

HUNTINGTON HERALD

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HUNTINGTON



Special Points of Interest

- **Enjoy Oscar Fields tale of his hitchhiking experience in our cover story.**
- **Gene Volcik tells you why you should come to the 2010 reunion in Philadelphia. Read his column on page two.**
- **Mail Call on page three has two letters—one from Robert Turk's widow and one from Charlie Sutter.**
- **We welcome one new member of the Huntington family in Welcome Mat on page three.**
- **An article of interest for veteran's assistance is on page 3.**

MY HITCHHIKING EXPERIENCE

By Oscar Fields:

I had experience with hitchhiking when I was an early teenager in Montana. After being transferred from Huntington while it was at anchor in Naples, Italy, I ended up in San Diego on a sub tender with an emergency leave. I then found out that my twin brother was in San Francisco. We had both been in the Navy since mid 1943 and had both been in harm's way a few times on other ships. I proposed a deal where we could meet each other at mid point with each on a three day pass on a weekend. We decided to meet at Bakersfield, and as we could not afford bus fare, we decided to hitch our way there. The first time worked out all right even though it

was hard to get through Los Angeles. We tried it again later, and this time I managed to get to Bakersfield all right. It was on the way back that time when I ran into trouble. I managed to get to Los Angeles OK, but it was late and I was having no luck at all. It got dark and I was still trying. I finally managed to catch a ride with another sailor who was also heading for San Diego, and I thought I had it made. However, the sailor was having trouble with his lights and we finally figured out a way to by-pass the fuse box by bringing two wires together and making a twist connection. I had to hold the wires together for insurance while he drove. All was working just fine, but about 3 or 4 in the

morning the fog came in and all traffic stopped. We knew we would be late getting back. I had to catch the morning liberty boat back to the ship by 8 am and he had to get back that time too. He said he was from that area and knew the roads and towns well enough to drive and we were both desperate. He straddled the wide double line in the center of the road and put the lights on dim so he could see it and we headed out. He knew the road well enough to know when it went straight and we were making real good time—at times over the eighty miles per hour. When we went past a place where I could see that there were some kind

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of overhead lights, I asked him what that was and he replied that we had just gone through a small town at a very high speed. We still had a long ways to go when the fog lifted about daybreak and we hit San Diego just before 8 a.m., but I didn't get to the dock soon enough to catch the last liberty boat back to the ship. I went before Captains Mast and received extra duty and restriction to ship for 30 days. It was worth it.

P.S. My brother joined the Army in '49 and entered as a Sgt. He told me I could do the same and we could be together since the war was over, but I declined the offer. He was killed when the Chinese crossed into North Korea and his body was not recovered. I have his Bronze Medal to remember him by. His name was Oliver. Writing this letter brought tears to my eyes this Memorial Day, 5-30-10.

USS HUNTINGTON REUNION

SEPT. 23-26, 2010

PHILADELPHIA,
PA

**RAMADA INN PHILADELPHIA
AIRPORT**

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Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To.

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

BY GENE VOLCIK

It is the home of the cradle of democracy, home of the Phillie cheese sandwich, home of several professional pro-sports teams and the home of several cultural centers and museums. So guess what? Philadelphia was selected to be the host city for the reunion of the USS Huntington and USS Rowe, which was a wonderful selection for the Huntington because it was one of our liberty cities and we spent some time in the Phillie Shipyard. The question is, are you ready for a glorious reunion of friends and some salty sea stories? I hope so.

We have a great itinerary planned for us seeing a great many of the most historical sights. There are some changes in our meal schedule, but this was done for our financial benefit. Also, we must remember that some prices may be higher, but everything has increased in price—except our retirement income. Motel prices are higher in this part of the country, so I do believe that our motel price is reasonable. For everything we are going to do, this price is still well worth it. I know that times are hard, but coming to our reunions always give us some rejuvenation—memories shared together are always special so remember we can not turn back the pages of time. So savor the moment regardless of the hardships we are enduring and unwind with your extended family and new found family in the USS Rowe.

**SO YOU'LL COME
PHILADELPHIA, PA
SEPTEMBER 23-26, 2010**

DID YOU KNOW?

Aspirin was the first drug sold in tablet form, and the first one that was mass-produced and sold directly to consumers.

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.



MAIL CALL

Dear Karen,

I am sorry to tell you, but my husband, Robert C. Turk, passed away on June 25, 2010. He enjoyed reading stories etc. in the Huntington Herald Newsletter. He would tell me how much he enjoyed the cruise of the Mediterranean after WWII was over. He only had one year left of his 4 year enlistment and was very surprised when he returned from the Pacific to be assigned to the Huntington. He was pleasantly surprised at this Grand Tour. Thank you for giving him many pleasant memories.

As always,
Alice H. Turk

Hi Karen,

When I saw the photo of the group shot in front of the fountain in Paris, I said to myself, "I don't remember sending that photo which hangs in my den," then I realized it was one of my shipmates who sent it. We had a great time in Paris. Believe we all stayed at the Ambassador Hotel. I carried their sticker on my suitcase for years. The French couldn't do enough for us so soon after WW2. I had a blast. Incidentally, I returned to Paris 56 years later and the fountain was still there.

Charlie Sutter, S1c Radar

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance after 05/10	\$511.03
Received from:	
William Whitthagen	\$200.00
Milton Gaffney	\$25.00
Richard Haswell	\$25.00
Total Contributions	\$250.00
Available for 08/10	\$761.03
Funds expended 08/10	\$310.62
Ending Balance for 11/10	\$450.41

Contributions for the newsletter may be sent to ML&RS, Inc., address pg 2.



WELCOME MAT

The USS HUNTINGTON takes great pleasure in announcing that the following shipmate has recently been located. Welcome Aboard! We hope to see you at the next reunion and that you will become active in the association.

Bernard Goldstein
(1946-47) ETM2 I Div
6141 Kelston Green Dr
Glen Allen, VA 23059
804-360-2612
bernsony@comcast.net



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.

Robert Turk
(1946-47) SF2/c
Died June 25, 2010

Alfred Lang
Died August 30, 2009

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.

LUCKY DOG!

Harper's Index estimates that 1,000,000 American dogs have been named as beneficiaries in wills.

LITTLE-KNOWN BENEFIT CAN HELP VETS AND SPOUSES WITH ASSISTED LIVING

Here is some old, but good news for veterans of modest means who were in service during wartime and need medical and nursing care.

On December 19, 2006, then-Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson issued a press release "to inform wartime veterans and surviving spouses of deceased wartime veterans about an underused, special monthly pension benefit called "Aid and Attendance."

The press release stated, "Although this is not a new program, not everyone is aware of his or her potential eligibility. The Aid and Attendance pension benefit may be available to wartime veterans and surviving spouses who have in-home care or who live in nursing homes or assisted-living facilities."

Eligible veterans need not have served overseas or in combat; they must have served during the period of a war: World War II, Dec. 7, 1941 -Dec. 31, 1946; Korea, June 27, 1950-Jan. 31, 1955; Vietnam, Aug. 5, 1964-May 7, 1975; Persian Gulf War, Aug. 2, 1990 to a date not yet determined.

The press release got little notice, perhaps because Veterans Affairs wanted to save money. But it has surfaced among veterans and elder lawyers such as Frank L. Buquicchio of Islandia, who is accredited by the VA to give advice to and represent veterans.

The head of his law firm, Vincent Russo, said that, other than the press release, the VA had chosen not to publicize this benefit. But, he added, "It can be a lifesaver for veterans and their spouses because the additional monthly payment from the VA can make assisted living more affordable."

As word of the benefit got around, elder law firms throughout the country became active in pursu-

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ing the benefit for clients.

Buquicchio noted that, under federal law, "no one, not even attorneys, can charge veterans for the pension application."

Aid and Attendance, he told me, is meant "for the veterans or surviving spouses who have unreimbursed medical expenses. (The cost of health insurance is considered a non-reimbursed medical expense.) It is most ideally suited for someone who needs assistance at home and is paying for an aide or is in assisted living. Assisted-living charges are considered by the VA as a medical expense. "Assisted living is not supported by Medicaid.

Buquicchio added that the eligible income and asset levels are similar to Medicaid, but not as restrictive.

The person's home is exempt, and the VA will do an "age analysis" to determine if the veteran (or surviv-

ing spouse) has sufficient funds to pay for his or her own care. The basic requirement is that the veteran requires ongoing aid and attendance for the performance of activities of daily living.

This requirement is waived if the veteran is in a nursing home. The 2008 maximum benefit for a married person is \$1,842 a month and \$1,555 for a single person. The benefits are tax-free. And needy surviving spouses may get more generous benefits.

You may learn more by calling Veterans Affairs at 800-827-1000, or by visiting its Web site at va.gov. Click on "What are Aid and Attendance and Homebound benefits? How do I apply?" You also may get help from a veteran's service organization.

Now for some not-so-good news. As I've mentioned previously, most Medicare beneficiaries will find no

increase in their monthly Part B premiums (now \$96.40) because the law provides that Social Security benefits, which likely will be frozen for two years, cannot be reduced for current beneficiaries.

But under the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, new Social Security and Medicare enrollees and current beneficiaries with household incomes higher than \$85,000 this year will pay much more. Under the law, Part B premiums must account for 20 percent of all Part B costs in the Medicare budget; the rest comes from general revenues.

With Part B premiums frozen for 75 percent of Medicare beneficiaries, revenue from these Part B premiums won't reach 20 percent. The gap must be made up by new and more affluent enrollees. They will pay on a sliding scale, between \$134.90 and \$308.30 a month, depending on their income.

PHOTOS FROM PAST REUNIONS—COME JOIN IN THE FUN!



2006 USS HUNTINGTON REUNION

Sitting: W. Carver, R. Patton, H. Wilson, G. Volcik, J. Nelson, M. Coleman, A. Eisenberg
Standing: S. Ferris, R. Bond, L. Arcangeli, R. Haswell, D. Armareld, R. Wilhelm, M. Mancuso, G. Lari, C. Walker



2007 USS HUNTINGTON REUNION

First row: S. Ferris, R. Patton, J. Nelson
Second row: G. Volcik, R. Bolton, S. Roberts, H. Wilson, A. Eisenberg, M. Coleman
Third row: D. Amareld, R.B. Kahl, C. Forshee, Watson, H. Kingsburg, A. Morton, R. Wilhelm, C. Walker