



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 15, Number 3

Fall 2000

KY Reunion Gets Rave Reviews!

New CGCVA Officers Elected; Several Senior CG Officials Attend

The 8th Biennial Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association Convention & Reunion, held in Ft. Mitchell, KY, October 22-26, 2000 and judging from comments of those who participated, it was the best ever.

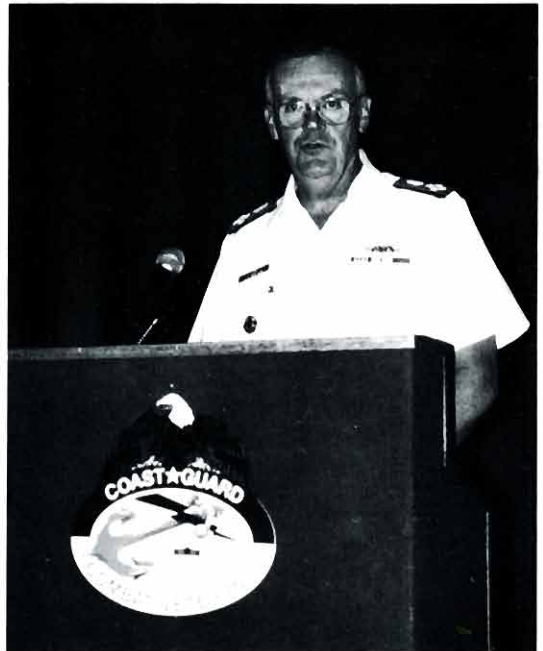
Of course, the convention often sees a change over in association leadership and the 2000 reunion was no exception. Jack Campbell, CGCVA vice president from 1996-2000, was elected to lead the association the next two years. He will be assisted by *Quarterdeck Log* editor Ed Swift, the new vice president, and Terry Graviss, the new secretary-treasurer. Herb Weinstein and Pat Denney were elected as 4-year trustees.

New CGCVA Auxiliary officers are Shirley Ramsey as president, Mare Swift as VP, and Jennifer Graviss as secretary-treasurer.

The 2000 convention also boasted an impres-



Outgoing CGCVA President Joe Kleinpeter presents plaque to Liz Scotti, outgoing Auxiliary president for her service as newly elected CGCVA President Jack Campbell assists.



Coast Guard Commandant ADM James Loy addresses the gathered CGCVA membership at the annual Business Meeting. The next evening, Coast Guard Chief of Staff VADM Timothy Josiah, served as guest speaker.

sive group of senior Coast Guard officials, including the Commandant, ADM James Loy. Coast Guard Chief of Staff VADM Timothy Josiah, 8th District Chief of Staff RADM (selectee) Kevin Eldridge, and Master Chief of the Coast Guard Vince Patton also attended. This truly attests to the CGCVA's fine reputation. Complete reunion coverage and photos continue on page 16.



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John W. Campbell, LM
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Jane Maxwell, PNP, National Vice President
Nancy Burke, National Secretary/Treasurer

THE QUARTERDECK LOG

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David Teska, LM Associate Editor

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LM; Chairman, By-Laws; William G. Miller, LM,
Chaplain; Robert J. Maxwell, LM, PNP, Budget
Director/Convention Planning Director, Sidney
Weinstein, LM, Sales

The Administrative office is for contact with the Coast
Guard Combat Veterans Association for all matters,
i.e. change of address, membership, tax-deductible
contributions and articles and photos for the
Quarterdeck Log.

From the President

Dear Shipmates:

What a great reunion we had and glad to see so many in attendance. I thought there would be a void in my Coast Guard life after being relieved as CGCVA president but not so. I have reviewed my list of CGCVA goals & objectives and charted a course to achieve them.



JOE KLEINPETER

As for our new administration, "the watch is set" as we used to say. I am proud of all of you and know we are going to carry on publicizing Coast Guard combat history through mutual association and work for the good of our great Service.

Special thanks to distinguished CGCVA member and Coast Guard Commandant, ADM Jim Loy for taking the time from a very busy schedule and attending our business luncheon. We were very proud!

Our Awards Banquet guest speaker, VADM Timothy Josiah, the Coast Guard Chief of Staff, gave a splendid speech on Coast Guard activities and the overall status of the Coast Guard.

I had the pleasure of introducing MCPO-CG Vince Patton, the Coast Guard's senior enlisted person, at the Awards Banquet and presenting him a special award for promoting Coast Guard combat history. (continued on page 24)

Quarterdeck Log

Statement of Purpose

This publication is designed to be an instrument of information and inspiration for all who hold allegiance to the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association. Please be aware that any mistakes in this publication are there on purpose and for a purpose; we publish something for everyone and some people are looking for errors!

From the Vice President

First things first... I'd like to thank the members who attended our Convention & Reunion for placing their trust in me to lead our fine Association for the next two years. Like the CGCVA presidents who preceeded him, Joe Kleinpeter did an exceptional job and I pledge to carry on the good work that the CGCVA has done for our members and the Coast Guard.

I'd like to stress once again the importance of providing information on Coast Guard combat history and our organization to the young men and women starting their careers in the Coast Guard. For the past several years now we have provided CGCVA watches and certificates to graduating enlisted personnel at Cape May, NJ who finish first in physical fitness for their company. I recently made similar presentations to cadets at the Coast Guard Academy in

New London, CT and I hope that will also become a CGCVA tradition. It's a very small investment with huge potential dividends for the CGCVA. So, if any CGCVA members find themselves in the Cape May area on a Friday, let the training



JACK CAMPBELL

center leadership know you're there and don't be surprised if you're asked to make the CGCVA presentation to the graduating recruit.

I hope we will be able to increase our membership during the next few years. We are losing our WWII members by attrition so we have to double our efforts to attract eligible members from other more recent campaigns.

(continued on p.24)



Sample CGCVA certificate and mens and womens CGCVA watches presented to graduating recruit who places tops in their company for physical fitness.

From the Editor

Whew! What a great Reunion! It was one highlight after another and I applaud the efforts of our Reunion Committee. Of course they snookered me into running the bar which was more of a job than I expected but I guarantee nobody died of thirst. My thanks to the three Andrus brothers (David, Mark and Scott) and Jack Signorelli for assisting me as bartenders throughout the four days... you guys were really lifesavers.

I certainly had more than my share of visibility at the convention. Besides working the bar, I was honored at the Opening Ceremonies by being made a Kentucky Colonel. I am very proud of



ED SWIFT

this and I thank you all.

At our business meeting I was nominated for the position of CGCVA national vice president and was subsequently elected so I'll be busier than ever representing our fine Association and trying to sign-up new members. Thanks for your trust in me — I'll do my best. As the father of two active duty service members, I ask you to reflect upon the recent attack

on the *USS Cole*. I hope everyone understands the price that was paid in American lives and let's always support the many fine men and women who serve in all five of our nation's armed forces. Thanks again and Semper Paratus! **Swift**

From the Secretary-Treasurer

Helping The Children

I want to thank everyone for allowing me to serve as your secretary-treasurer for the past several years. I have truly enjoyed serving and hope my service to the Association was as rewarding to you as it was to me. One program I am especially pleased to be part of is assisting the children of the cities where we hold our biennial conventions. I am proud to report that we presented more than 300 stuffed animals, along with \$500 to the City of Ft. Mitchell, KY. When I saw that you had remembered to bring your animals and we were getting several bags of them, I was very proud of you. I guess that's why I choked up so bad trying to thank you and show you how much I appreciated your support. Of course my wife Nancy is the one who suggested the program and I went along with it. Because of her, I made the proposal to the Officers and Board of Trustees who immediately approved it at Corpus Christi, TX. It was well received there and it was again well received in Ft. Mitchell. You, the members supported this program so I hope that wherever we end up going for our next Convention & Reunion that you will again support it. It really is a great way to show the various cities that we care about their city and are willing to contribute to the children to show it.

Changing Of The Guard

We now have a new president, Jack Campbell, along with some new young blood. Swifty, whom you all know from the *Quarterdeck Log*, is your new vice president and Terry Graviss is your new secretary-treasurer. Please support them and show them that you care about the Association

as these new officers certainly do. In order for them to be successful, they must have your support so please start volunteering to carry a portion of the load. If you have what you feel to be a good idea or suggestion, please let them know about it. It might not be something that will be set in motion but then again it might be just what they are looking for. I fully understand that many of our members are getting up in the years but we can all still help



ED BURKE

out in some way for the Association. Your new president isn't any "spring chicken" but he willingly signed on to do a big job and he needs your help. See what you can do and see how much better you feel for it.

Wrapping It Up

Again, thank you for your support for me as secretary-treasurer. I will still be around of course but now working with Bob Maxwell on the Convention Committee and site selection. I will also be working with Swifty as CGCVA liaison with Coast Guard Headquarters and assembling an "Operations

Manual" for the Association. Take care all and remain Semper Paratus!
Ed Burke, LM

Editor's Note: I want to personally thank Ed Burke for his stellar work for the Association over the years and for encouraging me to take the reins as QD Log editor eight years ago. I've thoroughly enjoyed his company, good counsel and sharing ideas with him to improve the newsletter, the Association, and the Coast Guard. Thanks Ed!



Mayor Thomas E. Holocher (left) accepts over 300 stuffed animals for the children of Ft. Mitchell, KY from Nancy Burke, coordinator of the toy drive, and CGCVA National President Joe Kleinpeter. A check for \$500 was also presented to the mayor for this program.

Reunions — Notices

CGC Campbell

The 16th annual reunion of the USCGC Campbell (W-32 - W-909) Association will be held 9-12 May 2001 at the Holiday Inn, New Orleans West bank, in Gretna, LA. All hands who served in the *Campbell* (W-32) during the 47 years she served her country, as well as all current active duty and former crew members of the *USCGC Campbell* (WHEC-909) are welcome and urged to attend. For more details, contact **James Kelly** at 40 Lisa Lane, Uncasville, CT 06382. Ph: (860) 848-1160. E-mail address: jkelly@uconnect.net.

CGC Rush

Trying to put together a reunion for crew members of the *CGC Rush* (1970-71). No site chosen yet; still in the works. If you served on *Rush* during this period or know of others who did, please call or refer them to **John A. Vogel** at 1311 West Sixteenth Pl., Yuma, AZ. Ph: (520) 783-3625.

Coast Guard CW Operators

At the first convention of the USCG CW Radio Operator's Assn., held 2-7 Nov 1999 in Las Vegas, NV, a decision was made to modify membership qualifications for the association. Due to the worldwide shut down of CW radio stations and the natural "shrinkage" that will take place with the CG Radio Operators, membership is now open to anyone who ever used CW communication (military, commercial or ham operators). For more information, contact: **RMCS Larry Polito, USCG (Ret.)** at P.O. Box 55388, North Pole, AK 99705.

- I used to have a handle on life, but it broke!
- Last night I lay in bed looking up at the stars in the sky and I thought to myself, "Where the hell is the ceiling?"
- People who keep dogs are cowards who haven't got the guts to bite people themselves.

CG 255' Sailor Reunion II

The 2nd reunion for all crew members who served on board the Coast Guard 255's will be held 6-10 May 2001 in Las Vegas, NV. Contact: **Doak Walker** at P.O. Box 33523, Juneau, AK 99803.

Flotilla #1

Looking for any members of 83-footers 83467, 83469, and 83472 that were stationed at Manicani Island, PHILSEA-FRON, USCG PTC Flotilla #1 in 1945. We were shipped there on the Liberty ship *SS Frank Wiggins*. Contact: **Harry A. Smalling** at 614 Passaic Ave., Clifton, NJ 07012.

LST-16

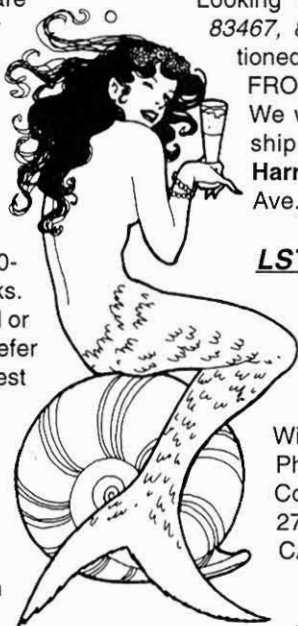
The first ever reunion for WWII crewmen of *LST-16* is in the planning stages. If interested, contact (on the East Coast) **Joseph Niemec** at 6324 Witherole St., Rego Park, NY 11374. Ph: (718) 896-2458. On the West Coast, contact **Dominic Pizzulli** at 2700 Neilson Way, Santa Monica, CA 40405. Ph: (310) 396-1150.

Mounted Patrol

Trying to locate anyone who served in the Coast Guard Mounted Patrol, stationed at Currituck Lighthouse in Corolla, NC (Outerbanks) during WWII (1943). Please contact **Thomas C. Nichols** at 145 Highway Dr., Versailles, KY 40383. Ph: (606) 873-3355.

Potential Reunions

LST-831 — I served aboard *LST-831* during WWII and so far, I've only run across one other crew member. I would like to hear from anyone who served on this vessel in hopes of having a reunion. Contact **Joseph Furciato** at 9 Thixton Ave., East Rockaway, NY 11518



Reunions — Notices

LST-66 — We served on board *LST-66* in the Pacific during WWII and would like to contact former shipmates for a possible reunion. Contact either **Peter (Casanova) Chase** at 244 Cresta Dr., San Francisco, CA 94127. Ph: (415) 584-9430 or **Frank Dettner** at (530) 878-7035. E-Mail: frnknsuz&jps.net.

CGC Haida — I'd like to hear from any crewmen who served in the *CGC Haida* from Nov. 1941-44. Please write to **James J. Griffiths** at HC 61, Box 8, Hayes Center, NE 69032.

USS Hurst (DE-250)

A reunion of eighteen shipmates from the WWII CG-manned destroyer escort *USS Hurst*, along with wives, companions and guests, was recently held in Baton Rouge, LA as part of the 17th gathering of the Hurst Family. The next Hurst reunion will be 10-13 Oct 2001 in Pittsburgh, PA and all former crew members are cordially invited.

American Legion CG Post 1529

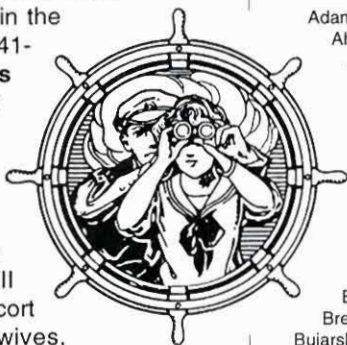
In the spring of 1947 in Buffalo, NY, the Coast Guard American Legion Post was formed by 75 men and women who served in the USCG during WWII. Currently, members meet at American Legion Post 264, located at 60 Main Street in Tonawanda, NY 14150. They are looking for additional members so, if interested, call (716) 692-9138 for more information.

Request From The BBC

Mr. Dominic Sutherland, a BBC researcher, is trying to locate WWII Coast Guard veterans from the *USS Icarus*, *USS Dione*, *Edu II* and *Jay-Tee*. He's doing research on those vessels, North Atlantic convoys and German U-boats. He can be reached at dominic.sutherland@bbc.co.uk on e-mail or by phone at 0044-208-752-6532.

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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Rodney Young. royoung@bright.net



If CGCVA attendees were thirsty at the Kentucky reunion they had to look no further than the bar in the Hospitality Room. The three Andrus brothers (l to r) David, Scott and Mark, were ready, willing and able to provide needed refreshment. By the way, all three have joined the CGCVA Auxilliary so consider recruiting family members of CGCVA members... we can use great help like the Andrus'.

Saluting Top Recruits

Any CGCVA member who happens to be at Cape May Training Center for the weekly Friday graduations is welcome to present the CGCVA-sponsored Physical Fitness Award to the winning recruit — a certificate and CGCVA watch. This is a great way to get new Coasties familiar with the our Service's distinguished combat history and also with our Association.

Since the last *QD Log* issue, the following recruits have received the CGCVA-sponsored Physical Fitness Award:

SN Timothy A. Rochman (Victor 156) of St. Louis, MO, will report to CG Station Fort Pierce, FL.

FA Aaron C. Mares (Xray 156) of Ventura, CA, to *CGC Liberty*, Auke Bay, AK.

SA Donald B. Wilson (Yankee 156) of Houston, TX, to CG Station Mobile, AL.

SA Seth W. Haynes (Zulu 156) of Ormond Beach, FL, to RD-A School, Yorktown, VA.

FA Steven R. Zucchi (Alpha 157) of Newark, NJ, to *CGC Forward*, Portsmouth, VA.

Notices — Association News

FA John R. Kovacevich (Delta 157) of Houston, TX, to *CGC Decisive*, Chattanooga, TN.

SN Zee O. Lee (Echo 157) of Newark, NJ, to CG Station Curtis Bay, MD.

FA Brek C. Murray (Foxtrot 157) of Syracuse, NY, to *CGC Morganthau*, Alameda, CA.

SA Frederick T. King (Golf 157) of Wilmington, NC, to ET-A School, Petaluma, CA.

SA Ryan J. Parker (Hotel 157) of Cleveland, OH, to *CGC Venturous*, St. Petersburg, FL.

SA James D. Green (Kilo 157) of El Paso, TX, to *CGC Chase*, San Diego, CA.

SA Anthony C. Duckworth (Lima 157) of Memphis, TN, to CG Station Buffalo, NY.

SN Brandon P. Hayward (Mike 157) of Sacramento, CA, to *CGC Midgett*, Seattle, WA.

SA Matthew G. Seel (November 157) of Charleston, SC, to CG Station Georgetown, SC.

SN Peter T. Grunkemeyer (Oscar 157) of Columbus, OH, to *CGC Joshua Appleby*, St. Petersburg, FL.

Thanks For Giving Me So Much Ink

My thanks to the *QD Log*. You went far beyond my expectations, for which I thank you, and I know all those other crew members and officers at least spiritually thank you. When one is involved in a war time highly classified and top secret project like LORAN, it's history is often lost in the shuffle.

I still can't believe how much of the story you included in the issue, with photos and a great

layout. Wish all those who were involved in the story could have read about their efforts. Thanks again!

John M. Shea



Editor's Note: Asst Editor David Teska did the real work behind editing this fine story provided by Mr. Shea. Also, Mr. Shea himself provided a wide selection of photos to compliment his article. It's always easier to do good work when you have good materials to work with.

Summer 2000 Feature Article

I found the featured article by John M. "Jack" Shea in the last *Quarterdeck Log* to be a most rewarding addition

to my personal knowledge of our elite organization. It makes me even more proud to have served in the Coast Guard knowing that these men of the "Aleutian Belle," (PB Y-189) had contributed so much in the service of our great country during WWII... true to their creed of "Semper Paratus."

Leonard J. Cisco

The Military Wife

I'm not in the chain of command, orders I do not get. But my husband is the one who does, this I can not forget.

I'm not the one who fires the weapon, who puts my life on the line. But my job is just as tough. I'm the one that's left behind.

My husband is a patriot, a brave and prideful man. And the call to serve his country, not all can understand.

Behind the lines I see the things needed to keep this country free. My husband makes the sacrifice, but so do our kids and me.

I love the man I married, soldiering is his life. But I stand among the silent ranks known as the Military Wife.

Author unknown



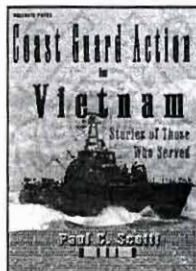
John M. Shea

“FS's, The Little Ships That Could”

That's the title of a recent book written by George P. Alton. It's the story of the U.S. Army, Coast Guard-manned freight supply (FS) ships during WWII and is oriented toward FS veterans and their family members. It provides a first-hand idea of what life was like aboard one of those little vessels during the war in the Pacific. For more information on this book or to obtain a copy, contact **George P. Alton** at 2524 Longview Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577.

“Coast Guard Action in Vietnam”

Another CGCVA member, Paul Scotti, has written a well-crafted and engaging history of the Coast Guard's unusual and dangerous involvement in Vietnam. From the haunting account of the U.S. Air Force's accidental and fatal attack on the Coast Guard patrol boat *Point Welcome*, to



the gripping description of sea battles with North Vietnamese gunrunners, Scotti leads his readers on an exciting sortie into the little-known world of the Coast Guard in Vietnam. His book includes photos and a well-researched historical overview of perhaps the

least understood branch of the military.

You can receive a review copy of “Coast Guard Action in Vietnam — Stories of Those Who Served” by writing to Hellgate Press, P.O. Box 3727, Central Point, OR 97502 or by calling (800) 228-2275.

Korean War Veterans Assn., Inc.

Many Korean War veterans feel that their

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.

Association News



efforts in defense of liberty and democracy have nearly been forgotten in the five decades since that Sunday afternoon when war erupted in "The Land of the Morning Calm." The Korean Conflict cost 54,246 lives in 37 months and two days, and 8,177 are still listed as MIAs. Because a peace treaty has never been signed, the war continues to this day — the longest war in America's history.

If you served in Korea from 1945 to the present, or anywhere during the Korean War era (June 1950 - January 1955), consider joining the Korean War Veterans Association. Write them at P.O. Box 10806, Arlington, VA 22210.

So That's Who That Was

In the last issue of the *QD Log*, there was a reference to "a Korean veteran from Hampton, NH." Unfortunately, the person who submitted the article could not identify the Coast Guard vet. Well that's one way to find out who's reading the magazine. Not long after that issue hit the street, CDR Peter D. Corson, USCG (Ret.) wrote to say he was that unidentified Coast Guard veteran.

Corson, in fact, had been issued orders from the commandant to represent the Coast Guard at the annual Memorial Day ceremonies in Annville, PA.

Corson was also asked to represent the Coast Guard at the ceremonies in Seoul, Korea but deferred to allow his commanding officer in

Korea, CAPT John D. McCann, USCG (Ret.) to attend.

Thanks for setting things straight commander.

If You Build It... They Will Come

Last year, I had the wonderful pleasure of participating in the Douglas A. Munro gravesite ceremony in Cle Elum, WA. This area has been greatly upgraded over the past few years and much of the credit goes to the local Chief Petty Officers Association chapter.

In my remarks I took a phrase from the movie, "Field of Dreams," which said, "If you build it, they will come." Well it came true. The chiefs had painted the chain and flag pole. They also painted the two 3"50 guns and replaced the flags with new ones. The entire area is really a showplace now and a fitting tribute to our Coast Guard Medal of Honor recipient.

September 27, 2000 marked the 58th anniversary of the heroic action and tragic death of Munro. This date also coincided with the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Munro exhibit located on the ground floor corridor of Munro Hall at Recruit Training Center, Cape May, NJ.

The Cape May event reminded me of the ceremonies a year earlier and again I mentioned, "If you build it, they will come." Once again it was the local CPOA chapter, led by the training center's command master chief, MCPO Dave Evans, that took the initiative to help preserve the Munro heritage by establishing a most impressive exhibit. This is not simply a sprinkling of photos and artifacts but indeed a world class exhibit. I highly encourage

all Coast Guard members and my fellow CGCVA members to visit the Munro exhibit when at Cape May.

There's no way that I can accurately describe this exhibit in terms of what it really looks like and the euphoric sense of understanding what a hero



Hosts of the annual Annville, PA Memorial Day Parade Carl and Mary Jane Gacano with Coast Guard Korean War veteran CDR Peter D. Corson, USCG (Ret.)

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really is. You have to visit it. There's absolutely no way that you can walk away from that building



The Douglas A. Munro gravesite in Cle Elum, WA.

and not feel the presence of Munro's spirit.

Douglas Munro is only the beginning of the story on my efforts to raise the visibility of embracing the history, heritage, and traditions of our Service. We have hundreds of stories that are waiting to be told. We have living legends as well as deceased Coast Guard heroes, whose selfless service to the Coast Guard has made them role models for defining what our core values stand for. We need to remember them all.

Remember, "If you build it, they will come."

MCPO-CG Vince Patton

United States Coast Guard Plaza

There is now a special part of Baltimore's Waterfront Promenade, situated next to the *USCGC Taney*, the last surviving warship from the attack on Pearl Harbor and one of Baltimore's National Historic Landmarks. The new attraction is called U.S. Coast Guard Plaza and it is dedicated to all of the men and women who wore the uniform of the U.S. Coast Guard in service to their country.

There are four sections, one of which is

dedicated to the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association and carries our logo. Interested members can purchase an engraved brick for the section of their choice. There is a section for the *CGC Taney*, one for the 327' Secretary Class cutters, and one listed as general. All proceeds benefit the preservation of the *Taney* and the educational programs of the Baltimore Maritime Museum.

Standard bricks are 8" x 4" and include three lines of 15 characters per line for \$100. Double bricks are 8" x 8" with four lines of 15 characters per line for \$250. All purchases are fully tax-deductible.

For more information on this worthy project, contact the Baltimore Waterfront Promenade, 802 South Caroline St., Baltimore, MD 21231 or call 410-396-3228, fax 3393.

Coast Guard Salutes SPARs

In September, the Coast Guard launched the new 225-foot buoy tender *Spar*, replacing the 52-year-old *CGC Ironwood*. The newest addition to the Coast Guard fleet is a testament to the service provided by the thousands of women who volunteered as SPARs during WWII. Fittingly, many SPARs made the journey to Wisconsin for the ceremonies, including Mary Passe from Seattle, WA and Muriel Olsen from Boston, MA.

Passe, who graduated high school in 1940, didn't tell her mother that she planned to join the war effort when she turned 20. She became the first SPAR from Seattle, enlisting December 2, 1942, and heading to boot camp in Cedar Falls,

Iowa. "I was used to the cold weather, but there was about two feet of snow on the ground there," she said.

Everything from emergency procedures to proper bed making was covered during the five-week training by Navy officers who were not above a little hazing. "They kept calling fire drills at about 2 a.m.," said Passe,



The *CGC Taney* at the Baltimore Maritime Museum next to United States Coast Guard Plaza.

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adding, "We would freeze our you know whats out there!"

As Passe took a train to her first assignment as a billing officer in Boston, Olsen was there, waiting for the day that she too, could become a SPAR.



Muriel Olsen (left) and Mary Passe, former SPARs, traveled to Wisconsin in September to see the launching of the Coast Guard's 225-foot buoy tender Spar.

"I couldn't wait to turn 20, the minimum age for enlistment," said Olsen, the granddaughter of a lighthouse keeper.

Olsen enlisted in May 1943 and, after training in New York for a month, got on a train and headed west to Seattle with about 30 other SPARs. During the week-long train ride, the women were segregated from the men, kept in separate cars and escorted to the dining car. Whenever the train would pass a curve, Olsen and her friends would peer out a window to sneak a peek at the men in the other cars.

"I know it sounds silly," she said. "But when you're 20 years old and you've got guards keeping you away from the boys, that's what's on your mind."

The SPARs were created in 1942 when the Coast Guard, like the

other military branches, found itself in need of more men at sea and on foreign soil. Women were assigned to shore positions such as clerks, parachute riggers and storekeepers.

"The war touched us, but in a different way," Olsen said. "But this wasn't something we did for fun. We did it because we were needed."

Even now, the 50 or so SPARs in the Seattle area still get together regularly and volunteer when the Coast Guard needs them, preparing props for oil-spill exercises and volunteering at the agency's annual picnic, among other things. It gives them a chance to help out but also to meet younger generations who never heard of the SPARs.

"Now we find these 19- and 20-somethings who had no idea what women did during the war. For years, no one had heard of the SPARs," Olsen said. "I'd hope we could be included in history in some way."

Editor's Note: This article was submitted by CGCVA member Eric G. Anderson. It was taken from an article written by Andrew DeMillo of the Seattle Times. Also, note the feature article on pages 27-28 regarding the decommissioning of the CGC Ironwood.



Mary Passe in 1943

"Taps" — The True Story

In a previous issue of the *QD Log* (and in many other publications), the origin of "Taps" was credited to a chance encounter between Union Army CPT Robert Ellicombe who reportedly found the body of his dead Confederate son after a battle near Harrison Landing in Virginia. In his son's pocket was a piece of paper with a series of musical notes which was supposedly played by a lone bugler at the son's funeral.

Here's the true story.

While the scene remains Harrison Landing, the central figure is Union BGEN Daniel Adams Butterfield who commanded a brigade in the Army of the Potomac during the

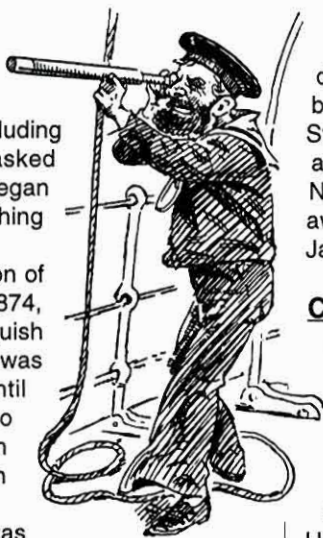
Peninsular Campaign of 1862. Butterfield believed that the French "Lights Out," which was played at the time, was too formal. He felt that the day's final call should be more melodious and smooth to bring comfort and peace to tired men.

Butterfield noticed that when his brigade bugler sounded a call (which would be picked up and repeated at once by all regimental buglers in the brigade) there was apt to be confusion, since other brigades were usually within earshot. Shortly after the battle of Malvern Hill in July 1862, Butterfield recalled a French bugle signal called "Tattoo," worked with his brigade bugler and aide de camp Oliver Wilcox Norton, lengthening and shortening some of the last 24 notes of the tattoo. When the two men finally achieved the sound that "would somehow express the idea of a darkening campground with tired men snuggling down to a peaceful sleep," the bugler was ordered to use the new call. Other buglers, including Confederates, soon asked for copies and also began playing the new, touching sound.

The first printed version of the bugle call was in 1874, under the title "Extinguish Lights." The bugle call was not called "Taps" until many years later and no reasonable explanation of the new title has been given.

The first time "Taps" was played at a military funeral was probably at the burial of a cannoneer in Virginia soon after General Butterfield provided his version. Union CPT John Tidball substituted "Taps" for the traditional gravesite rifle volleys, probably to help ensure that the enemy would not renew attack upon hearing rifle fire.

CAPT E. Webster, USCGR (Ret.)



WWII Diplomas Awarded

In July, CGCVA member Raymond Pasek was presented a special diploma from the government of France for his contribution in the fight to liberate France from the Axis Powers in WWII in 1944. The ceremony was held



CGCVA member Raymond Pasek (right) with Army Yankee Division veteran Thomas Zebrowski recently received diplomas from the French government for their participation in the liberation France during WWII

aboard the *USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67)* in Boston.

The diplomas, signed by Rene Garret, president of the Regional Council of the Normandy base, and Jean Pierre Masseret, Secretary of State for Veterans, were presented as a sign of appreciation to those veterans who landed at Normandy and went to liberate France. The awards were commissioned by French President Jacques Chirac. Congratulations Ray

Coast Guard Flag Flying High

A year ago, the *QD Log* reported that there was no USCG representation at the Greenup County, KY War Memorial and that efforts were underway to correct the situation. LT Eric Westerberg, senior investigating officer at the USCG Marine Safety Office in Huntington, WV, was instrumental in working with the Greenup War Memorial Committee to correct the oversight and, at the Memorial Day ceremonies held at the site on May 20, 2000, the Coast Guard



The Coast Guard flag joined other services at the Greenup County War Memorial on May 20, 2000.

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flag was raised along with flags from the other military branches.

A Coast Guard honor guard from the Marine Safety Office participated in the flag-raising ceremony and there were about 50 persons in attendance, including representatives from the American Legion, VFW, AMVETS and CGCVA. **Morris E. Lewis**



USCG Marine Safety Office Huntington, WV color guard members (l to r) CWO David Harris, BM3 Christopher Wolford, and MST2 David Nebel at the Greenup County War Memorial.

Surprise Award For Herbst

There are many activities that take place in the Grand Haven, MI (Coast Guard City, USA) area during the first week of August each year. One is the Coast Guard Festival Community Dinner, this year held at the Spring Lake Yacht Club with more than 200 Coast Guard personnel, visiting dignitaries, local officials and festival volunteers attending.



Retired Coast Guard Commander William Herbst (center) holds CGCVA Distinguished Service Award presented to him during the 2000 Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, MI by RADM James Hull (left) and CGCVA Vice President Jack Campbell.

At this year's dinner, CGCVA member William Herbst, a resident of Grand Haven, was presented the CGCVA Distinguished Service Award for his many years of volunteer contributions to the Association, the annual festival and to the Coast

Guard.

Presenting the award to Herbst were CGCVA Vice President Jack Campbell and 9th Coast Guard District Commander, RADM James Hull.

Herbst, a former president of the Coast Guard Festival, has been a member of the festival board of directors for 35 years. He joined the Coast Guard as a surfman in 1931 and retired in 1965 as a com-

mander. He served aboard the *CGC Escanaba* when it was stationed in Grand Haven.

Herbst played a lead role in the establishment of the CGCVA monument in Escanaba Park in Grand Haven and does a lot of work to promote the Coast Guard's combat heritage. Congratulations on the award Bill!

CGCVA Member Visits D-Day Museum

As a seaman on the Coast Guard-manned attack transport *USS Bayfield (PA-33)*, Chuck Berka took part in the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944. At 0630 that day, Berka's LCV(P) (PA-33-1) and others from the *Bayfield* began landing troops at Utah Beach.

Because Chuck had taken part in the landings and because his daughter Kate was born on June 6th, Kate and her sister, Elizabeth, insisted that Chuck and his wife, Irene, attend the opening of the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans, LA on June 6, 2000.

The museum celebrates the spirit, teamwork, courage, and sacrifices of the men and women who won WWII. It is the creation of Dr. Stephen E. Ambrose, who has spent 30 years researching and writing about D-Day.

In New Orleans, Chuck and his entourage enjoyed many festivities.

First, there were the opening ceremonies at the Georgia Dome. There, Dr. Ambrose presided and introduced speakers like former President

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Carter, broadcaster Tom Brokaw, and Secretary of State William Cohen. Also taking part were director/producer Steven Spielberg and actor Tom Hanks from "Saving Private Ryan." Senior military officers and government officials from other countries also participated, along with numerous military bands.

Following the opening ceremonies, there was a parade featuring drill teams, military vehicles and flyovers by a variety of military aircraft. The stand-out group during this event was the Coast Guard Silent Drill Team that provided a magnificent presentation.



CGCVA member Chuck Berka, a veteran from the D-Day landings at Utah Beach, in front of a LCVP replica at the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans. Chuck was coxswain on the USS Bayfield's LCVP (PA 33-1) and the replica's hull number also signifies being from the Bayfield.

As a birthday present for Chuck, daughters Kate and Elizabeth bought him a commemorative brick bearing his name, city and branch of service. The brick is one of many in the museum's "Road to Victory" exhibit.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

There is a movement to gain year-round recognition at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial for America's postwar casualties on a commemorative plaque that would be located near The Wall. This plaque would list veterans whose premature deaths after the Vietnam War were a direct result of their service but whose names are not eligible for placement on the The Wall.



CGCVA member Chuck Berka (right) and fellow USS Bayfield shipmate Joe B. Williams both took part in the D-Day landings at Utah Beach. The Bayfield went on to take part in the landings in Southern France, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

The museum itself features thousands of artifacts combined with oral histories, posters, props and videos. A prominent feature of the museum is a replica of the workhorse LCVPs that GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "Won the war." What makes the LCVP interesting is that it carries the hull number PA-33-2, one of those from the *Bayfield*. This is probably attributable to a USCG Reserve officer who was a leader in the building of the replica,



**CROSSED
THE BAR**



Gerald M. Rubino

Joined: 11-10-94 CTB: 6-29-00

Russell W. Robinson

Joined: 11-29-91 CTB: 9-4-00

Antoine Simon, LM

Joined: 9-19-91 CTB: 9-3-00

Chester P. Acaley

Joined: 5-23-94 CTB: 11-98

Philip H. Healey

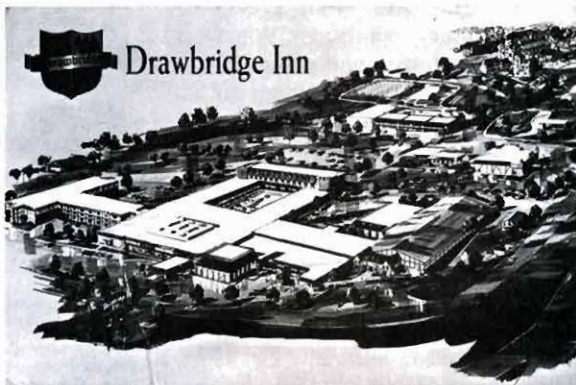
Joined: 10/1/92 CTB: 3/25/00

Convention & Reunion 2000

Date: Sunday, October 22, 2000
Place: The Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, KY
Time: 0930

With minimal fanfare and excitement, the Registration Desk and Hospitality Room were opened and the 8th Biennial Convention & Reunion of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association was officially under way.

Staffed by volunteers, primarily CGCVA Auxiliary members, the Registration Desk was the initial check point for arriving CGCVA members and guests. The bar was opened and the spacious "House of Tudor" Hospitality Room provided many interesting items. Original Coast Guard art was arranged on easels and a large number of 16" x 20" mounted WWII photos were displayed. There was a hand-made model of a Coast Guard 83-footer, an exhibit table provided by the Baltimore Maritime



Site of the 2000 CGCVA Convention & Reunion — The Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky.

— they won the Early Registration prize of a free stay at the hotel throughout the reunion, furnished by the Drawbridge Inn.

Monday, October 23, 2000
Time: 1600

President Joe Kleinpeter called everyone to order in the "House of Stuart Room," conveniently located right next door to the Hospitality Room. Chaplain Bill Miller gave the Invocation and a superb Presentation of the Colors was made by members of CG Marine Safety Detachment Cincinnati, led by CPO Alan Hayes. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Trustee Baker Herbert gave a Toast to the Flag. President Kleinpeter welcomed everyone and our Convention Chairman Bob Maxwell introduced special guests.

Mayor Thomas E. Holocher welcomed everyone to Ft. Mitchell and spoke briefly on the importance of service veterans. He also



Members of the MSD Cincinnati Color Guard included (l to r) CPO Alan Hayes, PO Kini Kloesz and CPO Hunter Pinney. Also participating but not pictured, PO Eric Davis.

Museum (home of the *USCGC Taney*), various pamphlets on the Coast Guard's wartime exploits, and our course, the CGCVA Ship's Store, ably manned by Baker Herbert and Herb Weinstein.

Throughout the day, convention attendees checked in, met old friends, swapped sea stories and enjoyed camaraderie. It was a great start to a great reunion. Just ask Robert & Evelyn Clink



Joe Kleinpeter holds up CGCVA proclamation presented by Ft. Mitchell, KY Mayor Thomas E. Holocher.

Convention & Reunion 2000

alluded to the attack on the *USS Cole* and the importance of serving our country in the armed forces. By the way, in keeping with the practice started at the Corpus Christi, TX Reunion in 1998, several CGCVA members brought stuffed animals



(Above) Mayor Holochoer addresses everyone at the Opening Ceremonies. (Left) Mr. Tom Lucas, State of Kentucky Representative, welcomes the CGCVA Reunion attendees.

with them for presentation to the mayor. The toys will be used by the Ft. Mitchell Police and Fire departments to give to children caught in fire, crime and other traumatic emergency situations. More than 300 stuffed animals were presented at this reunion, along with Association and individual monetary contributions totalling \$500. Way to go folks!

The next speaker was State of Kentucky Representative Tom Lucas. At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr. Lucas presented Joe Kleinpeter, Auxiliary President Liz Scotti and *QD Log* editor Ed Swift with "Kentucky Colonel" certificates. Also receiving the honor were Bob Maxwell, Ed Burke and MCPO-CG Vince Patton.



Coast Guard host CAPT Kevin Eldridge welcomes the CGCVA.

Coast Guard host in Kentucky, CAPT Kevin Eldridge, the 8th District Chief of Staff (and RADM selectee). CAPT Eldridge provided interesting information on Coast Guard activities throughout the 8th District and explained how the Coast Guard dealt with budget cuts and the increasing cost of fuel during 1999-2000.

Ed Burke read a letter from Coast Guard Commandant, ADM James Loy, welcoming everyone and citing the many noble projects carried out by the CGCVA. Ed also mentioned that ADM Loy would be attending the Tuesday Business Meeting but would be unable to attend the Wednesday Awards Banquet. The

CGCVA Coast Guard Person of the Year, ASTC George R. Cavallo was introduced, as were the remaining CGCVA and Auxiliary officers.

Music suddenly filled the room and a three-



New "Kentucky Colonels" Joe Kleinpeter, Liz Scotti and Ed Swift. Also receiving the honor were Bob Maxwell, Ed Burke and MCPO-CG Vince Patton.

piece band strolled in with horns blaring. Obviously it was time to start partying so the opening ceremonies were adjourned and everyone moved back to the House of Tudor Room.

Monday, October 23, 2000
Time: 0700

With busses running, reunion attendees who signed up for the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base tour gulped down coffee and made their

Convention & Reunion 2000

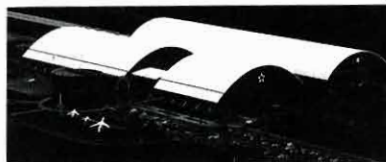


Following the exciting Opening Ceremonies, it was time to dance, drink, catch up with old friends, and make some new ones.



way outside.

Located near Dayton, OH, the base is home for the USAF Museum, the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world. Those who took this tour were treated to exhibits depicting aviation development from the days of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk to the space age — more than 300 aircraft and missiles in all.



*(Above) Museum and hangar complex at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
(Left) One of many aircraft exhibits at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum.*

Approximately 50 aircraft, including the Museum's collection of Presidential aircraft, are exhibited in two hangars on the historic Wright Brothers Field flight line.



**Tuesday,
October 24, 2000
Time: 1130**

The popular Hospitality Room was closed in order

for the more official portions of the reunion to take place — the CGCVA Annual Business Meeting and the Auxiliary Luncheon.

The CGCVA Business Meeting was called to order by President Kleinpeter and facilitated by Sec'y-Treasurer Ed Burke. Chaplain Bill Miller gave the Invocation and President Kleinpeter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADM Loy was introduced and took the time to eloquently describe the Coast Guard's current budgetary situation, the forecast for next year, and projects he is trying to get funded. He spoke of the "Deepwater" project which is a multi-year plan to replace the Coast Guard's aging deep-draft vessels and long-range aircraft. He also mentioned development of a

Those who did not participate in the tour met with friends and old ship-mates in the Hospitality Room, which remained open from 0930 until midnight.



Convention & Reunion 2000

new, much larger Coast Guard museum, a project in which the CGCVA could possibly play an active role. At the completion of his remarks, ADM Loy was escorted to a

table by BMC Marshall W. Smith, USCG (Ret.), a shipmate of the admiral when both served in the *USCGC Point Lomas* in Vietnam.



President Joe Kleinpeter presents a customized CGCVA ballcap to ADM Loy at the Business Meeting

Minutes from the last reunion were read. Reports were made by the appropriate officials and Vince Stauffer, the By-Laws Committee chairman, read two suggested changes that had been made within the time limits to be enacted.

After considerable discussion, a motion to open CGCVA associ-

ate membership beyond its current eligibility was voted against. Combining the offices of National

Secretary and Treasurer was approved.

The floor was opened for new business and several lively discussions ensued. Convention coordinator Bob Maxwell indicated that a specific location for the 2002 reunion had not been locked in but it appeared that the best deal for the CGCVA was in Reno, NV. Again, lively discussion ensued with a variety of locations suggested. Maxwell indicated he would check out all the other cities before signing a contract.

The last order of business was the nomination and election of officers for the period 2000-2002 and for two 4-year Trustees. Current National Vice President Jack Campbell was elected to serve as president and Ed Swift is now the vice president.

Terry Graviss was elected as secretary-treasurer. Our two new trustees are Herb Weinstein and Pat Denney. Appointed officers remained the same with the exception of the new Ways & Means chairman, Robert Macleod.

Chaplain Miller provided the Benediction and the meeting was adjourned by President Kleinpeter.

The CGCVA Auxiliary Luncheon took a lot less time and had more entertainment. All Auxiliary business was done prior to lunch, including the election of officers for the period 2000-2002. They included: President: Shirley Ramsey; Vice President: Mare Swift; and Secretary-Treasurer: Jennifer Graviss.

After lunch, the attendees were treated to a Committee Chairman Bob Maxwell escorts then introduces Liz Scotti as the Auxiliary Immediate Past President and Shirley Ransey (right) as the new Auxiliary President.



Jack Read makes a point during "new business" at the Business Meeting.



Past President Dick Stent reads a letter to the membership at the Business Meeting.



Convention & Reunion 2000



Mr. Paul Cora, historian at the Baltimore Maritime Museum, spoke of U.S. Coast Guard Plaza, the CGC Taney and other attractions at the museum.

rousing performance by the "High Stepping Grandmas." ADM Loy even popped in to say hello to the Auxiliary members and briefly danced with the "Grandmas."

With both luncheon meetings over, many folks moved next door to the Hospitality Room, which again stayed open until midnight. Still others piled onto busses for a Casino tour and cruise.

Wednesday, October 25, 2000
0930

The Hospitality Room opened and had a rush of business — mostly for coffee or Bloody Marys — by the large group leaving for a bus tour of the Northern Kentucky area and Cincinnati. After the museum and sightseeing, the group boarded one of the BB Riverboats for a two-hour luncheon cruise along



One of several BB Riverboats. Many CGCVA Reunion attendees opted for the Riverboat luncheon cruise.

the scenic Ohio River. Upon return to the Drawbridge Inn, many of the guests dropped in to the Hospitality Room for a quick drink before heading to their rooms to prepare for the Awards Banquet.

Wednesday, October 25, 2000
1800

Cocktail Hour signaled the start of the Awards Banquet and everyone had on their Sunday best.

Acting Parliamentarian, Bill Figone, bedecked in a kilt and Scottish garb, greeted guests as they arrived and said many of the ladies had cold hands.

Coast Guard Chief of Staff, VADM Timothy Josiah and Master Chief of the Coast Guard,

Vince Patton, mingled among the attendees and chatted with nearly everyone at some point. It was truly an honor to have these men participating in our convention and they really enjoyed themselves. Surprisingly, MCPO-CG Patton was unaware that his Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, earned during the Haiti Invasion, qualified him for the CGCVA. He was quickly given an application form and is now a member.

As the dinner hour approached, everyone found their places and the head table guests were escorted in and introduced. Jennifer Graviss, Bill Figone and Tommy Bowden did triple duty — escorting in one guest, then quickly returning to the entryway to pick up another. With the introductions complete, everyone sat down to a tasty dinner of either English Chicken or London Broil.

To top off the great meal, VADM Josiah gave a most interesting speech about today's Coast Guard and the Coast Guard of the new millenium. As Chief of Staff, VADM Josiah oversees the service's budgetary matters and makes crucial decisions regarding literally every



Trustee and Acting Parliamentarian Bill Figone greets banquet attendees in a skirt... I mean kilt.



Museum Center at Union Station

Convention & Reunion 2000

aspect of the Coast Guard. His insights and remarks were very well received and everyone learned a great deal about the service they once served in or still serve.

MCPO-CG Vince Patton was introduced by president Kleinpeter and gave brief but stirring off-the-cuff remarks regarding the significance of the Coast Guard's combat history and plans for its preservation.

Next on the program was the main event for the Awards Banquet — presentation of the CGCVA Coast Guard Person of the Year Award. This year's honoree, Chief Aviation Survival Technician George R. Cavallo, and his wife, Paula, attended nearly every event at the 2000 convention & reunion, and spent a lot of time interacting with the CGCVA members and guests.



LM Ray O'Malley

Our CG Person of the Year for 2000, Chief Cavallo, earned the Air Medal. The citation accompanying that award read in part:

"For heroic achievement in aerial flight while serving as rescue swimmer on CG rescue helicopter 6023 on the afternoon of January 5, 2000.

The aircrew was engaged in the perilous rescue of three survivors from the fishing vessel *Raduga* that had capsized off the coast of Kodiak, Alaska in a heavy snowstorm. Dispatched from Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak, the aircrew skillfully navigated the aircraft around terrain, through heavy snow, one-half mile visibility, and 40-knot winds.

Arriving on scene with the capsized vessel, Chief Cavallo immediately recognized that one of the survivors had not been able to make it into the *Raduga's* survival raft and was foundering in the stormy seas.

Deploying into the churning 25-foot seas, Chief Cavallo fought his way to the first survivor. As the rescue basket was lowered into the water to recover the survivor, he discovered that the victim's survival suit had filled completely with water, making him almost impossible to manage in the huge seas. Despite the towering seas, Chief Cavallo successfully placed the fisherman into the rescue basket enabling him to be safely hoisted into the helicopter.

Over the next 30 minutes, Chief Cavallo was deployed into the 25-foot seas two more times to recover the remaining fishermen.

With all three survivors safely aboard the helicopter, he immediately began warming the hypothermic survivors. His swift and decisive performance was instrumental in saving the lives of all three crewmen from the *Raduga*. His courage, judgement, and devotion to duty are most highly commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

Chief Cavallo received a standing ovation and made remarks inferring he didn't consider himself to be a hero — just a Coast Guardsman doing the job he had been trained to do. According to Cavallo, the true Coast Guard heroes are the people he was speaking to at that moment — the members of the Coast Guard



Jack Campbell presents service plaque to outgoing CGCVA National President Joe Kleinpeter.



Outgoing and incoming National CGCVA Presidents Joe Kleinpeter (left) and Jack Campbell (right) present service plaque to outgoing National Secretary-Treasurer Ed Burke.

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Combat Veterans Association.

The 8th biennial reunion had its share of a changing of the guard but before the newly elected officers could be sworn in, appropriate recognition was given to outgoing officers and those who have served with distinction in their respective posts or positions.

Bill Miller; Budget Director & Meeting Manager Bob Maxwell; and outgoing Auxiliary National Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Burke. Congratulations all!

Swearing-in the newly elected or appointed CGCVA officers was the last official portion of the Awards Banquet and Bob Maxwell did the hon-



Chaplain Bill Miller



Convention Coordinator Bob Maxwell



Trustee Ray Hertica



Trustee, PNP Al Grantham



Trustee Paul Scotti



By-Laws Chairman Vince Stauffer

CGCVA plaques were presented to outgoing National President Joe Kleinpeter; outgoing National Secretary-Treasurer Ed Burke; and outgoing Auxiliary National President Liz Scotti.

CGCVA Certificates were presented to outgoing National Vice President Jack Campbell; outgoing Trustees Paul Scotti, Ray Hertica and Al Grantham, PNP; By-Laws Chairman Vince Stauffer; Chaplain



President-elect Jack Campbell receives service certificate from outgoing President Joe Kleinpeter.

ors, assisted by VADM Josiah. To close the official proceedings, Bill Figone and Tommy Bowden professionally and precisely folded the American Flag while Ed Burke described the significance of each fold. It was an emotional and inspiring ceremony and a most fitting way to close the convention.

A special surprise followed the flag-folding ceremony — one that caught

Convention & Reunion 2000



Outgoing Auxiliary Nat'l Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Burke is presented service certificate.

Tommy Bowden off guard. It had been discovered that October 26 was Tommy's 70th birthday so a cake was brought in and everyone joined in by singing "Happy Birthday." If the heat from all the candles wasn't enough to warm everyone up, then the raffle and auction that followed really did.

Several gifts had been donated as raffle prizes and Ed Burke coordinated the picking of tickets. The first prize to go was a hand-crafted ceramic lightship in a glass case, donated by the Lightship Sailors Association (won by Terry Graviss). Next was a lighthouse hanging donated by Liz Scotti (won by Bill Figone), then a belt buckle donated by Patrick Ramsey (won by Vince Signorelli). The final prizes were a TV-VCR donated by the CGCVA (winner unknown) and a Halloween Ghost (donator and winner unknown). From the raffle, things moved on to the auction.

Terry Graviss not only took the reins as national secretary-treasurer from Ed Burke

but also the microphone. Terry showed he could have given Bob Barker a run for his money as he tried to "Make A Deal" for the CGCVA by auctioning two "interesting" items donated by Frenchy. All monies received through the auction went directly into the CGCVA account.



Newly elected and appointed CGCVA officers are sworn in at the Awards Banquet.

The first item was a two-foot stuffed alligator head. Bidding was slow at first but Terry and Frenchy rallied the crowd and the winning bid went to Ed Swift. Luckily, his wife, Mare, was out of the room at the time. When she returned to the table, she was met with a lot of laughter and a request to go get the checkbook.



Bill Figone presents surprise birthday cake to 70 year old Tommy Bowden.

and produced by a seriously disturbed taxidermist, it was an actual deer butt stuffed with the skull of a wild boar. Perfect for the Halloween season or for a group of Coast Guard Vietnam vets as a mascot. At least that's how it ended up as Terry O'Connell outbid everyone and proudly carried the "trophy" back to his table (while his wife Rene hid her

If you think an alligator head is a strange thing to put in your house, it is nothing compared to the second and final auction item — a wild fajita — as Frenchy referred to it. Apparently designed

and produced by a seriously disturbed taxidermist, it was an actual deer butt stuffed with the skull of a wild boar. Perfect for the Halloween season or for a group of Coast Guard Vietnam vets as a mascot. At least that's how it ended up as Terry O'Connell outbid everyone and proudly carried the "trophy" back to his table (while his wife Rene hid her

Past CGCVA National Presidents (l to r) Bob Maxwell, Dick Stent, Al Grantham and Joe Kleinpeter.



Convention & Reunion 2000

head).

Finally, as the crowd emptied out of the House of Tudor Room, most simply did two hard left turns into the Hospitality Room for continued camaraderie and fun. The convention was over but the final night saw many, many good friends and old shipmates wishing it could go on and on.

It was a most successful reunion by all accounts. Thanks to all who attended for making it such a success and let's make the next one even bigger and better!

Looking forward to 2002 in Reno, NV, or wherever we go!

Swiftly



(Above) Rene & Terry O'Connell with unidentified "guest" in Hospitality Room. Terry liked his friend so much he outbid everyone at the auction following the Awards Banquet to obtain Frenchy's "Wild Fajita."

(Right) The gift everyone wanted... the "Wild Fajita," courtesy of Frenchy.



From The President (cont.)

Vince briefed us about the efforts by the local Chief Petty Officers Association chapter at Cape May to build a museum at Munro Hall, and encouraged all CGCVA members to visit the training center.

A special thanks to Ed & Nancy Burke and Bob & Jane Maxwell for planning and executing a tremendous reunion. There are hundreds of tasks to be accomplished beginning a year or more before a reunion and this team worked diligently to accomplish them. Can you believe this bulldog of a Boatswain's Mate (Ed Burke) could get so emotional presenting toys for the kids of Ft. Mitchell. Well he did. He really is a teddy bear with a big heart and very devoted to the CGCVA and our Coast Guard.

Once again, I want to thank you for the privilege of serving as your national president and I look forward to meeting you at future events. Semper Paratus!

Joe Kleinpeter, LM, PNP

From The Vice President (cont.)

It truly was a great reunion in Kentucky, as I'm sure all who attended would attest to. The staff

at the Drawbridge Inn were most helpful and the accommodations there top shelf. It was the best reunion I have attended so far and much of its success should be given to our superb Convention Committee.

As you already know, I'm a big believer in having the Coast Guard's many stellar wartime exploits properly commemorated. I have had success in getting monuments established at locations such as Poole, England and Grand Haven, MI, and I hope to continue that program at other significant locations. Primary sites remain Ellis Island, NY and Pearl Harbor, HI.

And speaking of our many wartime exploits, I hope all CGCVA members did their part in Veterans' Day activities in their area. Proudly wear your CGCVA caps, clothing or pins at activities saluting veterans and remind everyone of the Coast Guard's wartime participation.

It has been a tremendous pleasure to serve as CGCVA vice president the past four years and I look forward to the next two years serving as president. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. Semper Paratus!

Jack Campbell

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)



CGCVA one size-fits all Baseball Caps

BASEBALL CAP: blue/black, gold-lettered "Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association," with CGCVA logo, one size fits all, plain visor ...\$11.00
Baseball Cap; same as above but white ...\$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; and Volume 3 (Stations) ...\$14.50. These booklets are spiral-bound and will be shipped 4th class mail or bound printed matter.

BUMPER STICKER: CGCVA ...\$2.00 each or 3 for 5.00

BOOK: "Coast Guard Navy of World War II" by William Knight. Coast Guard WWII history. \$30.00. limited supply)

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

CG GARRISON CAP: fore 'n aft, CGCVA Logo, white lettered "Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association." Must state size ...\$25.00



USCG Christmas Ornament

CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS: Pick from: USCG Insignia; 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 Eagle; CGC Mackinaw; Army; Navy; Air Force ...\$12.50 each (shipped in display box)

CGCVA EMBROIDERED LOGO: 4-inch ...\$5.00 2-inch CGCVA logo ...\$4.00

FLAGS: U.S., USCG, and CGCVA, 10" with stand...\$10.00

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



CG Bell HTL-4 Helicopter model kit

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

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

CGCVA Small Stores

WRIST WATCH: Stainless steel with CGCVA logo and calendar, waterproof, lifetime limited warranty, swiss movement. Comes in gift box. Limited supply. Available for men and women. \$55.00.



USCGC Point Hannon (WPB 82355) balsa wood model with standard USCG colors and markings

WRIST WATCH: CGCVA logo. Stainless steel back. Water-resistant with leather band. Available for men and women. \$25.00.

CGCVA T-Shirt: New item. CGCVA logo on T-shirt. Sizes large and XL \$7.00; size 2X \$8.00.

BALSA WOOD MODELS: 82-foot USCG Patrol Boat. Scratch built, no manufactured parts. Length is 10.25", scale 1/8"=1'. Based on standard USCG colors and markings. Instructions included.

to make model with name and number of choice as well as Vietnam configuration and markings. Kit is \$30.00 plus \$3.30 shipping via First Class. Completed model available for \$275.00 with \$25.00 going to CGCVA. Delivery time for completed models is two months from receipt of order. Cost of shipping is included. Order these models directly from John A. Culver, JAC models at 94 Marshview Circle, Seabrook, NH 03874. Ph: (603) 474-5764. E-mail: jships4u@thepipeline.net.



USCGC Point Banks (WPB 82327) with Vietnam markings and configuration.

CGCVA Membership

Greetings Shipmates:

As they say, "Be careful what you ask for..." I was just notified that I am now the CGCVA Membership Chairman so I'm asking for the help of all CGCVA members to increase our numbers. It's obvious that there's many, many eligible active, reserve, and ex-Coast Guard folks out there — we just have to find them and let them know about our fine Association.

Obtaining new members is a vital program but it can't be accomplished by just a chairman. To adequately cover the entire country, I'd like to ask for volunteers from all over to contact me and offer to help out with recruiting. I know that many of you have had considerable success so let's combine forces. We need a national plan, one that has consistency and is thorough. I ask for your ideas to develop such a plan.

In the meantime, I ask that every member try to recruit at least one new member, whether it be for the CGCVA (regular or associate member) or our Auxiliary. Make some copies of the CGCVA and Auxiliary membership forms that are included in the *QD Log* and put your name in the "sponsor" area. Carry a few copies with you when you attend reunions or patriotic events (and don't be afraid to hand them out). For those of you who are savvy with computers, there's many opportunities to advertise our Association and look for new members.

This really is important so please consider getting more involved. For those members who wish to become part of the Membership Committee, please let me know. Call me at (704) 263-0111, fax (704) 263-2031 or e-mail me at reliancepi@aol.com. Thanks! **Patrick Ramsey**

USCGC Ironwood Decommissioned After 57 Years of Service

by PA1 Keith Alholm, USCG

In the early morning autumn light, the 180-foot buoy tender looked like it had just finished its shakedown cruise and had been declared ready for sea. The bright work was shined and the faint smell of fresh paint hung in the air while crew members moved around the passageways with purpose. Some cleaned the galley after the morning meal while others busied themselves washing down topside. A petty officer on the bridge sipped coffee while he corrected charts for an upcoming trip. To someone unfamiliar with the Coast Guard, the ship might be mistaken as a new buoy tender making its first trip. But the ship's rounded shape and old-style bridges are just a few of the telltale signs that the *Ironwood* is from another era.

After nearly six decades of service, the ship is getting ready for another first — its trip as a “former” Coast Guard cutter.

Following 57 years of service, three wars and more than a half-million miles of sea passing beneath the keel, the *USCGC Ironwood* was decommissioned October 6, 2000, during a ceremony in Kodiak, Alaska. More than 250 people gathered to bid the vessel farewell and to honor past and present crews during the solemn and, at times, humorous decommissioning ceremony.

As a part of the ceremony, LCDR Joanna Nunan, the last commanding officer of *Ironwood*, gave a farewell speech to summarize the *Ironwood's* Coast Guard service.

Unlike some Coast Guard vessels, such as the *Bear*, *Hudson* and *Taney*, the *Ironwood* didn't have a singular event that placed it firmly in the annals of history. The only clues to its travels were the awards on the cutter's bridge wing and a thin folder containing a few historical documents.

Armed with a list of previous commanding officers, Nunan began compiling a partial oral record of *Ironwood's* history.

“If *Ironwood's* career had been set in a story or a movie, I never would have believed it,” said Nunan.

Ironwood's tale would be epic. It has seen eight different homeports. It saw the Coast Guard's transition from the Navy during WWII back to the Treasury Department and then to the Department of Transportation. It served 14 commandants, 34 command-

ing officers and more than 1,200 crew members. *Ironwood* participated in the space program, helped conduct nuclear test monitoring, and survived typhoons and groundings while still con-



Fireman Ian Barry of *Queenw*, NY, lowers the Coast Guard cutter *Ironwood's* commissioning pennant for the last time before the cutter's decommissioning ceremony.



Early photo of the *Ironwood* (date unknown)

Coast Guard Feature

ducting day-to-day aids to navigation operations throughout the Pacific Ocean.

According to Nunan, two things set the tone for her research of the vessel's history.

"The first is not really a story; it's a photograph that nobody can place, which made me painfully aware that we will never know the full Ironwood story," she said. The photograph was from a former commanding officer that showed the *Ironwood* hoisting a NASA space capsule from the water.

The second was a story about the cutter visiting the village of Shaktoik, AK, far north of the cutter's present-day operating area. While at Shaktoik, village elder Crazy Charlie All-Eye visited the *Ironwood*. According to Nunan's research, Crazy Charlie wasn't pleased when all he was offered was coffee during the cutter's visit. Their last Coast Guard visitor was the Revenue Cutter *Bear* under the command of CAPT Mike Healy. Apparently Healy had offered Crazy Charlie's father something a wee bit stronger than coffee (and in much larger quantities) during his visits.

Nunan told other stories relayed to her from previous *Ironwood* COs.

In Vietnam, *Ironwood* faced many hostile environments, one even coming from an American Army general who wanted a buoy placed on a

sandbar 30 feet above the waterline. The general wanted the job done "pronto" so, to oblige, the *Ironwood's* skipper ordered the vessel to run aground on the sandbar. "It took two days, three tugs and a bulldozer at the bow to get it afloat again," said Nunan.

Although it seems almost absurd to sail a buoy tender into battle today, *Ironwood* is a decorated war hero. It saw action in WWII, the Korean War and Vietnam. It helped establish the harbor on Midway Island during WWII and helped supply LORAN stations throughout the Pacific and patrol weather stations during the Korean War. *Ironwood* was the last U.S. military vessel on active duty to have served in the Korean theatre and carry the Korean Service Medal. During Vietnam, the cutter's crew even built a shoreside aid to navigation while the *USS Missouri* and its battle group shelled a nearby beach.

The *Ironwood* brought the first scientist back into the Marshall Islands a decade after atomic bomb tests.

The *Ironwood's* long Coast Guard service career has come to an end and it is awaiting sale to Nigeria. A day after its decommissioning, *Ironwood* set sail for San Pedro, CA where most of its crew will cross deck to the new 225-foot buoy tender *Spar*, set to arrive Kodiak in spring 2001.



The *Ironwood* in the paint scheme it wore from 1967 until "U.S." was added to its hull.

CGCVA Auxiliary News

Greetings all:

The Reunion in Kentucky has just ended. It was a great time with many new people, as well as old friends to visit with. The Auxiliary paid for the food which was served following the opening ceremonies and everyone seemed to enjoy the snacks.

At our Auxiliary Luncheon, we had our meeting over with before the food was even served. New officers elected are:

President -- Shirley Ramsey
Vice President -- Mare Swift
Sec'y-Treasurer -- Jennifer Graviss

I know they will all do a fine job for the Auxiliary during the next two years.

Our entertainment at the luncheon was "The

High Stepping Grandma's". These ladies, between the ages of 61-76, put on a lively program. ADM Loy even joined them with a couple of dance steps before speaking with us. The flowers for the banquet were purchased by the Auxiliary.

I want to thank everyone for making this reunion so special. I have many pleasant memories. Of course for me, the high spot was receiving a Kentucky Colonel certificate. It was quite a surprise and I understand not many women receive them.

As I write this, Paul and I are on the road headed for Tuscon, AZ, where we will spend the winter. You never know when you will see us, so keep the light on. God bless you all!

Liz Scotti, CGCVA Auxiliary PNP



Coast Guard Combat Veterans Auxiliary Membership Application

Name: _____ Date: _____
Last First Init.

Address: _____
Street or Box Number City State Zipcode

Eligibility: _____ Sponsors Name: _____
Wife, Husband, Daughter, Son, Other-Explain

Amount of Membership Dues enclosed: \$ _____ Dues: \$10.00 Every 2 Years

Make Checks Payable to: CGCVA AUX

Nancy Burke, Secretary/Treasurer

17728 Striley Drive,

Ashton, MD 20861-9763

CGCVA Form #3A (Rev. 12/96)

Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Please read before completing application: Limited to Students 23 years of age or younger. This Application must be accompanied with the following: Minimum of Two (2) Reference letters. (Teacher, Pastor, Lawyer, etc.) Copy of GPA, Applicant must have a 2.75 average, furnish personal history in own words, and statement from their sponsor. Must be a relative of the sponsor (Son; Daughter, Grandson or Grand daughter) of a member in good standing, and shall be a second year student of a junior college or a third year student of a four-year college. Must show financial need.

STUDENT'S NAME:

Last	First	Middle Initial	Date of Birth		
Address	Apt. #	City	State	Zip	Tel. #

Social Security # _____

This hereby authorizes the CGCVA to verify records from the applicable Institutions, and/or all other sources deemed necessary by the CGCVA.

SPONSOR'S NAME:

Applicants Signature & Date

Last	First	Middle Initial	CGCVA Exp. Date		
Address	Apt. #	City	State	Zip	Tel. #

Send Completed Application w/attachments to:

Bob Maxwell
P.O. Box 2790
Burney, CA 96013

Sponsors Signature & Date

Date Received: _____ Complete: Yes No

Received By: _____ Approved: Yes No

Awarded: _____
Date

Presenter: _____
Name

Mailed: _____
Date

cc: Nat'l. Secretary/Treasurer
Nat'l. President



Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please Print Clearly)

Personal Data

Name: _____ Date: _____

Last

First

Init.

Address: _____

Street

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: () - _____ Date Of Birth: _____

Do you have two(2) Residences? Yes No

If Yes, furnish the following information: (This is for the Quarterdeck Log mailings)

Address: _____

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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: \$ _____

Make Check/M.O. Payable To: CGCOMVETS

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Send To:

E. P. "ED" Burke, LM, National Secretary
17728 Striley Drive, Ashton, MD 20861-9763
Tel: Msg. or Fax (301)570-5664



Ed Burke, who has ably served as CGCVA Secretary and Treasurer for several years, took on a new job at the 8th Biennial Convention. His emotional remarks regarding the success of the stuffed animal drive for the children of Ft. Mitchell, KY at the opening ceremony resulted in his granting an interview with a local TV station. Ed described the history of the CGCVA and the many projects and programs the association carries out in support of its members and the Coast Guard. Luckily it wasn't a "60 Minutes" camera crew. Way to go Ed!

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

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