

SAN MARCOS NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 2

August 2002

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS SAN MARCOS



Special Points of Interest

- Learn about the birthplaces of the U.S. Navy in our cover story.
- Find out a little more about the site of the 2002 reunion—Biloxi, MS— on page two.
- Seven newly located shipmates are in the WELCOME MAT on page three.
- Read a moving tribute to our flag on page three.
- How much do you know about famous military leaders? Take the quiz on pages three and four.
- See if you recognize any of the pictures on page four.

BIRTHPLACE OF THE U.S. NAVY

Taken from the Department of the Navy—Naval Historical Center

The Continental Congress's resolution to procure two armed vessels, adopted in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 13 October 1775, was the original legislation out of which the Continental Navy grew. Within a few days of that vote, Congress established a Naval Committee, which directed the purchasing, outfitting, manning, and operations of the first ships of the new Navy, drafted naval legislation, and prepared rules and regulations to govern the Navy's conduct and internal administration. Philadelphia was also the port where the purchase and outfitting of

the first four vessels of the Continental Navy took place.

Because the Continental Navy began in Philadelphia on 13 October 1775, the Navy claims that date as its birthday. A logical corollary would be to recognize Philadelphia as the Navy's birthplace. The Navy, however, also honors the significant naval roles that many other towns played in the American Revolution and does not recognize any as its sole place of origin.

Several localities, in addition to Philadelphia, claim the title "birthplace of the Navy." Machias, Maine, points to the seiz-

ing of the Royal Navy schooner *Margaretta* by a small sloop armed with woodsmen on 12 June 1775.

Providence, Rhode Island, asserts its title as the site of the first call for the establishment of a Navy. Beverly and Marblehead, Massachusetts, base their claim on their role in fitting out and manning the small fleet of schooners George Washington employed in the autumn and winter of 1775 to prey on enemy transports. The claim of Whitehall, New York, is based on naval and amphibious operations on Lake Champlain under-

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taken by the Continental Army under the command of Benedict Arnold. It should be noted that Washington's and Arnold's operations were manned and officered entirely under the authority of the Continental Army. There was no institutional continuity between Washington's or of Arnold's command and the Continental Navy, established as a separate institution by the Continental Congress. The United States Navy considers its beginnings to have been the Continental Navy, not the Continental Army.

Unquestionably the contributions of all of these as well as of other towns to the commencement of naval operations in the American Revolution deserve recognition in any naval history of our country. Perhaps it would be historically accurate to say that America's Navy had many "birthplaces."

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance after 05/02 issue
\$142.77

Funds received since 05/02 issue
\$26.00

Funds Available for 08/02 issue
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Funds expended for 0802 issue
\$175.38

Balance on hand for 11/02 issue
Minus \$6.61
Funds will be needed for 11/02

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

MORE ABOUT BILOXI, MS

Did you know that Biloxi has been named the most affordable destination among the country's Top 100 communities? It has been received this honor for two years in a row by Business Travel News. This honor comes through surveys of business destinations, hotel room prices, meals and rental cars. A combination of all three of these figures showed that Biloxi was the best travel bargain, well below the national average and less than half the cost of a day in New York City. The mayor of Biloxi, A.J. Holloway, said of this honor, "We've always known that we have a great package—the beaches, 300 years of history, great restaurants, championship golf, deep-sea fishing, the 24-hour excitement of casinos and friendly residents. And now we have more proof that we're the best buy for travelers."

Biloxi is the site of nine casinos, some owned by the developers of Las Vegas casinos. The success of gaming in Biloxi has had an effect on all phases of the city. Expansion has taken place in almost all areas of the city including public works, transportation, recreational and educational facilities, historic preservation, public safety, retail outlets and new jobs.

Biloxi is now one of the fastest growing areas in the country and stands poised to become an internationally renowned destination resort.

**USS SAN MARCOS
REUNION
BILOXI, MS
OCT. 24-27,
2002**

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The SAN MARCOS is the official publication of the USS SAN MARCOS LSD-25 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 newsletter by sending their contributions to the editor, San Marcos News at the ML & RS, Inc address shown on the back page of the newsletter

The San Marcos News 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.

PRESIDENTS WHO SERVED IN THE US NAVY

John F. Kennedy
Lyndon B. Johnson
Richard M. Nixon
Gerald R. Ford
Jimmy Carter
George Bush

WELCOME MAT



The following shipmates were just located. Welcome aboard. We hope to see you at the reunion in Biloxi. If we missed anyone, please accept our apology. Let us know and you'll be listed in the next issue.

Ashley "Butch" Meyer USN (Ret)
(1961-63)
25 Moulton Rd
Hampton, NH 03842
chief@nh.ultranet.com

Dan Glick (1956-60)
8030 Garden Court
San Antonio, TX 78239
dclick@satx.rr.com

Ronney Bell
9373 Sawgrass Dr
Miamisburg, OH 45342-6732

Phillip Brock
300 E Prong Locust Rd
Milton, KY 40045-6051
502-732-7022

Dwayne Henderson (1957-61)
5709 18 Ave S
Gulfport, FL 33707

Ron Drozek (1959-63) MM3
PO Box 122
Lakevilla, IL 60046
847-587-2432
ronlsd25@aol.com

Zeb Barfield
812 Chattawka Ln
New Bern, NC 28560-2328
252-633-9843

AUGUST FACT

Virginia Dare was the first child born in America to English parents. That event happened on August 18 in 1587.

FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

Author unknown

I am the flag of the United States of America.

My name is Old Glory.

I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.

I stand watch in America's halls of justice.

I fly majestically over institutions of learning.

I stand guard with power in the world.

Look up and see me.

I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.

I stand for freedom.

I am confident.

I am arrogant.

I am proud.

When I am flown with my fellow banners,
My head is a little higher, My colors
a little truer.

I bow to no one!

I am recognized all over the world.

I am worshipped—I am saluted.

I am loved—I am revered.

I am respected—and I am feared.

I have fought in every battle
of every war
for more than 200 years.

I was flown at Valley Forge,
Gettysburg, Shiloh, and Appomattox,

I was there at San Juan Hill,
the trenches of France,
in the Argonne Forest,
Anzio, Rome and the beaches of
Normandy.

Guam, Okinawa, Korea and
KheSan, Saigon, Vietnam know me.

I was there.

I led my troops, I was dirty, battle-worn and tired,

But my soldiers cheered me and I was proud.

I have been burned, torn and tram-

pled on the
streets of countries I have helped
set free.

It does not hurt for I am invincible.
I have been soiled upon, burned,
torn and trampled

in the streets of my country.

And when it's done by those
Whom I've served in battle -it hurts.
But I shall overcome-for I am strong.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth
and stood watch over the uncharted
frontiers of space from my vantage
point on the moon.

I have borne silent witness to all of
America's finest hours.

But my finest hours are yet to come.

When I am torn into strips and used
as bandages
for my wounded comrades on the
battlefield,

When I am flown at half-mast to
honor my soldier,
Or when I lie in the trembling arms
of a grieving parent
at the grave of their fallen son or
daughter,

I am proud.

FAMOUS MILITARY LEADERS

See how many of these famous men you can identify:

1. This man was born in Denison, TX and was a graduate of West Point. He served as the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, Europe and lead the Allied invasion of Europe in 1944.

2. A brigadier general placed in charge of the 4th Armored Division in France, this man operated from North Africa while representing the Free French movement. He accompanied Allied troops as they liberated Paris on August 25, 1944.

3. When his men of the 101st Airborne Division found themselves surrounded by scores of advancing

German soldiers, this man's one word response to a demand for surrender was, "NUTS!"

4. This man was one of the ablest and most controversial US commanders in World War II. He distinguished himself during the invasion of North Africa, the capture of Sicily and the Battle of the Bulge. He became a four-star general, but was removed by Eisenhower from his leadership of the Third Army for his remarks concerning the denazification policies.

5. Distinguishing himself by leading troops to victories in North Africa and Sicily, this man was chosen by Eisenhower to command the 1st US Army during the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France. Under his direction, American forces liberated Paris, turned back the German counter-offensive at the Battle of the Bulge, took control of the first bridgehead over the Rhine River, and linked up with Soviet forces advancing from the east to drive the final nail into the Nazi coffin in 1945.

6. A close associate of Hitler, this man was dubbed the "Desert Fox." He was made commander in chief of all German armies from the Netherlands to the Loire River, but was unable to stop the Allied invasion of France. Implicated in a plot to assassinate Hitler, he was forced to commit suicide by ingesting poison.

- 6. Erwin Rommel
- 5. Omar Bradley
- 4. George S. Patton
- 3. A. C. McAuliffe
- 2. Charles de Gaulle
- 1. Dwight D. Eisenhower

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

PICTURES SUBMITTED BY RAYMOND DAVOLI



YOKASUKA NAVY YARD, JAPAN SEPTEMBER 2, 1945



YOKASUKA, JAPAN- ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB- SEPT. 5, 1946
Johnny, Ray, Moan, Smitty