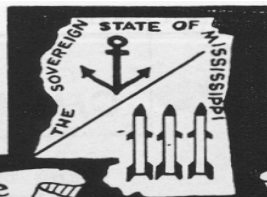


# The



# Pirate

Pride of Service

Duty to God and Country

Pride of Workmanship

Volume 11 Issue 1

December 2007

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS MISSISSIPPI EAG-128



### Special Points of Interest

- *Be sure to read about the good time that was had at the 2007 USS Mississippi reunion in Charleston in our cover story.*
- *Your new president has a word for everyone on page two.*
- *Welcome Mat on page three contains four new names. We hope they will enjoy the newsletter.*
- *Bud Bailey shares a story from his days on the Mississippi under Mail Call. We want to hear from you too!*

*Pages 3 & 4 have your response to "How did the Navy benefit your life?" Thanks to all who participated.*

- *A preview of Chattanooga's attractions are on pages 4 & 5. Return the survey on page 6.*

## 2007 REUNION WAS A GREAT ONE!

The USS Mississippi (EAG-128) held its annual reunion on November 1-4, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel Charleston Airport in Charleston, SC. Twenty-two members and seventeen of their guests attended the reunion.

The reunion began on Thursday, November 1st with registration and the hospitality room opening around noon. As soon as each attendee could get registered and find their room, they headed for the hospitality room to see who was there. The hospitality room continued to be the central focus of the whole reunion throughout the weekend, because it gave everyone a place to gather and share their stories and memorabilia. At 5:00 PM the first official meeting of the entire group took place at the Welcome Reception. Malcolm Border, taking the place of group coordinator Jake Jacobs who was unable to attend, officially welcomed everyone to the reunion. Introductions were made and everyone enjoyed the hors d'oeuvres and drinks. The rest of the evening was spent getting reacquainted with old friends or

making new ones with those from other eras.

Friday was a full day of touring the Charleston area. Charleston is one of the most beautiful cities in the country and this was evident to all during the narrated riding tour. Stately homes, magnificent public buildings, and majestic churches were seen on the tour. One of the favorite stops was to the Citadel Chapel on the campus of The Citadel, a military school in Charleston, and to City Hall in the downtown area. Everyone also loved the City Market where one could do some shopping and have lunch. As a surprise not on the agenda, the tour also drove out to Sullivan's Island and to Isle of Palms before heading off to the Boone Hall Plantation. This plantation was used in the filming of "North and South," "Queen," and as a background for "Gone With the Wind." The lovely Georgian plantation house, along with slave quarters and seeing the flower ladies making their sweetgrass baskets was a real treat. Everyone

*(Continued on page 2)*

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was ready for some refreshments in the hospitality room and a little rest and relaxation when they returned to the hotel in the afternoon. By 6:00 PM everyone seemed to have revived for the social hour and then the 7:00 PM dinner. The meal was a traditional American buffet featuring many favorites. After dinner an auction was held using items that each attendee had brought from his/her hometown or state. Four hundred dollars was raised for the newsletter fund. Not only was it successful in raising money, it was also fun to see what everyone brought and how much money each item could raise.

Saturday was no less fabulous than Friday, because today was the Patriots Point tour. This is why most military groups choose Charleston. Patriots Point has the Aircraft Carrier YORKTOWN, the famous fighting lady of WWII; the destroyer LAFHEY, a participant in the Normandy landings on D-Day 1944; the submarine CLAMAGORE, one of the Navy's last diesel powered subs; and the Coast Guard Cutter INGHAM. Lunch in the CPO Mess on YORKTOWN was included in the tour. Following lunch everyone boarded a boat for a leisurely ride out to Ft. Sumter, where the Civil War began. From the boat one could look back on the city of Charleston from the bay. It was a beautiful site! The busy day continued when the tour returned to the hotel, because almost immediately it was time for the annual business meeting. Paul Shepley was chosen as the new reunion coordinator and Chattanooga, TN will be the site of the 2008 reunion. Wilmington, NC is being considered for the 2009 reunion, but no firm decision has been made. Soon after the meeting it was time for the 6:00 PM pre-dinner cocktail hour and photo session. This gave everyone a chance to visit casually with others that they may have missed during the busy day. At 7:00 PM the USS Mississippi (EAG-128) banquet commenced with the welcoming re-

marks by newly elected Paul Shepley. The group was proud to welcome 3 new attendees to this year's reunion: Fred Brock, Jr.; George Collins and Charles Price. We hope they will return to all future reunions. After a delicious meal the Memorial Service was held in memory of those USS Mississippi crewmembers who have passed away. Malcolm Borden and Paul Shepley led the service and read the names of the deceased from the Honor Roll. This was an appropriate ending to the evening, which everyone seemed to enjoy very much.

Sunday morning's breakfast was the last item on the reunion agenda. After the private buffet, it was time to call the reunion to a close and say good byes. Everyone had a great time and are looking forward to Chattanooga, TN next year. We hope to see all the attendees from 2007 back for 2008 and that they will encourage others who have not attended to come join in the fun.



## 2007 REUNION ATTENDEES

Malcolm & Margaret Borden  
 Richard & Eva Borsos  
 Gene & Muff Braswell  
 Fred Brock, Jr. & Capt. Brock Lusk  
 & Jennifer Reinertsen  
 George Collins & Marie Mazza  
 Raymond & Kathleen Craig  
 Richard & Lois De Boer  
 Jarvis & Nancy Everett & Sheila Fancis  
 Joe Ford  
 Hans & Ruth Freyer  
 Robert Hannahs & Robert P. Hannahs & Kathy Anderson  
 Melvin Kaplan  
 Doug McCreedy  
 Gene Medley  
 Vernon Parmerlee  
 Charles Price & Louise Bisso  
 Paul & Pam Shepley  
 Jack & Doris Smith  
 James & June Storey  
 Duane & Susan Weber  
 Harold & Bea Wellington  
 Sherwin & Jane Williams

<b>Total Members:</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Guests:</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>39</b>

## NEW PRESIDENT SPEAKS

By Paul Shepley

We had a great reunion in Charleston, South Carolina, which included day trips around the city and capped off by a cruise after. The sad news is that Jake regrettably, due to circumstances regarding Ann's physical condition, could not attend this year's reunion. Furthermore, he said due to the uncertainty, someone else should take over as President/Coordinator for future reunions. Jake thanks all you shipmates for your support. Jake, yours was a job well done. The good news is that he and Ann are looking forward to attending next year's reunion. At our annual Satur-

day meeting, I, shipmate Paul Shepley, Q division, was elected to be your next President/Coordinator. Thanks guys, I'll do my best. The auction was a great success. We made \$400.00 for the Pirate. We look forward to our next reunion in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 2008. My wife Pam and I wish you all Happy Holidays. If there is anything going on that you would like to share with the "group" please write it up and send it to Karen in care of the Pirate and it will be published. Let's hear from you.



## WELCOME MAT

The USS MISSISSIPPI Association cordially welcomes the following shipmates who have been located since the last newsletter.

We hope to see you at the next reunion, and we hope you will take an active part in the association.

**Jerry Becker**  
(1949) Ens FC Div  
5400 Bayberry Dr  
Norfolk, VA 23502  
757-461-7555  
jernav@verizon.net

**George Collins**  
(1956-57) Seaman Engine Div  
17 Shagbark Dr  
Southwick, MA 01077  
413-569-9099

**Alan Weiner**  
(1952-54) Hospital Corpsman  
arw2531@aol.com

**Loren "Bud" Bailey**  
3679 Black Brant Rd  
Liverpool, NY 13090

## Financial Statement

Balance remaining after 09/07  
**\$845.33**  
Funds collected since 09/07  
**\$450.00**  
Funds available for 12/07  
**\$1295.33**  
Funds expended for 12/07  
**\$155.71**  
Balance remaining for 03/08  
**\$1139.62**

This issue is being mailed only to those who returned the coupon to receive the newsletter by mail. Others may access the newsletter from the web site [www.mlrsinc.com/eag128](http://www.mlrsinc.com/eag128). Send contributions to ML&RS, Inc. at our address on page 6.



## MAIL CALL

Mr. Jake Jacob,

I was in Boston, Mass, Fargo Bld, awaiting discharge in 1947, when I was sent to Norfolk, VA (1 man draft) to report to the USS Mississippi EAG 128. I was a Yeoman and thought it was funny that they could not find one at the Norfolk Receiving Station to fill a billet aboard a Battle Wagon. I had been with a Submarine Squadron in Panama for almost 2 years and never served on a surface ship. I had to wait a week doing KP until the ship came back to port. Its "docking" was at anchor off the old Chamberlin Hotel, Newport News, VA. They had to send a small boat to pick me up. I was getting more curious as we approached the ship. I kept thinking, "Why me?" Once I was "officially" aboard, I was escorted to the Gunnery Office and then I found out the Mississippi was an Experimental Artillery Gunnery ship, who spent their days firing at each other testing ammunition that had been in storage. The Gunnery division did not have a sailor that could do the work, mainly to type a report on every shell that had been fired that day. I soon became "favorite" with Deck and Gun crews as I had to hand out the SP duty in port. We even had a small company of Marines which were my Commander's favorite whipping group. After about five months, they must have run out of ammo as they let me get discharged in time to try and get home for Christmas. There was a Chief Boatswain who came on board as an apprentice seaman by the last name of Black who was a stickler for Holy Stoning "his" Q Deck, so it shone.

Loren "Bud" Bailey

## HOW DID THE NAVY BENEFIT YOUR LIFE?

*Editor's Note: ML&RS, Inc sent out an e-mail asking for responses to the question above. Following are the responses we received:*

**James Storey** (Sent by June Storey):

He said that it helped in many ways, one of which is that he learned how to be neat in his appearance and how to put a shine on his leather shoes. I can agree with him. He is a helper in the house by making our bed every morning. He helps fold clothes and learned to pick up after himself. It sure helps to keep our house neat and clean.

**Paul Shepley**, Q Division:

I joined the Navy at 18 years of age. For 40 years the Navy molded my life by teaching me discipline, respect for authority and on the job training. The Navy enhanced/ supported and allowed my family to live a comfortable life. After serving three years on active duty, I continued serving the Navy as a Federal Navy Civil Service employee for 37 years in various Navy installations. The three years on active duty were one year of shore duty at the Bureau of Naval Personnel and two years sea duty on board the USS Mississippi EAG-128. After my honorable discharge I was employed for 37 years at the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Bureau of Naval Ordnance, Bureau of Naval Weapons and finally the Naval Air Systems Command. My first civilian job was clerk typist. After many advancements, I progressed to become Director, Support Division, Naval Air Systems Command. I received many outstanding awards during my career. The Navy has been good to me and my family. Everything I have, I owe to

*(Continued on page 4)*

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God and the US Navy. I am currently retired with my wife Pam and reside in Wilmington, North Carolina, Wrightsville Beach.

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**Richard Kahn (1951-53):**

The Navy benefited my life in a myriad of ways. It taught me how to think logically; assign priorities; never waver from the truth, no matter what; but most of all, it afforded me the opportunity to meet the girl of my dreams. December 15, 1951, my shipmate, Dupree Lyles, introduced us, almost 56 years ago to the day. And Marianne and I are still going strong.

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**Jim Terborg:**

The Navy benefited my life in a number of ways. I got to see parts of the country and the world that I never would have seen otherwise. It taught me skills that I was later to improve on, but assisted me in my career. I left the Navy after 9 years and went into law enforcement for 27 years. The nine years of military time was added to my law enforcement time and increased my retirement 25%. I also learned a lot about aircraft. After a year on the USS Mississippi, I went to Aviation Machinist School and there I learned a great deal that I was able to use in my future.

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**Richard Beckett:**

The Navy gave me the education I needed to eventually get a degree and jobs with 5 technical companies, including Western Electric, AT&T, and Bell Telephone Laboratories, providing me with a life with little to worry about.

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**Edward Johnson:**

The Navy benefited my life by giving me a "trade" that I used for the rest of my life, namely electrician.

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## CHATTANOOGA, TN FOR 2008

**Chattanooga, TN**, fourth largest city in Tennessee, is a diversified city, once highly industrialized, but now caters mostly to tourists. Its history is also diverse. It was the site of three major battles of the Civil War, one of which was the Battle of Chickamauga. The battle was fought in the fall of 1863 and was the turning point of the Civil War. Chattanooga was also one of the starting points of the "Trail of Tears" that drove Native Americans from their homes to distant Oklahoma. It is the birthplace of miniature golf and the site of the first Coca-Cola bottling plant. The city is nestled in a valley through which the Tennessee River runs. Located on the southern edge of Tennessee and sandwiched right between Lookout Mountain and Signal Mountain, Chattanooga is full of natural vegetation and other exciting sites. Below is a brief summary of some of the most popular attractions in Chattanooga, which you may want to visit during your reunion there.

### ATTRACTIONS

**Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park:**

In 1863, Union and Confederate forces fought for control of Chattanooga. The Battle of Chickamauga resulted in a Confederate victory; however, the Union troops gained the final control with a victory at Chattanooga. The Military Park, created in 1890, was the nation's first to preserve and commemorate battlefields. The park consists of 5,200 acres of the Chickamauga Battlefield which contain numerous monuments, historical tablets, wayside exhibits, and trails. The Lookout Mountain Battlefield is on 3,000 acres and consists of monuments, historical markers, trails, and scenic vistas. Point Park, located on the top of the mountain, is the most prominent feature. Point Park offers a gorgeous view of the surrounding area. A seven-mile driving tour of the park is available.

**Lookout Mountain:**

Located on Lookout Mountain are two very famous tourist spots, Ruby Falls and Rock City. Both claim more than 1 million visitors a year.

**Ruby Falls** is an underground waterfall located deep inside the mountain in a limestone. Lookout Mountain Caverns were formed as the water from subterranean streams dissolved the limestone. The Caverns consist of two caves, the lower one about 50 feet above the level of the Tennessee River and the upper cave, containing Ruby Falls, lies directly above the original cave. There are many different types of formations found in the Ruby Falls cave. The most common are stalactites, stalagmites, columns, drapes, and flowstone. The truly amazing feature of the Lookout Mountain caves is the large vertical shaft at the end of the main passage. A flowing underground stream falls from the very top of this shaft 145 feet into a pool on the floor of the cave.

**Rock City**, located on top of Lookout Mountain, is a true marvel of nature featuring massive ancient rock formations, gardens with over 400 native plant species, and breathtaking "See 7 States" panoramic views. A 100-foot waterfall cascades from Rock City down Lookout Mountain and a Swing-A-Long bridge spans nearly 200 feet offering thrilling views to those brave enough to cross it. In the gardens, a 4,100 foot walking trail showcases the lush gardens, caves and soaring rock formations.

**The Inclined Railroad** which climbs Lookout Mountain has been one of Chattanooga's most unique attractions since 1895. It has been designated as both a National Historic Site and National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark. The trolley style railcars carry you high and the breathtaking 72.7% grade of the track near the top

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gives the Incline Railway the unique distinction of being the steepest passenger railway in the world. Sit back, relax and enjoy the scenic view from the observation windows of the Incline Train as it ascends the mountain to the observation tower at the top station. On a clear day you can see the Great Smoky Mountains which are over 100 miles away.

#### **Tennessee Aquarium:**

The aquarium is built with six magnificent glass peaks, under which visitors can explore three living forests and meet amazing creatures that swim, fly and crawl in natural habitats. Touch stingrays and sharks in the saltwater pool, visit penguins or wander over to the butterfly garden and see the collection of these beautiful creatures, see otters play in another area, while yet another part houses the giant Pacific octopus, a giant Japanese spider crab and an electrifying jellyfish. This is a must-see adventure for all. An IMAX Theater is located at the aquarium as well, taking you places you could only imagine. Crystal clear, larger than life 3D images make you feel as if you're a part of the action.

#### **Hunter Museum of American Art:**

Built on a ninety-foot limestone bluff overlooking the Tennessee River and comprised of a 1904 classical revival mansion and a contemporary structure, the Hunter Museum of American Art houses the finest collection of American art in the Southeast. The collection spans the history of American art from the colonial period to the present-day, and covers a wide variety of media. Works can be seen from the Hudson River and Ashcan schools, contemporary studio glass, American Impressionism, early modern art, regionalism and abstract expressionism, as well as others.

#### **International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum:**

Chattanooga is home to the first wrecker, fabricated at the Ernest Holmes Company nearby. Automotive and history buffs will enjoy a tour of the museum which houses an ever changing collection of tow trucks dating from the earliest days of the automobile. The museum has a wide variety of antique toys and memorabilia to entertain all visitors.

#### **Chattanooga Riverboat Company- "Southern Belle" Riverboat:**

Cruise down the Tennessee River in a 500-passenger, climate controlled, riverboat. Several cruise options are available, including a dinner or lunch cruise featuring several meal options.

#### **Tennessee Valley Railroad & Museum:**

This is the largest operating historic railroad in the South. The six-mile trip lasts about 55 minutes and travels through the 979-foot long Missionary Ridge Tunnel. The ride begins at Grand Junction and travels to the East Chattanooga Depot where visitors can witness how a locomotive is turned around using a turntable and take a tour of the maintenance and restoration shop.

#### **Chattanooga Choo Choo:**

Chattanooga Choo Choo is the name of an actual train which ran from Cincinnati to Chattanooga beginning in 1880. Glenn Miller's song made it famous in 1941, becoming the music industry's first ever gold record. The last passenger train pulled out of the magnificent old Chattanooga Terminal Station on August 11, 1970. Today the Chattanooga Choo Choo is a 24-acre vacation complex owned by the Holiday Inn. The Chattanooga Choo Choo occupies the former Southern Railroad terminal. Visitors can walk in the beautifully landscaped gardens, browse the shops and railroad track area and explore the model railroad museum, one of the world's largest working "HO" gauge model railroads. The Chattanooga Choo Choo has

become one of the South's most renowned landmarks.

#### **Downtown Chattanooga:**

Take time to explore downtown Chattanooga, which is situated on the Tennessee River. Its riverside location means the city has taken full advantage of its scenic surroundings. You'll discover outstanding restaurants, eclectic shops, an arts district and parks. The Tennessee Riverpark is a complex of riverfront green spaces, including a walking path that extends from downtown Chattanooga across 11 miles to the Chickamauga Dam. The Fat Cat Ferry is docked on the riverfront and will take you on a fun-filled river journey with spectacular views all over the city. Coolidge Park boasts a magnificent hand-carved carousel, as well as lush landscaping and an interactive fountain. Trendy local restaurants and shops are on Frazier Avenue. Maclellan Island features great blue herons, osprey and migrating warblers. A magnificent view of the bluffs along the river can be seen from here also. Walk across the one-half mile Walnut Street pedestrian bridge that is part of the 12-mile long Tennessee Riverwalk. The bridge is the oldest surviving bridge of its kind in the Southeastern United States. An area known as the Bluff View Arts District includes restaurants, galleries, a sculpture garden and shops. Two shopping malls in the area are Northgate Mall and Hamilton Place Mall, as well as Warehouse Row, a large outlet mall in downtown.

As you can see, there's much to do and see in Chattanooga. That's why we need your help in planning your reunion agenda. Fill out the survey on page six and let us know which sites you would like to have included on your reunion tours. You'll have a great time in Chattanooga no matter which attractions you choose.

## 2008 USS MISSISSIPPI REUNION SURVEY

*Please take a few minutes to complete the survey of the attractions in Chattanooga and return it to Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc. We will use the surveys to custom design your reunion to what you want to do.*

*Please check the attractions you would like to visit during the reunion.*

**Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park \_\_\_\_\_**

**Lookout Mountain (including Ruby Falls, Rock City, & The Inclined Railroad)\_\_\_\_\_**

**Tennessee Aquarium\_\_\_\_\_**

**Hunter Museum of American Art \_\_\_\_\_**

**International Towing & Recovery Hall of Fame & Museum \_\_\_\_\_**

**Chattanooga Riverboat Company "Southern Belle" Riverboat \_\_\_\_\_**

**Tennessee Valley Railroad & Museum \_\_\_\_\_**

**Chattanooga Choo Choo \_\_\_\_\_**

**Downtown Chattanooga \_\_\_\_\_**

### ABOUT THE REUNION

Would you like a Welcome Reception the first evening of the reunion?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings \_\_\_\_\_

or only on Sunday? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want entertainment after the Saturday night banquet?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Return survey to:

**Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.  
P O Drawer 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603**

or Fax:  
**828-256-6559**

Or on line at  
**www.mlrsinc.com/EAG128**

**RETURN SURVEY BY FEBRUARY 4, 2008**

## STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

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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.

Military Locator & Reunion Service, 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 submitter to research each article.

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

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

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