

# HUNTINGTON HERALD

Volume 18, Issue 1

February 2008

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HUNTINGTON



### Special Points of Interest

- *The final installment of "Emergence" makes up the cover story.*
- *Read about a free website that lists military reunions. You may find one of your ships' reunions there. See page three under Mail Call.*
- *Were you ever frustrated or irritated by anything while in the Navy? See what your fellow shipmates have to say on that subject beginning on page three.*
- *Don't forget to mark your calendar for the USS Huntington reunion in Lancaster, PA on September 18-21, 2008.*

## EMERGENCE

From a book by Edward G. Scagliotta  
Continued from August 2007

In June 1946 the *USS Huntington* set sail to return to the Philadelphia Naval Yard for soon to occur honorable discharge from naval service. The service time, the duration of the war plus six months, had been completed and many of us looked forward to the separation, while a few desired to ship out once again. I for one wanted out. Though Navy life was satisfactory, I was not one that wanted to continue a life away from home even though some exciting possibilities were in the offering. A good-will tour of all the major cities boarding the Mediterranean was the eminent assignment of the *Huntington* and, though

a tempting opportunity, it was rejected because of the required long-term commitment. Prior to discharge another sailing opportunity arose... a private enterprise. Errol Flynn, the flamboyant Hollywood actor, was looking to take on service discharged sailors to man his sailing vessel to search for sunken treasure and to share the profits thereof. Although the proposition was fanciful and likely to excite such stuff that dreams are made of, it was not right for me. Neither of these opportunities was sufficiently strong to deter my going home.

Those who did not sign on for extended sea duty

were sent to the naval separation center at Lido Beach, Long Island, New York. In three days at Lido Beach we completed all the regulatory paper work necessary for re-entering civilian life. So excited and distracted was I with the prospect of leaving the service that I failed to truly understand some of the vital instructions, especially those pertaining to insurance, I merely selected to continue the initial term insurance policy issued on induction with the thought that later when more attuned, I'd make any necessary modifications, if this was at all possible.

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sible. As good fortune would have it, all worked out well and at a later time I was able to convert to a whole life policy.

Prior to leaving Lido Beach along with my shipmates, we were each presented a document proclaiming our honorable discharge stating the dates and places of service and the medals awarded. Each of us also received a separation emblem, *the ruptured duck*, symbolizing our new status...*civilian!* Those of us heading for New Jersey decided to stop in New York City to celebrate one last "liberty." Somehow, though, it was not the same. Over several beers we swapped thoughts of what tomorrow would bring and promised to stay in touch. Our fling was a lot more ephemeral than planned for each was eager to continue the journey home. And thus we parted to embark on another journey of sorts...an exodus toward a more permanent liberty to grow and develop.

*This is the last of the installment of Edward Scagliotta's book "Emergence" to be published. Many thanks to Mr. Scagliotta for sharing this with us for publication in the Herald.*

**USS HUNTINGTON  
2008 REUNION  
LANCASTER, PA  
SEPT. 18-21**

**Published by:**

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



**TAPS**

The Herald was informed of the deaths of the following former crewmembers since the last newsletter. The entire crew extends our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased.

**Kenneth Grinnell (1946-47)**  
*Died January 5, 2008*

**Anthony Terry**  
*(1946-48) SN2/c I Div  
Died October 22, 2007*

Anyone learning of the death of a former crewmember is requested to notify the Herald so their passing can be acknowledged in TAPS and also on the Honor Roll at the reunion memorial service.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Balance after 11/07	<b>\$253.58</b>
<b>Contributors since 11/07</b>	
Lowell Rice	<b>\$50.00</b>
Richard Haswell	<b>\$25.00</b>
Joe Avveduti	<b>\$30.00</b>
James Nelson	<b>\$20.00</b>
Moses Coleman	<b>\$35.00</b>
Willard Winkley`	<b>\$50.00</b>
Donald Amareld	<b>\$20.00</b>
Murl Mancuso	<b>\$20.00</b>
Sheldon Ferriss	<b>\$25.00</b>
David Bayer`	<b>\$25.00</b>

Total received since 11/07  
**\$300.00**

Available for 02/08 **\$553.58**  
Funds expended 02/08 **\$330.43**

Ending Balance for 05/08 **\$223.15**

**Funds will be needed for the next issue. Contributions for the newsletter may be sent to ML&RS, Inc. using the ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.**

**COORDINATOR'S  
CORNER  
BY GENE VOLCIK**

In 1992 Bob Bolton, with the help of his wife Betty, worked very hard to start the USS Huntington's reunions—which we have been having and enjoying ever since. Would you believe we first met in Lancaster and we are now returning there? What more can I say? Lancaster as the first reunion site was a great choice and it still is a great choice for this year's reunion. I have no new thoughts or ideas to tell you how much we enjoy these reunions. Anything I say now would just be a repeat of what I have said for years—such as you will enjoy them if you come, you will meet fellow sailors and share salty stories together. Also, wives will enjoy seeing each other and sharing experiences of being married to sailors.

Lancaster offers many enjoyable and unique sights and life style. It's kinda laid back, but is still a very active site. So I am not going to ramble on and on, but I will tell you to circle September 18th through 21st on your calendar and write Lancaster by those dates. Now that you have done that, I will only say...

**YOU'LL COME!!!!!!**

**FUN FACTS**

- Lancaster County has more people than the entire state of Wyoming.
- Pennsylvania's nickname is the Keystone State.
- Pennsylvania means "Penn's Woods."
- Pennsylvania holds claim to the country's first hospital, zoo, library, newspaper, Nation's capital, television broadcast, radio broadcast, paper mill, druggist and many more.



## MAIL CALL

*Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to us from Charles Forshee, Coordinator of the USS Griggs. He received the letter and wanted to share the information with the men of the USS Huntington.*

Dear Charles,

Thanks for your 2008 reunion information. It was on the updated Master Reunion Listing I sent to the web master on 7 January. PLEASE CHECK YOUR LISTING OCCASIONALLY as we had some drop off in the past at unknown times. If your listing disappears, please contact me so it can be put back up.

I have a request that possibly you can help me with; not many veterans are aware of the reunion listings on our website. I'm sure many of your shipmates have been on other ships and may wonder if those ships have a reunion.

Would it be possible to put a note in any website or published newsletters you may have, telling your fellow shipmates about the website reunions listings? We need the word out to the veteran community.

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) is providing the Military Reunion Listings as a **FREE service** to the veteran community. I search the internet looking for reunions and then send requests for the information to the listed POC. I sent 4,788 reunion organizations e-mails in calendar years 2006 and 07, requesting information on their reunions—61.5% responded with information. We have 2,685—2006 and 2007 listings in the archives. With the last listing update, we have 685 reunion listings for calendar years 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Please take a look at our website [www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org), scroll down the left side and click on **Reunions/Buddies**, and this will bring up the

reunion page. As reunions are completed, they are transferred to the Completed Listing at the end of the month. There, they will remain as a reference point for someone looking for a unit contact. My intention is that each calendar year reunions will be individually listed.

I appreciate any help you can provide in getting the word out to the Veterans.

### “UNITED WE STAND”

John H Moore, SMSgt. USAF Retired (1961-87)  
Reunion Manager (Volunteer)  
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)

*Editor's Note: The following stories were received after a shipmate suggested that we ask the question, "What was the most frustrating or irritating time during your Navy time?"*

### Gerald Brooks:

My worst experience was to volunteer to help ferry some TBM A/C's to apart of the 58th Task Force in early March 1945. I arrived aboard the CV13 Franklin about 16 or 17 March, 1945, 75 miles off the coast of Japan. Not knowing anything about the ship and at General Quarters before 8 AM March 19th, the chief on the hanger deck said, "Go aft to the fantail, maybe you can help out." Halfway between midship and the fantail, the Franklin took bad hits in the AV Fuel tanks and A/C ready to go to the flight deck. I ended up in the water with lots of other shipmates for an hour or more. I was picked up by the Santa Fe. This scared the hell out of me, frustrated me and I was real angry. I learned never to volunteer for anything of any magnitude.

### Charles Forshee, USS Griggs:

Most everyone did get frustrated at something that occurred while in the Service—such as no liberty while in Boot Camp and then it was

only till 12:00 midnight while in Chicago unless you had relatives living in the area because there was no facilities to stay over night. Then when you finished Boot Camp there was further training schools of 16 weeks in communications where Morse Code was taught using light and not sound. This was somewhat frustrating to someone not knowing the code. They also taught you how to present messages so that they could be verified by the person receiving them for accuracy. But this also gave you an increase in pay and a promotion from Seaman to Petty Officer 3/Class. Then you were assigned to a ship for sea duty. I was assigned to the USS Baker DE 190 where I took the test for Second Class signalman and passed, along with another man. I had a higher grade than he did, but he got the advancement. This frustrated me enough that a transfer request was put in and received, as well as the up grade to SM2/Class. This is how I became a crewmember of the USS Griggs APA 110. Claude Graham and I took the test for First Class Signalman at the same time and both passed. There were two openings aboard ship and each was promoted. There was only one thing about learning Morse Code that after getting out of the Navy I successfully passed a test for Amateur Radio that required code and electronic theory to get a license in order to operate the radio and talk to other members also licensed. I also gained enough knowledge to put a transceiver together from a kit and get on the air with it with 10 Watts of output. Now an amateur can operate on the air at 1000 Watts of power and can operate a TV system but cannot use it for business purposes or amateur radio for anything to earn money.

While on the Griggs the one frustration we had was in Galveston, Texas. We went to a movie that had a long entrance before the seating area and when leaving the seating area the Shore Patrol walked up to us before we could button up our

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coats and took us down to their headquarters and booked us for not being properly dressed, then dumping us off at the pier where the ship was tied up, at which point the Captain was walking off the pier and said, "You boys are coming in early (about 8 pm)." Someone told him what happened and he returned to the ship, picked up the telephone and said quote, "I'm sending these boys back on liberty and I don't want them bothered." And this was a four strip Captain talking.

### **Bruce Gillies, MM3:**

Here is an odd story about the Navy, in particular the USS Huntington. One time while anchored in the harbor in Cuba, the Captain ordered that there should be a beer party. A free beer party and the Navy is hosting it? Wow!!! Those of us who signed up for this were taken ashore and transported by bus to some out-of-the-way beach. The beer was free okay, but it must have been around for ages, as the cans looked like the shape of bottles with a cap on top. It must have been old as the hills. Well, at this beach there was nothing to do except drink beer. There was some sand, but the water bottom was all sharp coral. There were some rocks on shore you could climb on, but that was about all as I remember. Irritated or frustrated, well, I guess. We couldn't go back to the ship until the bus arrived back. My Navy buddy, Bill Cain, who now lives in Macon, Georgia, I guess was irritated and frustrated because he decided to swim back to the ship, which he did. Upon arriving there, the officer of the deck refused to let him come aboard, so back he went to that beach. I write to Bill almost daily and he calls me on the telephone weekly. Just lately he mentioned this story, which I had almost forgotten about. I bet the Huntington throwing a free beer party was a Navy first.

*Later, I received this follow-up to Mr. Gillies story:*

Last Saturday night Bill Cain called up for a chat. I spoke to him about the beer party story. He remembers it as well as I do. I often wondered how come the Navy (Huntington) gave us a free beer party. Then it occurred to me that the beer was very old as evidenced by the shape of the cans. I figure it came from the officers' mess hall. The Captain must have thought this was a good way to get rid of the product and get a new supply. Why else would they be giving out free beer? Just a thought. Also thought Bill swimming back to the ship in shark waters was taking a chance, but he made out OK going both ways. You do funny (odd) things when you are young. We all lived through it.

## **JUST FOR LAUGHS**

### **SPAGHETTI**

For several years, a man was having an affair with an Italian woman. One night she confided to him that she was pregnant. Not wanting to ruin his reputation or his marriage, he paid her a large sum of money if she would go to Italy to secretly have the child. If she stayed in Italy to raise the child, he would also provide child support until the child turned 18. She agreed, but asked how he would know when the baby was born. To keep it discrete, he told her to simply mail him a postcard, and write "Spaghetti" on the back. He would then arrange for the child support payments to begin.

One day, about nine months later, he came home to a confused wife. "Honey," she said, "you received a very strange post card today." "Oh, just give it to me and I'll explain it later," he said. The wife obeyed and watched as her husband turned the card, turned white, and fainted.

On the card was written, "Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti and Spaghetti. Three with meatballs, two without. Send extra sauce."

## **STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION**

The Herald is the official publication of the *USS HUNTINGTON* Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in February, May, August and November, *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 *HUNTINGTON*. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter. In the event there is insufficient funding for a regularly scheduled issue, all funds received will accumulate until the next regularly scheduled quarterly issue. Out of sequence issues will not be published merely to "catch-up."

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially 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 will not be published. 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 and grammar.

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

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