

HUNTINGTON HERALD

Volume 13, Issue 1

November 2002

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HUNTINGTON



Special Points of Interest

- *Our cover story has all the details of the 2002 Norfolk reunion. If you didn't make it, be sure to see what you missed.*
- *Gene Volcik gives his account of the reunion and makes a confession about his navigational abilities. See his article on page two under "Coordinator's Corner."*
- *If you wonder who came to the reunion, your questions are answered. See the list of attendees on page three.*
- *Hope you can help out a fellow shipmate with his request. See page three.*
- *WELCOME MAT and TAPS are on page three.*

NORFOLK REUNION WAS GREAT!

The 11th annual USS Huntington reunion was held September 19-22, 2002, at the Norfolk Airport Hilton, Norfolk, VA. Owing to a variety of illness or health related matters, attendance was down slightly from last year. Thirty-five crewmen and guests attended. In spite of the less than hoped for attendance, enthusiasm was high and all had a great time.

Registration began mid-morning on Thursday and continued throughout the day until everyone scheduled to arrive that day was on board. The welcome reception was held at 5:00 PM. A Mexican-themed (that's right, Mexican in Virginia) buffet

served as the evening meal so most everyone remained in the hospitality room.

After breakfast Friday nearly everyone went on a tour of the local area with a stop at Nauticus, Norfolk's maritime museum. While there most got to see the feature movie, "The Last Battleship", the story of USS Wisconsin. Then to reinforce the movie's portrayal of the ship, we made a visit to this famous ship, now a museum moored adjacent to Nauticus. Following a last visit to the gift shop, the group was off to the Spirit of Norfolk, for a luncheon cruise. The two hour cruise took us past the Norfolk Naval Base for

a somewhat distant view of the ships currently ported in Norfolk. One of the highlights was 86 year old Harry Wilson showing the younger folks how to dance. After disembarking from the "Spirit" we were off for a riding tour of Norfolk Naval Base. Tightened security measures required everyone to "unbus" at the gate, go through a metal detector search and have an ID check. Everyone passed, even though a couple of pocket knives were held by the security personnel until the bus departed. A Navy guide and security person escorted the bus on the riding base tour, taking us

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where they wanted us to go and showing us what they wanted us to see. There was a drive by of the piers where the guide did point out and identify numerous ships. Among them was USS Cole, the ship that suffered terrorist damage a couple years ago in Yemen. We also saw the memorial site recognizing the 17 sailors who were killed in the bombing. After the Base visit we returned to the hotel where some rested, and some went to the hospitality room. The evening activities began with a social hour followed by a traditional Virginia ham dinner. After dinner we were privileged to hear and see one of the most patriotic and moving shows you will ever see. The St. John's United Methodist Choir presented an hour of history, tracing America's freedom, in song and narration from our founding father's through the terrorist bombing of September 11, 2001. All anyone could say is "What a show!!!"

Since there was not enough interest in a trip to Williamsburg, Saturday was designated as a free day. Several members went out on their own to the Botanical Gardens, some to Busch Gardens, some stayed in the hospitality room and simply talked. Two couples, navigated by one of the more visible members, went to MacArthur Memorial allegedly via Virginia Beach and Portsmouth. As a reminder, the General's memorial is located in the exact center of Norfolk and a good navigator, should not find it necessary to pass through VA Beach or Portsmouth.

The business meeting was held at 4:00 with 19 of the 22 members attending. Gene Volcik was retained as Chairman by the narrow margin of 19-0. Several cities were discussed as potential reunion sites, but only four cities, Albuquerque, Reno, Jacksonville, and Kansas City, were actually nominated. Two ballots were taken to select the final site. The

first ballot eliminated Reno and Kansas City. The final ballot selected Albuquerque as the 2003 reunion site. The general time frame is the last part of August/early September, insuring that the reunion is not held the same time as the annual balloon festival.

The banquet, as always, was the highlight of the reunion. The food was good, the service was excellent and the story sharing was touching. Harry Wilson was recognized as the oldest crewman present.

Fred Huntington, Chairman of Huntington's sister-ship, USS Fargo CL-106, attended the banquet and was made welcome by the friendly folks of the Huntington.

All too soon Sunday morning arrived. The final day began with breakfast followed by a touching memorial service conducted by Gene Volcik and Bob Bond. Suddenly, even though no one wanted to be the first to leave, it was time to go. Slowly, one by one, the breakfast filled with handshakes and good-byes and more than a few tears. If there is ever a question why reunions are held, and why you should attend, these last few minutes answers it. Be in Albuquerque!!!

For the first time since Huntington, WV, Larry and Brenda Eckard (of ML&RS, Inc) were able to attend your reunion. Says Larry and Brenda, "We had a great time with you! If we can swing it, we'll see you next year. Thanks for being so nice to us."

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 MLRSNEWSLETTERS@AOL.COM
 (newsletter e-mail only)
 WWW.MLRSINC.COM (Web site)

Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To.

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Our Norfolk reunion was very enjoyable and even though we were small in number—we were noisy but not rowdy. The Hilton Hotel was a great host hotel serving very good food, great hospitality room and honored with respect. Also, another treat was having Larry and Brenda Eckard as our gracious hosts. How can you beat such a combination?

The Williamsburg trip was canceled because we lacked the minimum required for the trip, so we improvised for that day—visiting or making side trips. Bill and Peg Wildhagen and my wife and I decided to visit the Douglas MacArthur Museum so I was selected to be the navigator. I only got us lost coming and going—we went through Virginia Beach going to the museum and Portsmouth coming back to the hotel. So I would suggest that if you need directions, don't ask me.

Also at our reunion we were privileged to have Fred Huntington, coordinator of the USS Fargo, in attendance. He was unable to attend his reunion because of illness and asked if he could attend our reunion since he lives in the vicinity. We did enjoy having him.

Set your sights and course to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for our next reunion. Albuquerque is a military friendly city because they host many military reunions each year and offer interesting sights in and around the city.

We do need to make every effort to increase our attendance for our next reunion. I will continue my efforts by calling and keeping in touch with as many as I possibly can. The way you can help is by making calls to those who haven't attended in several years to invite them to come again. Always continue to locate shipmates who are unaware of our reunions. Feel free to call me for suggestions or questions—remember I am your coordinator and the majority always rule, but we always want your input—it is your reunion. I appreciate your calls.

Take care of yourselves and may God bless you until we meet again.

Gene Volcik, Coordinator

2002 REUNION ATTENDEES

Donald Amareld & Christina Phair
 Alden Anderson, Jr.
 David & Marilyn Bayer
 Robert Bond
 Christopher Carver
 William & Jeri Carver
 Joseph & Evelyn Chulik
 Sheldon Ferriss
 Joseph Gibney
 Richard Haswell
 George & Helen Lari
 Dennis Martin
 James & Mark McAllister
 James & Jesse Nelson
 Robert Patton
 Alfred Rosenthal
 Michael & Jo Simcisko
 Grady Veasey
 Eugene & Vi Volcik
 Carl Walker
 William & Margaret Wildhagen
 Harry Wilson & Jane Martin
 John & Lillian Zappacosta

Total Members: 23
Guest: 12
GRAND TOTAL: 35



TAPS

The Herald was informed of the death of the following former crewmember since the last newsletter. The entire crew extends our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the deceased.

*Gene Simmerman
 Died May 3, 2002*

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.

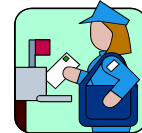
WELCOME MAT



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

*Grady Veasey
 (1945-48) S1/c S-1 Div
 305 Wellington Dr
 Durham, NC 27704
 919-477-6793*

*Martin Berg (1948-50)
 30 Lincoln Dr
 Londenderry, NH 03053
 603-537-0932*



MAIL CALL

ML&RS,

I reported on board as a ship's company from their shake down cruise and two weeks later I joined the Flag of Commander Cruiser Division Twelve and went on deployment. On the cruiser it was Rear Admiral Edmond Burrough. I was his personal steward at that time. I have the story of what takes place on the Huntington during our stay there. I stayed with the flag until the day of decommissioning. After that I was sent to Cruiser Division Five at the Pacific area.

I only wish I could come to your wonderful reunion. I only wish that it was here in San Francisco, California. I am getting old now.

Respectfully,
 Augusto Atienza
 TitoAtienaz@aol.com

Editor's note: Mr. Atienza, we would love to have your story so we could share it with others in the Huntington Herald. Please send it to ML&RS by either e-mail or regular mail. Our address is on page two at the bottom of the second column. Hope to hear from you.

REQUEST FOR 1948 CRUISE BOOK

A request has been made for a copy of the 1948 Greece Cruise Book. Also requested is a copy of the history of the USS Huntington. If you have either of these and would be willing to send a copy to a former shipmate, please send to:

Grady Veasey
 305 Wellington Dr
 Durham, NC 27704

Thank you in advance if you can help.

PRESIDENTS WHO SERVED IN THE U.S. NAVY

John F. Kennedy (1961-63)
 Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-69)
 Richard M. Nixon (1969-74)
 Gerald Ford (1974-77)
 Jimmy Carter (1977-81)
 George Bush (1989-93)

STATUS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY

*AS OF JULY 29, 2002
Taken from the United States Navy's web site*

Navy Personnel

Active Duty: 385,348
 Officers: 55,221
 Enlisted: 325,718
 Midshipmen: 4,409
 Ready Reserve: 160,300
 Civilians: 185,621

Aircraft (operational): 4,000+

Ships:

Underway (away from home port): 129 ships
 On deployment: 88
 Submarines underway (away from homeport): 21
 On deployment: 9

Personnel on deployment: 44,893

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance on hand after 08/02 issue
\$507.64

Funds received since 08/02 issue
\$313.90

Funds available for 11/02 issue
\$821.54

Funds expended 11/02 issue
\$192.43

Ending Balance for 02/03 **\$629.11**

CONTRIBUTORS SINCE LAST ISSUE

Herbert Davis	\$25.00
Bond	\$50.00
Haswell	\$20.00
Wildhagen	\$20.00
James Nelson	\$67.90
Grady Veasey	\$25.00
Joseph Gibney	\$10.00
Donald Amareld, Sr	\$16.00

TOTAL \$313.90

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ON LINE

The Newsletter for the USS HUNTINGTON reunion is available to download from the Military Locator & Reunion Service Inc web site.

If you are able to visit our web site and download the Newsletter, and therefore do not need a paper copy mailed to you, please let us know.

Please visit our web site at www.mlrsinc.com, then follow the link labeled Reunions, then scroll down until you see the listing for the USS HUNTINGTON. Click on the button labeled Newsletters, and in a few minutes the newsletter should appear on your screen. (As a side note - it took about 4 minutes on my computer). This will only work if you have Adobe Reader 4.0 or higher. You can also download this viewer for free from our web site.

If this works for you and you would like to receive all future mailings from us in this method, please send me an e-mail requesting to subscribe to the HUNTINGTON E-mail Roster. Each time something new is available, we will send you an e-mail informing you something new is available on the web site. **Please let us know if your e-mail address changes so you don't miss any important information.**

To subscribe to the HUNTINGTON E-mail Roster please send an e-mail to SubscribeMLRS@aol.com, put the phrase SUBSCRIBE HUNTINGTON in the Subject line and type your name and e-mail address in the body of your e-mail. You will be placed in the e-mail roster.

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.

If you have any question regarding this, do not hesitate to ask!

Dina Coffey

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.