first ship was really training for doing a job day in and day out to the best of your ability. Doing things on a schedule; having a plan to work by, whether you liked it or not, was a form of discipline. I benefited from that. Finding that there were opportunities in the Navy and there were people available to help you take advantage of those opportunities was a great benefit. I tried to keep those experiences in mind when I got commissioned and became a Division Officer and then an Engineering Officer. I wanted to give everyone in the department, that was willing to work for it, the maximum chance for success. Moving up in rank, getting a GED, taking correspondence courses for the Navy or for a college somewhere were all opportunities for people that, with a little bit of encouragement, could take advantage of. I was also selfish. The more they learned, the more valuable they were in the Engineering Department. You also learned to spot a BS story a mile off. Wish I would have written a book on all the stories that were written on the Special Liberty Chits. "My wife is going to get pregnant. I want to be there when it happens" was near the top of the list in one category or another.

Having responsibility for people's lives was something that could not be taken lightly. It couldn't in those days and it couldn't when I was later in business and employing people, most with families. Learning that the better prepared you were for any eventuality, the greater the chance of success, was something many men were not interested in when we would have casualty drills over and over again. When you break a main shaft at greater than design full power and no one is injured, and the balance of the main plant is intact, people start believing in being as well prepared as possible. The great satisfaction of jobs well done was a benefit of life in the Navy.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Many times my thoughts have gone back to times when getting BZ from the Squadron Commander or in a couple of cases CINCPACFLT the same BZ for jobs well done still make me proud of the people in departments that I served with.

Being involved in Operation Dominic I, Joint Task Force 8 at Christmas and Johnson Islands was an experience that I will not forget. It is not possible to have some part in 29 Atomic Test Shots and not be affected in many ways. Some of those who served with us have passed on due to levels of radiation they received in those months on station there. Many of us are part of the VA's Ionizing Radiation Registry and many of our group are suffering from various forms of cancer related to that service. To have witnessed the kind of power that can be used for destruction leads me to be an advocate for the use of nuclear power for a variety of peaceful applications.

Making friends that become life long friendships is certainly a benefit. To hear from someone after 45 years or more because they took the time to find you and just have a conversation is a benefit that is hard to quantify. Me doing the same just to show I care is equally gratifying. I think we learn a lot about living life in the Navy. Lots of kids join up and lots of men come home.

Harvey Lloyd:

I turned 17 on February 27, 1952 and talked my mom into signing for me to join the Navy the following month. I found out very soon that if I wanted to succeed in the Navy that I would have to work and study hard as a Gunners Mate striker. I advanced as fast as possible and after four years I left the Navy as a 2nd Class Petty Officer. With the confidence I gained in the Navy and the G.I. benefits, I went on to college and got a degree in Industrial Engineering. I worked for Rockwell International for 30 years and retired at the age of 56.

I will soon turn 73 years young and have a wonderful family. A wonderful wife, three wonderful children and five grandchildren that I love deeply.

I really think the Navy was a big influence on my success in life. THANKS NAVY.

Jerry Dywasuk:

I joined the Navy on August 14, 1953. During the initial processing at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, I was asked whether I would be interested in the option of the Officers Candidate School (OCS). At that particular time, right out of High School, I didn't have either the maturity or the confidence necessary, therefore, I didn't even consider that opportunity.

During my 4 years in the Navy, I was able to learn a variety of skills that eventually helped me throughout my career. Those skills included Maturity, Confidence, Leadership and Teamwork. It also provided me with travel and cultural opportunities that I would otherwise never would have been able to experience. This was also the beginning of my true appreciation of our Country, our Government and the Military men and women who protect the freedoms that we all enjoy today. In addition to all of the other benefits, through the G.I. Bill, I obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and a government loan for our family's first home mortgage.

In the year 2000, I was asked to run for Orion Township Supervisor. Not all states have Townships, but here in Michigan, the position would be similar to that of a Mayor of a city. It didn't take much time to decide whether to run because I was reminded of how some years earlier, I passed up OCS. I didn't want to look back again wondering if given this new opportunity, I could really make a difference in our community of 34,000 citizens. In August of 2000, I was elected for a 4 year term. By the way, the winner of that election would ultimately go on to

win the November 2000 election since there was nobody filed from the opposition party. Out of 4000 voters in the primary, I ultimately won the election by a total of 9 votes. So the outcome could have been much different if 5 people voted differently. In 2004, I was re-elected for a second four year term.

During this most recent phase of my career, I feel I've been able to make a tremendous difference for my community. Therefore, my four year commitment to the U.S. Navy was one of the most important decisions I've ever made. To all those individuals who have helped me along the way, I'm eternally grateful.

Bob Todd:

The Navy turned my life around completely. I went in the Navy out of Hemet High in Calif. I graduated with a C average. The Navy sent me to electrician school. I came out of the Navy with a trade and got a job with Rockwell and became the first person to advance to assistant supervisor without being a leadman. I became a supervisor and then the General Supervisor in charge of a couple hundred people. I was in the Navy from 1954 to 1958. I was at Rockwell from 1958 to 1969. I left Rockwell and went into real estate. In 1982 I opened a REMAX real estate office in Los Angeles. In 25 years I grew it from one office with eight agents to fifteen offices and nearly 700 agents which was the largest individual owned company in the REMAX system in the world.

Editor's Note: For those of you who don't have e-mail, please mail in your response for the next issue. We would like to hear from all of you. Be sure to state the name of your ship somewhere in your answer. Mail your responses to "How did the Navy benefit your life?" to:

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