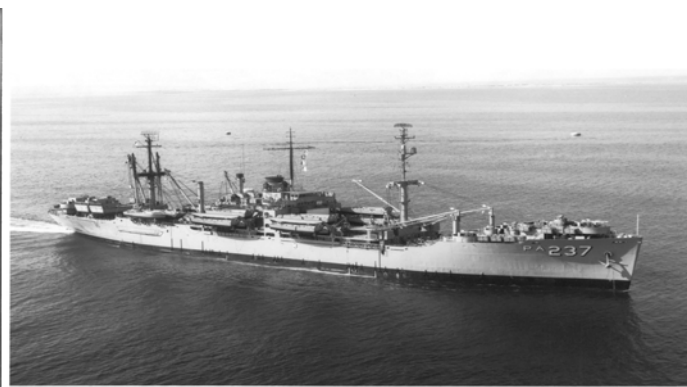


# The BEXAR BROWN

Volume 8, Issue 1

October 2002

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS BEXAR APA-237



### Items of Special Interest

- In the cover story, read all about the Charleston reunion and what fun was had.
- If you want to know who attended the reunion, check out the list on page two. Do you recognize an old friend? Meet them next year in San Antonio.
- **WELCOME MAT** on page three has seventeen newly located shipmates. Drop them a note and welcome them aboard.
- Page four gives you information on how to order USS Bexar bumper stickers and patches.
- Read all about San Antonio on page six and return the survey promptly.

## 2002 REUNION IN CHARLESTON ENJOYED BY ALL ATTENDEES

The 2002 USS Bexar Reunion at the Town & Country Inn in Charleston, SC was a great success. Fifty-two former sailors and forty-four of their guests enjoyed the Southern hospitality of Charleston and the companionship of old and new friends. Warm greetings were in store for Lois Nangle, ML&RS hostess who was back holding down the fort after a long leave due to medical reasons. Welcome back, Lois!

Thursday's welcome reception was truly a "welcome" reception as there was a number of

new reunion folks who were pleasantly surprised at how many people they knew at the reunion. We hope they will all be back next year. The group sadly missed Frank & Mildred Lucanegro and Virgil Bell. Hopefully they will be feeling better soon. Thursday night was free to have dinner with friends and to reminisce about "the good ole days."

Friday's tour of Charleston was a favorite part of the reunion for many of the group. They enjoyed seeing the colorful houses of Rainbow Row and learning the his-

tory of many of the homes and buildings in the city. After some free time and lunch in the Market area, it was on to Boone Hall Plantation and a tour of this beautiful home and garden.

After a full day of touring, the attendees were ready for the Low country buffet at the hotel. They were entertained after the meal by "Uncle Sam" (Chris Parr) and his medley of patriotic songs and the history behind them.

During one of the story-telling sessions, Martin Hughes, a first-

*(Continued on page 2)*

timer, was remembering an incident in which Bill Caudill lost his arm in the galley during a storm. Much to his and everyone else's astonishment, in walked Bill Caudill, as if on cue. He and Hughes had not seen one another since that incident! That's what reunions are all about!

In addition to storytelling in the Hospitality Room, Jay Garrett located some of his Vietnam era movies and his projector and delighted the group with scenes of those young lads in action many years ago. My, how some have changed!

Saturday's tour to Patriot's Point to visit the ships on display was well received by the former sailors. While on the ship tour, the men spotted a plaque with Captain Forrest Peterson's name. He was on board the USS Bexar during the Vietnam era. Lunch in the mess was one of the least favorite parts of the reunion, maybe bringing back memories of similar fare of long ago. However, after the boat ride to Fort Sumter and a beautiful view of Charleston from the harbor, all was forgotten.

Upon returning from the tour on Saturday afternoon, the business meeting, led by Jim Redding, was held. Suggestions for the next reunion site were as follows: Indianapolis, Memphis, Branson, Albuquerque, San Antonio, and Kansas City. (As voted on a few years ago, the reunions are rotated among North, South, West & Central.) After the first vote, three cities came out on top—Albuquerque, San Antonio and Indianapolis. After a second vote, San Antonio was the winner for 2003. Jim Redding will remain the coordinator for next year. Also voted on was that no proxy votes be counted—you must be there to be heard, and that after 2003, no reunions are to be held in the same city twice.

The much awaited banquet on Saturday night began with a cocktail hour and pictures for the *Sentimental Journal*. The banquet

started off with "Anchors Aweigh" and the invocation. The national anthem was led by Katherine Hughes. Toasts to the era of the 40s was by Frank Mathews; to the 50s by Jim Engelken; and to the 60s to decommissioning by Bob Weiss. During the banquet, the crowd was entertained by the talented Bonnie Earl, who played the guitar and sang. What a wonderful addition to the banquet! After dinner some even danced to her music. Bonnie also accompanied Jay & Wanda Garrett in a song they sang. During a break, Helen Askren and Val Henderson brought out the tickets and items to be given away. Items donated included maple syrup and pancake mix; Navy wooden clock; ship's bell mounted on a wooden platform; Navy key chains; Navy money clip; Navy belt buckle; hand made handbag; two model T banks; and a small boat model with the Bexar hull number. The money was donated towards the ship's newsletter. A special thanks to Helen Askren for bringing hanging towels for all the women. The night ended with more music and dancing and of course, more reminiscing.

Sunday morning's breakfast was followed by plankowner's certificates being given to five men. The memorial service was led by Art Henderson reading the deceased list and Jim Redding pealing the bell to honor those who have passed on within the USS Bexar group. Goodbyes were said and everyone is looking forward to seeing their old and newly made friends next year in San Antonio, TX. Be there!

## NOTE TO ATTENDEES FROM LOIS

Dear Friends,

So good to see old and new friends in Charleston. I'm feeling good—as long as I exercise. We had a wonderful time, and see you in San Antonio, TX, next year. Thanks again for your kindness and helping hands.

## 2002 REUNION ATTENDEES

Michael & Mazie Arthofer  
Robert & Helen Askren  
Delmer & Florine Ayre  
Wesley & Jannelle Bazzle  
Vernon & Andrea Bear  
John & Sandi Beeler  
James & Margie Bigbie  
Celedonio & Clariza Blancaflor  
Alvin & Eva Lou Bray  
Arthur & Mary Canfield  
William & Jo Caudill  
Robert & Katherine Cunningham  
James & Susan Durkee  
Ron Emerson & Robyn Reis  
Wayne Emerson  
James & DeEtta Engelken  
James & Barbara Fiorello  
Richard & Jean Rose Gallagher  
Jay & Wanda Garrett  
Donald & Josephine Grant  
Larry Griggs & Janie McAtee  
Carlos Guerra  
William & Donna Hall  
Ronald Harris & Wanda Sparks  
Arthur & Valerie Henderson  
Martin & Katherine Hughes  
James & Margaret Keeran  
Leland & Betty Kellam  
Raymond & Gwen Kirby  
Ivan & Beverley Klatt  
Edward & Marianne Lefebvre  
Jack & Sharon London  
Frank & Rosalie Matthews  
Urshal & Pat Moore  
Jon Mullarky  
Marshall Newson & Jennifer Cardin  
William & Sally Patton  
James & Mary Catherine Redding  
John Rummel  
Ronald & Jean Schilling  
Robert Schultz  
Terry & Peggy Spitzer  
Joseph & Cecelia Stefanko  
Michael & Juanita Steinbach  
Eric Timat  
John Turner & Geneva Dunster  
Jed & Karen Weidell  
Victor Weiers  
Robert & Fumiko Weiss  
Bruce Wellington  
Jack & Florence Wolff  
David & Sue Young  
**Total Members: 52**  
**Guests: 44**  
**GRAND TOTAL: 96**



## WELCOME MAT

The following shipmates were located since the last newsletter was published. Welcome Aboard! We hope to see you at the next reunion. You are invited to become an active member of the association.

*Edgar Smith*  
1730 Ridgewood Dr  
Camaens, CA 93012  
805-987-0070

*R.K. Marshall*  
bobmarshall1217@hotmail

*Mike Roark (1962-65)*  
127 San Carlos Ave  
Sausalito, CA 94965  
415-331-5637  
gmroark@aol.com

*Louis Martinez (1947) SN 1st Div*  
187 Ventry Ct  
Ridge, NY 11961-1258  
631-209-0355

*Freemont Stansbury, Jr.*  
12904 Middlevale Ln  
Silver Spring, MD 20906-3343  
301-942-6736

*Ray Banvard*  
P O Box 97  
Point Lookout, NY 11569-0097  
516-889-5705

*Richard Dellinger*  
2516 Windsor Ave  
Youngstown, OH 44502

*Edward Elliott*  
193 Green St  
Marion, NC 28752

*Kevin Eshelman (1968-69) HN H Div*  
6903 Monroe  
Onsted, MI 49265  
517-467-4810  
coffeecup@peoplepc.com

*Maurice Willett (1951-54) BM2 2nd Div*  
1709 Cabana Dr  
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404-1032  
928-855-5085  
mwilllett@citlink.net

*Troy Wayne Kennedy (1965-67)*  
Ltjg Assit. Supply Off.  
5680 June Ln  
Winston Salem, NC 27127  
336-764-2308

*William Hall*  
4037 Trymore Ave  
Youngstown, OH 44511  
330-799-7216

*David Young (1963-68) MM2 B&M Div*  
655 Mt. Zineche Pl  
Greenwood, AR 72936  
479-996-4914

*Leonard Barnhouse (1951-55)*  
SN 1st Div  
252 Priest Rd  
Morton, WA 78356  
360-496-5006  
lendar@myhome.net

*Richard Fromholtz*  
118 Brandywine Dr  
Summerville, SC 29484  
fromholtz9@aol.com

*Joseph Fisher*  
309 Kwanzan Dr  
Lynden, WA 98264

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**www.mlrsinc.com (web site)**

*"Our Reunions work So You don't have To"*



## TAPS

The Growl was notified of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter was published. The deaths are not necessarily recent but were just learned of. Our deepest sympathy goes to the widows, families and friends of the deceased.

*Ernest Wineholt*  
Died May 14, 2002

*CW4 Gerald Crump*  
Died August 4, 2001

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Funds available after 07/02 issue  
**\$1933.85**

Funds received since 07/02 issue  
**\$425.00 (includes \$390 from reunion)**

Total available for 10/02 issue  
**\$2358.85—\$137.00 (for plankowner certificates) = \$2221.85**

Funds expended for 10/02 issue  
**\$173.55**

**Bal remaining for 01/03 issue \$2048.30**

Thank you for your loyal support. Your contributions keep the Bexar Growl going.

The Bexar Growl is sent only to those who have paid the \$10.00 in dues.

### BET YOU ALWAYS WONDERED

The longest recorded flight of a chicken was 13 seconds.

## MAIL CALL



To: Former Bexar Sailors  
From: Bob Weiss

Just a reminder to anyone who may have missed out the first time around regarding the bumper-sticker that is available. It is 4" by 11", also multi-colored and a scanned image is noted herewith.

To order these, the cost, including shipping, is \$4.00 each. Simply make out a check/money order payable to Photovision, Inc for the total amount and note on the check somewhere (USS Bexar). Address it to

Photovision, Inc.  
P.O Box 313,  
Riverton, NJ 08077.

Orders will be mailed out to the return address indicated.

**These bumper stickers and patches (see article at right) and their availability have been arranged by fellow shipmates and are noted here only after getting an okay from your shipmate representative, Jim Redding. They have nothing to do with MLRS and should not be confused with items available through MLRS directly or via that website.**

Thank you,  
Robert "Bob" Weiss  
P.O. Box 303  
Brookhaven, NY 11719-0303

### FOOTBALL FACTS

During the 1905 college football season, 18 men were killed in football games in the U.S. Another 159 were permanently injured. To make the game less lethal, President Theodore Roosevelt established the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

### ATTENTION: USS BEXAR FABRIC DECALS AVAILABLE

One of your shipmates, John Flynn, has found a source who will make decals, custom-made for the Bexar available. At our just completed reunion a sampling of those interested was taken and enough interest was shown to satisfy the 50 minimum order required. They are multi-colored, iron-on type, which may...additionally be sewn also. The cost, including shipping, would be \$3.25 each. If interested you should make out a check/money order, payable to John Flynn and note on it "patch order", for the total amount and mail it to John at the below indicated address. He will then send off all payments to the manufacturer and they will be mailed directly to you at the address you provide on your payment envelope. It should be noted that there are military-oriented companies out there charging upwards of \$70 and more for light poplin jackets with a single embroidered patch. By buying just the patch you can add it to whatever garment you already have. John is not making a cent on this, but thought it would interest many shipmates and has offered to procure them. Please try to have your orders in the mail by 1 November.

John Flynn  
P.O. Box 23518  
Washington, D.C. 20026-3518

THIS IS A SAMPLE OF THE PATCH



## MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

*Copied from the official Dept. of Defense web site*

Across our great land, thousands of American flags, proudly waving, mark the final resting place of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and merchant mariners who had their lives cut short so that we may live freely and enjoy the blessings of liberty. Memorial Day is the one day of the year that we set aside to remember and honor our country's patriots, yet we owe them a debt of gratitude every day of every year.

This Memorial Day finds our Nation at war—a war we did not seek, but one we will decisively win. However, our victory will not come without its costs. Once again, we are witnesses to America's sons and daughters being brought home, solemnly and respectfully, in flag-draped coffins. They join those who lost their lives in the attacks of September 11, 2001. We are deeply saddened by their deaths, but eternally grateful for their sacrifice. It remains our challenge to do our very best to remain true to the principles and beliefs in which they so fervently believed and which they so valiantly fought to preserve. Their loved ones who carry on remain in our thoughts and prayers. The Joint Chiefs of Staff and I join every American this Memorial Day, to pause and reflect upon the sacrifices made by so many of our fellow citizens in times of war and conflict throughout our Nation's history. We also salute the dedicated men and women of today's Armed Forces, whether defending our homeland or serving around the world. They are preserving and adding to this noble legacy.

Gen. Richard B. Meyers, USAF

## NAVY BIRTHDAY 13 OCTOBER 1775

*Taken from the Department of the  
Navy-Naval Historical Center*

The Chief of Naval Operations has stated that the Navy Birthday is one of the two Navy wide dates to be celebrated annually.

The United States Navy traces its origin to the Continental Navy, which the Continental Congress established on 13 October 1775 by authorizing the procurement, fitting out, manning, and dispatch of two armed vessels to cruise in search of munitions ships supplying the British Army in America. The legislation also established a Naval Committee to supervise the work. All together, the Continental Navy numbered some fifty ships over the course of the war, with approximately twenty warships active at its maximum strength.

After the American War for Independence, Congress sold the surviving ships of the Continental Navy and released the seamen and officers. The Constitution of the United States, ratified in 1789, empowered Congress "to provide and maintain a navy." Acting on this authority, Congress ordered the construction and manning of six frigates in 1794, and the War Department of the Navy on 30 April 1798.

Not to be confused with the Navy Birthday or the founding of the Navy Department is Navy Day. The Navy League sponsored the first national observance of Navy Day in 1922 designed to give recognition to the naval service. The Navy League of New York proposed that the official observance be on 27 October in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt, who had been born on that day.

In 1972 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized recognition of 13 October as the Navy's birthday. In contrast to Navy Day, the Navy Birthday is intended as an internal activity for members of the active forces and reserves, as well as re-

tirees, and dependents. Since 1972 each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration of this occasion "to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service."

### STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The BEXAR GROWL is the official publication of the USS BEXAR Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in January, April, July, and October, *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is currently funded by annual subscription of \$10.00 per annum, per member and all other monies raised/donated are added to this fund. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter.

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.

It should be understood that this newsletter is for the participation in, by and for the enjoyment of all Bexar shipmates. That it is also recognized that many shipmates for reasons of health, distance/travel, etc. are not able to attend reunions and may feel left out is a concern. To address this, we urge these folks, most especially, to write in letters and articles that reflect on memorable experiences/incidents/shipmates. You may be surprised that such may provoke a former shipmate to seek you out, via phone, regular mail or e-mail to reminisce and get reacquainted. That is the main reason for maintaining and disseminating the mailing list... to provide "contact" information. Don't pass up the experience.

## NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ON LINE

The Newsletter for the USS BEXAR 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](http://www.mlrsinc.com), then follow the link labeled Reunions, then scroll down until you see the listing for the USS BEXAR. 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 BEXAR 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 BEXAR E-mail Roster please send an e-mail to [SubscribeMLRS@aol.com](mailto:SubscribeMLRS@aol.com), put the phrase **SUBSCRIBE BEXAR** 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

# PREVIEW OF SAN ANTONIO FOR 2003

The 2003 reunion of the USS BEXAR will be held in San Antonio, TX. Dates and hotel site are not confirmed yet, but will be available by the next newsletter. Since the Bexar reunion was held in San Antonio in 1996, you may want to choose different activities this time. Also, we have received the suggestion that the time spent on tours be cut down and more free time be incorporated into the schedule. That is why this survey is so important. Plans will be made according to your wishes, so be sure you participate in the survey and respond by mailing it back to ML&RS as soon as possible.

For those of you who are not familiar with the San Antonio area, a brief description of some of the sites and attractions in the city follow.

One of the most popular attractions in San Antonio is the **River Walk**, a two-and-a-half-mile, scenic pathway bordering the San Antonio River as it meanders through the heart of the city. It's *the* social hub for visitors and locals, the best place in town for strolling, and a mecca for restaurants, bars, nightclubs, and shops for browsing or buying. Brightly-colored river taxis cruise by on their way to take you to the next port of call.

Of course, San Antonio is known for its **Spanish missions** also. The missions are known for their architectural design and are a physical reminder of the Spanish Empire's past hold on this area. The most famous of these missions is the **Alamo**. Today a shrine and museum, it was the site of a fierce battle in 1836 between 189 Texan volunteers and 4,000 Mexican soldiers. The volunteers lost the battle, but "Remember the Alamo!" became the rallying cry of the Texan Revolution, which ended in a victory for the Texans and independence from Mexican rule.

One lesser known visitor's site that has been enjoyed by other reunion groups is the **San Antonio Shoe Factory**. It is much more than just a shoe store—Coca Cola is still ten cents a bottle, popcorn is a nickel a bag and all the candy of any kind that you can stuff into a bag is only \$1.50. And shoes, and shoes and shoes! Emelda Marcos' heaven!

In the city of Fredericksburg, TX is the **Admiral Nimitz Museum**. The Nimitz Park has three parts, the Nimitz Steamboat Hotel and Museum (boyhood home of the Admiral), the Japanese Peace Garden, and the History Walk of the Pacific War. In all, there are nine acres of outstanding displays from WW II. This museum rivals any military museum in the country and is a must for every veteran's group in the San Antonio area.

**Fredericksburg's** main street (where the museum is located) has a wonderful collection of stores, shops, beer gardens, and restaurants. Settled by German immigrant families in 1846, many of the older buildings retain traditional German styles. German is still spoken occasionally and old customs regularly observed. Lunch at one of the German restaurants is "must do."

Also available is a guided **tour of the city of San Antonio** where you will learn of its history and also see the modern, thriving city that it is today. You'll visit the **Mexican Market** area, full of bargains and good food. Tour **Fort Sam Houston** with its military museums and visit San Antonio's famous **sunken gardens**. San Antonio is destined to be one of your favorite cities. You'll probably want to return for a longer visit in the future, but for now, plan on being part of the USS BEXAR reunion.

Now fill out the survey to the right and return it so we can begin to plan your reunion.

## SAN ANTONIO SURVEY USS BEXAR 2003

In order to provide the kind of reunion you want, not what we "think" you'd like, please take a few minutes to look over, complete and return this survey to **ML&RS, Inc., PO Drawer 11399 Hickory, NC 28603** right away. The reunion agenda will be created from the responses and the Chairman's input.

### Reunion format:

Do you want a welcome reception the first evening?

\_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no;

If yes, would you prefer only a hors d'oeuvre platter \_\_\_\_\_ or a hamburger/hotdog or soup & sandwich type dinner \_\_\_\_\_?

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings? \_\_\_ or just on Sunday?\_\_\_

Do you prefer a dinner at the hotel on Friday night with some light entertainment?\_\_\_\_\_

or have the evening free to have dinner and explore the Riverwalk?

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you want a band or DJ after the Saturday night banquet? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

Please indicate your choice of activities by checking the attractions you would like to visit:

**River Walk** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spanish Missions** \_\_\_\_\_

**The Alamo** \_\_\_\_\_

**San Antonio Shoe Factory** \_\_\_\_\_

**Admiral Nimitz Museum** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fredericksburg** \_\_\_\_\_

**San Antonio City Tour** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other suggestions:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_