



ASSOCIATION

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.

Volume 16, Number 3

Fall 2001

Cape May Reunion A Huge Success

Nearly 100 CGCVA Members and Guests Attend Despite Heightened Security

What had been touted all along as a mini-reunion ended up being a much larger event than originally planned. On Sept. 21, 2001, only 10 days following the tragic events in New York City and Washington, DC, fifty-three CGCVA members and 40 guests arrived at USCG Recruit Training Center Cape May, NJ, and were hosted to an exciting full day of activities.

Fittingly, New Jersey had the most attendees with 27 but there were nine other states represented, including Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Maryland, Florida and Ohio. The entire CGCVA and CGCVA Auxiliary leadership was there, along with Trustee Herb Weinstein and Nat'l Membership Chairman Pat Ramsey.

Security measures at the training center were certainly heightened (ThreatCon Charlie was in effect) but everyone took things in stride and did not complain. Negotiating an obstacle course of concrete barriers (actually they were large buoy sinkers) to get into the base culminated with a strict 100% ID check. After that, arriving guests were directed to parking areas and, after parking, escorted to the base auditorium for an introductory talk and movie. Most of the CGCVA members and guests were identified at this area and



provided name tags and bags with Coast Guard souvenirs.

From the auditorium, everyone walked across the parade field and took seats in the stands to observe the weekly recruit graduation exercises. It was a beautiful day and there was reserved seating for the CGCVA members and
(continued on page 23)

(left) CGCVA Nat'l VP Ed Swift, CAPT Robert Durfey, CO, USCG Group /Air Station Atlantic City, CAPT Douglas Wisniewsky, CO, TRACEN Cape May, and CGCVA Nat'l President Jack Campbell pose in front of the Dolphin helicopter flown in from Atlantic City for the mini-reunion.

(below) Jack Campbell stands proud as Cape May Mayor Jerome Inderweis reads a proclamation honoring the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association.





**Coast Guard Combat Veterans
Association
OFFICERS**

John W. "Jack" Campbell, LM, Nat'l President
Ed Swift "Swiftly", LM, Nat'l Vice President
D.T. "Terry" Graviss, LM, Nat'l
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LM, Budget Director & Convention Planning
Director; Patrick Ramsey, Membership
Chairman; Robert MacCloud, Ways & Means

Dear Shipmates:

I am truly delighted
that our mini-reunion
was such a hit. Mother Nature really
smiled on us and I
couldn't be more
appreciative of the
tremendous support
our association
received from the
folks at Cape May
and other units. I'd



JACK CAMPBELL

especially like to thank CAPT Doug Wisniewsky,
the CO there; CAPT Robert Durfey, the Group
Commander from Air Station Atlantic City; CDR
Rickey George, CO of the cutter *Dependable*; LT
Michael DaPointe, CO of Station Cape May;
CWO Bill Carson, Cape May Public Affairs
Officer; MCPO Dave Evans, Cape May
Command Master Chief; SCPO Don Rogers,
OinC of the cutter *Finback*; SCPO Steve Hagen
at the CPO Club; our tour guides Petty Officers'
Jennifer Losowski, Greg Shannon and Alex
Acevedo, and SN Irwin Dewberry; plus the
patient and courteous staff at the base galley.

Considering the fact that security concerns
could have easily resulted in our event being
cancelled, I tip my hat to all the Coast Guard
folks who played a role to accommodate our
group. We all really had a great time and we
hope to be able to return to Cape May for another
mini-reunion in the future.

I'd also like to thank my partner in crime, Ed
Swift, for coordinating the myriad of details on the
CGCVA side to get things set up for the reunion
and arranging for the souvenir bags and use of
the CPO Club. He seems to have all the connections
to get things done and he really came
through.

There were several moments at the mini-
reunion that particularly touched me even though
(continued on page 24)

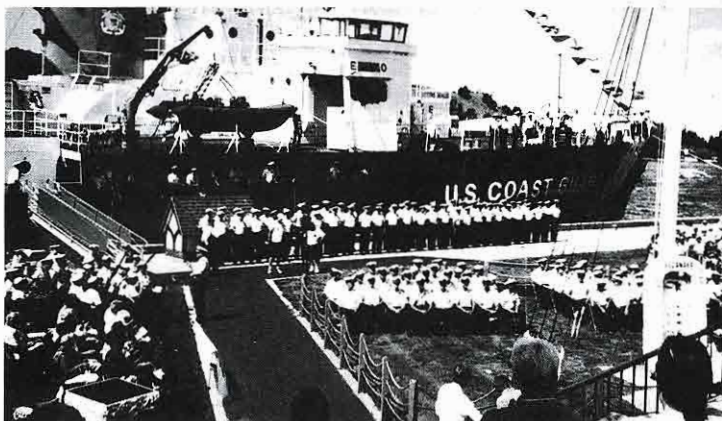
**Next Quarterdeck Log
deadline is Feb. 1, 2002**

From the Vice President

Ahoy Shipmates:

If you attended the mini-reunion at Cape May Sept. 21st, you were treated to an impressive day of meeting our fine Coast Guard men and women, going aboard Coast Guard cutters, smallboats and aircraft, dining at the galley and enjoying some liquid refreshment at the CPO Club there. If you were unable to attend, you missed a great time but there's always our Reunion & Convention Oct. 22-26, 2002 in Reno, NV. See inside for details and registration.

I was particularly impressed with how Cape May Training Center dealt with our group in the face of stepped-up security measures — a result of the attacks on Sept. 11th. Driving onto the base through strategically placed cement buoy



Memorial Service at Grand Haven, Michigan's Escanaba Park during the 2001 Coast Guard Festival. Several CGCVA members attended, including LM Ray O'Malley.

sinkers, I was reminded of the maze of concrete obstacles and sand-bagged machine gun emplacements outside Coast Guard Port Security Units in the Middle East during Desert Storm. It was a sobering reminder of the actions we must take to protect ourselves in a wartime situation. I'm sure all our members can relate to similar instances but it really seemed surrealistic at such a tranquil place as Cape May.

I cannot say enough about the professionalism exhibited by everyone at Cape May that day. They did what had to be done, yet everyone was at all

times friendly and courteous. It made for a most enjoyable time and their calm demeanor dispelled fears many in our group initially had. My sincerest thanks go out to CAPT Wisniewsky and everyone at the training center!

It has now been more than a month since our mini-reunion and the Coast Guard remains at the forefront of what we now know as Homeland Security. Our cutters and smallboats are guarding harbors across the

country and Coast Guard aircraft are more visible than ever. The Coast Guard, which was already stretched thin, is now doing even more. Of course boats and planes don't run by themselves — they rely on Coast Guard men and women to control them — and we need more qualified people in the Coast Guard right now. Those who got out of the Coast Guard within the past two years are being invited back and even retired folks are being offered opportunities to return to service. As CGCVA members, we

will always support our parent service so if there are ways you can help out, please make the offer. Tell others about the great work the Coast Guard does for this country and try to steer some young folks to a Coast Guard recruiter.

On another important subject, congratulations to BM3 Michael K. Carola of USCG Station Yaquina Bay, OR, on his selection as CGCVA Coast Guard person of the Year for 2001. I was privileged to present Michael with a plaque on Oct. 2nd in the Commandant's Office at Coast Guard Headquarters. More details inside. **Swiftly**



ED SWIFT

From the Secretary-Treasurer

Current Addresses

I am asking certain members for a little help. Specifically, I'm asking those members who have more than one address, due to living in different areas at different times of the year, to please let me know when that change takes place. If, for instance, you go to a winter home, let me know ahead of time so I can keep the *QD Log* and any other correspondence for you headed in the right direction. I try to have your mailing label reflect the correct address but can't always keep up. It costs the Association additional postage when I get returned mail and every savings helps. In addition to mailings, I occasionally gets asked for member lists in certain areas for the purpose of having veterans participate in special events. My lists are only as good as the input I receive to compile them so please help keep me straight.

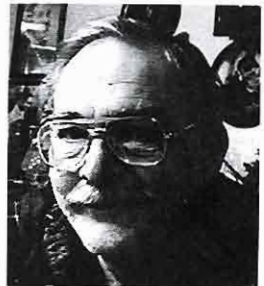
Financial Advisor Wanted

An area I could use some help in has a lot to do with Association funds. By your vote I am the National Secretary-Treasurer and responsible for all the funds. In reality, on the money side I'm qualified to keep the check book but not much else. We have funds for various reasons and most of these funds are in CDs at the bank. I can't help but feel we (CGCVA) could do better with your money but I don't feel qualified in this area. If a member has expertise as a financial advisor and wishes to help, please contact me.

Trouble Reaching Me?

I would like to apologize for not always being available to answer calls from members or prospective members. As many of you know, my wife Jennifer is a Chief Yeoman in the Coast Guard Reserve, currently on active duty in the Washington, DC area. I am extremely proud of my Chief and want to do all I can to support her. Unfortunately, this has meant a lot of time on the road for me between Florida and DC lately. If you've called me and had to leave phone messages, I apologize for not getting back to you in a timely manner. If you need to reach me, and you

have a computer, please send e-mail to: cgcva@hotmail.com. I check my e-mail every day so that is the best way to reach me.



TERRY GRAVISS

Welcome New Members

A hearty "welcome aboard" to the following new CGCVA and Auxiliary members. New Member names are boldfaced and sponsors are in parentheses:

AUGUST 2001

Claude W. Allen (Robert Pereslete); **George R. Blessing** (Bill Wells); **Michael A. Conners** (Alan Hassig); **Robert E. Cook**; **Lowell G. Copeland** (Joe Kleinpeter); **Walter A. Guggenmos** (Curley Curtain); **Dallas W. Miller** (James E. Willson); **Phillip H. Edwards** (Richard Palezewski); **John F. Mateyak** (Bill Wells); **William M. Melnick** (Mike Steinberg); **Richard J. Negus** (A.R. Bud Mason); **Roy E. Powers** (Joe Kleinpeter); and **James P. Ruff, Jr.** (Clyde Bowden).

SEPTEMBER 2001

Jerome P. Friedman (Bill Wells) and **Armand L. Lubatty** (John Stamford)

OCTOBER 2001

Matthew J. Bell; **Roger D. Bell** (Joe Kleinpeter); **Charles I. Caldwell** (Fredrick Coper); **Adrian D. deZeeuw** (John Freie); **Mary Emery**; **Gordon R. Frederickson**; **Robert C. Marzen**; **Herold R. Neumann** (Michael Neumann); **Marvin J. Perrett** (Ed Swift); **Harry R. Rymer** (Robert Franzago); **Vern E. Toler**; **John P. Weintraub** (Tommy Bowden); **Russell O. Williams** (Joe Kleinpeter); **Richard G. Booker**; **Thomas W. Giles**; **Orville L. Toler**; and **Peter J. Trolene, Jr.**

On an average day, the U.S. Border Patrol spends \$412,104 (roughly \$89 per illegal alien apprehended).

Reunions — Notices

USCGC Campbell Association

The 17th annual reunion of the USCGC Campbell (W-32 — W-909) Association will be held May 15-18, 2002, at the Radisson Hotel, Charleston, SC. All hands who served on the *Campbell W-32* during the 46 years she served, as well as all current and former crew members of Campbell W-909 are welcome. Contact: **James Kelly** at 40 Lisa Lane, Uncasville, CT 06382. Ph: (860) 848-1160. E-mail address: jkelly@uconect.net.

USCGC Duane Association

The USCGC Duane (WHEC-33) Association has rescheduled its reunion for March 14-16, 2002, at the Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum in Charleston, SC. The Annual Dinner will be aboard the *USS Yorktown (CV-10)*. Contact: **Paul Turner** at (518) 287-1900. E-mail address: paultrnr@midtel.net.

USS Falgout

It is with great regret that I must announce the cancellation of the *USS Falgout (DE-324)* reunion. Despite this setback, we hope to hold a reunion in 2002, along with the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Assn. in Reno, NV. Contact: **Bill O'Keefe** at 192 Indian Mtn. Lakes, Albrightsville, PA 18210-3012. Ph: (570) 722-0054.

Coast Guard League

Coast Guard Auxiliariist, retired CG Reservist and historian **John T. Lincoln** is seeking information on Auxiliary members who were members of USCG Reserve "T" (temporary) during WWII. He hopes to build a collection of personal stories, documents and photographs. In particular, he is looking for information on the Coast Guard League, formed in July, 1945. Persons who can tell him what the League's functions and goals were, how long the League existed, and

when it was disbanded can contact John at 1309 Emerson Ave., N. Cape May, NJ 08204. Ph: (609)886-6364. E-mail: jlincoln@bellatlantic.net.

USS/USCGC Lansing

A reunion for the *USS/USCGC Lansing (DE/DER-388, WDE-488)* will be held Oct. 16-20, 2002, at the Best Western Landmark Hotel, Metairie, LA. Contact: **Terry A. Moberg** at 902 Cindy St., Brainerd, MN 56401-3959. Ph: (218) 829-3288. E-mail: tmoberg@brainerd.net. Web contact: www.uslansing.org.

USS LST 787

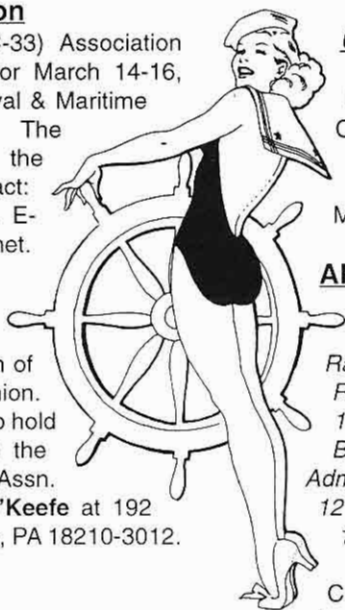
A reunion for *USS LST 787* will be held Sept. 27-29, 2002, at the Silver Club Hotel in Sparks, NV. Contact: **Jade Tree Travel Corp.**, at 3600 W. 80th Street, Suite 45, Bloomington, MN 55431. Ph: (800) 653-8733.

AP Transport Group

A reunion for the WWII transports *USS Generals Mitchell (AP-114), Randall (AP-115), Gordon (AP-117), Richardson (AP-118), Weigel (AP-119), Hodges (AP-144), and Breckinridge (AP-176)*, and the *USS Admirals Benson (AP-120), Capps (AP-121), Eberle (AP-123), Hughes (AP-124), and Mayo (AP-125)* will be held in Dallas, TX, on June 6-9, 2002. Contact: **Chuck Ulrich** at 35 Oak Lane, New Hyde Park, NY 11041. Ph: (516) 747-7426.

Reserve Unit Owensboro

A reunion for USCG Reserve Unit Owensboro, KY will be held April 27, 2002, at the Shadyrest Restaurant, Rte. 60, East Owensboro, KY. Contact: **LT Les Allen, USCGR (Ret.)** at (502) 495-2457, E-mail: leswallen@hotmail.com or **CWO Gene Radin** at (859) 885-1236, E-mail: gpradin@juno.com.



Reunions — Notices

Helping Our Veterans

For some time now I have been collecting magazines and books and taking them to the Newton D. Baker Veterans Hospital in Martinsburg, WV. The staff there are eager to receive reading material for the patients and the Volunteers Office asked me what organization I belonged to. I proudly told them the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association. Perhaps other CGCVA members will consider helping out the veterans in VA hospitals around the country by donating magazines and other reading materials in the name of our Association. I can tell you the vets will really appreciate it.

H. Don Smith



(left to right) CGCVA member Terry Lee, USCG Commandant ADM James Loy, Ninth CG District Commander RADM James Hull, and CGCVA Nat'l President Jack Campbell at the annual Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, Michigan. In addition to celebrating the Coast Guard's 211th birthday, this year's festival recognized the 60th anniversary of the Coast Guard Reserve. Four cutters moored at Grand Haven (Coast Guard City, USA) for the festival, including: USCGC's Biscayne Bay, Bramble, Katmai Bay, and Mackinaw.

Correction

CGCVA member **CDR Ray Evans, USCG (Ret.)** let me know that the gravesite of Douglas Munro, his comrade in arms, located in Cle Elum, WA, is in the "Northwest" not the "Northeast" as I indicated on pages 17-18 in the last *QD Log*. Ray and his wife, Dottie, visit the cemetery often as they travel back and forth over the pass to visit Eastern Washington relatives.

Editor

National Sonar Association

The next reunion of the National Sonar Association will be held Sept. 18-22, 2002, at the Landmark Hotel in Myrtle Beach, SC. Call the hotel at 1-800-845-0658. Contact: **Clayton E. Clark** at 4111 Belmont Park Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588. Ph: (843) 903-4048. E-mail address: genecl@sccoast.net.

E-Mail Addresses

To assist our Association members in contacting each other, here is an alphabetized list of member names and their e-mail addresses. This list will be published as they are received. Previously listed e-mail addresses will be listed regular-face, new and changed addresses will be listed in **bold**.

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CGCVA Nat'l President Jack Campbell presents a CGCVA watch to Cadet Amy Harmel in recognition of her selection as "Top Athlete" of Zulu-3 company at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT.

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ODDITIES OF ACTUALITY

- * Napoleon put all his battle plans together in a sandbox.
- * The cruise ship Queen Elizabeth II moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel fuel it burns.
- * Smoking doubles your risk of breaking a bone.

Notices — Association News

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The Coast Guard in Hollywood

In the last *QD Log*, there was a lengthy list of famous (and sort of famous) folks who served in the Coast Guard. Here's a few more:

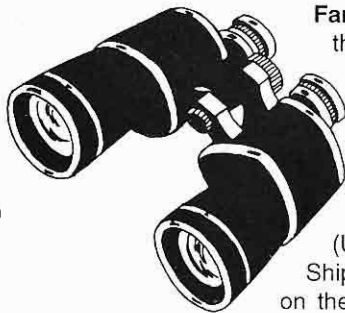
William (Bill) Hopper, son of Hedda Hopper, served in the CG during WWII. Prior to the war, he was in movies with Joan Blondel and later was private detective Paul

Drake on the Perry Mason Show.

James (Jim) Davis, also a WWII Coast Guardsman, worked in several cowboy movies after the war and was the first "Big Daddy" on the hit series, Dallas.

Fank (Bud) Westmore was from the famous family of make-up artists.

Gower Champion was stationed on Catalina with us. He could swim like a fish and rumor was he went into Underwater Demolition (UD). All of these folks were Ships Company and did not get on the PF's. Hope my memory is good after 57 years. **Arthur Wells**



Mel Abbot Dies

Former Coast Guard Journalist, Mel Abbot, died in Columbus, OH, September 27th. Mel relieved Chief Journalist Alex Haley in New York at the then 3rd Coast Guard District and he covered the *Andria Doria* & *Stockholm* collision.



Heavyweight boxing champion and Coast Guard commander Jack Dempsey (far right) poses with LT G.F. Hutchinson, skipper of LCI(L) 83, and crew in Dartmouth, England prior to D-Day. The vessel landed troops at Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. (Photo submitted by Leroy Bowen, Jr., who served as radioman on the LCI(L)83 at that time.

Searching For A Transport

Crews of AP's and APA's knew that their vessels, each carrying as many as 5,000 soldiers, were prime targets for U-boat attacks. Some of these ships were manned by the Coast Guard.

Recently, I was contacted by Kurt Ulmer in Tasmania, Australia. He is a historian gathering information for an upcoming book on the North Atlantic U-boat wolfpacks, specifically on U-805. Kurt's father was a CPO on *U-805*.

Kurt is trying to identify the troop transport operating at position 48°N and 27°W at about 1645 on April 15, 1945. Apparently, on its way to join a wolfpack, *U-805* tracked such a vessel and, although the ship was in his sights, *U-805* captain Bernardelli chose not to fire his torpedoes. (Kurt says the reasons the captain chose not to fire will be detailed in the book).

I served aboard the *Gen. Gordon (AP-117)* and

I know it was not our ship because I have a copy of the ship's logs from that time period and we were steaming into the harbor of Southampton, England at that time.

If you think you know the identity of the transport in question, please contact Kurt Ulmer at 54 Bridge, Richmond, Tasmania, 7025, Australia. Ph: international+613 62 602454. E-mail: pep-percorn@trump.niet.au. **Joe Hannan**

Request For Reader Assistance

CGCVA member **CAPT Alex Larzelere** is seeking information, memoirs, and references for a book about the Coast Guard when it served as part of the Navy during the First World War (1917-18). Very little has been written about this period of Coast Guard history and it warrants documentation. He wants to record the Service's duties and responsibilities in the areas of: Ocean

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 the 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 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.

Escorts in the War Zone, Coastal Stations, Aviation, Port Security, Coastal Patrols, and Augmenting Crews of Navy Ships. The book will be published by the Naval Institute Press. If you can provide assistance in any of these areas, please contact CAPT Larzelere at (703) 960-6692. E-mail: alarzelere@erols.com.

More Hollywood Coast Guard

Robert Stack was stationed on the *USS Cambria (APA-36)* as a GM3/c during a Pacific tour in the early 1940's. He can be seen today on "Unsolved Mysteries" and he played the role of Elliot Ness in "The Untouchables."

The movie "They Were Expendable" was partially filmed at Miami's Coast Guard Captain of the Port facilities.

In regard to **CDR Jack Dempsey**, he came to Miami to referee a boxing and wrestling show we held between the Navy and Coast Guard and I still have the program from that event.

Also enjoy reading about the Coast Guard on Ellis Island. I was sent there in April 1940. I believe our group was one of the first to go there because all we did was clean up the filthy place. We did very little drilling but did row boats around the island.

Jack Shuler

Book By CGCVA Member Honored

Last year, CGCVA life member **Douglas Peterson** wrote the book "U.S. Lighthouse Service Tenders", published by Eastwind Publishing. The book documents all the tenders of the Lighthouse Service from 1840 to 1939. It provides histories, statistics and rare photographs of over 170 tenders in this important federal fleet that is often overlooked and forgotten. Those vessels later became buoy tenders when the Lighthouse Service was merged into the Coast Guard in 1939. The book received high praise and reviews from the Lighthouse Society and Naval Institute Proceedings.



WE'LL FIGHT TO THE LAST 50-YEAR-OLD

Following the attacks at the World Trade Center and Pentagon I volunteered to help track down those responsible. However, I'm 50 now and the Armed Forces says you can't be older than 35 to join.

That's too bad and I think they've got things backwards. Instead of sending the young kids off to fight, they should send us old guys. Here's why:

— 18-year-olds think of sex every 10 seconds. Old guys only think about sex every 15 seconds, leaving us more than 28,000 additional seconds every day to concentrate on the enemy.

— Young guys haven't lived long enough to be cranky and grumpy. We have and are, so if we can't kill the enemy, we'll complain them into submission or surrender.

— If old guys got captured, we wouldn't spill the beans because we'd probably have forgotten where we put them. In fact, name, rank and serial number might be a real brain teaser.

Anyway, there's lots of other reasons but they should let us old guys track down the cowards who attacked our country. The last thing they'd want to see would be a couple of million old guys with attitudes!

Jeff Ackerman

This past summer, the book was honored by The Foundation for Coast Guard History as "The Best Book" for 1998-2000 in the category of "Books on the History of Lighthouses and Aids to Navigation".

Congratulations Doug! The book can be ordered on the internet from www.bn.com or www.amazon.com

ThreatCon Situation

In late September, my wife and I were at Fishers Island, NY, just off the coast of Connecticut at New London. We saw the 87-foot *CGC Chinook* tied up at the ferry slip so, wearing my CGCVA ball cap, I asked if I could come aboard. I was politely told "Not at this time" due to the threat condition the cutter was in and that they

may have to get underway at a moments notice. I fully understood and we still had a wonderful chat with the crew members. They showed the utmost respect for an old Coastie as I told them about the fine job they were doing and the great press they were getting. Upon our departure, we said our prayers were with them and we would be enthusiastically watching the news in regard to Coast Guard activities.

The crew was extremely professional but very, very tired. Please keep all our brother and sister Coasties in your prayers too! The *Chinook*, by the way, is homeported in Ft. Trumble, CT. Chris Wood

Cutter Looking For A Home

According to Coast Guard Historian Dr. Robert Browning, the decommissioned 175-foot cutter *Mohawk* is looking for a home.

The vessel's current owner is willing to hand over the cutter to the Battle of the Atlantic Historical Society (BAHS) but the cutter must be moved from its present dockage in New York City (near the USS Intrepid Museum) to another site. Ideas anyone? Mr. Hammer of the BAHS can be reached at (718) 377-0713. Mr. Bucky McAllister or McAllister Tugs is willing to tow the *Mohawk* to another site at no cost. He can be reached at (212) 269-3200.

The *Mohawk* is a sister ship of the *Escanaba*. It's present condition is unknown but the vessel underwent some overhaul a few years ago when it was purchased and moored in Wilmington, DE (site of its launching). Dr. Robert Browning

Historical Material Needed

In a continuing effort to broaden the information available to the public and to better serve the Coast guard community, the Coast Guard

The football huddle was originated because of a deaf player who didn't want the opposing team to see the signals he indicated with his hands.



RADM Kevin Eldridge (center), Assistant Commandant for Government & Public Affairs, supervises the cake cutting at the annual Salute to the Coast Guard at VFW Post 1503 in Dale City, VA. Cutting the cake were the youngest and oldest Coasties present, an Honor Guard seaman and BMCS (Ret.) Ed Burke. Guess who was the oldest! Duh!

Historian's Office would like to gather some specific information for their web site. In the past, CGCVA members have provided invaluable assistance and have helped the Historian's Office to gather and embellish material for this site. For its next project, they are looking for:

- Sea stories and anecdotes.
- Information on ship and station mascots.

This material should include the name of the ship or station and name of the animal with a description, i.e., black dog, tabby cat, etc.) Any stories, tales and anecdotes associated with the mascot are also welcomed.

Please send information electronically to: spruce@comdt.uscg.mil. Material can be mailed to: Commandant (G-IPA-4), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 2nd Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593.

The Coast Guard Historian's web site is: www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/history/collect.html.

Catalina Island Training Center

A free-lance writer, Steve Tice, is looking for information regarding Catalina Island's use as a

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training center by the Coast Guard, Maritime Service, Army and OSS, between 1942-45. He co-authored a history booklet titled "Santa Catalina Island: Its Magic, People & History with WWII Navy veteran William White a few years ago. That work covered the time frame up to World War II and they wish to continue the history.

Anyone with information that may be helpful can e-mail Steve at: hometice@gte.net.

Manhattan Beach

CGCVA member **Len Fuchs** is looking for anyone who served with him at Manhattan Beach in October 1942, at Pharmacist Mate School at Columbia University College of Pharmacy in June 1943, in Brownsville, TX, or on the *USS Cambria* and *USS Cavalier* beach parties. E-mail Len at: rlbolen@aol.com.

Request For "Holy Stones"

To all veterans of oak decks, on behalf of the USS Missouri Memorial Association at Pearl Harbor, we are in need of some vintage "holy stones" for onboard display.

The Memorial Collections Dept has been looking high and low without success and would appreciate any assistance in locating and arranging donation of same to the Association. Contact: **LCDR Bill Clark, USCG (Ret.)** or **Mike Weidenbach**, Collections Director at USS Missouri Memorial Association, P.O. Box 6339, Honolulu, HI 96818, or call (808) 454-1508.

Remembering Otto Fretag

When I saw H. Otto Fretag's name and CTB 5-16-01, it hardly seemed sufficient for a man who served such an interesting and honorable life, who served in the Coast Guard for thirty honor-



(Left to right) CGCVA Auxiliary Sec'y Jennifer Graviss, Ron Schmitz, Nancy Burke, Auxiliary VP Mare Swift, and Ed Burke by the CGCVA tent at the CG Day Headquarters Picnic. Not pictured, Sec'y Terry Graviss and VP Ed Swift

able years, both in peacetime and the war years.

I met Mr. Fretag in Nov. 1941, as a green RM3/c, fresh out of Radio School. He was a tough disciplinarian, sort of a maverick, and he stood for no nonsense. I learned more from him about life, and how to conduct myself, than any other commander I served under in my seven years in the Coast Guard.

Otto came to America shortly after WWI from Germany. In 1926, with no employment prospects and very little formal education, 15-year-old Otto ran away from home and joined the Coast Guard. He served from 1926-56, eventually climbing the enlisted ranks to warrant officer. He retired at

the rank of CWO3, having commanded several primary stations and HF/DF stations.



Congratulations to CGCVA member Christopher Kerr upon his commissioning as an Ensign. Here Chris accepts his commissioning certificate from RADM Moore, Deputy for Mobilization and Reserve Component Affairs, Atlantic Area. Chris also received an award for being the class' Honor Graduate.

I lost track of Otto after the war and was discharged in 1946. I located him a few years ago, through the internet, and renewed our friendship. I called him often and went to visit him in Florida.

Anyway, just wanted to add a bit more besides CTB 5-16-01. Goodbye Otto... you were my mentor!
Wayne N. Young

2002 Convention In Reno Update

As your Convention Committee, we want to provide plenty of notice for the CGCVA Reunion & Convention in Reno, NV, Oct. 22-26, 2002. This way you can make your plans and save your money.

Regarding tours, Nancy and I made the trip on the Dixie II on Lake Tahoe and it was great! We had been to Tahoe many times before, but never on it. The Dixie II cruise is about two hours long and food & drink is available. The plan right now is to leave Reno on as many buses are needed to carry those who have signed up. The buses drive to Tajoe where we board the Dixie II for the cruise. Upon return, the buses take us around Lake Tahoe, making stops at points of interest. The buses return us to Reno about 6 7 hours after we began.

The cost for this tour is only \$40 per person (which includes the Dixie II cruise). This is sure to be the outstanding trip of the convention, and it includes much more. If you've been to Reno before, you've probably been to Virginia City. Even if you haven't, everyone will enjoy Virginia City. The people there are friendly and there's a lot to do (like the best Bloody Mary you've ever had at the Bucket of Blood Saloon.

Virginia City is where the Comstock Mines of the old west were located and used up all the (Ponderosa Pines) for miles around.

Following our Business Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 24th, there will be a Slot Machine

Tournament, open to everyone. There will be prizes of money and a lot of excitement. Be sure to check out the rules upon your arrival so you don't miss out on this fun event.

Registration will be done in the same way as in the past. Your hotel arrangements will be made directly with the Peppermill Hotel Casino. Be sure you reference the Coast Guard Combat Veterans to get the special discount rates available. Please check with the hotel when you make your reservations for their regulations on refunds should they become necessary. Make the meals and tour reservations with Ed Burke.



The Peppermill Hotel & Casino in Reno, NV.

Send the registration Form (located in the center section of this issue, along with other convention information), and check (made out to: CGCOMVETS) to Ed at the address on the bottom of the Registration Form.

Our refund policy will not allow for refunds after we have paid for the tours or meals. Due to the requirement of deposit money, we cannot refund money for tours and meals less than one week before the event. We even have to provide deposit money to reserve the buses one month in advance.

Our Hospitality Room at the Peppermill is going to be the best we've ever had. You will enjoy the rooms and views of the snow-capped mountains surrounding the city of Reno.

A word to the wise... we believe that our tours

Association News

will be well-attended so don't put off signing-up for them until your arrival. They may all be filled up so make your reservations early.

Take care all. We look forward to seeing you in Reno in 2002.

**Ed Burke & the
CGCVA Convention Committee**

North Atlantic Storm

I served as aradio operator aboard CG-manned *USS Hurst (DE-250)* during 1944-45 and made 22 crossings of the North Atlantic. Although Nazi U-boats were a constant threat, our most daunting foe was the sea itself.

In my poem, "North Atlantic Storm", I've tried to recreate the battle for survival sailors fought with tempests while crossing the Atlantic, riding herd on a convoy of troop ships, frieghters and tankers.

*When I was a boy in the spring of my days,
I went down in a ship to the sea.
And with other young lads not much older than I,
Sailed out on a tiny DE.
To shepard the convoys that went in harm's way,
Where an enemy's U-boats roamed free.*

*Where great billows mounted to starboard and port,
Before and behind us as well.
Surging and soaring with froth at their crests,
Enormous and towering swells.
Flayed and tormented by Nature's wild winds,
To a seething, tumultuous hell.*

*Down we were plunged to the depth of a trough,
Humbled and dwarfed by the tides.
Then heaved to the crown of the flood once again,
Where we prayed that the storm would subside.
Before we were swallowed and sent down to die,
In the darkness where sea beasts reside.*

*Above we could see just a sliver of sky,
Framed by gargantuan waves.
That rose till they breached an came plummeting down,
And it seemed there was cothing could save.
Our souls from the lust of the ravenous seas,
And the curse of a watery grave.*

*Our little ship quivered and trembled and quaked,
With each savage assault from the sea.
But we staggered and reeled to the summit again,
And for a brief moment could see
Our convoy of freighters and tankers still safe,
In a cluster away to the lee.*

*From the fo'c'sle to faintail, our decks all awash
And our prow pointed into the swells,
We clove to the brink where the wilding winds howled
Like banchees and demons from Hell*

*Hing'ring to swamp us and send us below
To Neptune's dark, cold citadel.*

*Pitching and rolling, we clung to our course
Defying the ravening gale,
Clutched in the grip of maniacal seas
That tore at our stanchions and rails,
Pounding and battering pitilessly,
While our little ship strove to prevail.*

*And now, in the autumn of life, I recall
The years when we challenged the sea
And the Gods of the Deep and the Demons of Storm
That assailed us so mercilessly,
And I raise my glass high to that tough little ship
That valiant, intrepid DE.*

Del DeLuise



CROSSED THE BAR



Arthur A. Paolucci, LM

Joined: 5-15-90 CTB: 10/21/01

Albert H. Tremlett

Joined: 9-22-95 CTB: 6-2-01

Richard F. Rudolph

Joined: 10-8-89

John Stalony

CTB: 7-11-00

Alexander N. Sanders

Joined: 4-5-00 CTB: 2-12-01

Malcolm C. Burge, LM

Joined: 7-4-94 CTB: 4-5-01

Leonard W. Campbell

Joined: 2-17-92 CTB: 7-14-01

Lawayne F. Enke, LM

Joined: 5-1-90 CTB: 6-00

Franklin D. Greenway, Jr., LM

Joined: 9-6-94

Raymond H. Emery

Joined: 5-1-95 CTB: 3-1-01

Wilbert F. Kress

Joined: 11-2-99 CTB: 10-14-01

Carl A. Koehnlein

CTB: 9-15-01

Melvin T. Abbott

CTB: 9-27-01

Robert M.J. de Castro

CTB: 8-14-01

COAST GUARD COMBAT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

REUNION/CONVENTION

Reno, Nevada, 2002

REGISTRATION

October 22 – October 26, 2002

PEPPERMILL HOTEL CASINO

2707 South Virginia Street

Reno, NV 89502

775-826-2121 * 800-648-6992 * www.peppermill.com

PLEASE BOOK YOUR ROOM DIRECTLY WITH HOTEL

(Be sure to let them know you are with CGCVA)

(Please Type or Print Clearly)

Name:	
Address:	
City/State/Zip Code:	
Phone:	Organization:
Arrival Date/Time:	
Name of Guest/Spouse:	
Name(s) to Appear on Badge(s):	

Fees for Registration, Tours, Luncheons and Banquet are shown on the following page. After selection of the activities you are to attend, fill in the corresponding amounts and total them. Send this page and the page with your selections along with your check to:

E. P. "ED" BURKE, LM
17728 STRILEY DRIVE
ASHTON, MD 20861-9763

Registration/Tour/Lunch/Banquet Reservation Form

CGCVA Registration:

EARLY: (Rec'd. By 10/1/02)

\$10.00 per person, \$18.00 Couple

LATE: (Rec'd. After 10/1/02)

\$12.50 per person, \$23.00 Couple

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>How Many?</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration Fee (See Above)	_____	_____	_____

TOURS:

October 23, Wednesday Dixie II with tour of Lake Tahoe and Truckee. Depart 10:00 am	\$40.00 ea	X	_____	_____
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October 25, Friday Virginia City/Carson City. Depart 10:30 am	\$25.00 ea	X	_____	_____
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LUNCH:

October 24, Thursday

CGCVA Business Lunch (Add \$1.50 after 10/1/01)	\$14.50	X	_____	_____
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CGCVA Auxiliary Lunch (Add \$1.50 after 10/1/02)	\$14.50	X	_____	_____
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AWARDS BANQUET:

October 25, 2002 (Add \$1.50 after 10/1/02)	\$28.50	X	_____	_____
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Poultry: _____

Beef: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

(Make check payable to: CGCOMVETS)

Please Register Early

If you have dietary requirements advise Bob Maxwell upon arrival.

Reno, NV 2002

Itinerary

Tuesday,
22 October

09:30a.m. Hospitality Room Open. Registration/Info.
4:00p.m. Opening Ceremony. Immediately after opening ceremony the Hospitality Room will be open until closing.

Wednesday,
23 October

9:30a.m. Hospitality Room Open. Registration/Info.
9:45a.m. Load onto buses for 10:00a.m. Grand Tour. M.S. Dixie II, Lake Tahoe Tour. To return about 5:00p.m.

Thursday,
24 October

9:30a.m. Hospitality Room Open. Registration/Info.
11:30a.m. CGCVA Business Meeting/Luncheon and the CGCVA Auxiliary Meeting/Luncheon. Be sure to bring Your lunch ticket. Guests of CGCVA are invited to the Auxiliary Luncheon unless there has been a meeting luncheon set up for their group. After the meeting is over the Hospitality Room will reopen. Slot Machine Tournament immediately after meeting.

Friday,
25 October

9:30a.m. Hospitality Room Open. Registration/Info.
10:15a.m. Load bus for 10:30a.m. Tour of Virginia City and Carson City, You will return to the Peppermill by 4:00p.m. 6:00p.m. Cocktail Hour w/cash Bar.
7:00p.m. Awards Banquet. Hospitality Room will reopen at the end of the Awards Banquet.

Saturday,
26 October

9:00a.m. Meeting of Officers and Trustee's. Departure of attendee's as scheduled.

Thanks for coming and have a safe trip home.

General Information for Members & Visiting Associations

Please wear your nametag at all times while in the Hospitality Room. You will not be served without it.

If you registered early, your ship/station/Group will be entered on your nametag. This should make it easier to be recognized and attract others to speak up and get acquainted.

If you want a separate meeting room and luncheon for your group, contact Bob Maxwell. His telephone number is: (530) 335-3876 & the Fax number is: (530) 335-3304. Hopefully, you will accomplish this prior to arrival at Peppermill.

All attendee's that require Handicap Accommodations must notify hotel when registering.

R/V parking is available for self-contained units at a nominal fee. (Check w/hotel, you must register)

Remember, you are entitled to participate in all activities with one exception and that is, you cannot attend the CGCVA Business Meeting. The By-Laws state that only members can attend.

All guests are encouraged to lunch with the Auxiliary luncheon. We have tried to set up everything to make you comfortable and welcome to this reunion & CGCVA Convention. If we have overlooked something, please let us know what it is.

Different from past gatherings, this time the rates go up Friday, Saturday and Sundays. Should you want to arrive early or stay late be aware that the rates will increase. This does not include Friday, October 25, 2002.

CGCVA "Person Of The Year"

Congratulations to BM3 Michael K. Carola, USCG, on his selection as the CGCVA "Coast Guard Person of the Year" for 2001. To honor BM3 Carola, USCG Commandant ADM James Loy and CGCVA Vice President Ed Swift, presented an engraved acrylic plaque to Carola in the commandant's office on Oct. 2, 2001.

The Coast Guard flew BM3 Carola into Washington for the presentation ceremony from his duty station in Yaquina Bay, Oregon. The CGCVA hosted him during his stay by paying for his hotel accommodations and meals.

Petty Officer Carola was a Seaman at the time of the rescue case he was recognized for. He spoke of the incident and about his subsequent training and duties in the Coast Guard. He is completing his Boat Coxswain requirements and wants to also train as a Surfman. He also mentioned he had recently reenlisted. It seems that all recipients of this CGCVA award, be they young or old, enlisted or officer, are always impressive and professional yet always humble. Petty Officer Carola certainly fit that description.

Following the award ceremony, Carola joined CGCVA members Ed Swift, Terry Graviss and Ed



BM3 Michael Carola is congratulated after being presented the CGCVA's "Coast Guard Person of the Year" award by National Vice President Ed Swift

Burke for lunch. CGCVA Auxiliary members included Mare Swift, Jennifer Graviss and Nancy Burke. Other Association guests at lunch were RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara and RADM Ron Silva, Asst. Commandant for Systems.

Carola earned the Coast Guard Medal for heroism. His citation reads as follows:

"Seaman Carola is cited for heroism on the morning of 6 May 2000 while serving as crewman aboard Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat (MLB) 47201 during the rescue of seven passengers from the fishing boat *Little Fly Fisherman*. The



(top) BM3 Michael Carola. (above) ADM Loy, BM3 Carola, Ed Swift and CGCVA National Secretary-Treasurer Terry Graviss.



BM3 Carola gets a congratulations from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Vince Patton.

Features & Association News Story

vessel sank shortly after striking the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge.

"One of the victims, an 82-year-old man suffering from exhaustion and hypothermia, became pinned against the inside of the bridge fender system by the raging current.

"Since it was impossible for the MLB to maneuver between the concrete piling and fender system, Carola scaled the bridge fender and attempted to pull the victim to safety, but his efforts proved unsuccessful due to the swift current which repeatedly dragged the victim beneath the surface.

"Having no rescue swimmer training, and after witnessing the current pull one victim completely under the bridge fender system, disregarding the danger to himself, Carola entered the water. He placed his body between the victim and the bridge fender, fighting against standing walls of water to hold the head of this 250-pound man above the surface.

"Following an unsuccessful attempt by the MLB crew who struggled to pull Carola and his victim to safety using a life ring with tending line, the exhausted victim told Carola that he was not going to survive and to let him go.

"Still tightly pinned against the bridge fender, Carola forced the life ring over the victim's head and under his arms while desperately encouraging him not to give up. Believing that the elderly man had only minutes to live, Carola directed the boat crew to make the tending line up to the bow and to use the MLB to pull them clear.

"Once free of the fender system, Carola swam the then unconscious victim to the safety of the MLB.

"Seaman Carola demonstrated remarkable initiative, exceptional fortitude, and daring in spite



BM3 Michael Carola, CGCVA Coast Guard Person of the Year for 2001

of imminent personal danger in this rescue, resulting in saving the life of this 82-year old man. His courage and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Coast Guard."

WWII Parade In Hagerstown, MD

On Dec. 8, 2001, the Joint Veterans Council of Hagerstown, MD, is sponsoring a parade commemorating the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the start of WWII. Veterans of all ages are invited to march in different units from different conflict periods. In addition, the French government will

present "Jubilee of Liberty" medals to deserving WWII veterans. For more information, contact: **Speener Hose**, Parade Chairman, at (301) 733-4178.

CGCVA Member Honored

During Veterans' Day ceremonies in Maplewood, NJ, on Nov. 11, 2001, CGCVA member **Louis E. Schindel** was presented the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. Combat veterans from different eras were presented the medals. Congratulations Louis!

— On an average day, the average American seats four pounds of food. Of this, six ounces is red meat, three ounces poultry, three ounces corn sweetner, three ounces sugar and one ounce fish.

— Objects can be thrown as forcibly as 200 mph by power mowers.

— 95 million homes in the U.S. have at least one refrigerator, which is visited by household members an average of 11 times a day.

Veterans' Day Ceremony

A strong contingent of CGCVA Vietnam veterans, including Nat'l Secretary-Treasurer Terry Graviss, LM and PP Joe Kleinpeter, LM, participated in Veterans' Day ceremonies Nov. 11th, at Arlington National Cemetery.

This year's event, held at the Coast Guard-Tampa Memorial, included a special recognition ceremony in honor of Vietnam veterans.

Coast Guard Commandant, ADM James Loy had a special message:

"I am extraordinarily proud and honored today to pay tribute to all of my fellow Vietnam veterans for their wartime service. Our American servicemen answered the call of our great nation, filling the ranks of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

"I chose this Veterans' Day, my last as the Commandant of the Coast Guard, to recognize and reflect on the accomplishments of the 8,000 Coast Guardsmen who served in Vietnam. Seven lost their lives, and 59 were wounded. They joined their colleagues from our sister ser-



A Coast Guard Honor Guard member stands at the Coast Guard - Tampa Memorial at Arlington Cemetery following the Veterans' Day wreath-laying ceremony.

VICES to display unyielding courage, determination and heroism during a war that so deeply divided our country.

"Our Coast Guard filled a critical need during the war, providing the sturdy shallow water craft that the Navy needed for coastal and riverine operations. We sent 82-foot cutters to Squadron One divisions at Danang, Cat Lo and An Thoi. Many of us spent the war on these cutters inspecting junks for contraband, intercepting and destroying North Vietnamese and Viet Cong vessels, and providing fire support for friendly forces. Others served on larger, high-endurance cutters, helping to form a deepwater barrier against infiltration.

"Today I salute all of our Vietnam



CGCVA VP Ed Swift (left), on behalf of the Association's Vietnam veterans, presents a Squadron One, Point Lomar T-shirt to ADM Loy. The admiral served as commanding officer of the 82-foot cutter in Vietnam.

Features & Association News

veterans — our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast guardsmen — for the many sacrifices made serving in Vietnam. The memories of what we saw and lived through will stay with us forever. I commend all who served for providing themselves *Semper Paratus* — Always Ready — in service to our country.”

Following ADM Loy's remarks, he asked the Coast Guard Vietnam veterans to step forward. Each greeted Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, the Commandant, and MCPO-CG Vince Patton, and received commemorative coins.

Korean War Memorial Ceremony

On Nov. 12, 2001, military attaches from Embassies of the 15 countries that fought as America's Allies during the Korean War gathered at the Korean War Monument in downtown Washington, DC for a brief commemoration ceremony and wreath-laying.

Representing all the United States Korean War veterans was BMCS Ed Burke, USCG (Ret.) who presented a wreath honoring all Korean War veterans. Assisting

Ed was MGEN Nels Running, USAF (Ret.), Executive Director of the DoD Korean War Commemoration Committee, and MGEN Jin Ha Hwang, Defense Attache, Republic of Korea Embassy.

Military attaches representing Australia, Belgium, Canada, Columbia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, and the



(above) Representing all U.S. Korean War veterans, CGCVA LM Ed Burke presents a wreath at the Korean War Memorial on Nov. 12, 2001.

(left) Ed Burke is congratulated by MGEN Nels Running, Executive Director of the Dept. of Defense Korean War Commemoration Committee. Military attaches from Embassies of the 15 Allied countries (in background) participated in the solemn ceremony.



United Kingdom participated in the ceremony and there were many Korean War veterans in the crowd. Those nations, along with the United States and South Korea, sent combat forces to serve in the United Nations Command in Korea. Approximately 150,000 foreign servicemen fought, and foreign casualties included 3,360 killed, 11,886 wounded and 1,801 missing in action. There were 1,376 foreign prisoners of war repatriated to 12 countries in 1953.

- Puerto Rico used to be named San Juan, and vice-versa.
- Mexico's East coast is sinking at the rate of one to two inches annually.

Features & Association News

Cape May Reunion (cont'd from p.1) their guests.

The graduation ceremony began with all the recruit companies lined up on the parade field. Introductions were made, then the Mayor of Cape May, Jerome E. Indewies, read a proclamation honoring the CGCVA and all Coast Guard combat veterans. The proclamation was presented to our own Jack Campbell.

The graduation was most impressive, including performances by the Cadet Honor Guard and Cadet Band. Following a parade in review by all the junior recruit companies, it was time to promote and graduate HOTEL-160 Company. This included the reading of a prayer written by them, in honor of our group. One paragraph read, "We also stand humbly before the presence of these veterans who've already risked their lives... (We) pray that we too may continue the legacy of strength, sacrifice, devotion to duty and courage that has been their tradition..."

It was quite moving, especially when one considered the events of the previous 10 days. But it wasn't as moving as what took place following HOTEL-160's official graduation. As the ceremony ended and the graduates were dismissed, families and friends poured out of the stands to hug and kiss



(above) CGCVA members came from all over for the mini-reunion but they all proudly wore something with "Coast Guard" or the USCG logo.

(below) Just a portion of the CGCVA group that attended the CGCVA mini-reunion on Sept. 21, 2001 at USCG Recruit Training Center Cape May, NJ. A total of 53 CGCVA members signed in as well as 40 guests, far more than originally anticipated.

their new Coasties. At the same moment, several of the new Seaman Apprentices opted to go into the stands to thank and shake hands with the CGCVA members. For myself and others, this was the highlight of the entire day's tour!

Our next stop was the galley and it took quite awhile to feed our large group. After the meal, we split into four groups, each going in a different direction with one of the assigned tour



Features & Association News

Cape May Reunion (cont'd)

guides.

One stop was at the Dolphin helicopter that had arrived near the end of graduation and landed on the parade field. There, a flight crew, including Group/Air Station commander, CAPT Robert Durfey, provided our group details about the aircraft and related stories of recent rescue cases.



(above) CGCVA members and guests get a close-up look at a USCG Dolphin helicopter.

(top right) MCPO Dave Evans serves as tour guide at the training center museum and Douglas Munro exhibit.

(middle right) A happy couple completes their full day tour after a stop aboard one of Station Cape May's small boats.

bottom right) CGCVA members and guests check out the station's 47-foot motor lifeboat following their tours aboard the USCG cutters' *Dependable* and *Finback*. The final stops were the CPO Club and Exchange.



boats, including the new 47' motor lifeboat, replacement for the 44' MLB.

At the other dock areas, we viewed various cutters and were able to board and tour the 210' medium endurance cutter *Dependable* and the 75' patrol boat *Finback*.

With the training center tour complete, CAPT Wisniewsky invited everyone to shop at the exchange. He thanked everyone for coming and welcomed the idea of a future CGCVA mini-reunion there. Some in the group opted for shopping at the exchange, some had to hit the road and the remainder went into the CPO Club for a club soda or two and a lot of camaraderie. It was a fitting conclusion to an all-around emotional and exciting day.

Our thanks go out to everyone at Training

Center Cape May and Group Atlantic City. **Editor**

Another stop was at Munro Hall and a tour of the training center's museum and Douglas Munro exhibit. Luckily, our tour guide there was MCPO Dave Evans, the Cape May training center Command Master Chief and one of those responsible for the creation of the museum.

From Munro Hall it was off to Station Cape May where our group could go onboard various small

— The "Star Spangled Banner" didn't officially become the national anthem until 1931, 117 years after it was written.

— The Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire" contains over half the world's volcanoes.

From The President (cont'd from p.2)

the entire day was special. Accepting the proclamation from Mayor Indewies on behalf of all the veterans made me proud to be part of our fine Association but it was the moments following graduation that really touched me the deepest. Seeing the new graduates taking time to go into the reviewing stand to greet our members, shake their hands and congratulate them for their service to our country was simply untopable. Hope you were able to attend. Semper Paratus! **Jack**

Remembering D-Day

by PA2 Tom Sperduto, PADET New York

Editor's Note: The following feature story was reprinted courtesy of Coast Guard Magazine which ran it in their November 2001 issue.

A Coast Guard landing ship moves slowly toward the shore of Normandy. The young men aboard fight the overwhelming fear of the unknown, the smells of war and their own seasickness as the ship battles the swells.

Each moment creates an indescribable memory — mental images of loved ones flash and flicker like a movie — colliding with thoughts of the enemy awaiting their imminent arrival.

Forty-two men, most younger than 20 years old, clutch their weapons and their memories and prepare to take their place in history.

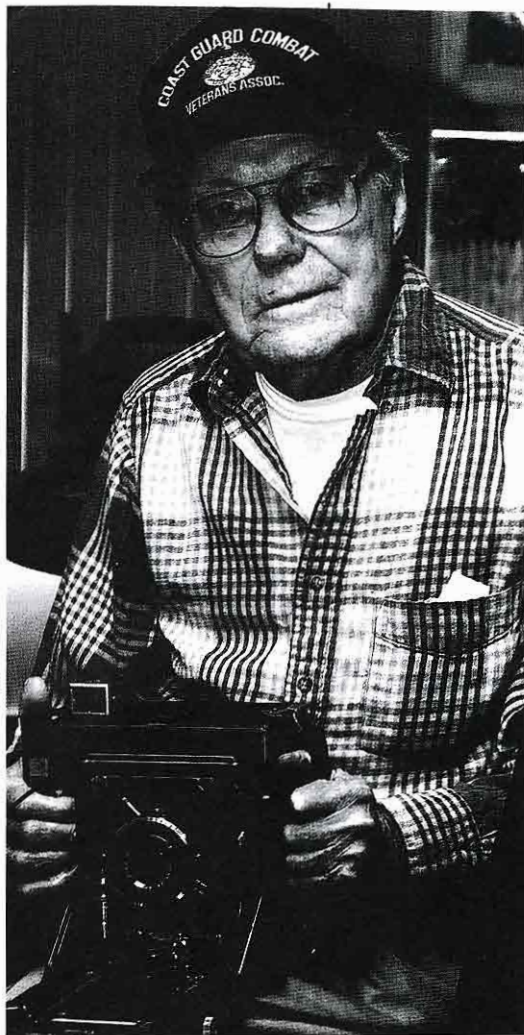
One man aboard is seeing it from a different perspective: through the lens of a Coast Guard camera.

Twenty-five-year-old George Durenberger had heard all the horror stories from a friend's father who fought against the Axis powers with the U.S. Army at the beginning of World War II. With the desire to serve his country but no desire to lose his life, Durenberger decided to take what he thought to be the easy route — enlistment in the U.S. Coast Guard.

"Like a lot of other guys, I thought Coast Guard meant exactly that: guarding the coast," recalls the 83-year-old veteran from his Long Island, NY home. "Nobody told you the Coast Guard would be going to Europe... Africa... or wherever..."

For seven years before joining the Coast Guard, Durenberger worked for the John Hands Commercial Photography Company in New York City. When he enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1941, it differed drastically from what young men and women experience in boot camp today.

"I started off in the Coast Guard on Ellis Island, without uniforms, for three weeks," says Durenberger. "I never went to boot camp. They



George Durenberger with the camera he used on D-Day.

Feature Story



Durenberger at Normandy after the landing on D-Day, posing with his 16mm movie camera.

brought in so many people... they had no place to put them."

While on Ellis Island, it wasn't long before his photography skills became known and he once again found himself behind a camera.

After a month of taking photos for ID cards, he transferred to Camp Lejeune, NC, where he shot stock movie film of Marines practicing invasion-landing exercises. Soon after, he was assigned to the Coast Guard Academy to photograph cadet training.

While at the Academy, Durenberger had a falling out with one of his supervisors and ended up getting transferred to the *USS Joseph T. Dickman*.

The *Dickman* had a crew of 800 Coast

Guardsmen and carried 2,500 soldiers. Shortly after Durenberger arrived in early 1944, the ship's crew began preparing for the giant invasion that would forever be remembered as D-Day.

"We would go out and practice landings for Normandy. Of course, at that time we didn't know where we were going," Durenberger says.

June 6, 1944, the *Dickman* joined one of the largest armadas ever assembled. The historic fleet included 1,200 fighting ships, 10,000 planes, 4,126 landing craft, 804 transport ships, and hundreds of amphibious tanks.

"It (the sea) was rough, it was dark... the Germans put a lot of X's up... everyone was getting sick," Durenberger says. The X's were slanted poles lined with barbed wire that were used to slow the advancement of the troops after landing on the beach.

On the morning of D-Day, Allied amphibious craft spanned a distance of 50 miles, landing some 130,000 troops along the Normandy coast. The Germans initially stopped the assault at the water's edge from positions atop bluffs as high as 170 feet. More than 9,000 fortified positions were in place, according to the

Encyclopedia Britannica.

"The German soldiers were hidden — they



American troops storm the beach at Normandy during D-Day in this photo taken by Durenberger.

Feature Story



(Above) Durenberger springs into action with his camera gear while stationed at the Academy in New London, CT. (Right) Soldiers climb down a cargo net from the USS *Dickman* into a landing craft on the morning of the invasion.

were hidden behind a hill," says Durenberger. "All you could hear was a lot of shooting. The fire was very heavy when we were getting off [the landing craft]."

The gunfire was so heavy on D-Day, one leader of a landing party on Omaha Beach was quoted in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* as saying, "Two types of people would stay on the beach — the dead and those going to die."

Supported by naval gunfire, the men of the Normandy invasion pushed the enemy inland and took control of the beach.

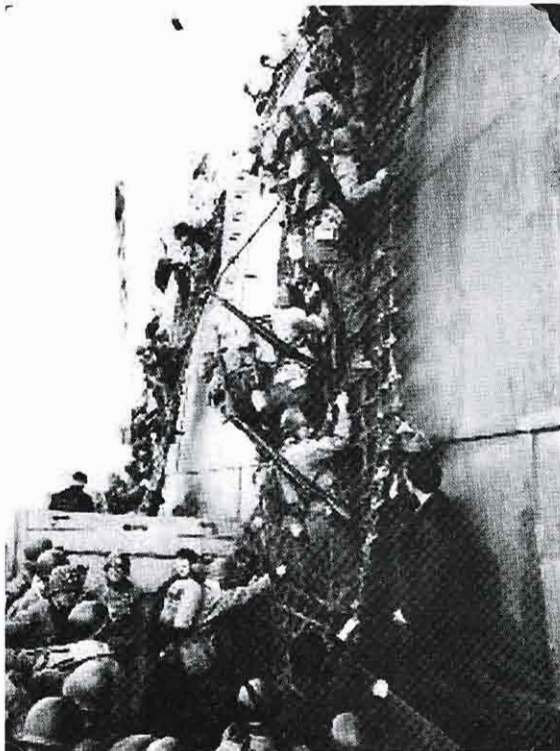
Durenberger can't remember much of Normandy after landing on the beach. He doesn't know how, but he eventually found himself back on a landing craft enroute to the *Dickman* with wounded soldiers.

"I was shooting 16mm (movie film). They told me not to shoot anymore because of how the wounded men were being treated. The medical personnel were stretched thin and forced to provide treatment to a large amount of wounded soldiers expediently," Durenberger says.

After D-Day, the *Dickman* eventually made it back to the United States. The war was over.

Many of Durenberger's World War II photos were used in various publications, including one on the cover of *LIFE Magazine* in 1944, he says. He returned to his job at the John Hands Photography Company after the war.

Nowadays, often seen wearing a Coast Guard hat and ready with a story about Coast Guard friends made 59 years ago, Durenberger says they all had one thing in common with Coast Guardsmen today: "We were there with a purpose."



CGCVA Auxiliary News

Greetings everyone:

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new Auxiliary members and to thank the people who recruited them. WELCOME: Annie Stalony, Martha Rudolph, Berry Sanders and Jennie Iles. (If I've overlooked anyone, please let me know!). In any Auxiliary member has a question of any sort or suggestions for our next reunion, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail me at (704) 263-0111 or reliancepi@aol.com. Mare, Jennifer and I want to make the Reno Reunion the BEST ONE ever.

Jennifer was advanced to Chief Petty Officer a few months ago but it was made official just a couple of weeks ago when YN1-1/2 Jennifer Graviss had her Chief's Initiation. Her husband Terry, himself a Chief (but retired as a LCDR),



SHIRLEY RAMSEY

pinned on Chief Graviss' anchors. Way to go Jennifer... I mean Chief!

On Sept. 21st, my husband Pat and I drove to Cape May, NJ for the CGCVA mini-reunion. I'm sure glad it wasn't cancelled. It was a warm, beautiful day and nearly 100 people turned out for the event. We were privileged to eat in the base Mess Hall and were treated to an impressive graduation event. We got to climb on boats and cutters, see a Coast Guard helicopter up close, and even shop in the base exchange. Lots of Coast Guard things to see and lots of great Coast Guard people there to make sure we all had an enjoyable time. Being the place where many of the CGCVA members underwent basic training, I'll bet it brought back a lot of memories to the guys!

PLEASE JOIN ME IN PRAYER for all the young people (to me they're all kids). Let's pray especially for all who may have been sent to fight against the terrorists to keep America a safe place in which to live. We may not always get the credit but you and I know the COAST GUARD is always ready and is always there! The members of the CGCVA know firsthand, the fears, hopes and dreams of these young people. Don't forget to pray for President Bush and all those who are in authority over us who must make decisions that will affect OUR lives.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Shirley



CGCVA Nat'l Secretary/Treasurer LCDR Terry Graviss, USCG (Ret.) pins anchor collar devices on his CGCVA Auxiliary counterpart, Jennifer, upon completion of Chief Petty Officer Initiation ceremonies. YNC Jennifer Graviss has been very busy lately in her Coast Guard job, helping coordinate and plan Homeland Defense measures for Coast Guard units.

Speaking of Jennifer, a big congratulations goes out to our national secretary/treasurer.

— Fact: Rubber bands last longer if refrigerated.

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 or call (330) 887-5539, fax (330) 887-5639. E-mail USCGW64@aol.com. Please make checks payable to: CGCVA. (Prices include first class mailing with the exception of the Christmas Tree Ornaments which require special packing)

BASEBALL CAP

Blue/black, with gold-lettered "Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association," and CGCVA logo, one size fits all, plain visor.....\$11.00
Baseball Cap; white with same embroidery.....\$11.00

PATCH BOOKS

Pick from Volume 1-A (White Cutters)....\$13.50
Volume 1-B (Black Cutters).....\$8.50
Volume 1-C (Red Cutters).....\$6.50
Volume 2 (Aviation)\$10.50
Volume 3 (Stations)\$14.50

These booklets are spiral-bound and will be shipped 4th class mail or bound printed matter.

BOOKS

"Coast Guard Navy of World War II" (William Knight) USCG WWII history.....\$25.00

"Coast Guard Action In Vietnam" (Paul Scotti).\$20.00
(includes shipping)

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CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS

Pick from: 327' Secretary Class; 255' Owasco Class; 311' Casco Class; 378' Hamilton Class (each with ship imprinted on front and list of cutters in class with commissioning & decommissioning dates on back); CGC Mackinaw; 210'; or 270'.\$12.50 each
(shipped in display box)

BUMPER STICKER

CGCVA ...\$2.00 each
or 3 for \$5.00

CG GARRISON CAP

Fore 'n aft, CGCVA Logo, white lettered "Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association." Size 7 only.\$25.00

FLAGS

U.S./USCG/ CGCVA, 10" with stand.\$10.00

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4-inch\$5.00
2-inch CGCVA logo..\$4.00

MODEL KIT: 378' Hamilton Class; 47" in length, composite plastic. Kit includes decals and deck hardware. Suitable for radio control or static display (for the experienced model builder) ...\$200.00

MODEL KIT: CG Helicopter, MRC; Bell HTL...\$20.00 (Only two left... special reduced price).

CGCVA Small Stores

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Pick from Squadron One; Squadron Three; Explosive Loading Detachment; USCG-ARVN - Explosive Loading Detachment; Market Time Vietnam; LORSTA Con Son; LORSTA Sattahip; or Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club..... \$10.00 each

WRIST WATCH

Stainless steel with CGCVA logo & calendar, lifetime limited warranty. swiss movement. Comes in gift box. Mens style. Only three left. Compare at \$120.00

.....\$55.00

CGCVA T-SHIRT

CGCVA logo on T-shirt. Lge/XL..\$7.00 2X..\$8.00

VIETNAM PINS & CAPS

"Vietnam Veteran" or "Coast Guard Vietnam Veteran" with yellow/red campaign ribbon.....\$8.00
"Cat Lo" or "Tan My.".....\$7.00

BOOK: "Coast Guard At War - Vietnam." Hard bound, written by CGCVA member CAPT Alex Lazerlere. \$30.00 (includes shipping)

BOOK: "German U-Boat Losses of WWII." One only at \$25.00

BOOK: "The Royal Navy in WWII." One only at \$25.00

BOOK: "The Hooligan Navy" by Wesley E. Hall. New item. A true story about the Old Coast Guard. \$32.50

BOOK: "CG Navy of WWII" by Bill Knight. Unlimited supply but must be ordered from: Dorothy McCann, 1052 E. Timber Lane, Freeland, WA 98249-9417. Make out checks to Dorothy McCann. Now \$19.95

ZIPPO BELT BUCKLE: Pick one of the Zippo Vietnam Squadrons 1 or 3 designs. Fits standard issue web belt. \$33.00

ZIPPO LIGHTER:

Includes original Zippo Vietnam designs for Squadrons 1 and 3. \$45.00 each or all four for \$150.00.



MK3 Brandon Davis pauses during escort duty with CGCVA member and lone CGC Escanaba survivor Ray O'Malley in Grand Haven, Michigan during the 2001 Coast Guard Festival there. It was O'Malley's 58th straight year at the festival's National Memorial Service.



Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please Print Clearly)

Personal Data

Name: _____ Date: _____
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Do you have two(2) Residences? Yes No
If Yes, furnish the following information: (This is for the Quarterdeck Log mailings)

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Telephone: () - _____ When There?: _____ To _____

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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 member of the CGCVA in "Good Standing," stating that you served with him on a particular ship/station during a particular period of time. Haitian service has recently been authorized the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal that qualifies for membership.

Rank/Rate: Present @ Discharge @ Retirement _____

Dues: \$25.00 For 2 Years. Amount of Membership Dues Enclosed: \$ _____

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Twenty Coast Guard Vietnam veterans were honored by SecDot Norman Mineta, Commandant ADM James Loy, and MCPO-CG Vince Patton at Veterans' Day ceremonies November 11, 2001 at Arlington National Cemetery.

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

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