

Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association Newsletter  
"Tradition -- Duty -- Rapport"

Newsletter No. 3-88

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

THE RENO REUNION.

July 15-17, 1988 was the period that Reno Nevada really came to life. No shoot-outs at the Hilton Hotel but a reliving of memories of some forty plus years for the old timers. It didn't matter if you were active duty, retired or just in for a spell, everyone at the reunion was COAST GUARD, all the way, Semper Paratus, "Can Do" and "Gung Ho". It was possible to turn back the hands of time for three wonderful days, to renew and meet new.

Our third reunion with the greatest people on earth topped off by a, "Shipping Over", speech from our Commandant, Admiral Paul Yost. Admiral Yost remembered our guys that lost their lives in Viet Nam and those of the other U.S. Armed Forces together with the RVNs. In all of the wars, the Coast Guard personnel killed and wounded were remembered. The American people must be firmly committed to any future war and while we gave the South Vietnamese people a chance at freedom they lost their will. Admiral Yost discussed the Persian Gulf and the fact that the Coast Guard was ready and willing if called upon. Drugs were also a part of the Admiral's speech. This danger must be obliterated.

CWO Paul Scotti, talked about patriotism and us. It was tribute to all of the speakers that there was no other sound in the hall during the speeches. They were all good, none long and each hit the mark.

During the reunion various members of our Association and their wives (the guys in sun glasses mostly had girl friends) salted away fortunes from the gambling. The old North Atlantic crap game days when someone would shoot the whole \$300. on a blanket in the auxiliary engine room were nothing compared to Reno. I'm saying there was serious money bet.

The food was great, the rooms were fine, the shows here and there were O.K. but the people were outstanding. We missed some plankowners and found that it is hard to make reunions on a yearly basis hence the every other year approach which gives us all a chance to save up our Social Security over a longer period.

BYLAWS CHANGED.

In Reno the Association membership moved to add U. S. Public Health Service members while serving with the CG as Associate eligible members. Also the Auxiliary was added. A copy of the Constitution and Bylaws is a part of this Newsletter.

NEWLY ELECTED ASSOCIATION OFFICERS.

President - Bob Maxwell, former GM1, Vietnam Service, Korean Service (USN - aboard yard vessels IOWA, NEW JERSEY and WISCONSIN). Bob couldn't wait to get into the "Big Outfit". Bob is married to Jane and they reside in Burney, California. President Maxwell thanked the Association membership for the opportunity to serve and he would appreciate hearing from members with concerns, questions, in need of help, suggestions or for any reason deemed important to the member. Bob's address is: P.O. Drawer 2790, Burney, CA 96013.

Secretary/Treasurer - Baker Herbert, CWO4, retired, Vietnam & Korean Service, married to Marylou and residing at 6858 Lafayette Road, Medina, OH 44256.

Board of Directors:

Gil Benoit, Chairman, BM2(Retired) - "Frenchy" picked up a little lead in Vietnam. At least I assume this to be the situation since his wife kept telling him to, "Get the lead out". Gil pronounces his last name Ben-Wah, or Ben Hua. Address: 3021 Princess LN, Plano, TX 75074. 2 year director.

Commodore Bill Hoover, former GM1, past president and 2 year director or serves

until replaced by the outgoing president. Vietnam Service. Bill and wife Libby got us where we are today. They live at 178 Oakmanor Pkwy., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Richard E. Ahrens, CDR, (Retired), Vietnam Veteran, 4 year director. Dick resides at 3317 Alberta Ave., Muskegon, MI 49444-3301.

Ray C. Hertica, CAPT (Retired), WWII and Vietnam Veteran, 6 year director. Captain Hertica resides at 14332 Hope St., Garden Grove, CA 92643.

Donald G. Kneip, CAPT (Retired), Vietnam Veteran, 8 year director. Captain Kneip resides at 7908 Olympic View Dr., N.W., Gig Harbor, WA 98335.

Membership Director - Charles E. Huyler, BM2, USCGR, 1702 Drift Road, Westport, MA 02790. Vietnam Veteran.

Public Relations Director - CWO Paul C. Scotti, USCG, U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs Liaison, 11000 Wilshire Blvd., Room 10125, Los Angeles, CA 90024-3612. Paul is a Vietnam Veteran and did some hard time in the USAF before reaching maturity. Scotti is married to Liz and Liz is the Auxiliary President as if she didn't have enough on her hands with Paul.

Benoit, Herbert, Hoover, Kneip and Scotti are plankowners, i. e. July of 85 Indian Lakes Resort, Bloomingdale, Ill. is where it all started. There are nine other plankowners. We've come a long way baby.

At Reno a large group was present from the CGC MORGENTHAU. Commander Gene Tulich offered a verbal challenge for the next reunion, and has confirmed this in writing, i. e. "The USCGC MORGENTHAU (WHEC 722) Vietnam crew had the largest number of attendees at the 1988 Reunion of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association in Reon. It is also the unit with the largest number of members in the CGCVA. The MORGENTHAU, as we well know, was the best unit in Vietnam and is the best in the CGCVA. Therefore, with all humility we challenge all major units to try to surpass us in membership and attendance at the next Reunion in 1990." /s/ Gene.

Commander Tulich did a fine U. S. Coast Guard Historical Monograph Program entitled, "The United States Coast Guard in South East Asia During The Vietnam Conflict". This was printed in 1975 and I have one copy. This is an excellent report on the CG and is 65 pages. To have it reproduced would cost the Association at least \$5. Anyone who would like to borrow this may do so. CDR Tulich has granted permission to reproduce.

Member William L. C. Johnson, a WWII vet who served in LST's, was in Reno and brought several copies of his book, "The West Lock Story". There wasn't too much said about this event during the War but it is an accurate account of what happened to the LSTs that exploded near the West Lock Ammo Dump in the Pearl Harbor area. Mr. Johnson's address is 2440 N.W. 57th St., Apt #2, Seattle, WA 98107 so if you want a copy of a very well written book, contact him for price and shipping instructions.

It was a pleasure to meet COLONEL Stanley Godlesky, a former WAKEFIELD Coastie. Even though a plankowner, I met Roger Williams for the first time in Reno. Roger is why we are the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association. Roger is A WWII CGC DUANE Coastguardsman.

Being in Reno with former shipmates and new friends gave meaning to Alfred Lord Tennyson line from Ulysses, "I am a part of all that I have met." The rich history of the Coast Guard and the people that know more about it than anyone else in the world. From the North Atlantic to the South Pacific and in each face there was the Coast Guard pride and satisfaction in getting the job done.

Two former NORTHLAND shipmates from WWII who had not seen each other for more than 40 years met in Reno. Al Courter and John McCartin. In September of 1941 the NORTHLAND captured the Gernam vessel Buskoe and took the personnel to Boston as illegal immigrants since we were not at war with Germany. The Greenland Patrol under "Iceberg Smith" with NORTHLAND and MODOC, was very close to the BISMARCK and the sea battle that followed. If you can believe it, the 125 footer GENERAL GREENE was also working the Iceland/Greenland North Atlantic area at the time. Al Courter obtained a one year membership to the Players Club which was raffled at Reno and won by Mrs. William L. C. Johnson. Thanks, Al.

Also in Reno was Doug Washburn. Doug was on an 83 footer during the Normandy invasion. Those 83 footer Coast Guardsmen saved over 1400 lives in that one action and were, of course, sitting ducks for the German 88's while rescuing personnel.

Bill and Linda O'Neill flew in from Hawaii. Bill was with Navy DD's during WWII with the torpedo gang but saw the light and changed over to finance with the Coast Guard. Bill O'Neill is almost as well known as Vince Stauffer and neither has been known to miss a party (other than working party).

Two guys that made good from Class A-14, 1948 Groton, YN/SK School, CAPTs Floyd Rice and Neal Nelson were on the scene.

CAPT Ned Fontaine, the guy who started the ball rolling on Project Tight Reign (a secret Loran C chain in S.E. Asia) was aboard for his third reunion. Ned brought his brother (a retired Army Officer) along just to show off the Coast Guard. The Tight Reign group was hoping to see former Project Officer VADM Tommy Sargent III but for some reason the Admiral couldn't make it. Both Fontaine and Sargent are plankowners from the 1985 Bloomingdale, Ill. first reunion.

Retired Chief Gunner Mike Opsitnik was seen with Ida pulling the slots and bagging their money. Mike is afraid to go back to Youngstown, Ohio since they would make him Mayor immediately.

Master Chief Barker was in attendance with a good group from California.

Plankowners Gnegy and Madura (both Master Chiefs, retired) were on hand for their third reunion. Gnegy doesn't say much but he does have his facts down and one might think that he mess cooked at the "Last Supper."

LT Mike Evgrafoff couldn't make the reunion but sent greetings. Mike served with the Russian Navy from Sept 1920 to March, 1923 and took an extended leave. Mike joined the Coast Guard during the, "Roaring Twenties" and got involved in the, "Rum Wars." He says he is still on an. "Extended Leave," from the Russian Navy, and served on the CYANE, BOULEAU, DAPNES, and CAVALIER during WWII.

CDR Duane Gatto and wife are regulars at the reunions travelling from Florida. Duane commanded CG Div. 13 at Cat Lo from 1969-70.

Mr. Stephen H. Overstreet, First Class Sea Shirts, P.O. Box 2322, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 sent a donation to the Reunion. Mr. Overstreet donates \$2.00 per shirt to the group of the customer's choice. Thanks, Steve.

Certainly the Board of Directors, Commodore Bill Hoover and Paul Scotti deserve so very much credit for their work on the Reno Reunion. Everyone was happy, meeting new friends, seeing old shipmates and making money in the process. There were so many highlights and such a great feeling that it really can't be reduced to writing. If only I could have kept track of that Indian, Donovan Fallis. This former shipmate gets lost crossing the street. We now believe him about getting lost for two days in Bangkok.

## LOGO CONTEST

All logos must be submitted prior to February 1, 1989 to be considered. We have a few on hand but need everyone's ideas. The Board of Directors will pick a winner and the Secretary will remove all names from logos submitted. It has been said that wives are especially good at art work. If you can't draw, submit your idea in writing.

Member Donald Toops, 4100 Troy Road, Lot 110, Springfield, OH 45502, CCG Point Grace, Vietnam, would like an old white shield on navy blue. This was before the uniform change of the early 1970s.

We have a few Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association blue baseball hats. The lettering is in gold. \$8. if you pick them up in Medina, Ohio or at Chuck Huylers, 1702 Drift Road, Westport, MA. if you want them shipped, \$10. each. Please make checks payable to the CG Combat Veterans Assoc.

## AUXILIARY INFORMATION

At the Reno Reunion it was voted to form a Ladies Auxiliary for the CGCVA. A group of women met during the reunion, organized and elected officers to serve for the next two years. Our purpose is to build membership, help raise funds and assist with reunions.

Any wife, mother, daughter or sister of a CGCVA member is eligible to join. If interested please contact Secretary/Treasurer Jane Maxwell, drawer 2790, Burney, CA 96013.

Dues are \$10. for 2 years. Thanks, Liz Scotti, President

## WWII COAST GUARD MANNED VESSELS

Herb Reith of Enka, NC has supplied the Association with the ships, other than cutters, manned by the CG during WWII.

### NAVY SHIPS

TYPE	DESIG.	#MANNED
LANDING SHIPS, TANK	LST	76
PATROL FRIGATES	PF	75
PATROL VESSELS	YP	40
DESTROYER ESCORTS	DE	30
LANDING CRAFT, INFANTRY (Large)	LCI-L	28
LARGE TRANSPORTS	AP	22
GASOLINE TANKERS	AOG	18
LARGE CARGO SHIPS	AK	15
LARGE TRANSPORT, ATTACK SHIPS	APA	9
PATROL GUNBOATS	PG	8
MISCELLANEOUS UNCLASSIFIED	IX	7
SUBMARINE CHASERS	SC	6
LARGE CARGO, Attack SHIPS	AKA	5
SUBMARINE CHASERS	PC	4
COASTAL PATROL YACHT	PYC	1
FERRY BOAT AND LAUNCH	YFB	1
AMBULANCE BOAT	YHB	1
GATE VESSEL	YNG	1
RANGE TENDER	YF	1
MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT TENDER	AGP	1 (EX LST 201) PONTUS
SUBMARINE CHASER	WPC	1
AUXILIARY MISCELLANEOUS	WAG	1

### ARMY SHIPS

FREIGHT AND SUPPLY VESSELS	FS	188
LARGE TUGS	LT	51
TANKERS	TY	22

ARMY SHIPS (Con't)

FREIGHT Vessels	F	21
ARMY MARINE REPAIR SHIPS	AMRS	6

Herb has been also helping with membership. He is a DE Coastguardsman and writes frequently for Carolina Newspapers and Reunion/Group newsletters. Herb notes that in WWII the Coast Guard strength peaked at 175,000 or about 1.16% of the Armed Forces as a whole. In the summer of 1941 the Coast Guard had 613 officers, 764 chief warrant and warrant officers and 17,450 enlisted men with 199 cadets. The WWII motto of the Coast Guard, according to Herb, should have been, "We keep having to do more and more with less and less. Pretty soon we will be able to do everything with nothing." Thanks, Herb for the memories and information.

BALTIMORE - 1990

Commodore Bill Hoover, Bob Maxwell and Baker Herbert went to Baltimore and Washington on November 2,3 &4. Bill Hoover is the 1990 Reunion Chairman and the Board of Directors voted to hold the 1990 reunion in Baltimore. July 18-23 will be the dates. The Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor was selected and it was decided that each member could choose the events that they want to attend. For instance, there is no charge for the overall reunion, such as in Reno. The hotel reservations will be handled directly through the Marriott and reservation cards will be available from the Secretary in early 1990. Meals will be handled by the Association through the sale of tickets. There are many details to work out but generally the least expensive path has been chosen. Contact with Airlines will be made in 1989/1990 to determine a special for our Association members but again, this will be handled directly with the Airlines or travel agent.

While in Baltimore and Washington a meeting was held with Rear Admiral Matteson since the Commandant was out of the area. Requests for the CGC EAGLE and a CG Band were made of the Coast Guard and much will depend on funding in 1990. The Association would like to acknowledge a Coast Guard Person who has performed above and beyond at our dinner, together with an outstanding National Legislator. We have requested that the Commandant and Master CPO of the Coast Guard attend our dinner banquet on Saturday of the reunion. The Marriott has agreed to allow members to arrive as early as they want and to stay as long as they want with the special room rate so long as the reservation is made one month in advance.

The Association would like to have a "C" ration luncheon without chairs.

This will be a time for individual groups to plan a special luncheon, or whatever. The Association will be the umbrella for those groups that so wish to participate. Our main purpose is to promote good fellowship among the finest people in the world. We think some good things to do during the 200th Anniversary of the Coast Guard is the placing of wreaths at the Vietnam Wall, the TAMPA and SERPENS in Arlington and perhaps a wreath at the Coast Guard Memorial at Curtis Bay Yard.

We know the company will be outstanding, the food at the Marriott and in Baltimore is almost as good as Akron, Ohio (and that's good) and the crabs are the world's best. Proof - in 2½ days I gained three pounds, strictly on crab cakes.

Certainly let Commodore Bill Hoover know your ideas at 178 Oakmanor Pkwy., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

We want to see you there. We want to hear words like, GISMO, SNAFU, DEEP SIX, ROGER, ROGER, ROGER, ROGER, ROGER, HOOLIGAN, ANDY MELLON'S YACHTING SERVICE, DOWN THE HATCH AND SPLICE THE MAIN BRACE.

## PREAMBLE

Being mindful of the traditions, duties and purposes of the United States Coast Guard, our duty to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, and believing that through social association and mutual acquaintance we may further perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, assist their widows and orphans, assist honorably discharged or retired Coast Guard Combat Veterans, promote and enhance the image and posture of the United States Coast Guard, therefore we do associate ourselves together and declare the following Articles to be the Constitution and By Laws of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association:

## CONSTITUTION

We, Past and present Officers and Enlisted members of the United States Coast Guard, believing in our right to form an association consistent with the precepts outlined in the Preamble above, do hereby declare the formation of such an association to be known as "The Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association."

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I - ORGANIZATION

This association formed under the authority of the foregoing Constitution will be organized as provided hereinafter:

(A) NAME: This association shall be called "The Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association," hereinafter referred to as the "Association".

(B) HEADQUARTERS: There is no permanent Headquarters. The current Headquarters shall rotate to such place as the elected President shall reside.

(C) ASSOCIATION OFFICERS: The Association shall be governed by a President, Secretary/Treasurer and a Board of Directors consisting of five members.

(D) TERM OF OFFICE: Officers shall be nominated and elected by a "Show of Hands" at each regular reunion of the members. No officer shall succeed him/herself in any one office more than one time. The term of office of the elected officers shall commence at the reunion at which elected and be for a period of two years, except for members of the Board of Directors which is covered in Article IV (c)(3) below. In the event of a vacancy caused by resignation, illness, death or removal for "Cause", a replacement shall be appointed by the President to complete the term of that member.

(E) PURPOSE: The primary purpose of this Association shall be to foster good fellowship, social activities and to accomplish the programs as outlined in the Preamble.

(F) AUXILIARY: Effective 16 July, 1988, there shall be an Auxiliary providing for the membership of Spouses of Members in good standing, such Auxiliary to provide for their own organization and By-laws.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP:

1. Membership in this Association shall be limited to:

(a) Active duty members, Retired members and honorably discharged former members of the U. S. 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.

(b) The Widow or Widower of those listed in (a) above shall be considered members and shall be dues free without voting privilege. These members shall not hold Office.

(c) The Commandant of the U. S. Coast Guard, if not otherwise eligible, shall be recognized as an Honorary member without voting privileges.

(d) Associate Membership status is permitted for people who are presently in, served in, or retired from, the U. S. Coast Guard, who meet the combat criteria while in the service of another Armed Force (United States or foreign). Members of the U. S. Public Health Service who served as members of a U. S. Coast Guard Combat Command shall be eligible for this membership status.

ARTICLE III - DUES

1. Dues shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) per year.

2. Dues are considered due and payable at bi-annual reunions. Members not attending the reunion shall be notified of his dues being overdue by way of the newsletter. Members not responding to an overdue notice may be dropped from the active member rolls. Any member dropped from the active rolls may be reinstated by submitting the necessary dues and an application.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Officers of the Association named in Article I are vested with authority and charged to perform duties as follows:

(a) PRESIDENT: Has the overall responsibility for conducting the official business of the Association and it shall be his duty to give careful attention to the work of the Association, and to carry into effect the policies determined upon by the majority of the membership. He shall:

(1) Call meetings/reunions at such a time and place as the Board of Directors determines necessary and to preside at and determine the order of business.

(2) Have authority to direct the functions of the committees appointed by him.

(3) Review and sign newsletters to the membership.

(4) Make commitments and expenditures within the limitations prescribed by these bylaws.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS (Continued)

(5) Authorize all checks signed by the Secretary/Treasurer.

(6) The fiscal records of the club shall be audited by a committee appointed by the President at least every other year, or when ordered by the President. A written report on the outcome of the audit will be submitted by the chairman of the audit committee to the President and read at the next regular reunion for acceptance by the membership.

(b) SECRETARY/TREASURER:

(1) Shall assist the President in conducting official business.

(2) Give notice to the membership of the time and place for holding reunions.

(3) Maintain all Association files and records.

(4) Prepare and distribute a newsletter, semi-annually, to all members that are current on their dues.

(5) Receive monies payable to the association, insuring that these funds are deposited into the Associations authorized account at the earliest reasonable time.

(6) Prepare all drafts against Association funds for settling Association debts, as authorized by the President and in accordance with these bylaws.

(c) BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

(1) The Board shall consist of not less than five members.

(2) The immediate past President of the Association shall be seated as a member of the Board and shall be replaced by the next immediate past President.

(3) Of the four elected Board members, one shall serve for a period of eight (8) years, one for a period of six (6) years, one for a period of four (4) years and one for a period of two (2) years. The member serving for the two year period shall also serve as Chairman of the Board.

(4) The Chairman shall automatically assume the office of President, should that office become vacant for any reason.

(5) The Board shall direct the President as to the frequency and location of reunions.

(6) The Board of Directors shall meet at the discretion of the Chairman. These meetings may be person to person, via telephone conference or correspondence.

#### ARTICLE V - COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committees shall be appointed by the President, but shall not exceed the tenure of the Presidents term of office.

(b) The Chairman of all committees shall be designated by the President. The Chairman shall appoint members to serve on his committee.

#### ARTICLE VI - VOTING

(a) Regular and Associate members in attendance at properly assembled Association reunions shall be eligible to vote on matters limited to Association business. Proxy voting is permitted, providing the intent of the absent member is clear.

#### ARTICLE VII - BY-LAWS

(a) Amendments. Amendments may be made either at a designated reunion or by mail ballot of the general membership.

(b) Changes. Any change to the By-Laws shall be by written ballot, with a simple majority required for ratification. A change is defined as any alteration that materially affects the intent and/or meaning of the Article being considered.

(c) Additions. Additional Articles will be ratified by secret ballot, and a simple majority is required for ratification.

(d) Corrections. Corrections to the By-Laws that changes, neither the meaning or intent of the Article under consideration will be determined by the Association Officers. Notice of such correction will be presented at the next regular Association reunion or by newsletter. Two-thirds of the membership present at a properly assembled reunion, may overrule a correction on the grounds that the correction presented does not meet the definition as stated herein.

COAST GUARD COMBAT  
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