



the Quarterdeck Log

Membership publication of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association. Publishes quarterly — Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. Not sold on a subscription basis. The Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association is a Non-Profit Corporation of Active Duty Members, Retired Members, Reserve Members, and Honorably Discharged Former Members of the United States Coast Guard who served in, or provided direct support to combat situations recognized by an appropriate military award while serving as a member of the United States Coast Guard.

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Spring 2004

Getting Back to the Basics

Fort Mitchell, Kentucky Convention & Reunion Resounds With Fellowship

In my opinion, this was the best reunion ever. Perhaps not in terms of number of attendees (127 total) or monies earned for the Association (looks like we actually lost about \$1,750.00), but it certainly was hard to beat if the measuring stick was quality. The camaraderie was tremendous and to me, that's what our Association is all about. The fellowship was apparent wherever I went and in all the activities I took part in. Our spacious Drawbridge Inn Hospitality Suite was literally filled with items that stirred up old memories, brought there by members who simply wanted to share such memories with their shipmates.

An exquisite wooden 83-footer model, hand-made by **Robert Crowe**, was a real attention-getter and served as the setting for several 'photo ops' by members attending who had served on such craft. **Tommy Bowden** brought his collection of Coast Guard Magazines from WWII and the early 1950's and there was a table full of clippings and articles from the Vietnam War. Our Ships Store was well stocked and open for business. There were copies of the two Coast Guard in Vietnam books, authored by Alex Larzelere and Paul Scotti, as well as extra copies of the current and past issues of the QD Log. Also reappearing in Fort Mitchell, after an apparent 3-1/2-year hibernation, was the infamous Sabine River Fajita, courtesy of **Terry O'Connell**.

The unflappable **Janis Stephens** again served as Hospitality Suite Hostess, ably assisted by the talented wise-cracking bartender crew of **Mark, David and Scott Andrus**. CGCVA Auxiliary members, assisted by CGCVA officers, did a stellar job of keeping the Registration Desk operating without a hitch, helped in no small part to the meticulous advance planning of Ed & Nancy Burke.

Our Opening Ceremony began with the Presentation of Colors. A four-person color guard squad from USCG Marine Safety Detachment Cincinnati, under the direction of **CPO David Wuest**, did an exceptional job and it was hard to believe

they had never worked together before in that capacity. Thanks guys! **LCDR Aylwyn S. Young, Sr.**, the commanding officer of USCG Group Ohio Valley, welcomed everyone to the Eighth Coast Guard District and made brief remarks regarding the



Crew members from USCG Marine Safety Detachment Cincinnati present the colors to open the Convention.

Coast Guard's historic combat roles and today's missions. Also representing the district was **CDR Terry Gilbreath**, commanding officer of USCG Marine Safety Office Louisville. The Mayor of Fort Mitchell, the Honorable **Thomas E. Holocher**, welcomed everyone to the area and thanked the Association for again making Fort Mitchell the site for our convention. Next was **Mr. Jerry Deters**, owner of the Drawbridge Inn, who welcomed everyone and made it quite clear that he wanted everything to be perfect for all the CGCVA Convention attendees. A quick overview of the next several days' activities followed and the ceremony concluded, followed by a

reception in the Hospitality Suite.

(continued on page 10)



Just a few of the 83-footer sailors and their spouses who attended the Kentucky Convention



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Robert F. MacLeod, LM, Ways & Means Director; E.P. "Ed"
Burke, LM, Executive Assistant to the National President.

From the President

Convention Wrap-Up

First, let me express my sincere thanks for your vote of confidence by reelecting me as CGCVA national president for a second 18-month term. I have certainly enjoyed the past year and a half and I look forward to seeing several major Association projects come to fruition over the next several months.

I would like to say thanks to my right-hand man this past 18 months, **Ed Burke**, who opted not to continue as national vice president. Ed is as dependable as someone can be and I have enjoyed his sage counsel and guidance over the years. And, while I am in some respects disappointed that he decided to drop from the CGCVA officer ranks, I know he will remain one of our most active and productive members. In fact, I have appointed him as Executive Assistant to the National President just so I can continue to have his sage counsel.

I am delighted to welcome one of our founding members, former trustee **Gil "Frenchy" Benoit** as our new national vice president. Gil brings a wealth of knowledge and personal experience to the position and I know I will rely on his guidance throughout this next term. Welcome aboard Frenchy!

We held election of officers at our recent Business Meeting and I am please to welcome our Ways & Means Chairman, **Robert MacLeod**, and **Ernest "Swede" Johnson** as new two-term Trustees. Both men have been extremely active in the Association over the years and they will enhance the effectiveness of the CGCVA on both coasts. I thank outgoing trustees **Patrick Denney**, **Gil Benoit** and **Vince Stauffer** for their exceptional work to our organization in that critical capacity. **Bob Maxwell** and **Herb Weinstein** continue as one-term trustees. In regards to appointed officers, there are no changes other than **Tom Huckleberry** replacing Gil Benoit as CGCVA Service Officer. Welcome aboard Huck and my thanks to all the other appointees for being willing to stay on for another hitch with me. Thanks folks!

Lots more to cover but each subject deserves its own headline and space so please read the articles in this issue regarding the Kentucky Convention/Reunion, the planned unveiling and dedication ceremonies for the Vietnam Monuments, our most recent CGCVA Coast Guard Person of the Year, the Larry Villarreal Building Dedication, the State of the Association Report, and much more.

Swifty

Fun Facts

••• It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, what we know today as the honeymoon.

Next QD Log deadline is Aug. 1, 2004

Stepping Down

Friends, this is my final message to you as your National Vice President. I want you to know that I have been privileged to serve you and our elite association. As you know I have served as your Secretary and Treasurer prior to my term as Vice President and I think it is time for me to step down and get some new blood into the leadership positions. Our National President, Ed Swift is into his second term and needs your help. Please support him as he has been really busting his tail for you during his first term. If you were not at the business meeting in Fort Mitchell to hear his report of the state of the CGCVA and the work accomplished during this past 18 months, you really missed what is going on. Many of you believe that your officers just sit around and do nothing between the Reunions/Conventions. That is not true, they are always trying to get things done whichever direction it comes from.

Convention Recap

I would like to now address my response to a postcard that I received upon my return home from the convention in Fort Mitchell. Normally, I would just throw a postcard like this in the trash basket, as it was UNSIGNED. Anonymous letters/notes mean to me that the person writing them hasn't got the nerve to stand up and be recognized. This one is especially upsetting because there are some good points mentioned but it was mailed on April 24th from Cincinnati, OH. Why couldn't they say something to me while at the Drawbridge Inn? We try very hard to please everyone and that is an impossible task. I received numerous good remarks about the cruises. The only bad remarks I received about the races were that half of them were electronic instead of live and that there were only seven or eight races total. There is always the 10 per cent that do not get the word and that is what happened here, as they were not aware of the discount for our group at the restaurants. One comment I will share with you "Shape it up. We expect a response & refund of our two horse race tickets. Meal Was Cheap!" Sorry, I cannot refund money to anonymous people and I will not refund to this postcard as now I could get a lot of people claiming they wrote it. HA!

Please, if any of our members do not like what they get at our conventions/reunions let us know. We can't correct it if we don't know about it. What pleases some people doesn't always please everyone and we have to try to make the majority of the members happy. Also, everyone should be aware that your officers, your Auxiliary, and other volun-

teers all pitch in to help make each convention memorable and special for you. None of us get paid for our work and we travel at our own expense to attend every convention. The "tip jars" you see in the Hospitality Suite are simply a way to recoup the Association for the refreshments that have been paid for.

I will close and hopefully be seeing you in the near future and at our next reunion/convention. Semper Paratus!

Ed Burke, LM



Ed & Nancy Burke in the Drawbridge Inn Hospitality Suite.

Dues

Our biennial dues remain at \$25.00. Life Member rates are as follows: Under age 30 (\$200); age 31-40 (\$185); age 41-50 (\$165); age 51-60 (\$145); age 61-70 (\$115); age 71-80 (\$85); age 81-89 (\$50); and age 90 and older (no cost). For those who are not life members yet, your dues notice is on your Quarterdeck Log label. I want to thank those non-life members who send in their dues early, which saves me from sending out a late notice. As the lightning bug said when he backed into the fan, "I'm de-lighted, no end!"

Fun Facts

- The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone.
- Those San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments
- Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history: Spades (King David), Hearts (Charlemagne), Clubs (Alexander the Great), and Diamonds (Julius Caesar).
- If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.
- Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.
- In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase "goodnight, sleep tight".
- In Scotland, a new game was invented. It was entitled "Gentlemen Only Ladies Forbidden".... and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.

First and foremost, I have changed my IRL so I now have a new e-mail address. It is: USCGW64@neo.rr.com. It was extremely tiring waiting for some incoming e-mail messages to download (sometimes as long as two hours) so I took the plunge. Now I can download 80 e-mail messages in less than a minute. Of course reading them takes a bit longer. Please make a note of this e-mail address change.

Vietnam Memorials

Monetary contributions continue to come in for this most worthy project. Thanks to CAPT Don Taub, USCG (Ret.) who proposed a Vietnam Memorial, and to CDR Bill Hicks, USCG (Ret.) for collecting funds for the Academy monument. CDR Hicks made the arrangements for the memorials to be constructed and engraved, and worked with the contractor on placement. CGCVA members CAPT Alex Larzelere, USCG (Ret.) and CWO4 Paul Scotti, USCG (Ret.) did the proof reading and verified the historical data. CGCVA Trustee Robert MacLeod, our Ways & Means Chairman, has done extremely well in soliciting funds for both of these memorials and making arrangements for the dedication ceremonies (July 16th at USCG Training Center Cape May, NJ and October 2nd at USCG Academy, New London, CT).

Kentucky Convention & Reunion

Notwithstanding only 127 members, wives and friends attending, was this convention great or what?! Reminiscent perhaps of July 1985 when only 15 former Coasties and active duty member Paul Scotti and wives appeared at the Indian Oaks Lodge in Bloomingdale, IL. The idea was then, and is now, comradeship and sea stories. Bob Maxwell and Ed Burke did a great job, as always, as our convention planners. Bob pointed out that other places are available in other cities but it is not easy to obtain the meeting and social rooms that we have become accustomed to, without breaking our bank. Pete Ginn's arrival, bringing back memories of the Sugar/Victor Korean Patrols of 1951-53 aboard *CGC Escanaba* was indeed extraordinary. Thanks Pete. And, contrary to popular belief, I did not ask VADM Hull to plug the Cleveland Browns... that was Mare Swift's work.

Association Funds

CGCVA financial books were audited by Trustee Chairman PNP Jack Campbell and Vice President Gil Benoit. They received statements directly from our banks, reviewed all paid bills and checks, and reported to the Association that all is well financially.

After the Big War

There were some rather smaller wars, and still are. While the Coast Guard did lots of Loran duty during the Korean

Conflict, our cutters maintained Ocean Stations' Sugar and Victor early on and then went to stand-by duty at Guam and Midway, that I recall. Our ship, W-64, performed the Sugar/Victor patrols with a stop in Japan for replenishment and voyage repairs. Pretty humdrum duty except for the occasional Russian submarine that tailed us. OS Sugar was between the Aleutians and Japan, pretty close to Russia, and the worst weather that can possibly be conjured up. We did try to make a little "Apple Jack" but I think it was more apple than jack. We had air rescue missions from Guam also.

Then there was Vietnam... packed full of action for most and more like a business for others, like me. The Coast Guard agreed to build Loran-C stations for the Air Force (in record time), which was done, thanks to the expertise and leadership of VADM Thomas R. Sargent III, CDR Harold Brock, and CAPT Ned Fontaine. These guys knew exactly what they were doing and did it very well. Then CAPT Sargent, project officer, flew between Washington, D.C. and Southeast Asia on a regular basis. He would meet with GEN Westmoreland in Vietnam and GEN Stillwell in Thailand. On one of his trips to Saigon he called the Army Motor Pool, requesting a car and driver to take him to GEN Westmoreland's Headquarters. Stating that he was Captain Sargent of the Coast Guard only confused the dispatcher and he was refused. Apparently, the dispatcher believed him to be some type of sergeant in the Coast Guard, because a captain sergeant might be something like an E-8 and a half. Realizing the situation, and he was quick to do this, he immediately called back and stated that he was "Colonel Savage" and needed transportation right away to the same location. Not surprisingly, a car and driver were furnished post haste. The Loran-C stations were up and running on time, the first major U.S. project (cost about \$12-million) in Southeast Asia to do so. Yet another Coast Guard first. After the construction job was completed, we all went home and lived happily ever after.

Baker Herbert



Baker & Marylou Herbert at the Kentucky Convention

Bibb Shipmates Association

The *USCGC Bill (WHEC-31)* will hold its 11th reunion in Charleston, S.C., from Oct. 14-16, 2004 at the Holiday Inn Mount Pleasant. If any Bibb Shipmates Association member hasn't received their latest "Scuttlebutt" newsletter, or **Mike Johnson's** personal 'reunion letter', please contact Mike at 277 Brandon Lane, Newnan, Ga., 30265-1499. E-mail: oldhip-pie1249@aol.com. Ph: (770) 251-6680.

USCGC Ingham

A reunion of the *USCGC Ingham (WHEC-35)* will be held Sept 30 - Oct. 2, 2004, in Charleston, S.C. If you are interested in attending this reunion, or have information on the whereabouts of *Ingham* shipmates, contact: **Jack L. Elam** at 1659 W. Jenny St., Lecanto, Fla., 34461. Ph: (352) 746-0079. E-mail: jlecpe@atlantic.net.

USCGC Duane

The USCGC Duane Association will hold its 12th Reunion in Cape May, N.J., from Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, 2004. Contact **Stan Barnes**, Duane Assn. President at (603) 286-7720, E-mail: sbarnes@worldpath.net or Assn. Secretary **Jay Schmidt** at (508) 285-9765, E-mail: jaysch@aol.com.

USCGC Coos Bay

The *USCGC Coos Bay* reunion will be held in Chicago, Sept. 15-19, 2004. For details, contact: **Bill Hardy** at 7036 Valley St., West Olive, Mich. 49460. Ph: (616) 738-0765. E-mail: hardyb643@sbcglobal.net.

USS William F. Seiverling (DE-441)

The 40th reunion of the USS William D. Seiverling Association will be held Sept. 22-26, 2004 at the Quality Inn, 3 Watervliet Extension, Albany, N.Y., 12206. Hotel Information: **Ann Clouteier** at (800) 424-6423 or (518) 438-8431. E-mail: gihotel@aol.com. Fax: (518) 438-8356. Reunion Co-Hosts: **Earl Gillette** at P.O. Box 2, Woodbury, Ct., 06798. E-mail: egsph@sbcglobal.net. Ph: (203) 263-2201. **Patrick Cancilla** at 10 Carondelet Dr., Apt. #116, Watervliet, N.Y., 12189. Ph: (518) 782-7741.

Gamewardens of Vietnam

A reunion will be held Aug. 4-8, 2004 at the Menger Hotel, San Antonio, Texas, for the Gamewardens of Vietnam. Reunion leader is **Glen Fry** at normlguy@aol.com. To make hotel reservations, call the Menger Hotel at (800) 345-9285. A block of rooms is being held there until July 4th. For registration forms or more information, contact Gamewardens of Vietnam at 230 P.R. 182 West, Helotes, Texas, 78023. Registrations and payments are due June 15, 2004.

CROSSED THE BAR

Orlando W. Altimont, LM
Joined: 07-12-1990 CTB: 2002

Harold A. Anderson
Joined: 06-28-1998 CTB: 02-09-2004

Arthur C. Bradley, LM
Joined: 03-02-1992 CTB: 10-31-2003

Horace R. Blood, LM
Joined: 11-15-1993 CTB: 2000

Perry N. Christiansen, LM
Joined: 04-05-1993 CTB: 09-29-2003

Leroy S. Farren
Joined: 04-09-1996 CTB: 05-07-2003

Robert T. Franzago
Joined: 02-19-1990 CTB: 04-20-2004

Harold H. Huntzberry
Joined: unknown CTB: 08-29-2003

William E. Knight, LM
Joined: 02-15-1992 CTB: 02-27-2004

Jerry Palladino
Joined: 06-08-1997 CTB: 03-03-2004

Ezra L. Ross
Joined: 01-10-1998 CTB: 02-11-2004

Louis E. Slattery
Joined: 08-30-1996 CTB: 01-08-2004

Anthony C. Traina
Joined: 07-22-1996 CTB: 12-26-2003

Rudolph F. Whalen
Joined: 10-15-1993 CTB: 02-14-2004

George D. Warren, LM
Joined: 06-20-1994 CTB: 11-12-2001

Joseph F. White
Joined: 05-20-1988 CTB: 09-19-2003

USS Centaurus

Crewmembers from the CG-manned *USS Centaurus (AKA-17)* will hold a reunion October 7-10, 2004 in St. Louis, Mo. Contact: **Kent Price** at 314-822-4637. E-mail: kentp@sbcglobal.net.

USS Sheliak

The CG-manned *USS Sheliak* will hold its 16th annual reunion August 30 - September 2, 2004 at the Doubletree Hotel in Valley Forge, Pa. All former shipmates who would like to participate should contact **Fred Mientka** at 719-328-9519.

USS Cavalier (APA-37) WWII Association

The USS Cavalier (APA-37) WWII Association will hold its 16th Reunion October 21-24, 2004 at the Holiday Inn Sarasota-Lido Beach, Sarasota, Fla. Contact: **John Giles**, Association President, at P.O. Box 325, Pacific City, Ore. 97135-0325. Phone: (503) 965-6732, E-mail: jegiles39@earthlink.net.

Correction

CGCVA member **Milton Croall** was the only one to catch the error on page 13 in the last issue so he wins the editor's "Good Catch Award" which is redeemable for a free beverage of his choice at the next convention. Milton knew that the craft pictured was not an LCI but actually an LCUP.

More CG Expansion Is Urged

Plans to increase the Coast Guard's fleet of ships and helicopters are not enough to meet the service's expanding needs in the post-Sept. 11 era, according to a study released recently. The study by Rand Corp., a non-profit think tank, found that the Coast Guard needs twice as many ships and 50% more aircraft than called for in an expansion plan that began 10 years ago. Rand also said the Coast Guard needs to speed up its ongoing modernization program and replace its aging fleet in 10-15 years, rather than the 20-year schedule envisioned.

"The security environment since the events of September 11, 2001, has given new urgency to accelerate the acquisition of new assets," the study said.

In addition to its traditional search-and-rescue and drug interdiction duties, the Coast Guard is on the front lines of the nation's terrorism alert system. It has expanded patrol and inspection duties in the nation's ports and along the coastline.

The Rand findings mirror proposals pushed by members of Congress, as well as observations by Coast Guard leaders. USCG Commandant ADM Thomas Collins has said operations are hampered by deteriorating aircraft and ships. He estimates it will take \$15-17 billion over 20 years to repair and replace them.

Try These Web Sites

New CGCVA member **Wes Johnson** recently used a search engine to look for an old shipmate from Vietnam. It came up with an obituary notice on FredsPlace. To search this site, go to: www.fredsplace.org/obit/obituary.shtml.

Fun Facts

- Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury.
- Men can read smaller print than women can but women can hear better.
- Coca-Cola was originally green.
- It is impossible to lick your elbow.
- The state with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska.
- The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%. The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%.
- The cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven: \$6,400.
- The average number of people airborne over the U.S. at any given hour: 61,000.
- Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
- The world's youngest parents were 8 and 9 and lived in China in 1910.
- The youngest pope was 11 years old.
- The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.

To learn more about security, federal, state, local and DoD homeland security activities underway and planned, go to: www.HomelandDefenseRadio.com. Included are "The Pentagon Report," technology reviews, interviews with leading homeland security executives, "Meet the State CIO," and the "FBI Report." You might also wish to try: www.homelanddefensejournal.com.

Message boards for the Coast Guard, set up by cutters, boats, stations and keywords, are now up and running on: www.vetsrollcall.

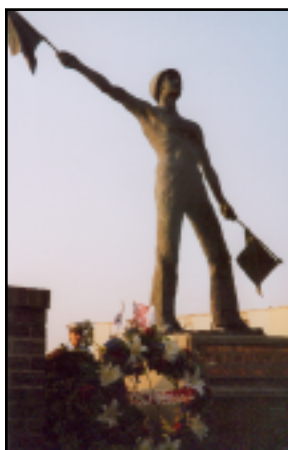
Vietnam Monument 25th Anniversary

CGCVA Member **Bill Wells** has volunteered to research some of the other groups that will attend the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Monument in Washington, D.C. to see if the CGCVA can piggyback (in typical Coast Guard fashion) on their arrangements. He indicates the Seabees and Swift Boat Sailors are always good for this. Bill says there were about a dozen Coast Guard Vietnam veterans at the monument's dedication in 1982 and only two (himself and **Mike Voge**) for the 20th anniversary. Any CGCVA members who are interested in participating should contact Bill at: wwells@aug.edu.

Grand Haven Festival

CGCVA member **Bill Boonstra** reports that the primary festivities at the annual Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, Mich., will take place Aug. 4-7, 2004, and he invites other

members to consider attending. This year's theme is "Celebrating 150 Years of Lifesaving Service on the Great lakes". Bill says the annual Retiree Dinner Reunion will be held on Aug. 4th at 5 p.m. at the Festival Headquarters. The dinner and open bar are all free for retirees while spouses and guests pay only \$5.00 each.



CGCVA Scholarship Winner

CPO Tom Dougherty reports that his daughter **Laura**, who was our last CGCVA Scholarship recipient, is doing quite well at Rowan University. He says he and his wife taught their kids about volunteering but now they need to teach her to slow down and not burn herself out. Laura made the best of her high school years, and continues to do the same in college. Currently, she is:

- * On the Deans List.
- * President of the Freshman class.
- * A member of Tri Sigma sorority.
- * Scheduled to attend the Institute of Student Leadership Conference, held at Clarke Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA.
- * A member of the local chapter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization.
- * A mentor at the local high school.
- * A member of the University Programming Committee.
- * A member of the Sociology Club.
- * A member of a Focus Group on Residential Life Housing Concerns.

Crew Lists

To obtain Crew Lists for cutters from 1942 to the present, write to the below address and request the muster roll, being sure to list the month and year.

Commander
Coast Guard Personnel Command (CGPC-adm-3)
4200 Wilson Blvd, Suite 1100
Arlington, VA 22203-1804
Attn: Records Branch (Crew Lists)

Douglas Munro Statue

CGCVA Life Member **Rod Whalen** (a Signalmen 3/c on USS LST 764) responded to my request in the Fall 2003 QD Log asking what flag signal was being displayed in the statue of Douglas Munro. Rod says that his right hand is in the "C" position and left hand is in the "G" position, which stands for "Numerals Follow." Of course,

since it's those positions, the artist could have wanted "CG" to stand for "Coast Guard." No telling what the sculptor had in mind. Thanks Rod!

It's Great, Except For...

CGCVA member **Wallace E. Shipp** recently provided some suggestions for improving the *QD Log* and I'm always trying to make our magazine better. He says, "Try to do a better job with the photos. Eliminate the e-mail addresses from every issue. Give credit to photographers for pictures. Have a contents column. Put "Crossed the Bar"

on front page and, if possible, list, age, city and state of death. The *QD Log* is excellent." Thanks Wallace... I think. Your ideas will be considered. Glad you're reading the magazine.

CGCVA Member Tom Ridge

On April 14, 2004, I had the distinct pleasure of making Dept. of Homeland Security **Secretary Tom Ridge** an Honorary CGCVA Life Member. CGCVA Life Member and DHS Deputy Secretary **ADM James Loy** assisted me in making the presentation. This was quite a thrill for me and I was surprised when my 10-minute "window of opportunity" turned into nearly a half-hour, especially when staffers came in twice to remind Sec. Ridge, "That the ambassador was waiting." We had a most enjoyable chat and I'm pleased to say that Sec. Ridge is now well versed on our Association.

I asked Sec. Ridge if he had any message for me to take back to the CGCVA membership and he was kind enough to provide this to me in the form of a letter to the Association, which follows:



DHS Deputy Secretary ADM James Loy and Ed Swift present CGCVA Honorary Membership to DHS Secretary Tom Ridge.

Dear Ed:

I would like to thank you and the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association for appointing me as an Honorary Life Member of your organization. I take great pride in my position as the "Secretary of the Coast Guard" and my association with the entire Coast Guard "family."

Many of the maritime security and safety functions of the Coast Guard are well known; lifesaving, maritime safety, environmental protection, and law enforcement missions are generally familiar to the public. What are frequently less known are the significant contributions and the substantial sacrifices made by the Service during our Nation's armed conflicts. The CGCVA serves an important purpose by highlighting these contributions. I know that the fellowship and camaraderie you enjoy at your 2004 convention will serve to reinforce this important purpose and mission. Your works are indeed a testament to the brave men and women of the Coast Guard who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation.

It is important for the CGCVA to know that as your Secretary I recognized the unique military nature of the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard provides value-added services to military operations that are absolutely critical. I have often said that if the Department of Defense did not have the Coast Guard to support them in domestic and foreign military engagements, they would have to invent a very similar organization. By strengthening the military capabilities of the Coast Guard we strengthen the maritime security and safety functions of the Service. The unique ability of the Coast Guard to leverage its resources across multiple mission areas is unsurpassed.



DHS Secretary Ridge enjoys the CGCVA ballcap he received with his Honorary membership.

As I visit Coast Guard members returning from service in the Persian Gulf, I note the enormous contributions they have made and the personal pride they exhibit in a job well done. I know this dedication to service and pride in accomplishment is characteristic of all CGCVA members.

Once again, thank you for the honor of membership in your distinguished organization. With admiration and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Tom Ridge

Editor's Note: Sec. Ridge is a combat veteran in his own right, having served in the Army in Vietnam, where

he earned a Bronze Star.

CGCVA Members on "War Stories"

Recently, CGCVA members appeared on the USCG episode of "War Stories With Oliver North," a FOX News Channel (FNC) primetime program that airs on Sundays from 8-9 p.m. and strives to show the world the untold war-related stories from the front line perspective using living sources, historical footage and published books.

Our episode, titled "Guardians of the Sea: The U.S. Coast Guard," began with a look at the Service's origins through the amalgamation of the five distinct federal agencies and the establishment of the Revenue Cutter Service in 1790. The show then showcased our rich history of wartime service to the present. The episode included historical footage and photographs, along with interviews conducted by combat-decorated Marine Lt.Col. **Oliver L. North** with Coast Guard Historian **Dr. Robert Browning**, and veterans from WWII and Vietnam. WWII veterans **Marvin Perrett**, **Ed Nash** and **Dorothy Dempsey** (SPAR) told their stories, along with Vietnam veterans **Carl David Rittichier**, brother of Jack Rittichier, and **Paul Scotti**. Lt.Col. North visited and filmed aboard USCG Station New York, Activities New York, and MSST 91106 in addition to stand-up shots and cut-aways filmed aboard USCGC Eagle.

Along with the U.S. market, the program aired in more than 30 countries worldwide through Skynet satellite TV. The FNC official website is: www.foxnews.com/warstories/index.html.

Saluting Top Recruits

Each week at graduation ceremonies at

Fun Facts

- In English pubs, ale is ordered in pints and quarts. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them "mind their own pints and quarts and settle down." It's where we get the phrase "mind your P's and Q's".
- Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim or handle of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. "Wet your whistle" is the phrase inspired by this practice.

Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, New Jersey, the CGCVA sponsors the Physical Fitness Award to a graduating recruit. A CGCVA watch and certificate are presented, often by an attending CGCVA member. Since the last *QD Log* issue, the following recruits have received the CGCVA-sponsored Physical Fitness Award:

SN Kievon Harper (Delta-167) of New York City, N.Y., reports to *USCGC Tahoma*, Portsmouth, N.H.

FN Darin Wilson (Echo-167) of St. Louis, Mo., reports to USCG Station Erie, Pa.

SN Peter Raneri (Foxtrot-167) of Albany, N.Y., reports to *USCGC Sitkinak*, Key West, Fla.

FA Derrick B. Neely (Golf-167) of Memphis, Tenn., reports to USCG Station Fishers Island, New London, Conn.

FN Russell C. Yocum (Hotel-167) of Boise, Idaho, reports to USCG Station Georgetown, S.C.

SN Nicholas T. Prescott (India-167) of Los Angeles, Calif., reports to Machinery Technician "A" School, Yorktown, Va.

FA Michael M. Joseph (Juliectt-167) of Phoenix, Ariz., reports to USCG Loran Station Attu, Kodiak, Alaska.

SA Arthur E. Castaneda (Kilo-167) of Cerritos, Calif., reports to *USCGC Polar Sea*, Seattle, Wash.

SA Brian Walsh (Lima-167) of Boston, Mass., reports to *USCGC Polar Star*, Seattle, Wash.

FA Christopher T. Hudson (Mike-167) of Richmond, Va., reports to *USCGC Blackberry*, Oak Island, N.C.

FN Justin E. Hoffer (November-167) of Denver, Colo., reports to USCG Marianas Section, Guam.

SA Nichols W. Chavez (Oscar-167) of Bellingham, Wash., reports to *USCGC Kittiwake*, Lihue, Hi.

SN Chaney R. Wainscott (Quebec-167) of Indianapolis, Ind., reports to *USCGC Neah Bay*, Cleveland, Ohio.

SA Jaime J. Garza, Jr. (Sierra-167) of Dallas, Texas, reports to *USCGC Sockeye*, Bodega Bay, Calif.

SN Kasey S. Knott (Tango-167) of Fresno, Calif., reports to *USCGC Boutwell*, Alameda, Calif.

SN Daniel R. Rowland, Jr. (Uniform-167) of Houston, Texas, reports to *USCGC Mohawk*, Key West, Fla.

SN Christopher J. Brown (Victor-167) of Fredericksburg, Va., reports to *USCGC Cochito*, Norfolk, Va.

SN Erin A. Johnson (Whiskey-167) of Atlantic City, N.J., reports to USCG Station Pensacola, Fla.



CGCVA Member William C. McLeod says this photo was taken aboard the USCGC Westwind in 1945. He says after we got underway, a Navy tug signalled that they had our dog, George. They brought him out to the Westwind and when he got aboard he laid down to rest. Warrant Officer Denisov, with George's cooperation, fixed up the scene.

SA Gregory A. Varina (X-Ray-167) of Newark, N.J., reports to Damage Controlman "A" School, Yorktown, Va.

SA Peter Purowski (Yankee-167) of Boston, Mass., reports to Port Security Specialist "A" School, Yorktown, Va.

SN Richard P. Newman (Zulu-167) of Long Island, NY., reports to Port Security Specialist "A" School, Yorktown, Va.

FN Nikolas J. Staley (Alpha-168) of San Diego, Calif., reports to *USCGC Morganthau*, Alameda, Calif.

SA Michael T. Genreux (Bravo-168) of Guam, reports to USCG Marianas Section, Guam.

Welcome New Members

A hearty "Welcome Aboard!" to the following new CGCVA and Auxiliary members. New member names are followed by sponsors' names (*italicized in parentheses*):

FEBRUARY 2002

Carl O. Carlson (Pat Ramsey); John Milewski, Jr. (Pat Ramsey); Robert F. Taylor, Jr. (Pat Ramsey); Mike J. Kilbane (Robert MacLeod); David N. Neuciler, LM (William H. Ross); Jack Rossi (H. W. Demander); Ricardo N. Javier (Pat Ramsey); Wes L. Johnson (Pat Ramsey); and Williston C. Palmer, LM (Cameron Palmer).

MARCH 2002

Herbert E. Conkey (Pat Ramsey); Harry W. Taylor (Robert MacLeod); Philip C. Williams (Pat Ramsey); Pete Buel (Chuck Greer, Esq.); David A. Kosick (Bill Wells); Joseph A. Siano (Jack Hamlin); Clifton L. Bennett (George Needham); Donald R. Hamilton (Alvin Beck); and Timothy J. Parker (Baker Herbert).

E-Mail Addresses

To assist our Association members in contacting each other, the *QD Log* has listed the complete e-mail list of participating members. Due to magazine space concerns, the complete list will now be provided on the CGCVA website: www.coastguardcombatvets.com. The *QD Log* will run e-mail address additions and changes only in each issue. Below are the additions and changes received since the last issue. Additions, deletions and changes should be sent to: USCGW64@neo.rr.com.

Blacketter, George M. gblackke@earthlink.net
 Brantley, Glen E. glenja@wcoil.com
 Burns, Joseph J. jerjeanburns@worldnet.att.net
 Compton, Bert L. elcompto@cybrzn.com
 Cooley, CAPT Joseph P. jcooley68@mchsi.com
 Curtin, Arthur. Cgcwpg64@aol.com
 DaCosta, Al. adacosta@ktc.com
 Davis, Gerald N. gdavis@danafilms.com
 Flynn, John G. jcflynn03@comcast.net
 Goff, Jerry. bscar00@hotmail.com
 Huggins, Harry S. muzz4poppi@cs.com
 Insley, Thomas. retiveo@qis.net
 Kenney, Phillip L. kenneyphil@yahoo.com
 Kouba, Robert. robdav5054@cs.com
 Landick, Richard E. ra2land@aol.com
 Ledue, Bill. Elrado1312@aol.com
 Lindley, Richard. plindley@wcnnet.net
 Losea, CAPT Rich. losea@cox.net
 Mahoney, John P. jocko@naturecoast.net
 Mullins, Raymond C. rebgearhead@aol.com
 Nasmyth, Walter. nasmyth10451@comcast.net
 O'Leary, Tim. oleary2004@msn.com
 Pitalo, A. Mike. aka18@bellsouth.net
 Singer, daniel. stormy4@earthlink.com
 Slade, Hans. hans@ccarey.com
 Smith, Oran M. dwsoms@classicnet.net
 Smith, Raymond W. rwsmith@cfw.com
 Stauffer, Vince. vstauffer@worldnet.att.net
 Sutherland, James P. jpgoodhart@gtlakes.com
 Swiech, Eugene. EugeneSwiech@comcast.net
 Telecsan, Carl. [cgandusnaps@aol.com](mailto:c gandusnaps@aol.com)
 Ulrich, Chuck. sunnycfu@aol.com
 Webb, CWO Horace C. Hcwebb@aol.com
 Wyens, James C. n4yctw@juno.com

Getting Back To The Basics (cont. from p. 1)

The first tour of the convention was a "Day at the Races" at River Downs Racetrack in Cincinnati. Nearly 50 folks braved the touch-and-go weather to cheer on the nags of their choice and enjoy a buffet luncheon (which hopefully did not include any of the losers).



Our Hospitality Suite bartenders, Mark, David and Scott Andrus.



83-footer Veterans



Local commanders, CDR Terry Gilbreath, of USC Marine Safety Office Louisville and LCDR Al Young of Group Ohio Valley.

The following day, 51 members attended what I considered a very professional, productive and dynamic Business Meeting, complete with a briefing by **LT Brad Terrill** of USCG Headquarters Public Affairs and an award presentation to the Association by **Mr. Kark Christoffer** of the Special Olympics for our support to that good cause.

I provided the State of the Association Report, followed by committee reports, old business, new business, and good of the order.

Two proposed changes to the By-Laws were read and approved by unanimous vote. The first provides for making all past Coast Guard Commandants and past CGCVA Persons of the Year Honorary Life Members (if not eligible for regular membership). The second allows elected officers (president and vice president) to remain in office beyond two consecutive terms. This second proposal was the result of our previous change to hold con-

ventions (and elections) on an 18-month cycle instead of every two years. Elections followed and I was elected for a second term. **Ed Burke** opted to step down as vice president and two nominations were made for that office. Trustee **Gil “Frenchy” Benoit** was elected for the position. Two-term nominations were made for the two vacant Trustee positions and the electees were **Robert MacLeod** and **Ernest “Swede” Johnson**. The remaining one-term Trustee position, vacated



Jerry Goff and “Frenchy” Benoit compete in the “Saturday Night Fever” disco contest aboard the Belle of Cincinnati.



CGCVA 2003 Coast Guard Person of the Year BMI Jacob Carawan, slow dances with his wife Betsy during the Riverboat Dinner Cruise.

by Gil Benoit, was appointed to **Herb Weinstein**, since no vote was needed. **Tom Huckelberry** was appointed as CGCVA Service Officer and all other appointed positions remained as before. About the only snafu to the entire meeting was overlooking elections for Secretary-Treasurer. I’m sure **Baker** didn’t feel slighted by the oversight and besides, who really wants to do the toughest job in the Association anyway. Thanks Baker and congratulations to all the elected and appointed CGCVA officers, trustees and committee chairs.

At the same time the CGCVA Business Meeting was taking place, 38 persons were participating in the Auxiliary Friendship Luncheon, being held across the hall. During that activity, the Auxiliary reelected **Shirley Ramsey** as president, **Linda Benoit** as vice president and **Jane Maxwell** as secretary-treasurer. Congratulations ladies... your continued strong support is most appreciated!

That evening, 62 folks participated in the “Admiral Dinner Cruise” aboard the sternwheeler Belle of Cincinnati, a most enjoyable four-hour sightseeing tour along the Ohio River. The weather was perfect and the clear sky provided spectacular views of Cincinnati landmarks and its skyline. The ship’s wait staff was friendly and efficient, the buffet dinner was exquisite, and the music was alluring. Our group



Enjoying the Awards Banquet

sat adjacent to the deejays and dance floor so it was a simple matter to make requests and then get up to dance. The effects of alcoholic beverages taken beyond moderation were evident as **Jerry Goff**, **Frenchy Benoit** and **Larry Villarreal** tore up the dance floor. Only kidding guys... you looked great! **Terry and Rene O’Connell** opted to bring along an unticketed pas-



Ed & Mare Swift prepare for the Dinner Cruise.

senger, the **Sabine River Fajita**, and much of the evening was spent explaining it and having folks pose with it. In fact, the Fajita at one point was sitting in the Captain's Chair steering the boat. Later it made a brief appearance in a wedding party (and even got a kiss on the nose from the bride). About the only down side of the trip was the end. Instead of one 47-person bus and two 12-person vans waiting for our group at the

pier, there was only the bus. Needless to say, once it was filled it left for the Drawbridge Inn, leaving about 15 of us to fend for ourselves. Not a big deal though. Three cabs were hailed and everyone got back safely. In fact, it was quite fun. My cab included my wife **Mare**, **Rene O'Connell**, **Pat Ramsey** and myself squished into the back seat, with the driver, **Shirley Ramsey**, **Terry O'Connell** and the **Fajita** crowding the front. Just glad the ride only took about fifteen minutes.

On Sunday, 66 convention attendees took a similar riverboat Brunch Cruise (with Dixieland Music) and I was told that it too was a great time.

Still, for me the highlight of the entire convention was the April 25th Awards Banquet, which had 96 attendees. While a pall was cast on the event, it really pounded home something we as CGCVA members all share... the fact that we all served in combat situations and that there is always an element of danger when doing so.



(Above) Chaplain Bill Miller has a laugh with RADM James Hull at the Banquet. They were surprised to learn that Hull joined the Coast Guard the day that Bill retired from the Coast Guard.

(Left) Betsy and Jake Carawan "Fajita-sit" during the bus ride to the Ohio River Dinner Cruise, providing Mare Swift (background) a chuckle.



Ed Swift, Terry O'Connell and the Sabine River Fajita on the Dinner Cruise.

one in the room getting weepy as the names of our departed shipmates were read aloud, followed by the ringing of a bell. I honestly don't know how **Robert MacLeod**, who was narrating the ceremony, was able to get through it without having his voice crack

but I would have had trouble maintaining my composure. Great job Mac... thanks!

Earlier that day, I had picked up CGCVA member **VADM James D. Hull**, the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area Commander, at the Northern Kentucky-Cincinnati Airport. We spoke about the incident in Iraq and it was apparent that he was shaken by the loss of a Coast Guardsman in combat. Later, after being introduced as our keynote speaker, VADM Hull opted to forego his prepared speech and talk





CGCVA 2003 Coast Guard Person of the Year BM1 Jacob Carawan, his wife Betsy, and VADM James Hull at the Awards Banquet.

to us “off the cuff”. His words were quite eloquent and his message reinforced why we all decided to become part of this wonderful organization called the Coast Guard. On behalf of

the entire Association, thank you admiral for taking the time out of your busy schedule to be with us. We applaud your fine work, we appreciate your tremendous support, and we wish you ‘Fair Winds



Ed Swift and LT Brad Terrill share a laugh with the Fajita.

and Following Seas” as you prepare for your change of command ceremony on July 16th and retirement.

Following VADM Hull’s remarks, we made the 2003 CGCVA Coast Guard Person of the Year award presentation to **BM1 Jacob M. Carawan**. VADM Hull assisted me in presenting the plaque to BM1 Carawan, who had received the Coast Guard Medal for heroism for saving the life of a woman on May 10, 2003 in the Cape Fear River, near Southport, N.C.



The Belle of Cincinnati sternwheeler at its berth on the Ohio River.

Petty Officer Carawan was also made an Honorary CGCVA Life Member. We were honored to host Jake and his lovely wife Betsy for several days and they were able to participate in most tours and activities. I’d have to say as eloquent as VADM Hull’s words were, Petty Officer Carawan gave him a run for his money. His remarks following the award presentation were inspiring and truly reflected the attitude of so many fine Coast Guard men and women. He said he was humbled by the honor and felt that he was simply doing what he had been trained to do. He mentioned that the success of the rescue had been a team effort and that two other Coasties had played significant roles to locate the woman and get her safely to shore for medical treatment. His words were honest, heartfelt and made me proud to know he is representative of the people doing the work of the Coast Guard today. It was an honor to meet you Jake and I hope you will remain active with our Association.

The next order of business was the presentation of other awards. I have been most fortunate to be surrounded by capable, dedicated officers, Trustees and Auxiliary members so it was a great pleasure to present CGCVA Certificates of Appreciation to those who were in attendance. Others have been mailed but the complete list included. Thank you all for your continued support!:

- Ed Burke (Vice President)
- Baker Herbert (Secretary-Treasurer)
- PNP Jack Campbell (Chairman of Trustees)
- Patrick Denney (Trustee)
- Herb Weinstein (Trustee)
- Gil Benoit (Trustee)
- PNP Robert Maxwell (Trustee)
- Vince Stauffer (By-Laws Chairman)
- Walt Gorr (Parliamentarian)
- William Miller (Chaplain)
- Patrick Ramsey (Membership Chairman)
- Robert MacLeod (Ways & Means Director)
- William Figone (Chief Master At Arms)
- David Teska (Assistant QD Log Editor)
- Shirley Ramsey (Auxiliary President)
- Linda Benoit (Auxiliary Vice President)
- Jane Maxwell (Auxiliary Sec’y-Treasurer)
- Janice Stephens (Hospitality Suite Hostess)
- Mark, David and Scott Andrus (Bartenders)
- Marylou Herbert (Seamstress)



Tommy Bowden enjoys an unsweetened iced tea in the Hospitality Suite.

Notices & Association News



(Left) Several of the 83'er sailors pose with the handmade model of 83437

(Right) Ed Swift and Ed Burke take over as official caretakers of the Sabine River Fajita from previous caretaker Terry O'Connell.



After the awards presentations were completed, Outgoing Vice President Ed Burke, assisted by VADM Hull, conducted the Swearing-In Ceremony for our newly elected officers, trustees and appointed officers. Unnoticed by all except Ed Burke, our perennial Chaplain, **Bill Miller**, remained seated during the swearing-in and subsequently had to be separately sworn-in. Thought we'd never get through that part. Either Ed needed to speak louder into the microphone or Bill needed to turn up the volume on his hearing aid, but it was certainly entertaining.

CGCVA Auxiliary President **Shirley Ramsey** was intro-



Tommy Bowden (left) and Bill Figone begin the flag-folding ceremony, narrated by Robert Macleod.

duced and provided a poignant reminder that we still have many U.S. servicemen and women serving overseas who remain in harm's way and to keep them all in our thoughts and prayers.

Trustee **Robert MacLeod** was called upon to narrate our closing Flag-Folding Ceremony and he professionally explained the significance of each fold. As he spoke, Chiefs Master At Arms **Tommy Bowden** and **Bill Figone** folded the American Flag. When it was in its final triangular form, it was presented to Past National VP **Ed Burke**, who in turn provided it to me for safe keeping until our next convention. With that, the banquet was officially concluded but everyone was asked to remain for the raffle and auction.

Thanks to all who donated items for the banquet raffle. It is most gratifying to receive such donations to the Association and the gifts are always memorable. Congratulations to all the winners. The auction was for the **Sabine River Fajita**, donated back to the Association by **Terry O'Connell**. Terry, who bought the Fajita three and a half years earlier at the previous Kentucky convention, had since hand-built a beautiful carrying case for the treasure and even added a rather fine bottle of cognac, encased in its own box, within the carrying case. He had taken the Fajita on a bit of a world tour and captured many photos of the Fajita at various sites. By donating it to the Association, it could again be auctioned, with the proceeds going directly back to the CGCVA. A very spirited bidding war soon took place and, when the smoke cleared, **Ed Burke** and I had made the highest bid. So, for our \$312.00 donation, we now have joint custody as the Caretakers of the Fajita until the next convention, when it will be auctioned again. Hopefully, we'll make sure that it is seen often during the next 18 months and we will document its travels.

Adjoining to the Hospitality Suite, the convention was



Atlantic Area Commander VADM James Hull and CGCVA National President Ed Swift present the 2003 CGCVA Coast Guard Person of the Year Award to BMI Jacob Carawan at the Convention Awards Banquet.

effectively over and everyone used this last opportunity to talk with friends and shipmates before making plans for their departures the following day. As I mentioned earlier, for many, many reasons I feel this convention was the best ever. It certainly was blessed with tremendous camaraderie and fellowship. We remembered our shipmates who have Crossed The Bar, grieved over the loss of a Coast Guardsman. Renewed friendships, and discussed Association business. It was a very moving time for me and I hope for all who attended. Thank you all!



Elected and Appointed Officers and Trustees are sworn-in by outgoing CGCVA national vice president Ed Burke.

the aid of additional rescue gear, quickly entered the water and created an ad hoc plan to extricate the woman from the vehicle. They made repeated free dives, courageously attempting to remove her from the car. After several unsuccessful attempts to open the car, they finally managed to force the driver's side door ajar. With zero visibility in the murky water, it was decided that it was too dangerous to swim

into the car to unlatch the seat belt. Petty Officer Carawan then took a knife provided by an onlooker, dove back down, and cut the shoulder and lap belts freeing the woman who floated unconscious to the roof of the car. After sever more dives, they finally pulled her out of the vehicle and to the surface. Petty Officer Carawan assisted his fellow crewmember as they towed her in a swimmers carry position to the pier where she was provided life saving first aid that eventually revived her.

2003 CGCVA Person of the Year

Congratulations to Boatswain's Mate First Class Jacob M. Carawan, USCG, of the USCGC Block Island (WPB 1344), Atlantic Beach, N.C., who was selected as the 2003 CGCVA Coast Guard Person of the Year. Petty Officer Carawan was presented the POY plaque and made a CGCVA Honorary Life Member at the Kentucky Convention Awards Banquet on April 25, 2004.

Petty Officer received the Coast Guard Medal for his heroic rescue efforts and his award citation reads as follows:

“Petty Officer Carawan is cited for heroism during the rescue of an 80-year old woman from her completely submerged automobile in the Cape Fear River near Southport, N.C., on the morning of 10 May 2003. As the woman attempted to park her car by a wharf, the brakes failed, causing the vehicle to plunge over the edge and into the water. The car immediately sank beneath the surface where she was trapped



BM1 Carawan displays his CGCVA Honorary Life Member Certificate at the Awards Banquet.

inside and unable to escape.

Petty Officer Carawan and two other crewmembers had just departed an adjacent pier for a Homeland Security patrol when they heard a loud crash behind them. Just as they looked over their shoulders, a call came over the marine band radio notifying them of the incident. They immediately turned around and moored the small boat.

Petty Officer Carawan and one other crewmember, without



BM1 Carawan addresses the gathering at the Convention Awards Banquet

into the car to unlatch the seat belt.

Petty Officer Carawan demonstrated remarkable initiative, exceptional fortitude, and daring in spite of imminent personal danger during this rescue. His courage and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.”

Petty Officer Carawan demonstrated remarkable initiative, exceptional fortitude, and daring in spite of imminent personal danger during this rescue. His courage and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.”

State of the Association

CGCVA National President's Report of Activities during the period October 2002 – April 2004

During the past 18 months, the following activities have been initiated, carried out, and/or completed under my guid-

ance as CGCVA National President. This report was read in full at the April 24, 2004 Business Meeting during the CGCVA Convention/Reunion in Ft. Mitchell, Ky., and was included in the minutes of the meeting:

••• Established account for fund-raising project to build two monuments recognizing the contributions of the Coast Guard during the Vietnam War. Working in partnership with CAPT Donald Taub, USCG (Ret.), designed monuments and prepared detailed information for engraved bronze plaques. Directed CGCVA Ways & Means Director Robert MacLeod to spearhead fund-raising effort and



PNP Jack Campbell and other WWII vets present a wreath at the Douglas A. Munro statue at Cape May during Mini-Reunion.

N.J. (July 16, 2004) and at USCG Academy, New London, Ct.



(Above) Ed Swift presents Coast Guard Commandant ADM Thomas Collins an autographed copy of Dr. Jack Pulwer's book "The Valiant Press: War Through The Lens," at the annual State of the Coast Guard Luncheon.



More than 100 folks attended the Cape May Mini-Reunion.



(Oct. 2, 2004). Both projects are on track and large attendance is expected at both ceremonies. CGCVA Historian CWO4 Paul Scotti, USCG (Ret.) will serve as keynote speaker at Cape May dedication; CGCVA member CAPT Alex Larzelere, USCG (Ret.) will serve as keynote speaker at Academy dedication. Both men have written comprehensive books regarding the Coast Guard's roles in Vietnam. Project pends.

••• Volunteered CGCVA to be a primary sponsor during various activities highlighting the return of Coast Guard's sole Vietnam MIA, LT Jack Columbus Rittichier. Formed 14-person Honor Platoon of CGCVA members at Andrews AFB for arrival ceremony of USCG aircraft bringing LT Rittichier's



Ed Swift presents CGCVA watch and certificate to graduating recruit during graduation ceremonies at USCG TraCen Cape May, N.J.

remains to Washington, D.C. for interment. Same group (plus several spouses) attended funeral services at Ft. Myer Chapel and CGCVA Ways & Means Director Robert MacLeod volunteered to read special poem chosen by Rittichier Family during memorial services. CGCVA Honor Platoon formed again for graveside services. CGCVA sponsored table for ten Rittichier Family members at CG Ball named in LT Rittichier's honor, held three days before memorial services.

••• Planned and coordinated one-day Mini-Reunion at USCG Recruit Training Center Cape May, N.J. Highly successful event hosted 100-plus attendees and included recognition for Association at weekly recruit graduation ceremonies. CGCVA WWII members placed CGCVA wreath at statue of Douglas Munro. Activities included boat and cutter tours, helicopter static display, air-sea-rescue demonstration, classroom video, museum tour, lunch at Harborview Lounge with USCG Air Station Atlantic City commanding officer as guest speaker,

and wrap-up reception at EM Club. Presented CGCVA Certificates of Appreciation to several Training Center Cape May personnel for their support with mini-reunion. Kudos to PNP Jack Campbell, Trustee Herb Weinstein, and member Terry Lee.

- Registered Association with WWII Parade Committee in anticipation of CGCVA WWII members wishing to participate in parade and other activities associated with Memorial Day and dedication of WWII Monument in Washington, D.C. (Pends)

- Responded to a CG member's inquiry regarding CGC Pontchartrain being omitted from the Navy official listing of vessels that served in Vietnam. Through liaison with CDR David Desiderio, USN, and his tenacious work with the CNO's office, the CG cutter has now been included in the listing. Kudos to Baker Herbert for helping get this oversight corrected.

- Arranged appropriate ceremonies to make CGCVA Honorary Member presentations to the following individuals:

- ADM Thomas Collins, USCG Commandant
- MCPO-CG Frank Welch
- Mr. Leon Bibb, ABC-TV Broadcaster
- LT Jack Rittichier (posthumously)
- AVT3 William Nolte, CGCVA 2002 CG POY
- DHS Secretary Thomas Ridge
- BM1 Jacob Carawan, CGCVA 2003 CG POY

- Represented CGCVA at following official functions:

- Veterans' Day Ceremonies held at USCG Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery (Nov. 2002).
- State of the Coast Guard Address & Luncheon at Bolling AFB (March 2003).
- Naval Order Luncheon in Arlington, Va. (March 2003).
- Groundbreaking ceremonies for new Navy League of the U.S. National Headquarters Building in Arlington, Va. (April 2003).
- Change of Command Ceremony for RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara as she became Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District, Portsmouth, Va. (April 2003).
- Grand Haven, Mich., Coast Guard Festival (July-



An Honor Platoon of CGCVA members played a significant role during the LT Jack Columbus Rittichier funeral and interment at Arlington National Cemetery..

Aug. 2003).

- Change of Command Ceremony for CAPT Doug Wisnewski at USCG Recruit Training Center, Cape May, N.J. (Aug. 2003).

- 9-11-01 Remembrance Ceremony for at Arlington, Va. (Sept. 2003).

- Coast Guard Ball in Washington, D.C. (Oct. 2003)

- LT Jack Rittichier Funeral Events, Washington, D.C. (Nov. 2003)

- 2002 CGCVA Coast Guard Person of the Year Presentation Ceremony at CGHQ (Jan. 2004)

- Wreath-Laying Ceremony at USS Serpens Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery (Jan. 2004).

- Presentation of CGCVA Watches & Certificates at Recruit Graduation Ceremonies, Cape May, N.J. (April 2004)

- Women in the Military Services of America (WIMSA) convention in Washington, D.C. (March 2004)

- State of the Coast Guard Address & Luncheon at National Press Club, Washington, D.C. (March 2004)

- Dedication Ceremonies at USCG TraCen Yorktown, Va., for new building named for Distinguished CGCVA Life Member Larry Villarreal (April 2004)

- Produced six issues of CGCVA national magazine, *Quarterdeck Log*. Redesigned publication to allow for full color throughout.

- Enhanced official CGCVA website: www.coastguard-combatvets.com, adding expanded sections for photo library, viewing of current and past issues of *Quarterdeck Log*, and

The CGCVA supported all USCG units deployed overseas as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Letters, books and magazines were mailed to units in theater.



opinion page for members.

••• Presented CGCVA watches and certificates to more than 100 graduating recruits selected as Physical Fitness Award winners at USCG Training Center Cape May, N.J. Presented CGCVA watches and certificates to several selected CG Academy cadets. Ongoing recognition program created by PNP Jack Campbell has been quite successful.

••• Presented \$1000 CGCVA Scholarship to the daughter of CGCVA member CPO Tom Dougherty, a company commander at USCG Training Center Cape May, N.J.

••• Wrote to commanding officers of all USCG units deployed overseas during War with Iraq, congratulating units for their combat roles and inviting each to consider joining CGCVA.

Submitted April 24, 2004 by Edward B. Swift

Larry Villarreal Building Dedication

On April 6, 2004, CGCVA Distinguished Member Larry Villarreal was honored when the Caterpillar Engineering Building at USCG Training Center Yorktown, Va., was renamed Villarreal Hall. Several CGCVA members, including Gil “Frenchy” Benoit, Jerry Goff, Terry Graviss, Tommy Bowden, Ed Swift, Taylor Lapham, and previous USCGC Point Banks commanding officer CDR James White, USCG (Ret.) attended the building dedication ceremony. Guest speaker was RADM Erroll M. Brown, Assistant Commandant for Systems, and the Coast Guard’s “Chief Engineer”.

Engineman Second Class Larry Villarreal was recognized, along with GM1 Jerry Goff, for their heroic rescue of nine



Some of the CGCVA members who attended the Larry Villarreal Building Dedication at Yorktow. (Left to right) Tommy Bowden, Terry Graviss, Gil Benoit, and Bill White.

Vietnamese Army personnel while serving aboard the USCGC Point Banks in January 1969. Both received Silver Star Medals for heroism. Larry’s citation reads, in part: “...With courageous disregard for their own safety, Petty Officer Villarreal and his fellow crewmember were able to rescue the nine



Larry Villarreal makes remarks at dedication ceremony for building named for him..

without you.” Jerry replied, “Thank you too buddy. I wouldn’t be here without you!”

Editor’s Note: Previously, the Armory building at USCG Training Center Cape May, N.J., was named in honor of GM1 Jerry Goff. More photos of dedication on back page.

Coast Guardsman Killed In Iraq

Editor’s Note: On April 25, 2004, the Coast Guard recorded its first wartime casualty since Vietnam when DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal was killed during a suicide boat attack on an Iraqi oil terminal. Ironically, his tragic passing occurred on the same day that our Association was holding its Awards Banquet at the Kentucky Convention. Our keynote speaker, VADM James

Vietnamese Army personnel who would have met almost certain death or capture without the assistance of the two Coast Guardsmen. Petty Officer Villarreal’s outstanding heroism, professionalism, and devotion to duty to his fellow man were in the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”

Following RADM Brown’s remarks, the building plaque was unveiled and the building dedicated as Villarreal Hall. Joining Larry for the unveiling ceremony were his wife, Carolyn and daughter, Jennifer. During Larry’s remarks, he asked his shipmate Jerry Goff to stand and humbly said that the operation could not have been successful if they hadn’t worked so well as a team. He simply said, “Thanks Jerry, I wouldn’t be here

without you.” Jerry replied, “Thank you too buddy. I wouldn’t be here without you!”



DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal

Hull, was fully knowledgeable of the incident but could not reveal details at the time. Respecting that, his memory was included as we read the list of names of CGCVA members who had Crossed The Bar since our last convention.

A Coast Guard press release of April 26, 2004, read:

“PORTSMOUTH, VA – U.S. Coast Guard Damage Controlman Third Class Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, from Smithtown, N.Y., died from injuries sustained when a small boat exploded as he and six other coalition sailors attempted to board it near the Iraqi



A boarding team from the from the USS Firebolt approached a vessel in their inflatable rigid-hulled craft.

hospital in Kuwait.

The two men were assigned to Law Enforcement Detachment 403 from Tactical Law Enforcement Team South in Miami, Fla., and were deployed to Coast Guard Patrol Forces Southwest Asia at the time of the incident.

Two Coast Guardsmen and five Navy sailors aboard a rigid hull inflatable boat were preparing to board a dhow that had approached the terminal when the explosion occurred. Two U.S. Navy sailors were also killed during the incident and three were wounded.

Petty Officer Bruckenthal is the first Coast Guardsman killed in action since the Vietnam War.

"I am extremely saddened by the loss of Petty Officer Nathan Bruckenthal who was killed by terrorists Saturday while bravely



USS Firebolt

Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal Saturday.

Injured was Boatswains Mate Third Class Joseph T. Ruggiero, 23, from Revere, Mass., who is recovering in a

our nation's founding.

Approximately 300 Coast Guard people are currently assigned to Operation Iraqi Freedom from four 110-foot Coast Guard cutters, a port security unit, and two law enforcement detachments. Their responsibilities include ensuring safe navigation and protection of ports. The Coast Guard is working hand in hand with the Navy in the region. At the height of combat operations, the Coast Guard had approximately 1,250 personnel from various units deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Coalition maritime forces are operating under the command of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.”

A portion of the official Commandant's Notice of April 30, 2004 is included below to salute our fallen comrade:

“On 25 April, DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal and two USN sailors, PO1 Michael Pernaselli and PO2 Christopher Watts, were killed in the line of duty while conducting maritime intercept operations in the North Arabian Gulf.

DC3 Bruckenthal was a proud Coast Guardsman who served his country and his fellow man with honor and compassion. He willingly entered into harms way to protect our Nation and his fellow servicemen from terrorists and to assist the people of Iraq as they pursue freedom and democracy. By his actions, he exemplified honor, respect and most especially, devotion to duty. We should never forget his sacrifices or the legacy he will leave behind. While no words can adequately console his wife, Patty, or his parents during this very difficult time, I ask



Members of the Coast Guard Ceremonial Honor Guard fold the flag above DC3 Bruckenthal's casket.

you to please keep the Bruckenthal Family in your thoughts and prayers.”

Petty Officer Third Class Nathan Bruckenthal is shown in this photo taken in 1998. Bruckenthal, 24, from Smithtown, NY, had been assigned to the assigned to Law Enforcement Detachment 403 from Tactical Law Enforcement Team South in Miami, Fla. He died of wounds suffered in an attack that began when suicide bombers in boats attacked pumping stations in the Persian Gulf. Bruckenthal is the first Coast Guardsman to die in combat since Vietnam. AP Photo/Bruckenthal Family



A large number of wreaths were placed graveside and several hundred Coast Guard personnel attended the funeral for DC3 Bruckenthal at Arlington National Cemetery.

Editor's Note: I was honored to represent the CGCVA at Petty Officer Bruckenthal's funeral May 7, 2004 at Arlington National Cemetery. In true Coast Guard fashion, our Association made a contribution to the Bruckenthal Family and if any CGCVA members wish to send personal contributions, donations should be made to: "The Nathan Bruckenthal Memorial Trust Fund" and mailed to P.O. Box 398, Northport, NY 11768. Letters of sympathy and condolences may be sent to: USCG Richmond Hts. MWR Recreation Center, 15403 SW 123 Avenue, Miami, FL 33177, Attn: Family of Nathan Bruckenthal. We have made both DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal and BM3 Joseph Ruggiero CGCVA Members.

Injured Coast Guardsman Dedicates Medal to Fallen Friend

by Kristen Bolt, Miami Herald

On May 5, 2004, Boatswain's Mate Third Class Joseph T. Ruggiero received the first Purple Heart to be awarded to a Coast Guard member since the Vietnam War, then said he would wear it in honor of the crewmate he tried unsuccessfully to save after a suicide attack in Iraq.

Ruggiero, a member of the Tactical Law Enforcement Team South in Opa Locka, Fla., was injured while defending the Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal on April 24. With bandages covering shrapnel wounds to his right arm, Ruggiero said that receiving the award "means the world" to him, and that he "will wear it for his friend and fallen comrade."

The suicide attack claimed the life of Petty Officer Nathan

B. Bruckenthal of Dania Beach, Fla., the first Coast Guard member killed in action since Vietnam. In addition, two naval servicemen were killed and three others wounded. The men were on a naval inspection team that spotted an unidentified dhow in the northern Arabian Gulf near the oil terminal. As their boat approached the smaller one, the dhow

exploded, flipping the naval craft over.

Ruggiero, controlling his emotions, described how he surfaced after the blast. He saw that Bruckenthal's life preserver had failed to inflate automatically and that he had severe face wounds. Although both of Ruggiero's eardrums had burst and he was bleeding, he swam to Bruckenthal's aid and manually inflated his vest.

Ruggiero, 22, of Revere, Mass., reenlisted in the Coast Guard for four years a week after the attack and said he would like to return to Iraq.

The Tactical Law Enforcement Team South normally patrols the waters around South Florida for illegal drug runners and immigrant smugglers, but Ruggiero and Bruckenthal were among the members deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ruggiero, the grandson of a World War II veteran and son of a Marine who served in Vietnam, received numerous commendations, medals and awards during four years in the service. But this medal, he said, he would wear for Bruckenthal.

Ric Bruckenthal, the dead man's father, interviewed by phone, said: "He did our family a wonderful honor, but he should proudly wear it for himself because it is well deserved." Vice Admiral James D. Hull, commander of the Coast Guard Atlantic Area, presented Ruggiero with the award for being wounded in the line of duty, established by Gen. George Washington in 1782.

Calling Ruggiero a hero, Hull told the audience in a packed room that he was "proud to wear the same uniform that he does."

Ruggiero's commanding officer, Commander Glenn Grahl, said he was devastated by Bruckenthal's death, but was "happy to learn how Ruggiero had conducted himself." Ruggiero's father, also named Joseph, said by phone, "I am proud of my son. Any conflict is a sad situation, period, no matter when or

where.”

Editor's Note: *I had the honor of meeting BM3 Ruggiero at the graveside services for DC3 Brickenthal and I am proud to say he is now a CGCVA Member.*

WWII Memorial Opens for Public Viewing

By Monte Reel, Washington Post

The National World War II Memorial opened to the public April 29th after nearly two decades of debate and anticipation, assuming a central place among Washington's defining landmarks. The chain-link fences surrounding the \$172 million project came down and visitors were allowed to enter the 7.4-acre site. The memorial will be officially dedicated during Memorial Day weekend.

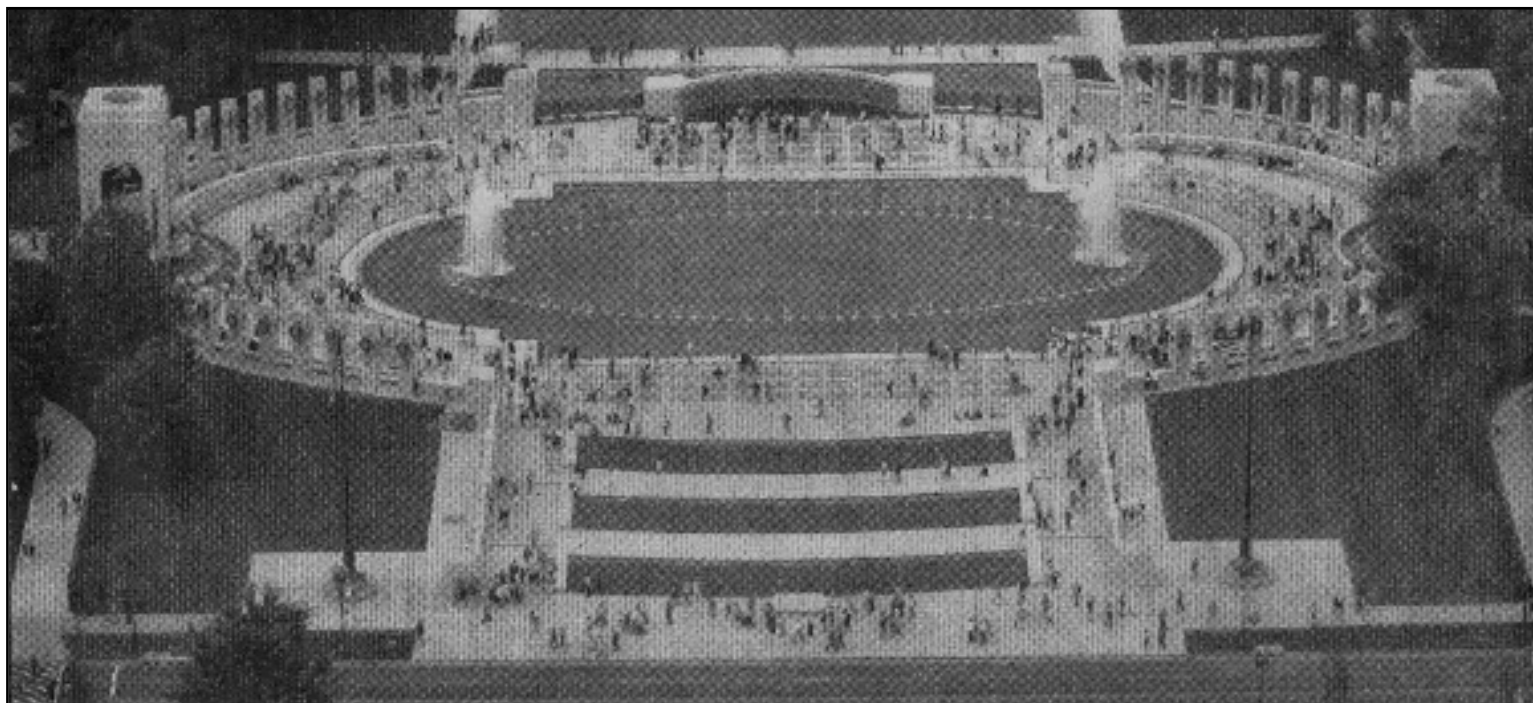
The opening marked the culmination of a campaign that began in 1987, when legislation to establish the memorial was introduced in Congress. Arguments about its location and design -- in Congress, in public hearings and in federal court - - delayed the start of construction until 2001. The project is virtually completed, although some landscaping work and the installation of several sculpted relief panels will continue.

The May 29th dedication ceremony and other Memorial Day weekend events are expected to draw about 800,000 people to the Mall, according to the National Park Service. But some groups have booked trips to the memorial to beat the dedication crowds. Officials said they wanted to open the memorial before the dedication to allow as many visits as pos-



sible by World War II veterans -- who are dying at a rate of about 1,100 a day, according to the American Battle Monuments Commission, the project's sponsor.

The memorial has already established itself as one of Washington's most photographed landmarks, with tourists lining up in front of the chain-link fences to get shots of it in its nearly completed state. Its prominent location, squarely between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, virtually ensures that it will be among the city's most visited attractions. That was precisely the intention of the federal design panels that approved the memorial's location in 1995. Given that the memorials to veterans of the Vietnam and Korean wars occupy about 2 1/2 acres each, panel members agreed that the best way to make the World War II memorial commensurate with its significance to American history was to give it a larger site at the heart of the Mall. Planners also were



guided by the idea that just as the Washington Monument represented the 18th century and the Lincoln Memorial the 19th, the World War II project belonged on the Mall's central axis as the symbol of the defining event of 20th-century America.

The memorial features side entrances to the north and south and a ceremonial entrance on 17th Street. The walls flanking the ceremonial entrance will feature 24 bronze bas-relief panels, some of which will be installed after the dedication.

The main plaza of the memorial is an oval defined at its north and south edges by two 43-foot arches, representing the war's Atlantic and Pacific theaters. Fifty-six pillars form the perimeter of the oval, representing the states, territories and the District of Columbia at the time of the war. Each pillar is adorned with two sculpted bronze wreaths.

Inside the plaza, small fountains sit at the bases of the two arches. A wall of 4,000 gold stars, each representing 100 U.S. deaths in the war, is surrounded by waterfalls on each side. The Rainbow Pool, which has occupied the site since the 1920s, has been restored and features a series of jets designed to produce a spray that looks like a rainbow when sunlight hits it at a certain angle.

More than two-thirds of the memorial consists of grass, plantings and water. A double row of elm trees lines the memorial to the north and south. A circular garden of about 38 feet in diameter sits in the site's northwest corner and is enclosed by a two-foot-high stone wall. Called the "Circle of Remembrance," the garden includes a seating area with wooden benches.

Like the Mall's other monuments, the memorial will be open 24 hours a day. Park Service rangers will be on site seven days a week from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Park Service is discouraging visitors from leaving mementos. "There is no place for keeping them, and sadly, if people leave flowers, they'll likely just be thrown away," said Bill Line, a spokesman for the agency. Parking on the site is limited to five disabled parking spaces accessible from southbound 17th Street, and there is a driveway for tour buses to pick up and drop off passengers. The nearest Metrorail stop is the Smithsonian station, a little over a mile away. Tourmobile will designate a memorial stop for its open-sided trams on Constitution Avenue between 17th and 18th streets, according to the National Park Service.

An information center will be open on the south side of the memorial, where tourists can ask Park Service employees to search the World War II Registry, a database of individuals who served in the war effort either in the military abroad or as

a civilian at home. People can add a name to the registry by visiting the American Battle Monuments Commission Web site at www.wwiimemorial.com.



Tourism officials said they will be able to fully judge the impact of the memorial after this summer's "America Celebrates the Greatest Generation" tribute, which will run from the dedication of the memorial through Labor Day and feature more than 140 World War II-themed events

sponsored by more than 80 cultural institutions. Victoria Isley, a spokeswoman for Washington D.C. Convention and Tourism Corp., said she expects that the World War II events will attract about 1 million more people to Washington than would normally visit during the summer, boosting the traditional seasonal figure of 5 million visitors to about 6 million.

Ben Stein's Last Column...The 'Real' Stars

Editor's Note: For many years Ben Stein has written a biweekly column for the online website called "Monday Night At Morton's." Reading his final column to our military is worth a few minutes of your time because it praises the most unselfish among us; our military personnel.

How Can Someone Who Lives in Insane Luxury Be a Star in Today's World?

As I begin to write this, I "slug" it, as we writers say, which means I put a heading on top of the document to identify it. This heading is "onlineFINAL," and it gives me a shiver to write it. I have been doing this column for so long that I cannot even recall when I started.

I loved writing this column so much for so long I came to believe it would never end. It worked well for a long time, but gradually, my changing as a person and the world's change have overtaken it. On a small scale, Morton's, while better than ever, no longer attracts as many stars as it used to. It still brings in the rich people in droves and definitely some stars.

I saw Samuel L. Jackson there a few days ago, and we had a nice visit, and right before that, I saw and had a splendid talk with Warren Beatty in an elevator, in which we agreed that *Splendor in the Grass* was a super movie.

But Morton's is not the star galaxy it once was, though it probably will be again.

Beyond that, a bigger change has happened. I no longer think Hollywood stars are terribly important. They are uniformly pleasant, friendly people, and they treat me better than I deserve to be treated. But a man or woman who makes a huge wage for memorizing lines and reciting them in front of a cam-

era is no longer my idea of a shining star we should all look up to.

How can a man or woman who makes an eight-figure wage and lives in insane luxury really be a star in today's world, if by a "star" we mean someone bright and powerful and attractive as a role model? Real stars are not riding around in the backs of limousines or in Porsches or getting trained in yoga or Pilates and eating only raw fruit while they have Vietnamese girls do their nails. They can be interesting, nice people, but they are not heroes to me any longer.

A real star is the soldier of the 4th Infantry Division who poked his head into a hole on a farm near Tikrit, Iraq. He could have been met by a bomb or a hail of AK-47 bullets. Instead, he faced an abject Saddam Hussein and the gratitude of all of the decent people of the world. A real star is the U.S. soldier who was sent to disarm a bomb next to a road north of Baghdad. He approached it, and the bomb went off and killed him. A real star, the kind who haunts my memory night and day, is the U.S. soldier in Baghdad who saw a little girl playing with a piece of unexploded ordnance on a street near where he was guarding a station. He pushed her aside and threw himself on it just as it exploded. He left a family desolate in California and a little girl alive in Baghdad.

The stars who deserve media attention are not the ones who have lavish weddings on TV but the ones who patrol the streets of Mosul even after two of their buddies were murdered and their bodies battered and stripped for the sin of trying to protect Iraqis from terrorists.

We put couples with incomes of \$100 million a year on the covers of our magazines. The noncoms and officers who barely scrape by on military pay but stand on guard in Afghanistan and Iraq and on ships and in submarines and near the Arctic Circle are anonymous as they live and die.

I am no longer comfortable being a part of the system that has such poor values, and I do not want to perpetuate those values by pretending that who is eating at Morton's is a big subject.

There are plenty of other stars in the American firmament. The policemen and women who go off on patrol in South Central and have no idea if they will return alive. The orderlies and paramedics who bring in people who have been in terrible accidents and prepare them for surgery. The teachers and nurses who throw their whole spirits into caring for autistic children. The kind men and women who work in hospices and in cancer wards.

Think of each and every fireman who was running up the stairs at the World Trade Center as the towers began to collapse.

Now you have my idea of a real hero.

We are not responsible for the operation of the universe, and what happens to us is not terribly important. God is real, not a fiction, and when we turn over our lives to Him, he takes

In a word, we make ourselves sane when we fire ourselves as the directors of the movie of our lives and turn the power over to Him. I came to realize that life lived to help others is the only one that matters. This is my highest and best use as a human.

I can put it another way. Years ago, I realized I could never be as great an actor as Olivier or as good a comic as Steve Martin--or Martin Mull or Fred Willard--or as good an economist as Samuelson or Friedman or as good a writer as Fitzgerald. Or even remotely close to any of them.

But I could be a devoted father to my son, husband to my wife and, above all, a good son to the parents who had done so much for me. This came to be my main task in life.

I did it moderately well with my son, pretty well with my wife and well indeed with my parents (with my sister's help). I cared for and paid attention to them in their declining years. I stayed with my father as he got sick, went into extremis and then into a coma and then entered immortality with my sister and me reading him the Psalms.

This was the only point at which my life touched the lives of the soldiers in Iraq or the firefighters in New York. I came to realize that life lived to help others is the only one that matters and that it is my duty, in return for the lavish life God has devolved upon me, to help others He has placed in my path. This is my highest and best use as a human.

USCG Honors Centenarian, Its First Woman Commissioned Officer

by **Rudi Williams,**
American Forces Press Service



Dorothy Stratton

World War II veteran Dorothy Constance Stratton wasn't able to attend a March 24 birthday celebration the Coast Guard hosted in her honor at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial here.

But Stratton had the perfect excuse. It was her 105th birthday, and the centenarian wasn't able to make the more than 650-mile trip from West Lafayette, Ind.

Instead, Stratton sent a videotape full of memories of her years as the first director of the World War II Coast Guard Women's Reserve that was nicknamed, SPARs, an acronym representing the Coast Guard motto, "Semper Paratus – Always Ready."

The video was played on the memorial's large silver screen during the Coast Guard Women's Leadership Association-

hosted Women's History Month observance. Several former SPARs who live in the Washington metropolitan area attended Stratton's 105th birthday celebration.

The keynote speaker was Vice Adm. Thomas J. Barrett, vice commandant of the Coast Guard, who told the audience about Stratton's historic service to the nation and its importance to today's women in the military.

Barrett read the synopsis of Stratton's accomplishments that was read into the Congressional Record on her birthday. It said in part that Stratton "is a visionary leader and patriot whose service to the United States can't be measured. She was born on March 24, 1899, in Brookfield, Mo. She earned a bachelor's degree from Ottawa University in 1924 and continued her education at the University of Chicago where she earned her (doctorate) in 1932 in personnel administration. In 1933, she was appointed dean of women and associate professor of psychology at Purdue University.

"She decided to join the global war effort in 1942 and took a leave of absence to join the Naval Women's Reserve," Barrett continued. "When President Roosevelt established the Coast Guard Women's Reserve on Nov. 23, 1942, then- Lt. Stratton was sworn in as its first director. She became the first woman accepted for service as a commissioned officer in the history of the United States Coast Guard."

The synopsis states that Stratton decided to name the



VADM Thomas Barrett cuts the cake for Dorothy Stratton's 105th birthday with the assistance of the junior and senior Coast Guard women in attendance (a seaman from the USCGC Seneca and former SPAR, CAPT Jeanne Gleason).

women reservists "SPARs." Barrett said SPARs isn't only the acronym for the Coast Guard motto. "The words are often used to describe support structures, and in Lt. Stratton's words to her commandant, "that's what each member of the Women's Reserve will be."

Barrett said during her four years as director of the SPARs, she recruited and led 10,000 enlisted women and 1,000 commissioned officers. She led the service through World War II and until the SPARs' demobilization was completed on June 30, 1946.

Stratton, who was promoted to captain in two years, went on to serve as director of personnel for the International Monetary Fund and spent 10 years as the national executive director of the Girls Scouts of America.

The synopsis concluded with: "On this, her 105th birthday, I honor Capt. Dorothy Stratton for her service to the United States, the U.S. Coast Guard and its Reserve and for the inspiration and legacy she created

for the women of this great nation."

"For her 105th birthday, she asked for a Coast Guard cardigan sweater with officer shoulder boards with gold stripes," Norton said. "The Coast Guard Women's Leadership Association presented her a sweater bearing the gold stripes as a symbol of officer rank."

The U.S. Coast Guard in World War II:

- 231,000 men and 10,000 women served in the Coast Guard during World War II.

- The 10,000 women served in the Coast Guard Women's Reserve, also known as the SPARs. (an acronym based on the Coast Guard's motto and its translation: "Semper Paratus, Always Ready.")

- The Coast Guard transferred to the Navy Department from the Treasury Department on 1 November 1941 and stayed under Navy administrative control until 1 January 1946. Although under the Navy, the Coast Guard kept its own identity intact, much like the U.S. Marine Corps.

- Coast Guard casualties total 1,918 who died, 600 losing their life in action. The Service sustained its first casualties on 8 December 1941 when the Coast Guard-manned USS Leonard Wood was bombed by Japanese aircraft at Singapore.

- One Coast Guardsman died as a prisoner of war, having been captured at Corregidor. Almost 2,000 Coast Guardsmen were decorated, one receiving the Medal of Honor (Douglas Munro), six the Navy Cross, and one the



Lorraine Dieterle, a WWII SPAR, poses next to a recently discovered original painting. Some claim she was the young lady in the painting.

Distinguished Service Cross

••• The Coast Guard manned 351 U.S. Navy warships (including 30 Destroyer Escorts and 75 Frigates) and landing craft (including 77 LSTs), 288 Army vessels as well as 802 Coast Guard cutters and 4,000 small boats

••• Following the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939, the Coast Guard again carried out extensive patrols to enforce the neutrality proclaimed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on 5 September 1939.

••• Coast Guard responsibility for port security began on 20 June 1940 when President Roosevelt invoked the Espionage Act of 1917, which governed the anchorage and movement of all ships in U.S. waters, and protected American ships, harbors and waters. Shortly afterwards, the Dangerous Cargo Act gave the Coast Guard jurisdiction over ships carrying high explosives and dangerous cargoes. In March 1941, the Coast Guard seized 28 Italian, two German and 35 Danish merchant ships.

••• 10 modern Coast Guard cutters were transferred under the "Lend-Lease" agreement to Great Britain in addition to the 50 U.S. Navy destroyers.

••• The Coast Guard cutter Taney survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and is the only warship still afloat that was a veteran of the Pearl Harbor attack. She is currently a museum ship in Baltimore Harbor.

••• The Coast Guard developed and operated a world-wide LORAN system that was used by all Allied nations for navigation purposes. The system was critical for the Army Air Force's bombing campaign against the Empire of Japan.

••• Coast Guard-manned landing craft participated in

every U.S.-led invasion during the war, including Guadalcanal, Aleutian Islands, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa in the Pacific Theatre and the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Normandy in the European Theatre.

••• 100 Coast Guard cutters and Coast Guard-manned warships/landing craft participated in the invasion of Normandy. 18 Coast Guardsmen were killed in action on the beaches of Normandy on 6 June 1944 alone. The 60 cutters on patrol off the coast rescued 1,500 personnel during the invasion.

••• On 9 April 1941 Greenland was incorporated into a hemispheric defense system. The Coast Guard was the primary military service responsible for these cold-weather operations, which continued throughout the war.

••• On 12 September 1941, the cutter Northland took into "protective custody" the Norwegian trawler Boskoe and captured three German radiomen ashore. Boskoe was the United States' first captured vessel of World War II.

••• Coast Guard cutters began escorting convoys in the fall of 1941 and continued their participation in the Battle of the Atlantic through the end of the war.

••• The Coast Guard sank 10 U-boats, 2 Japanese submarines, and captured three German surface ships during the war.

••• Coast Guard coastal picket vessels made up the famous "Corsair Fleet" that patrolled along the 50-fathom curve, where enemy submarines concentrated early in the war. On shore armed Coast Guardsmen patrolled beaches and docks, on foot, on horseback, in vehicles, with and without dogs, as a major part of the nation's anti-sabotage effort.

••• A Coast Guardsman, John Cullen, intercepted a team of

From the Service Officer

German spies that landed on the New Jersey shoreline.

••• The Coast Guard was the first armed service to commission African-American officers

••• The Coast Guard was the first service to operate a completely integrated warship, the *USS Sea Cloud*.

DD-214

Your Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty (DD-214) is one of your most important documents so make sure that you and your spouse know its whereabouts. You never know when you (or your spouse) may need it.

Military Honors

Did you know that ALL Honorably Discharged Active Duty, Retired and Veterans are entitled to Military Honors at their funerals? Each category receives different numbers of members to perform the details. For all Active Duty, the entitlement is twenty (20) members. For all Retirees, the entitle-

ment is nine (9) members (or ten with a live bugler). For Veterans it's two (2) members to fold and present the flag and play Taps from a CD Player. For further information and to find out where the closest Honor Guard is in your area, contact the VFW National Veterans Service Hotline anytime at 1-800-



From the Service Officer

839-1899.

Four Chaplain's Observance

I had the honor of representing our Association and serving as one of four guest speakers on Feb. 29, 2004, at the 61st Anniversary of the Four Chaplain's Observance in Bonita Springs, Fla. The observance was held at American Legion Post 303 and annually recognizes the heroic sacrifices made by Chaplains' George I. Fox, John P. Washington, Alexander D. Goode, and Clark V. Poling, who unselfishly gave their life jackets to other crew members when the troop transport ship *Dorchester* was sunk in the North Atlantic just after midnight on Feb. 2, 1943.

VA Burial Locations Now Online

Internet users can access more than three million records showing where veterans are buried. The Web site www.cem.va.gov shows where veterans and their dependents have been buried the Veterans Administration's 120 cemeteries since the Civil War. It also has records of some burials in state veterans cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery since 1999.

Information includes: name; dates of birth and death; period and branch of military service; rank; the cemetery's location and phone number; and the grave's precise location within the cemetery. From the Web site's home page, users access the

"Nationwide Gravesite Locator."

Hazardous Duty Pay

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) is asking lawmakers to authorize hazardous duty incentive pay (HDIP) for members of the Coast Guard who routinely board and search unfamiliar vessels. In its testimony before the House Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, FRA noted that Navy



Justin Labonte and Ed Swift at Richmond, Va. Busch Race.

Let Your Name Live On

For years, the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association has been operating from day-to day through the collection of dues and contributions of our members. The time has come for us to be more concerned about the future. Will you consider naming the CGCVA in your will? Any help in the form of cash, stocks, or life insurance policies will help assure the future of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association. It can be as easy as using one of these sample forms of bequest:

(Whatever is left after other bequests have been granted.) "All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, including real estate and personal property, I give, devise and bequeath to the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association, a Corporation created under the laws of the State of Ohio, located at (give the current designated Administrative Office or Headquarters address)."

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association, a Corporation created under the laws of the State of Ohio, located at (give the current designated Administrative Office or Headquarters address), _____% of my estate."

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association, a Corporation created under the laws of the State of Ohio, located at (give the current designated Administrative Office or Headquarters address), the sum of _____ for the (Name a specific fund), the principle of which shall remain in perpetuity."

Please remember: The CGCVA is a Non-Profit Association. All donations are tax-deductible.

**Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

Please read before completing application: Limited to students 23 years of age or younger. This Application must be accompanied with the following: Minimum of two (2) reference letters (teacher, pastor, lawyer, etc.), copy of GPA (applicant must have a minimum 2.75 GPA), personal history (in own words), and statement from sponsor. Applicant must be a relative of the CGCVA sponsor (son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter). Sponsor must be a member in good standing. Applicant shall be a second year student of a junior college, a third year student of a four-year college, or a high school senior. Must show financial need.

STUDENT'S NAME:

Last	First	Middle Initial	Date of Birth		
Address	Apt#	City	State	Zip	Telephone No.
Social Security Number	Applicant's Signature*			Date	

*(This authorizes the CGCVA to verify records from the applicable institutions and/or all other sources deemed necessary by the CGCVA)

SPONSOR'S NAME:

Last	First	Middle Initial	CGCVA Exp. Date		
Address	Apt#	City	State	Zip	Telephone Number
Sponsor's Signature			Date		

Send completed Application w/attachments to: Ed Burke, 17728 Striley Drive, Ashton, Md., 20861.

Date received: _____ Complete: Yes _____ No _____

Received by: _____ Approved: Yes _____ No _____

Awarded: _____
Date

Presenter: _____
Name

Mailed: _____
Date

Cc: CGCVA National Secretary/Treasurer
CGCVA National President



CGCVA Auxiliary News

Greetings:

First, I want to thank Linda benoit for the great job she did as our vice president, not only for the centerpieces but for being my right hand person. I also want to thank marylou Herbert and everyone who helped out. I wish more people could have been at the recent CGCVA Convention however, speaking for myself and all those I spoke with there, everyone had a wonderful time.

Our Friendship Luncheon was a big success with a visit from Elvis and a great meal. Our excursions were all good with the possible exception of 18 of us being left stranded at the boat dock, following the Saturday night dinner cruise. Apparently the contracted bus company neglected to send enough transportation so we ended up hailing some cabs to get us back to the Drawbridge Inn. Didn't matter too much since we all had such a fun time on the riverboat. By the way, the new King and Queen of Vice (Gil and Linda Benoit) plus a few others, really had a great time dancing that evening.

It is my sincere prayer that every one of you can make it to the next CGCVA Convention & Reunion, wherever it is held. Also, please remember our troops, our president, and our nation.

Pat and I are now enroute to Alaska. I will try to write from there to let you know how our trip is going and provide some accuracy to the whopper fish tales that Pat will no doubt be bragging about.

Shirley Ramsey

Auxiliary Members:

I am sorry I missed the reunion in Kentucky. My grandson's wedding was a first priority. As usual, a good time was had by all that attended.

I understand there were not as many as usual attending the reunion and I welcome the new members and I thank the regular members who paid their dues at that time. There are several who attended the prior reunion that have not paid their dues and I suggest you check your dues card to see when they expire. We need your membership as our dues help on expenses for future reunions. Please send your dues of \$10 to Jane Maxwell, CGCVA Auxiliary Secretary-Treasurer, at P.O. Box 2790, Burney, CA 96013. Make out checks to: Coast Guard Combat Veterans Assn. Auxiliary. remember, your dues last two (2) years. I appreciate your cooperation.

God bless you all!

Jane Maxwell

*Two of the four
SPARS at the
Kentucky Reunion,
Charlotte Bart and
Betty Satauffer.*



Coast Guard Combat Veterans Auxiliary Membership Application

Name: _____ Date: _____
Last First Init.

Address: _____
Street or Box Number City State Zip Code

Eligibility: _____ Sponsor's Name: _____
Wife, Husband, Son, Other

**Amount of Membership Dues enclosed: \$ _____ Dues are \$10.00 every two years.
Make checks payable to: CGCVA AUX and mail to: Jane Maxwell, Secretary-Treasurer, P.O.
Box 2790, Burney, Ca., 96013.**

CGCVA Small Stores

The following CGCVA items are now available. Send orders to Baker Herbert at P.O. Box 544, Westfield Center, Oh., 44251-0544. Call Baker at (330) 887-5539 or e-mail at USCGW64@neo.rr.com. Please make checks payable to CGCVA. Prices shown include first-class mailing with the exception of Christmas Tree Ornaments, and books which require special packaging.

BASEBALL CAP: blue/black, or white, gold lettered CGCVA with logo, full back, plain visor. One size fits all. **\$11.00** With senior officer scrambled eggs on visor. **\$15.00.** Add \$3.00 and up to six gold letters will be sewn on the back of your cap. Example: "SWIFTY"

CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS: 255' Owasco Class; 378' Hamilton Class; 270' Class; 210' Class; and USCGC Mackinaw. Each ship of class imprinted on one side of ornament with commissioning & decommissioning dates; color drawing of ship on other side. **\$12.50** each (shipped in display box).

CGCVA GARRISON CAP: Fore'n aft cap with embroidered CGCVA color logo and "Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association" in white lettering. Must state size. **\$25.00**

LAPEL PIN (New Item!): U.S. Flag above USCG logo. **\$4.00** each; two for **\$7.00**; and three for **\$10.00**.

BOOKS: "Coast Guard Navy of WWII" by William Knight. **\$20.00.** "Coast Guard Action in Vietnam" by CGCVA member Paul Scotti **\$20.00.** "Coast Guard In World War One" by CGCVA member CAPT Alex Larzelere **\$30.00.** "Rescue At Sea" by Clayton Evans **\$40.00.** Coast Guard Combat Veterans, Turner Publishing **\$35.00.** "Always Ready - Today's U.S. Coast Guard" by Bonner and Bonner **\$15.00.**

A Memory From The Past



Who remembers this movie? The Republic Picture production was released in 1953. Grad Matthews (John Derek) and Hap (Richard Jaeckel) have grown up together in the Coast Guard tradition. Grad's father, Captain Jack Matthews (Barton MacLane), is still reverently remembered for having given up his life to save the Coast Guard base at Argentinia, Newfoundland, from destruction when an explosive-laden cargo vessel blew up there. Chief O'Malley (Walter Brennan), Hap's father, took Grad home after this tragedy and brought the boy up along with Hap. So the two boys, following in their fathers' footsteps, enter the Coast Guard together. They remain allies under the disciplinary razzing of senior cadet Pete Bennett (Darryl Hickman). Hap helps Grad prove he isn't chicken, when their training program takes them on a cruise in an old-fashioned sailing ship and Grad develops a sickening fear of going aloft in bad weather.

Vietnam Monument Project

The first Monument to Coast Guard Service in Vietnam is nearly completed and in less than 60 days we will be gathering at USCG Training Center Cape May, N.J. for its unveiling and dedication. Our objective is in sight, the band is warming up, and the stories will be told. Are you going to be part of this USCG chapter in history?

On this page is your official invitation so please cut it out and save it as a reminder. And don't wait until the last minute to make hotel reservations. To assist CGCVA members, a block of rooms have been reserved at the Bolero Motel, P.O. Box 300, Oak and Atlantic Aves., Wildwood, N.J. 08260. Call the Bolero at (609) 522-6929 and mention the CGCVA.

At our convention in Kentucky, contributions for the Vietnam Monument project continued and \$450 were donated. We're still about \$1,000 shy of the entire amount for the two monuments so every dollar helps. Have you done your part yet? If not, or even if so, please reach down deep and see if you can spare \$5, \$10, or \$20. Remember, it's all tax deductible so send your contribution to Baker Herbert in the CGCVA Administrative Office.

The second monument will be placed at the USCG Academy, but the date has been changed for that unveiling and dedication ceremony. Instead of Oct. 2, 2004, the new date will be Oct. 23rd, so it will take place during Homecoming Weekend. Again, please mark your calendars and make plans to attend what will surely be a very memorable event.

*All Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association
Members*

*Are cordially invited to the
Unveiling and Dedication Ceremony
Of the Monument Recognizing
U.S. Coast Guard Service in Vietnam*

Date: Friday, July 16, 2004

Place: USCG Training Center Cape May, N.J.

*Opening Remarks begin promptly at 2 p.m.,
Followed by a Social at the
Harborview Lounge at 3:30 p.m.*

*R.S.V.P. to Robert MacLeod
at RGBYSHEAST@aol.com*

*8268 Ferrell Place, Harrisburg, N.C. 28075
(704) 455-6868*



Finally, my sincere thanks for electing me as a Trustee. I look forward to the additional responsibilities that serving as a trustee offers and also to continue in the role of your Ways & Means Director. In the latter capacity, I am researching ways in which to increase the amount of money the CGCVA can provide for scholarships or being able to provide multiple scholarships. This I am researching through potential partnerships with outside corporations, banks and other businesses.

Take care all. Semper Paratus!

Robert MacLeod

Robert "I Hate Chiefs" MacLeod hams it up with YNC Jennifer Graviss during his visit to USCG Training Center Cape May, N.J., to plan the Vietnam Monument unveiling and dedication ceremony and attend recruit graduation ceremonies.



Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please Print Clearly)

Personal Data

Name: _____ Date: _____
Last First Init.

Address: _____
Street

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Do you have two (2) residences? Yes _____ No _____ (This is for Quarterdeck Log mailings)
If Yes, please furnish the below information:

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ When There? From: _____ to _____

Sponsored By: _____

Military Data

Branch of Service: _____ Service Number: _____ From: _____ To: _____

Important: This Application MUST be accompanied by either a copy of your Discharge (both sides); or, a copy of a DD-214; or, a copy of a DD-215; or, a copy of NAV/CG-553; or, a copy of your letter of awards; or, a copy of some other "official" document that states your participation in or your direct support of a combat situation. You may further get a certified statement from a former shipmate who is a CGCVA member in "Good Standing," stating that you served with him on a particular ship/station during a particular period of time.

Rank/Rate: _____ Present _____ @Discharge _____ @Retirement _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Dues: \$25.00 for two (2) years. Amount of Membership Dues Enclosed: \$_____ **Make checks or money orders payable to: CGCOMVETS** and mail to: Baker Herbert, LM, CGCVA National Secretary-Treasurer, P.O. Box 544, Westfield Center, Oh., 44251. Phone: (330) 887-5539. Fax: (330) 887-5639.



VILLARREAL HALL

(Left) CGCVA members in one of two engineering labs at Villarreal Hall. (Right) Members of the Historical Coast Guard Honor Guard open the Villarreal Hall unveiling and dedication ceremonies at USCG Training Center Yorktown, Va. (Below) Larry Villareal receives framed copy of dedication document.



THE SHIELD OF FREEDOM



**Please! Look at the Exp. Date on your label and renew if due.
The Quarterdeck Log**

**COAST GUARD COMBAT
VETERANS ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX 544
WESTFIELD CENTER, OH 44251
Change Service Requested**

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