

# HUNTINGTON HERALD

Volume 16, Issue 1

November 2005

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS HUNTINGTON



### Special Points of Interest

- **See why Gene Volcik thinks the 2005 reunion might have been the best one ever. Read about it in our cover story.**
- **Two new shipmates have been located. See who they are on page three under Welcome Mat.**
- **Jerry Brooks shares his recollection of crossing the equator in Mail Call on page three. We'd love to hear your story too!**
- **Savannah, GA is your choice for the 2006 reunion. Learn about the city on pages three & four. Also, return the survey on page four.**

## MAYBE THE BEST REUNION EVER!

Former crew members of the USS Huntington (CL-107) met for their annual reunion on September 29-October 2 in Washington, DC. Nineteen members and eleven guests attended the event held at the Courtyard by Marriott Crystal City Hotel.

Attendees began registering around noon on Thursday and after getting settled in their rooms, made good use of the hospitality room as a refreshment center and a waiting area for the next arrivals. It was really great seeing old friends being reunited, some who hadn't seen one another in years. New faces to the reunion were also a welcome sight, and everyone was glad to make them

part of the group. The 5:00 PM Welcome Reception was the first chance for the entire group to assemble at once. Gene Volcik, reunion coordinator, and Ann Deal, ML&RS, Inc. on-site manager, welcomed the attendees and introductions were made. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks were served and some made that their dinner, while others dined at the hotel or ventured into town to a restaurant. Most all of the group ended back up in the hospitality room for the close of the evening to share a few tales and have a few laughs before turning in for the night.

Friday morning dawned sunny and warm for the Washington, DC tour. The motor coach left the hotel at

9:00 AM for a full day's trip to our nation's capital. Highlights of the trip included a stop at the WWII Memorial honoring 16 million who served in the Armed Forces, the more than 400,000 who died, and all who supported the war. A stop was also made at the Vietnam Memorial and the Korean War Memorial. On the way to lunch at Union Station, the drive took the group past the Smithsonian Buildings, the Capitol, the House and Senate Buildings. After lunch the bus headed past the Lincoln Memorial, over Memorial Bridge and on to Arlington Cemetery. There the group boarded the tram for the tour of the

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cemetery, stopping at JFK's grave, then headed for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Changing of the Guard Ceremony was very impressive, especially for those who had not witnessed it before. Following the ceremony, the group boarded the tram, then the bus and back to the hotel for some refreshments in the hospitality room.

The evening's events began at 6:00 PM with the social hour, followed at 7:00 PM by the Capital City themed dinner. Entertainment for the evening was a "Name That Tune" type game in which a small portion of a song is played and the players try to name the song, its artist and the next line. Prizes for the winners were gifts brought by the attendees, representing their home state or hometown. It was a lot of fun and a good way to end the day. Of course the day didn't end with this—there were more stories to tell and more reminiscing in the hospitality room before bedtime.

Saturday's schedule started with the business meeting at 9:15 AM, where Gene Volcik was again elected to serve as the reunion coordinator. After discussing the possible reunion sites for next year, Savannah, GA was chosen to be the host city.

At 1:00 PM the trip to the Navy Memorial left the hotel. At the Memorial, the USS Huntington members were welcomed by Admiral Richard Buchanan, Ret, of the Navy Memorial. The Navy Ceremonial Guard presented the Colors and Admiral Buchanan and Ezelle Wooden led the memorial and wreath laying ceremonies. Participants from the USS Huntington were Dave Bayer and Joe Gibney, wreath bearers; Ira Chaffin, reader; and Richard Haswell, bell ringer. A bugler from the Navy band played Taps and Admiral Buchanan addressed the group. It was a truly impressive and inspirational ceremony. Following the service, the group went into the Arliegh Burke Theater for a viewing of "At Sea" and also a visit to the museum and

a chance to sign up for the Navy Log. The tour left the Navy Memorial around 4:30 PM, in time for some relaxing before the evening's festivities.

The last evening of the reunion began at 7:00 PM with the pre-dinner cocktail hour and photo session. As usual, some attendees come only for the banquet, and so the cocktail hour was a chance to meet with those who had just arrived. At 8:00 PM the USS Huntington banquet commenced with a welcome by Gene Volcik and Ann Deal. Following a delicious dinner, former coordinators Bob Bolton and Ed Pendleton were recognized, as well as wives Nicky Pendleton and Vi Volcik. The evening was filled with great conversation and much laughter, as everyone enjoyed the company of their tablemates and friends.

Sunday morning was time for good byes, as breakfast was the last event of the reunion. A private buffet and closing ceremony saw an end to a wonderful three days of fellowship. Everyone will now be awaiting next year when they will meet again in Savannah, a beautiful city full of Southern charm. Hope to see all of you back and many more new faces.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance after 08/05 **\$414.76**  
 Funds received since 08/05 **\$330.00**  
 Funds available for 11/05 **\$744.76**  
 Funds expended 11/05 **\$255.00**  
 Ending Balance for 02/06 **\$489.76**

#### Contributors since 08/05:

David Bayer	\$ 25.00
John Wassill	\$ 50.00
Harry Season	\$ 25.00
Robert Opferkuch	\$ 20.00
Gerald Brooks	\$ 12.50
John Kukula	\$ 7.50
Gib Billmeyer	\$ 7.50
Robert Patton	\$ 25.00
William Wildhagen	\$100.00
Moses Coleman	\$ 25.00
Raymond Stompor	\$ 32.50
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$330.00</b>

**Contributions for the newsletter should be sent to ML&RS, Inc. at the address on page 4.**

## COORDINATOR'S CORNER

You know once in a while you try to describe an event and you are at a loss of words, but you know a good way to describe our reunion in Washington, DC is "WOW!" We all know that some reunions are more enjoyable than others, but this one was one of the best even though our attendance was low—which we made up for in quality.

Some of our activities included seeing the World War II Memorial, Korean Memorial, Vietnam Memorial and the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Since our group was under the minimum required for our bus trips, we joined the USS Cleveland on all of our trips. This group was not only delightful, but we also formed several friendships. Our Memorial Service was held at the Navy Memorial, which was very impressive.

Another activity included giving certificates of appreciation to Bob and Betty Bolton (who were unable to be present), Ed and Nickie Pendleton, and my wife Vi for all their contributions to make and keep our reunions successful. Ed looked especially sharp dressed in his naval uniform. A great surprise for us was when Willard Winkley gave each one of us a Huntington cap, and we do sincerely thank you. Another plus for us was Ann, our on-site manager from the Military Locators. She did a marvelous job and, Ann, you are welcome any time.

Well, how about next year—we are going to Savannah, Georgia, such a delightful city—with interesting sights and great Southern hospitality with a touch of unique splendor.

The only thing I ask of you all—ya'll come!

Gene Volcik  
 USS Huntington Coordinator

## 2005 REUNION ATTENDEES

Donald Amareld, Sr  
David & Marilyn Bayer  
Robert Bond  
Ira Chaffin & Doris Ashford  
David & Carol Coccozza  
Moses Coleman  
Albert Eisenberg  
Sheldon & Adele Ferriss  
Joe Gibney  
Richard Haswell  
James & Helen Nelson  
Robert Patton  
Ed & Edith Pendleton  
Edmund & Nickie Pendleton  
Eugene, Vi & Charlie Volcik  
Carl & Beverly Walker  
William & Margaret Wildhagen  
Harry Wilson & Dennis & Jane Martin  
Willard Winkley

**Total Members:** 19  
**Guests:** 11  
**GRAND TOTAL:** 30

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## 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.

*Ivan Carlson*  
Died May 11, 2005

*Ellie Smith*  
Died 2004

*Frank Rzucidlo, Jr. (1945-49)*  
Died April 2, 2005

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.

Mr. Volcik,

I found your contact information online while searching for information on the USS Huntington CL-107. My father, Thaddeus (Ted) Cygan, was in the Navy and served aboard this ship, and occasionally tells stories about it, appearing to have some very fond memories.

For Christmas, I intend to create a bound document with information and pictures of this ship, as well as a framed photo with specifications. As such, I am searching for any and all information, pictures, stories, etc. that I could use for this purpose. I have found some information and a small handful of pictures online, but am hoping to find much more material. Additional pictures, stories from people, perhaps even crew lists, etc.

I'm not sure exactly when my father served. Preferring to keep this a surprise, I've been reluctant to ask too many questions to date, not wanting to arouse any suspicions.

Could you help me with sources of additional information and pictures? Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Tony Cygan  
715 7th Ave  
Bethlehem, PA 18018  
610-807-0693  
anthony.cygan@verizon.net

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## 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 active in the association.

*Robert Wilhelm*  
6401 Eastshore Rd  
Columbia, SC 29206  
803-782-1075

*Raymond Stompor*  
(1946) EM3/c E Div  
2625 N 74th Ct  
Elmwood Park, IL 60707  
708-453-1179

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## MAIL CALL

ML&RS,

The following is my recollection of crossing the equator.

My first encounter as a Pollywog was late in 1943 in the South Pacific. High pressure water hoses and oily slop was used, plus some beatings.

The Huntington crossed the parallel at East Africa, Kenya, 30 Sept 1948. I was a Shellback and we initiated the Pollywogs into the Neptune Rex, Raging Main. Some of the Pollywogs, as I remember, stood watch using pop bottles as binoculars. Some of the Pollywogs had to kiss the baby's belly. In all, no one was physically hurt. This ceremony is quite a performance.

Jerry Brooks, S Division (1947-48)

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## SAVANNAH FOR 2006 REUNION

Savannah, Georgia's first city, will charm you with its beautifully restored homes, its tree-filled squares and its historic past. Georgia was founded in 1733 by James Oglethorpe and was the thirteenth and final American colony. It was named after England's King George II and Savannah became its first city. Oglethorpe laid the city out in a series of grids that allowed for wide open streets intertwined

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with shady public squares and parks that served as town meeting places and centers of business. Savannah had 24 original squares with 21 still in existence. These squares make Savannah a beautiful city and add to its truly Southern charm. Tall live oaks dripping with Spanish moss, along with fountains and staturaries, fill the squares, making the city one of America's most popular vacation spots.

Below is a small sampling of things to do and see in Savannah. Read through them and then let us know your wishes for the reunion by filling out the survey at the end.

**ATTRACTIONS**

**Savannah Riverboat Tour:** Want to see a different view of Savannah? Take a cruise on the Savannah River Queen, a replica 19th century stern-wheel riverboat. Daily one-hour sight-seeing cruises, as well as lunch and dinner cruises, are offered from River Street.

**Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum:** See artifact collections from the Mighty Eighth Air Force, whose headquarters were founded in Savannah in 1942. The Mighty Eighth's bombers and fighters operated during WWII and continue to be an important component of the US Air Force's Air Combat Command. The museum contains thousands of historical objects, including three-dimensional items ranging from flight gear to materials crafted by veterans during their stay in POW camps.

**Old Fort Jackson:** Old Fort Jackson is the oldest standing fort in Georgia. Begun in 1808 and used in the War of 1812, it saw its greatest use as the headquarters for the Confederate river defenses during the Civil War. Visitors today can see military hardware including projectiles and cannons from the CSS Georgia, a Confederate iron-clad that is sunk in the Savannah River. This is one of Savannah's most popular tourist attractions. A special program, including dinner at the fort, can be arranged for groups.

**Ships of the Sea Museum:** Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum exhibits ship models, paintings and maritime antiques, principally from the great era of Atlantic trade and travel between England and America during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is housed in the elegant home built for the president of Savannah Steamship Company, William Scarborough. The site also boasts a delightful garden area.

**Roundhouse Railroad Museum:** Savannah's Central of Georgia Railway National Landmark District is the oldest and most complete Antebellum railroad manufacturing and repair facility still in existence in the US. Thirteen of the original structures, built in 1845, are still standing. The Roundhouse Railroad Museum now has permanent exhibits in five of the structures. Included are steam engines, belt-driven machinery, locomotives and railroad rolling stock, and model railroad layouts.

**Fort Pulaski:** Fort Pulaski was taken by Union troops in April of 1862 when they directed the first rifled cannon fire at the fort, breaching the southeast angle. The accuracy and range of rifled cannon rendered brick fortifications obsolete. The fort was the first military assignment for the young Robert E. Lee. This remarkably intact example of 19th century military architecture, with its estimated 25 million brick and 7.5 foot thick walls, is preserved for future generations.

**City Tour:** There are several ways to tour the city of Savannah. One is on the horse-drawn carriage rides available in the city. Another is with various trolley tours that are offered, and still another is a walking guided tour. All tour the historic downtown squares and waterfront area, and some include admission to an historic home in the city. Savannah is a lovely town and you won't want to leave without seeing it up close.

**USS HUNTINGTON  
2006 SURVEY**

In order to insure we provide the kind of reunion that you want, please take a few minutes to read over this survey, then complete and return by **January 9, 2006** to:

**ML&RS, Inc  
P O Drawer 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603**

**OR FAX: 828-256-6559**

**REUNION ACTIVITIES**

1. Do you want a welcome reception the first evening of the reunion? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings \_\_\_\_\_  
Or only a farewell breakfast on Sunday morning? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you want entertainment after the banquet? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check any of the activities that you would like to see on the agenda.**

- Savannah Riverboat Tour \_\_\_\_\_
- Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum \_\_\_\_\_
- Old Fort Jackson \_\_\_\_\_
- Ships of the Sea Museum \_\_\_\_\_
- Roundhouse Railroad Museum \_\_\_\_\_
- Fort Pulaski \_\_\_\_\_
- City Tour \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration packets will be mailed out approximately 90 days prior to the reunion. Be sure to read the packets carefully.**