

# HUNTINGTON HERALD

Volume 12, Issue 1

November 2001

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HUNTINGTON



### Special Points of Interest

- *Gene Volcik reports on the reunion in Asheville, NC in the cover story.*
- *Page two has one newly found shipmate in the WELCOME MAT and TAPS has three shipmates who have passed away.*
- *Wonder who was at the 2001 reunion in Asheville? See the attendees listed on page three.*
- *Beginning on page three are letters making corrections to the history of the USS HUNTINGTON that was printed in the last issue of the newsletter.*
- *The Huntington Herald will now be available on line. See details on page four.*

### COORDINATOR'S COMMENT CORNER

Another reunion, another great time, and another reunion coming up next year in Norfolk, Virginia. We wish our group could have been larger, but we know that the circumstances of Sept. 11th prevented some from attending. We should never forget what happened to us on that day by praying for the deceased and injured and also their families. We must continue to function as normally as possible or this could be a victory for the terrorists.

Just to mention a few highlights of our reunion in Asheville—we visited the Biltmore Estate, had a fantastic meal and listened to folk singer, Rich-

ard Hurley at the Pisgah View Ranch and saw several interesting sights of the city. The Ramada made our stay most enjoyable. We had time for renewal of acquaintances and making new ones—in fact, we had seven first-timers who did feel welcome and hope to come again.

At our business meeting, we discussed some features that are important to our group. Norfolk, our pick for 2002, is an exciting city, especially for sailors. If our reunion becomes too overloaded with Naval sights, we will try to give the ladies other choices. Also, we will give more choices between

visitation and sight-seeing. Remember, this is your reunion—not just mine or the Military Locator's, so we need your input so we can satisfy the majority. Feel free to call me at 512-926-7008 or e-mail at EVOLCIK@aol.com to express your desires.

Many of those attending made some nice donations for the publication of our newsletter. I was very proud of John Wiedemann of Hamburg, NY, who made a nice donation and sent his Huntington book even though he was unable to attend. Remember, it is our responsibility for paying for

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its publication. So, do your part and help.

There will be more details later about our reunion in Norfolk—so plan to come and enjoy it with us. You know we do miss you—so you'll come.

Gene Volcik  
USS HUNTINGTON

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## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance on hand after 08/01 issue  
**Minus \$47.26**

Funds received since 08/01 issue  
**\$755.00**

Funds available for 11/01 issue  
**\$707.74**

Funds expended 11/01 issue **\$169.14**

Ending Balance **\$538.60**

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

## NOVEMBER FACTS

November's special flower is the chrysanthemum.

The birthstone for this month is the topaz.

November's full moon is the Trapper's Moon.

World War I ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

## 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.

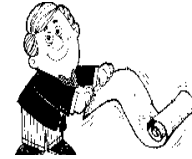
Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations and grammar.

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

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## 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 in Norfolk and that you will become an active member of the association.

Herman Copeland  
1869 Floye Dr  
Loganville, GA 30052

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## TAPS

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

Tom Kadlec  
Died July 23, 2001

Robert Bray  
Died November 1995

John Francis Groneck  
Died May 8, 2001

Anyone learning of the death of a former crewmember is requested to notify the Herald so their passing can be acknowledged.

## 2002 REUNION IN NORFOLK, VA

## 2001 REUNION ATTENDEES

Donald Amareld  
Alden Anderson, Jr.  
Lyle & Margaret Back  
David & Marilyn Bayer  
Robert Bond  
William & Jeri Carver  
Phillip Dye  
Sheldon & Adele Ferriss  
William & Linda George  
Joseph Gibney  
George Gyorek & Joyce Fischer  
Richard Haswell  
Fred & Tom Holloway  
George Lari  
Darvin Lee & Betty Smith  
James & Marie McAllister  
James & Helen Nelson  
Robert Patton  
Edmund & Nickie Pendleton  
Sam & Cleo Roberts  
Eugene & Vi Volcik  
Carl & Beverly Walker  
William & Margaret Wildhagen  
Harry Wilson

Total Members: 24  
Total Guests: 15

Grand Total: 39

The Herald was asked to print the names of those who gave a donation for the newsletter at the reunion. Thank you for your contribution. This is the list we received from the reunion:

Fred Holloway	\$20.00
Harry Wilson	\$5.00
Ed Pendleton	\$100.00
David Bayer	\$20.00
Darvin Lee	\$40.00
George Lari	\$20.00
Donald Amareld	\$50.00
Robert Bond	\$25.00
Alden Anderson	\$20.00
John Wiedemann	\$\$40.00

Total Collected at Reunion \$340.00

We would also like to thank all those who have sent contributions into ML&RS, Inc. You have also been very generous.



## MAIL CALL

To the Editor:

In reference to your article in the August edition of the Huntington Herald about the history of the Huntington, some of the information was left out, and some is not correct.

As for instance, I went aboard the Huntington in April of 1948 and served aboard until April 1949 in the Philadelphia Navy Yard. During that time we went to Guantanamo Bay and Puerto Rico for maneuvers and gunnery practice.

Later on we went to Newport, Rhode Island to prepare to go to the Mediterranean for a tour of duty. We left Newport in June of 1948. We toured the Mediterranean from the latter part of June until September, visiting ports in Italy, Greece, Turkey, and North Africa, under the command of Captain Gardener, whose first name escapes me at the present time.

Then Captain Gardener was relieved by Captain Arleigh A. Burke, better known as 31 knot Burke. We were relieved from our tour, and proceeded through the Suez Canal into the Indian Ocean where we visited the ports of Mombassa and Durban East Africa. We crossed the Equator on September 30, 1948, and about 75% of the crew had to go through the initiation. On our way to Johannesburg, South Africa, we encountered a typhoon. We were doing a forty-three degree roll. We had to cut our speed so the destroyer Douglas H Fox DD-779 could keep up with us. The waves were so high that most of the time all you could see of the Fox was her masthead light. We arrived in Johannesburg and had liberty. Then we proceeded to cross the South Atlantic to South America where we visited Buenos Aires, Argentina; Montevideo, Uruguay; and Rio de Janeiro. On our way home we

stopped at Trinidad to pick up mail. At no time while I was aboard did we ever go to Norfolk Navy Yard.

We returned to Philadelphia Navy Yard on December 8, 1948, when all got a Christmas leave. I was discharged from the Philadelphia Navy Yard April 29, 1949.

This is a little more of the history of the USS HUNTINGTON CL-107.

John R. May, Seaman  
F Division Fire Control

Editor,

You guys left out a bunch of stuff in your history of the Huntington of 1948. We had a Med cruise from June until Sept. Then we were on a goodwill cruise through the Suez down the coast of East Africa—made several ports on the way to Capetown, South Africa to South America, and made several ports on the way back to Philadelphia and decommissioning.

Bill George

Hi,

Your history of the ship has quite a few errors in it. I am sure you will hear about it from others too. I will see what I can find and send it to you.

Carl Walker

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your recent issue of the Huntington Herald. We especially enjoyed the article on the "History of the USS Huntington CL-107," since my father, John Francis Gronck, was a crewmember. I would be very interested to know the dates he was aboard the Huntington as he spoke often "tongue-in-cheek" of his "cruise of the Mediterranean courtesy of the US government," but never mentioned the Caribbean or Rio.

It is with regret that I inform you that my father died on May 8th of this year.

Kindest regards,

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Kathleen Groneck Hawkins  
369 Garcia Ave  
San Leandro, CA 94577  
510-780-4599 ext. 2600  
khawkins@lifewest.edu

Dear Sirs:

I was a Watertender in the after fireroom of Huntington from 1946 to 1947. After the fleet exercises off Cuba she did not go to Norfolk. She went to Brooklyn Navy Yard. This is a guarantee because I went to the Brooklyn Naval Hospital when we tied up to a dock in the Yard. Also my then girlfriend got aboard the ship with the officers wives. I was officially engaged in the crew's mess compartment. Had purchased the diamond ring at the ship's store in Guantanamo. I was eventually discharged 4 months early due to the Huntington's departure. I was regular Navy.

Most sincerely,  
Vito J Vessia

Oh, yes— am still married to the same girl—54 years this month, Aug 10th.

*Editor's note: As you can see, we had lots of letters about the mistakes in the history of the ship. If you looked at the end of the article in the last issue, you would have seen that the history printed was taken directly from the Dictionary of American Fighting Ships, Vol. III, 1968, Navy Department Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Naval History Division, Washington, DC. I hope that all of you who wrote to us, will now write to the people who actually wrote that history and set them straight. If you don't, then this is the history that will be passed down to future generations—an incorrect history that will become "true" when all the men from the ship are gone and there is no one here to dispute the history as it is written in the above mentioned book.*

Editor,

I am writing to respond to a question that was posed in the USS Huntington newsletter regarding if my experience in the Navy influenced my career choice as a civilian. I believe that the training I received did direct my choice of work as a rigger mechanic for the Wisconsin Electric Power Company, which I retired from after over 40 years of service. My Navy experience began when I was 18 years of age as a machinist mate third class operating the evaporators on the USS Underhill DES-682.

In July of 1945, the USS Underhill was taking the 96th Division off of Okinawa to a destination, the Philippines, to rest the crew up before the big push to invade Japan. At 1515 on July 24, 1945, the USS Underhill was sunk off of Formosa by a one man Japanese suicide sub. One-hundred twelve of the two-hundred thirty-eight men were killed only a few weeks before the war ended on August 14, 1945. The Underhill was the third last ship to be sunk before the war ended.

After being sunk on the Underhill, I went on to put the USS Huntington CL-107 into commission in 1946 where I worked on the evaporations. One day while I was on watch, I decided to sit and rest on a stool in the evaporator room. The officer on watch caught me sitting down on the job and chewed me up and down. The next time he came around, I was ready and waiting for him.

I dogged the hatch down by using a pull pipe on the dogs and all one-hundred eighteen pounds of me for added resistance. I sat on the other side of the hatch listening until he had the last dog loose. When he opened the door, he found me alert and standing. There was nothing said, but he knew.

It has been fifty-five years since pulling my prank on that officer of the Huntington and it still makes me laugh. My kids tease me that I was a good example of how to be a MM3C Slacker.

Tony P Maio

## NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE ON LINE

We are pleased to announce that future issues of the newsletters and registration material will be available to you electronically should you choose to subscribe. You will need the Adobe Reader 4.0 in order to view the pages once you have downloaded them. Adobe 4.0 is available to download or upgrade for free at the following web site:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>

**To subscribe to the electronic Huntington Herald newsletter please send an e-mail to [MLRSNEWSLETTERS@aol.com](mailto:MLRSNEWSLETTERS@aol.com), put the phrase **SUBSCRIBE HUNTINGTON HERALD** in the Subject line and type your e-mail address in the body of your e-mail.** You will be placed in the e-mail roster. This means all future mailings from ML&RS, Inc will be sent to you via e-mail. (You will either receive an e-mail from us directing you to our web site for the latest mailing or an e-mail with the file attached.) **If your e-mail address changes you will have to let us know of the change.**

Your name and postal mailing address will remain in our computers and will appear on all mailing lists, etc distributed to other members of your group.

## NO RESPONSES TO QUESTION

I was very disappointed that there were no responses to the question about the most memorable character from your days on the Huntington. I hope that for the next issue you will send in some stories in reply.

Karen Hoyle  
Editor Huntington Herald