



# 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 20, Number 3

Fall 2005

## Improvise... Adapt... Overcome!

### *Hurricane Wilma Fails to Dampen Spirits at CGCVA Tampa Convention*

As Mare and I packed for our plane flight to Tampa, I felt a lot like the Clint Eastwood character, Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant Highway, in the movie *Heartbreak Ridge*. One of his trademark lines was, “Improvise... Adapt... Overcome!”

On October 18th, the weather forecast for Florida was very shaky as yet another storm, this one Hurricane Wilma, churned off Mexico. Dozens of predictions, several showing a path of potential destruction across central Florida, seemed to spell doom for the CGCVA's 20th Anniversary Convention & Reunion only days before it was scheduled to start. I had received several e-mail messages from concerned CGCVA members, many asking if the convention had been cancelled, plus phone calls from several others. My answer was a decisive “No!” but it couldn't help me from wondering if the long-planned reunion would be a washout. I decided not to worry about things I couldn't control and continued to pack.

Waiting at Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., the following morning, I continued to monitor the weather forecasts and even got a call on my cell phone from a concerned CGCVA member just as I was boarding my plane. Again, I assured him that the convention was still on. I got aboard and wondered how best to improvise, adapt, and overcome. The answer — a Bloody Mary, or maybe two. It turned out to be the right decision because less than two hours later we were in Tampa, Florida, enjoying a beautiful 82-degree sunny day. Things were looking up.

Upon arriving at the Busch Gardens Holiday Inn, I met with convention planners Bob Maxwell and Ed Burke who briefed me on various issues. A pre-convention meeting that evening with the Association officers and trustees called for a myriad of changes from our original plans but we all took it in stride. And, while the attending members and guests weren't aware of

these changes, or at least why they were necessary, it really was an ongoing challenge for us, requiring considerable latitude and flexibility. Again, and throughout the next four days, it

was improvise and adapt, and each time we overcame what could have been potential show-stoppers. It was a bit reminiscent of my 30-plus years active duty in the Coast Guard when things didn't always work out as originally planned but somehow the end result was even better. That's how I looked at this convention — some things weren't working out as anticipated but the changes that were being made, many on the fly, were resulting in creative alternatives, even some upgrades. And, most importantly, those who attended were enjoying themselves and all the activities available to them.

For a complete look at the Tampa convention, go to pages 8-19.

*(Left) Taylor Lapham proudly displays some of his collected USCG patches.*



*The outside “Hospitality Suite” at the Tampa Convention.*



## **Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association**

### **OFFICERS**

Gil "Frenchy" Benoit, LM, National President  
Paul C. Scotti, LM, National Vice President  
Baker W. Herbert, LM, National Secretary-Treasurer

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE\***

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\*use the Administrative Office for contact with the  
CGCVA on all matters

### **AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

Shirley Ramsey, National President  
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Jane Maxwell, National Secretary-Treasurer

### **THE QUARTERDECK LOG**

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Josh Sparrow, Assistant Editor

### **APPOINTEES**

Mike Placencia, Parliamentarian; E.P. "Ed" Burke, By-Laws Chairman, Budget Director and Convention Planner; William G. Miller, LM, Chaplain; PNP Robert J. Maxwell, LM, Convention Planner; Patrick E. Ramsey, LM, Membership Chairman; Robert F. MacLeod, LM, Ways & Means Director; Tom Huckelberry, Service Officer; and Bill Wells, Web Master.

## **From the President**

### **Greetings All:**

Thank you all for voting me your president for the new term. It will be very difficult to fill the shoes of those before me and I want to thank everyone in advance for the help they are going to provide. Swifty has left the organization in excellent shape. Thanks Swifty and Mare for all you have done and will continue to do.

Despite the few problems we had, the reunion was great. It was nice to see everyone had that old Coast Guard "CAN DO" spirit. It was especially nice to have VADM Thad Allen, his dad (a retired USCG chief damage controlman) and his brother-in law (a retired USCG captain) spend several days with us. I hope they enjoyed a mini family reunion and that VADM Allen was able to get some much needed R&R before going back to New Orleans to deal with the problems there.

I spent several days in Seattle recently, courtesy of Kent Bradley, an old icebreaker buddy. We tried to get to Cle Elum to visit the grave of USCG Medal of Honor recipient Douglas Munro but just my luck — the pass was closed because of snow and a rock slide. I did, however, visit the Coast Guard Museum of the Northwest at Base Seattle. The museum curator, CAPT E. L. Davis, USCG (Ret.) is quite the historian and gives you the full 50-cent tour.

More next newsletter. Recurit, recruit and most of all, spread the word about what the COAST GUARD does for a living. Sempar Paratus!

**Frenchy**



**Next QD Log deadline is Feb. 1, 2006**



## Thank You All!

Shipmates: Our Association is one we can all be quite proud of. We've enjoyed 20 years of camaraderie and good fellowship, plus we've been the architects of many projects to support the Coast Guard.

I've always enjoyed being an active CGCVA member, serving as the *QD Log* editor for more than 11 years, and representing our Association as both president and vice president. Now, as I stand relieved as president, I wish to thank all the fine CGCVA members who have helped me over the years. Our magazine remains a powerful communication tool and historical reference due to the many exceptional articles and photos submitted for publication by the membership. All of our officer and trustee positions are completely voluntary so my sincerest thanks to all who have chosen to help lead the CGCVA during not only my term but throughout the past 20 years. My thanks to our superb Auxiliary, whose members have donated incredible amounts of time, money and energy to support CGCVA projects. And thanks to every CGCVA member who has taken the time to "talk up" our Association and look for new members. We're all very different people but we've all joined together to make our Association a very strong and solvent one. Thank you all for your continued support as we start our second 20 years.

## Unexpected Recognition

As proud as I am to have served in a leadership role with the CGCVA, I couldn't have been more pleased or surprised when our Association was presented the Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award from VADM Thad Allen at the Tampa Convention. Having the CGCVA recognized for its 20 years of service to the Coast Guard is a tremendous honor and the award is a testament to the work done over the years by you, the members. This is the highest public service award that the Coast Guard can bestow upon an individual or organization and it is the equivalent of the Gold Lifesaving Medal. Congratulations everyone! Bravo Zulu!

## As We Move Ahead

I am delighted to see that two of our Association's found-



ing members, Gil Benoit and Paul Scotti, are now serving as our president and vice president. They both have tremendous credentials and have been actively involved in the CGCVA's growth the past 20 years. Please give them the support you have always provided and they will lead our Association into a most productive third decade of good work towards CGCVA members and the entire Coast Guard.

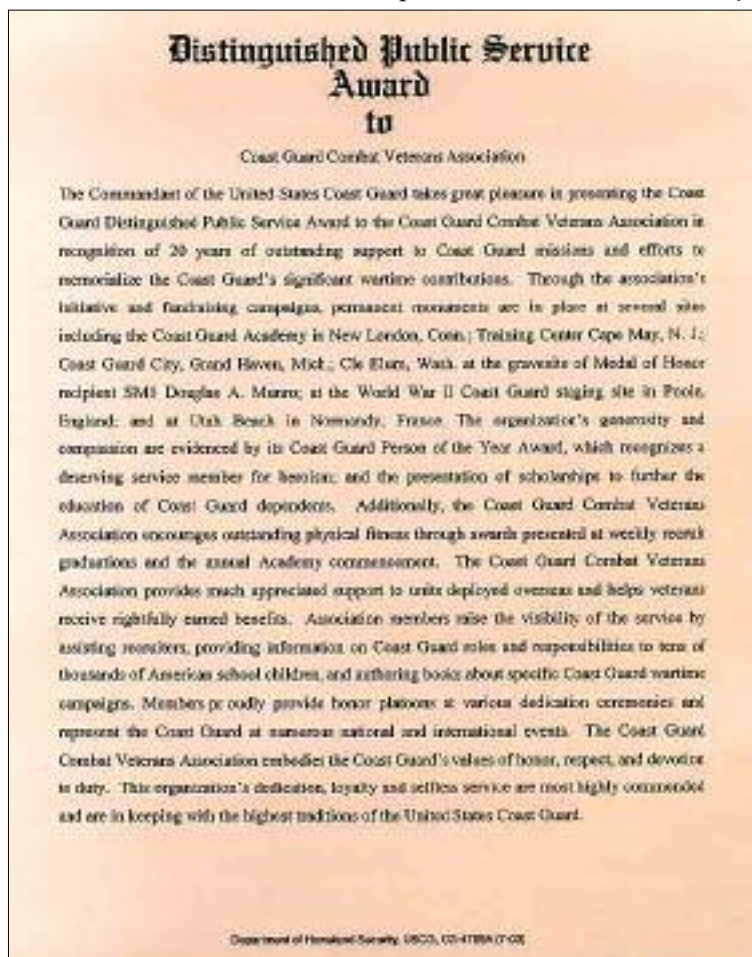
Also, please welcome on board new trustee Terry O'Connell and new Parliamentarian Mike Placencia.

My thanks to all who have contributed to the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Hurricane Katrina Fund. Your donations have been used to assist hundreds of Coast Guard families impacted by the tragedy.

Also, my thanks to the entire Andrus Family for their generous donations and continued support!

Semper Paratus!

Swiftly



## Tampa Convention

Thank you Swiftly for giving the Association so much of your time as our President and *QD Log* Editor. Thanks to Mare also (for putting up with you!). Bob & Jane Maxwell and Ed & Nancy Burke were on the job, as they say, "24-7", throughout our Reunion. Marylou and I were delighted to see Gil & Linda Benoit, Paul & Liz Scotti, and Noel Bell. At least four of the fabulous 15 from 1985 were on hand to celebrate 20 years of friendship, memories and sea stories.

## No Ticki... Non Laundry...

...Or in this case, no address change, no *QD Log*. Really not a difficult concept, so if you move in any direction, including next door, please send me that address change. Our computer is unable to do winter/summer addresses. I do appreciate changes received. Thanks!

## Dues Increase

At our Tampa Convention Business meeting, it was voted to raise CGCVA membership by \$2.50 per year so now a 2-year membership will cost \$30. Note: This obviously does not apply to CGCVA Life Members!

CGCVA Life membership rates will remain the same so if you opt to do that, please send me a check in the appropriate amount. Rates are: Under age 30 (\$200); 31-40 (\$185); 41-50 (\$165); 51-60 (\$145); 61-70 (\$115); 71-80 (\$85); 81-89 (50); and Age 90 and up (No cost).

## Association Finances

Our financial records were audited by PNP Jack Campbell and PNP Bob Maxwell prior to the Tampa Convention. They reported that all was in order and this was verified with our banks. As of 1 October 2005, our Association had cash assets of \$53,527.62. Our By-Laws, as per vote at the Tampa Business Meeting, have been changed to allow for a Life Member reserve of about \$30,000. This amount will change from time to time since we must retain \$35 in reserve per Life Member. I will include an end-of-year report in the Winter 2005 *QD Log*.

## Treasurer's Report & Financial Report

The complete Treasurer's Report that was read and approved at the Business meeting and the partial Financial Report (1 January 2005 - 30 September 2005) are included in this *QD Log* issue

## QD Log "Boosters Club" Formed

I reported at the Tampa Business Meeting that our Association's single largest expense is the printing and mailing of our quarterly magazine, the *QD Log*. Our editor, PNP Ed

Swift, has investigated several ways to save money but none were deemed desirable since it would entail either producing less issues (currently four per year) or the number of pages (currently 32 per issue). Such cut-backs really don't save much money, nor would reverting from full color back to black-and-white. It has been mentioned many times by our own members and folks outside the CGCVA that the *QD Log* is the finest reunion organization magazine out there so why scale it back in terms of quality.

CGCVA member John Mahoney suggested we start a *QD Log* "Booster Club" and use all proceeds to help offset the cost of printing and mailing. Editor Swift indicated that if every CGCVA member sent in \$5 each year, it would pay for the magazine and all mailing costs. The idea was accepted and 20 persons made contributions. Their names (but not the amount of their donations) are listed in this *QD Log* issue and subsequent donations to the *QD Log* "Boosters Club" will list the names of the contributors. This will be a great way to keep our magazine alive and well so if you'd like to make a contribution, send your check to Baker Herbert at the CGCVA Administrative Office, made out to "CGCVA" and mark "QD Log Boosters Club" in the lower left hand corner of the check.

We mailed out 1,584 copies of our last issue of the *QD Log* (Summer 2005). This included 740 Life Members, 765 Regular Members, and 79 Widows, Honorary Members and Friends.

## And Yes, I'm Still Here

Finally, did I thank you all for re-electing me Secretary-Treasurer? If I did, I really didn't intend to. Semper Paratus big time!

**Baker**

## CROSSED THE BAR

**Bernard A. Albers, LM**

**Joined: 11-15-92 CTB: 10-01-05**

**Kenneth M. Bilderback, LM**

**Joined: 10-06-91 CTB: 09-30-05**

**Edwin V. Ford**

**Joined: 04-10-99 CTB: 09-01-05**

**MCPO John Gnegy**

**Joined: 09-15-87 CTB: 11-18-05**

**Albert J. Ryzner, LM**

**Joined: 09-01-87 CTB: 09-01-05**

**David L. Webb**

**Joined: 08-27-89 CTB: 11-02-05**



**Forgetting The Coast Guard?**

How many times have we seen monuments dedicated to the U.S. Armed Forces and only seen the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps recognized? If you've been a *QD Log* reader for a few years you'll know it's an ongoing thing. Many CGCVA members have reported monuments and places where the U.S. Coast Guard has been left out, whether it was intentional or not.

If you know of monuments that you believe should include the recognition of the Coast Guard but don't, contact Korean War-era veteran and ex-Coast Guardsman **Fred Portway** at 3984 Williamson Circle in Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29579. You can also call Fred at (843) 236-2694. He is hoping to get national attention to this oversight and get things corrected.

**Flotilla 10 Remembered**

I always enjoy reading the World War II stories in the CGCVA magazine and the one about the Flotilla 10 really hit home. I was on *LCI-86*. The ones numbered in the '90's really took a beating, losing *91*, *92*, and *93* at Normandy. To top it off, the *90* got hit by a kamikaze at Okinawa. Luckily, it didn't sink though. For the guys of the Greenland Patrol, I suggest reading *Death of a Wooden Shoe* by Thaddeus Novak. Whoever was up there will really get a kick out of this book... it really brings back memories. Semper Paratus! **Fred Akena**

**CGCVA Members in the Boston Area**

The Coast Guard's Maritime Safety & Security Team 91110 in Boston, Mass., has incorporated lessons on Coast Guard history into its regular training for all crew members. They welcome CGCVA members to visit their unit and address crew members regarding their personal wartime experiences. If this is something you'd be willing to do, contact: **LT Tom Ottenwaelder**, MSST 91110 Planning Officer (and CGCVA member) at (617) 227-0551.

**Coast Guard Heritage Museum**

Cape Cod and Island historians, active and retired Coasties, are teaming up to develop a modest museum to tell the rich history of Cape Cod in Old Barnstable Village's U.S. Customs House.

Do you know of an artifact, a model, a poster, documentation, a medal, or a point of contact that can help with this project? The triumph and tragedy of the entire story is our objective. We will cover development from the earliest "huts of refuge" in the late 1700's to the dedication and professionalism of today's Coast Guard men and women in all areas of responsibility. Aids to navigation development, Revenue Cutter Service, Life-Saving Service, Lighthouse Service, and the

**QD Log "Boosters Club" Formed**

The single largest expense that the CGCVA has is the printing and mailing of our quarterly full-color magazine, *Quarterdeck Log*. Approximate cost of four issues (or a one-year subscription) per member would be \$5.00 however we do not have a subscription program. To assist with printing and mailing cost, a *QD Log* "Boosters Club" was formed at the Tampa Convention with 20 persons making contributions. The names of these initial *QD Log* Boosters are listed below. Any persons wishing to contribute to this program should send a check made out to CGCVA and send it to Baker Herbert. Indicate on the check that it is a donation to *QD Log* Booster Club. Your name (but not your donation amount) will be included in the *QD Log*. Thanks in advance for your support to maintain our quality magazine. Initial *QD Log* "Booster Club" members include:

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>John Mahoney</b>      | <b>Paul C. Scotti</b>         |
| <b>Steve Petersen</b>    | <b>Pat Ramsey</b>             |
| <b>Ed Swift</b>          | <b>Baker Herbert</b>          |
| <b>Ed Burke</b>          | <b>Joseph William Kite</b>    |
| <b>Charlotte C. Bart</b> | <b>Ernest "Swede" Johnson</b> |
| <b>Harry King</b>        | <b>Terry Graviss</b>          |
| <b>Bruce Forsberg</b>    | <b>Noel Bell</b>              |
| <b>William J. Miller</b> | <b>Len Fuchs</b>              |
| <b>Charles Bevel</b>     | <b>Ken Spoor</b>              |
| <b>Bill Wells</b>        | <b>Mare Swift</b>             |

early Coast Guard are all targeted subjects.

If you can assist, please contact **Maurice Gibbs** by e-mail at: [mo72506@nantucket.net](mailto:mo72506@nantucket.net) or write him at P.O. Box 567, Nantucket, MA 02554.

**Katrina Relief Efforts Continue**

Firstly, thanks to all the CGCVA members who have already donated to the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance "Katrina Relief" fund. Between the mail-in contributions and our "on-the-spot" collection at the Tampa Convention Awards banquet, the CGCVA has contributed more than \$6,500 to assist Coast Guard families who lost everything in the hurricane Katrina disaster.

While things are returning to normal in the stricken areas, the need for financial assistance to Coast Guard families there continues. If you wish to make a contribution, please down-

load the CGMA Form 41 from the CGCVA web site. Your donations will be most appreciated.

*Editor's Note: Just before press time for this QD Log issue, a kind letter was received from VADM Thad Allen, speaking as the Principal Federal Official for Hurricanes Katrina & Rita. His letter reads as follows:*

*"I was impressed to have you ask me at your recent conference how you could help fellow Coast Guard men and women. When I answered "through CGMA," I would never have guessed so much support would result. Your contributions are truly appreciated. CGMA has acted as a foundation to many of our fellow victims of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, as well as to so many other victims. I am honored to have met all of you and thank you again, greatly, for all of your unending support. Semper Paratus!"*

## **It's About Time!**

About four years ago I had to fight a battle to get the USCG seal put on our new local Veterans Wall of Honor Phase I Monument? (article was in a previous *QD Log* issue). Well, since then I was asked by our First Selectman (because of what had happened) to be on the new Phase II committee to help design a memorial to all the veterans from Stafford who served during the conflicts of the 20th Century. Well, after four years of hard work, holding monthly meetings, researching names, fundraising, conducting workshops and drawing up plans and hiring contractors etc., it all came together this past November 5th when we hosted a dedication ceremony for the completion of this project. Phase II consisted of two wings listing veterans' names, a flag pole, a brick walkway and lighting. I had to buy a brick since I am not from Stafford (I entered the Coast Guard from my hometown of Rockville, just up the road). It was a pleasure to have served on the committee and it felt good to be able to do something so worthwhile for my community.

**Chris Wood**

## **Mystery Solved?**

The "Memories On Film" article by **Bob Crites** on page 12 of the Summer 2005 *QD Log* shows four unidentified Coast Guardsmen in their dark uniforms. I am sure I am the one on the far right. We were stationed at Freeport, Long Island in 1943. We had liberty in Freeport and had our boot camp training in September 1942 at Manhattan Beach, N.Y. Jack



Dempsey was our commanding officer at that time.

After Freeport Station, we went to the *CGC Pandora #113* from 1943-46. Our duty was submarine chasing in the Atlantic, as far south as Key West, Fla. From our homeport on Staten Island, N.Y., we escorted convoys and survived a hurricane with winds over 160 mph. We were also credited with sinking two German subs. Lots of great memories from back then.

**Bob Walthouse**

## **Mystery Solved II**

Upon receiving the Summer 2005 *QD Log*, I immediately sought to identify the vessel on page 12. Since it looked like a lightship to me, freeboard and everything, I started with that assumption.

The lightship that fits the photo is the *LV-112*. There was only one of that class. The pilothouse, masts, air funnels, anchors, etc. all match the photo. The *LV-112* was not used as a lightship during WWII but rather as an examination vessel in Portland, Maine. For this duty, her lights were removed and she was painted gray. She anchored in the bay and made contact with all incoming and outgoing vessels. In 1945, she returned to the Nantucket station.

**CAPT E.L. Davis, USCG (Ret.)**  
**Coast Guard Museum Northwest**

## **Welcome New Members**

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

**AUGUST 2005**

Douglas W. Meservey (*Taylor Lapham*); Warren E. Morre,

## **HAPPINESS FORMULAS**

To be happy with a man, you must understand him a lot and love him a little.

To be happy with a woman, you must love her a lot and not try to understand her at all.

## **A HOW-TO-STOP-PEOPLE- FROM-BUGGING-YOU-ABOUT-GETTING-MARRIED FORMULA**

Old aunts used to come up to me at weddings, poking me in the ribs and cackling, telling me, "You're next."

They stopped doing that after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

Jr., LM (*Baker Herbert*); James S. Duffield (*Baker Herbert*); Rex E. Roebuck (*Pat Ramsey*); Ralph L. Dudley (*The Association*); Darrell J. Sekin, LM (*Pat Ramsey*); Robert J. Urban (*Pat Ramsey*); and John E. Smith (*Pat Ramsey*).

### SEPTEMBER 2005

James P. Quinton-Scott (*Pat Ramsey*); Charles J. Catanzaro (*The Association*); Thomas C. Neighbors (*Pat Ramsey*); Carl B. Zinn, LM (*Pat Ramsey*); Lester E. Cotton (*Jane Maxwell*); and Paul F. Vasterling, LM (*Baker Herbert*).

### OCTOBER 2005

Herbert E. Copeland, LM (*Leroy Layton*); Charles A. Hawken (*Marcel Bujarski*); John D. Kendrick, LM (*Tom Spradlin*); Wayne M. Bush (*Pat Ramsey*); Charles J. Fox (*Charles Derderian*); Richard R. Thompke (*The Association*); Donald F. Flusche (*The Association*); Frans H. Boetes (*The Association*); Stephen K. Browning (*Pat Ramsey*); Walter G. Burnette (*George Bock*); Edward E. Floyd (*Pat Ramsey*); Raymond P. Jensen (*The Association*); Harry E. Simmons (*Pat Ramsey*); Paul R. Snow (*Pat Ramsey*); Walt Viglienzzone (*Robert MacLeod & Mike Placencia*); Robert L. Wilson (*Ed Swift*); and Thomas L. Conant (*Harry King*).

### Old CG Station Honor's Women's Efforts

An exhibit at the Old Coast Guard Station museum in Oceanfront, Va., recently paid tribute to Idawally Zorada Lewis and other women who, for more than two centuries, contributed to America's maritime security. Through photos, memorabilia and a vintage recruiting poster, the display celebrated the contributions of women in the Coast Guard.

Betty Johnson Hannon, who attended the recent CGCVA Convention in Tampa, serves as a volunteer at the museum and offered personal Coast Guard memorabilia for the display. The momentos contributed by



*(Left) RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara visits the Old Coast Guard Museum and meets with Betty Johnson Hannon, a volunteer there who offered a myriad of her WWII SPAR memorabilia for the exhibit honoring women in the Coast Guard.*



*The Old Coast Guard Station Museum*

Betty were artistically displayed in an informal 3-D arrangement, much like a scrapbook, and included family photos, post cards, certificates and a handbook.

Among the most special items is a vintage USCG recruiting poster intended to encourage young women to join the SPARS, the Coast Guard's contingent for women during World War II. The poster, depicting women marching in uniform and carrying flags, directs prospective recruits to "apply nearest Coast Guard office."

No so coincidentally, Betty was among the more than 10,000 women that served as SPARs during WWII. Originally from the Bronx in New York, Betty's service in the SPARs began in 1944 with basic training at the Biltmore Hotel in Palm Beach, Fla. After boot training, she served as a ship's cook at the USCG Receiving Station in Chicago until she was discharged in 1945.

RADM Sally Brice O'Hara, then commander of the Coast Guard's Fifth District, visited the exhibit and was particularly pleased to see a photo of Dorothy Stratton, a Coast Guard icon who developed plans and guidelines for the SPARs. And it was Stratton who coined the term SPARs, to represent the Coast Guard's motto of "Semper Paratus — Always Ready."

### Bruckenthal Building

On Oct. 3rd, CGCVA PNP Joe Kleinpeter represented our Association at dedication ceremonies for Bruckenthal Hall, the Unaccompanied Personnel Housing Building at USCG Station Montauk, N.Y., named in honor of DC3 Nathan B. Bruckenthal, USCG, who was

killed in action in Iraq in 2004. The building hosts a galley, mess deck, recreation room and work-out facility, in addition to berthing for personnel stationed at the station.

The CGCVA provided a donation that was used for gifts to the Bruckenthal family. Joe also presented a stuffed Sinbad dog to Nathan's daughter, Harper Natalie, as well as special Coast Guard WWII postage stamps to everyone. Bravo Zulu Joe! We did miss you at the reunion though.



*Signalman 1/c Betty Louise Hannon during her WWII service as a SPAR.*





*Checking in at the Busch Gardens Holiday Inn Registration Desk, CGCVA members and guests knew immediately they had found the right place.*

belongings in Wilma's projected path, I hope that you got home safely and were spared the hurricane's wrath. Finally, for those who intended to attend but decided not to chance it, we missed you so I can only hope that you'll be able to attend our next convention & reunion in San Mateo, California in the Spring of 2007. I don't anticipate any hurricane problems there but you can never tell about earthquakes.

I'd like to laud the tremendous pre-convention work done by our convention planners, Bob Maxwell and Ed Burke. Many months in advance they traversed the Florida area looking for the right site for this reunion and the choice of Tampa couldn't have been better. The city and surrounding area provided everything we look for in a convention site... good hotel rates, a major airport with free transportation to and from the hotel, exceptional hotel staff and amenities, good food, creative and entertaining tours, and close proximity to major Coast Guard units. Seldom does a reunion site provide all of these but Tampa did. In addition, several hundred CGCVA members reside in Florida so we had the potential for our the largest convention ever. Unfortunately, the attendance was less than anticipated although the shaky weather window may have been a contributing factor. Regardless, the convention was a huge success and I know all who attended had a wonderful time.

In lauding the advance work by Bob and Ed, their real challenge wasn't making the initial negotiations with the Busch Gardens Holiday Inn but rather making sure that everything in our contract was available when the convention actually took place. And that's where they really went far beyond the call of duty for us. While most of the convention attendees enjoyed the hotel amenities and tours, Bob and Ed were working with the hotel staff on an around-the-clock basis to ensure that proper accommodations were available for our Association. A number of things had changed between the original contract negotiations and the start of the convention so they and the hotel staff did a lot of highly creative work on the side. For instance:



*CGCVA members and guests disembark the StarShip following a memorable luncheon cruise in Tampa Bay.*

## StarShip Luncheon Cruise Friday, October 21st





## StarShip Luncheon Cruise Friday, October 21st



***Our Convention Planners, Ed Burke and Bob Maxwell, worked very hard to ensure things went smoothly. Bravo Zulu Gents!***

get a cold drink without having to change into other clothes. I won't go into details about Noel's somewhat skimpy swimming attire but he must have been quite popular with someone since he had several dollar bills sticking out of the waistband. Way to go Noel!

Our Business Meeting and the Auxiliary Friendship Luncheon were changed to evening activities because, like the original Hospitality Suite site, the rooms were in use by another group. While this required some more creative work, the end result was a dinner menu versus the original luncheon menu... an upgrade at no additional price. The change in time also offered additional time for the Why-Not Winery Tour or for sight-seeing in the Tampa area.

A complete change in hotel staff and the impending sale of the Holiday Inn to new owners certainly were contributing factors in the shuffling of rooms and times affecting our convention but, as I indicated, Bob and Ed did a stellar job of working with the hotel's general manager (Mr. Bobby Bryant) and sales manager (Ms. Jeannie Reynolds) to provide us equal or better accommodations. Nice going folks!

Bob and Ed's advance work also resulted in close liaison with the local Coast Guard units. At our Opening Ceremony on Oct. 20th, the Colors were presented by a four-person Color Guard squad from USCG Air Station Clearwater. Led by LTJG Alex Moore, the squad consisted of YN1 Toby Burke, YN2 Matt Smith, YN2 Joe Kollar, and AM Brice Sayles. They did a most impressive job and their willingness to donate their time was most appreciated by our group. Ginny Lapham volunteered to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and she was a bit surprised when everyone in the room opted to join in. A most patriotic start! CAPT Joseph Servidio, commanding officer of USCG Sector St. Petersburg, represented



***A Color Guard Squad from USCG Air Station Clearwater presented the Colors at the Opening Ceremony***



## Gazebo Hospitality Suite (A place for fellowship)



*Dave and Scott Andrus once again volunteered to bartend at our Hospitality Suite. It's worth coming to conventions just to see these characters. Thanks guys!*

many responsibilities of the Coast Guard's largest and busiest air station. AirSta Clearwater has more than 500 Coast Guard personnel and civilians working there and it's operational area includes the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean basin, and the Bahamas.

LTJG Alex Moore led one of the tour groups while the air station Public Affairs Officer, LT Ryan Macleod, led the other.

At one hangar, the CGCVA group learned about the Coast Guard's newest helicopter, the HH-60J, from crewmen AST2 Mike Browning and AMT2 Chris Lovelady. At the same time, the other CGCVA group learned about the Coast Guard's C-130 "Hercules" long-range, fixed-wing aircraft from crew members LT Dirk Ames, LT E. A. Macnamara, AMT3 John Jones, and AST3 Anthony Snow. Following these tours, both groups were able to visit the onboard Coast Guard Exchange. One-day Exchange privileges were given to those not normally eligible to shop there and a large amount of USCG shirts, hats and other memorabilia were purchased, along with non-taxed alcohol and tobacco products. After that it was a short walk to the air station Galley and an exceptional buffet lunch. Truly, the local Coast Guard units and personnel stationed there were most accommo-

the Seventh District Commander, RADM Brian Peterman, and offered warm welcoming remarks. He and his executive officer, CDR Elisabeth Pepper, also attended our Awards Banquet on Oct. 23rd.

The folks at USCG Air Station Clearwater were also kind enough to provide our group an extensive tour of the air station on Oct. 23rd. Two bus loads of CGCVA members and guests arrived there about 10 a.m. and were able to learn about the



*CGCVA member Armand Bergun was one of only 28 survivors of the CG-manned destroyer escort Leopold when it was sunk on convoy duty in the Atlantic during World War II. The ship, which had a crew of 186 on board, was preparing to ram a German submarine when it was torpedoed by another submarine.*





*CGCVA Chaplain Bill Miller (left) and CAPT C. William "Bill" Bailey, USCG (Ret.) at the Opening Ceremony. CAPT Bailey is a distinguished ship handler who commanded nine cutters during his salty Coast Guard career.*

Banquet. This had been arranged long before VADM Allen was given the additional responsibility of Principal Federal Official for Hurricanes Katrina & Rita Relief Efforts. Personally, I anticipated a call indicating he would not be able to attend due to considerable operational commitments, especially with the questionable storm path of Wilma. I couldn't have been more pleased when I was told that he was arriving a day early and would also be able to attend our Business Meeting. He and his father, Clyde (Bill) Allen, are both CGCVA members and it was a distinct pleasure to see them and CAPT Tom Yearout, USCG (Ret.) (VADM Allen's brother-in-law) enjoying some well-earned family time at our reunion. VADM Allen spent a lot of time speaking with many of the CGCVA members and guests individually and also took the Air Station Clearwater tour. At the Awards Banquet, he provided our group a wonderful and dramatic description of work by Coast Guard men and women



*Paul Scotti was quite surprised to see LT Robin Orr, USCG (Ret.) at the convention. They hadn't seen each other for many years, when both were in the same car pool while stationed at USCG Headquarters. Robin and his wife Mariana live just south of Tampa and were visiting Ed and Mare Swift. By the way, their son, Shawn, had just completed USCG boot camp a few days earlier and also got to see how old CG combat vets party.*

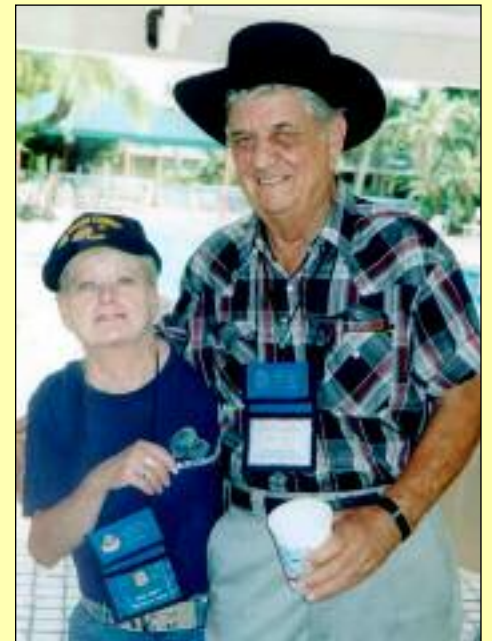
dating to our group and their kindness and hospitality was greatly appreciated, especially considering how busy they had all been with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Bravo Zulu to them all!

Perhaps the most surprising Coast Guard participation in our Tampa Reunion was that of Coast Guard Chief of Staff VADM Thad Allen, who had accepted our invitation to serve as keynote speaker at the Oct. 23rd Awards

involved in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. It is simply incredible that while more than 300 Coast Guard families lost everything only weeks before, they continue to work tirelessly to get things back to normal and opt to help others rather than ask for help themselves. Most inspiring!

Speaking of Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts, Secretary-Treasurer Baker Herbert reported at the Business Meeting that he was aware of at least \$5,000 being contributed to the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) Katrina Relief Fund by CGCVA members. I'm sure that his foresight in inserting the CGMA donation form and envelope in our last QD Log was instrumental in so many CGCVA members making generous donations to this most worthy cause. Hopefully, we will ultimately learn the total amount of contributions made by CGCVA mem-

## Gazebo Hospitality Suite (A place for fellowship)



bers to the CGMA Katrina Fund is but if we don't it's not as important as the funds getting where they need to be... helping the many Coast Guard families who lost so much in the disaster. Following VADM Allen's address at the Awards Banquet, CGCVA Trustee (Elect) Terry O'Connell suggested an on-the-spot collection for the CGMA Katrina Fund and more than \$1,500 was donated in a matter of a few moments. This gesture was most impressive, especially since there were only about 75 attendees at the dinner. Thank you all for your generosity and please don't think that it's too late to contribute. You can still download the CGMA Katrina Fund form from the CGCVA web site: [www.coastguardcombatvets.com](http://www.coastguardcombatvets.com) and send in with your donation. Please consider doing this folks if you haven't already!

As with most of our reunions, our convention planners arrange some interesting and sometimes unique tour opportunities. This was no exception. While we often have a luncheon boat excursion, the one arranged aboard the 180-foot Yacht StarsShip was the best ever. The weather was great and we had our own private section of the ship. The ship's crew members very friendly and lunch was exceptional. Like the Air Station Clearwater tour, we had two buses filled with CGCVA members and guests unload for the three-hour tour (Do I hear the strains of "Gilligan's Island" in the background?). It was a great opportunity to learn about the busy port of Tampa and see some interesting ships and expensive homes. Everyone was treated to a fabulous meal, with their choice of entrees: Nut-Crusted Grouper or Roasted Breast of Chicken with Mushroom Sauce. Both were great and then the dessert choices were Hungarian Cheesecake or Key Lime Pie. Yum! After lunch, most of our group moved topside to the open deck to bask in the sun and get a better view of the port activities. It was a most enjoyable trip. Learn more about them at: [www.yacht-starship.com](http://www.yacht-starship.com).

Short bus trips from the hotel to the Wine-Not Winery took fifteen folks at a time and folks could spend as little or much time as they wanted at the site. The winery is actually postage stamp in size so there wasn't really much of a tour... at least I didn't see anyone stomping grapes in a vat. There was, however, substantial opportunity to sample wines of all types, which I did. The Wine-Not employees were extremely knowledgeable about wine making (even the one who wasn't even 21 yet). I ended up buying a case of wine, with our special CGCVA 20th Anniversary label affixed to each bottle. That was a nice little extra that Bob and Ed

## The Continuing Adventures of "Chu Hoi" Official Mascot of the CGCVA



*Joseph Kite, a Marine Corps WWII veteran gave the top bid to be Chu Hoi's caretaker for the next 18 months.*

*Melanie Ann Seipel and Dawn Wood are both charmed by Chu Hoi. The two ladies work at Accurate Printing, the company that prints the Quarterdeck Log.*



*"I surrender," says an ambushed Chu Hoi.*



*Accurate Printing's owner, Majid Kashanikhah with Chu Hoi.*



had arranged. Our Association designed a commemorative logo and provided the artwork to the winery owner, who, in turn, created the labels. This made for a nice keepsake of the event. By the way, an individual bottle of Cranberry wine (each with the CGCVA 20th Anniversary label) was set at each place setting at the Awards Banquet and larger bottles were at each table for toasts. (Note: Also called the Aspirations Winery, their motto is “Wine Your Way... Wine Not!” Learn more about them at: [winenot.fl@verizon.net](mailto:winenot.fl@verizon.net).)

Back at the Holiday Inn, our outdoor Hospitality Suite did a brisk business throughout the four-day convention. With Janice Stephens overseeing activities there, and bartenders extraordinaire Scott and David Andrus pouring drinks and cracking jokes, it was the “fun place” to be. Small groups formed around the many tables surrounding the large gazebo while others opted to sit undercover by the Registration Desk. As always, Association officers and Auxiliary members took care of registration duties, providing welcome kits, convention credentials, and event tickets to folks as they arrived. Ed Burke had a special 11th CGCVA Convention & 20th Anniversary pin designed and these were provided for every attendee. Several attendees brought along items for raffle gifts at the Awards Banquet and these items were displayed on tables near the gazebo. Baker Herbert set up the Ships Store in a room adjacent to the Hospitality Suite and reported brisk sales of all the items he brought along. A 50/50 drawing was held each day and several participants enjoyed playing the “Shut The Box” game. With all the fun distractions at or near the Hospitality Suite, camaraderie and good fellowship were still the mainstay and everyone enjoyed some old sea stories, looking at photos and scrapbooks, and basically enjoying the opportunity to get together once again with old shipmates.

What is often just a time to reminisce for veterans this reunion also offered a chance for spouses to talk of their experiences. Ms. Marion Phillips, herself a military spouse, attended our convention and interviewed several member’s wives, mostly those whose husbands served in Vietnam. She is compiling stories from other spouses and she was most appreciative of the openness and willingness of those who granted her interviews. Specific information regarding Marion’s project is included on page 24 under “My Spouse Served In Vietnam”

Topping off the convention was the Awards Banquet on Sunday evening. The winds were just starting to pick up and Hurricane Wilma was finally beginning her track towards Florida when the Gazebo Hospitality Suite was closed and everyone moved into the large dining room. By this time, more than 20 raffle gifts had been donated and were all displayed on tables outside the dining room. Members and guests arrived and took seats while Ed Bob and I scrambled to locate the folks for the head table. Eventually, our Chaplain ambled in and we were ready to start the banquet. Our Remembrance Table was set up adjacent to the head table and Terry O’Connell told everyone of the significance of each item at the table. This was followed by Terry’s reading of the names of the 50 CGCVA members who had “crossed the bar” since our convention in Ft. Mitchell, Ky. After each name was read, a single gong on a bell was sounded. This part of the evening was particularly tough for me because it reminded me of the same ceremony from the last convention when we learned of the death of DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal in Iraq. Following the somber ceremony, Terry led a toast to our departed shipmates, then dinner was served.

By the time we were part way through dinner, it was obvious that Wilma was going to have a profound impact on parts of Florida. Winds were kicking up and light rain had started. VADM Allen needed to catch a plane back to Louisiana so we began

### U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater Tour Sunday, October 23rd



## 2005 CGCVA Financial Report 1 January 2005 through 30 September 2005

Balance on Hand, 01/01/05 (General checking)	\$ 4,168.63
Dues	\$ 6,580.00
Life Dues	\$ 5,675.00
Other	\$ 5,172.26
Clothing	\$ 3,342.79
Interest	\$ 30.41
Vietnam	\$ 2,045.00
Scholarship	\$ 100.00
Expenditures:	
Office	\$ 919.94
QD Log	\$ 9,689.42
Website	\$
D. Munro Lighting	\$ 614.76
Insurance	\$ 676.00
Postage	\$ 1,157.69
Clothing	\$ 1,965.75
Other	\$ 3,054.31
Computers	\$ 430.44
Scholarship	\$ 600.00
Checking balance as of 9/30/2005	\$ 8,005.78
Balance, other accounts	
Sandy Spring Bank C/D 33 Life	\$ 6,611.17
Westfield Bank C/D 1170729	\$23,005.10
Westfield Bank C/D 1166504	\$10,905.57
Reunion Account	\$ 5,000.00

The Association has a good \$2000.00 to \$2500.00 in small stores assets and while the costs of our electronic equipment is about \$13,361.00, the true cash value is no more than 10% or \$1,361.00 in my opinion, basically because electronic equipment is updated almost monthly and the older equipment is mostly junk. My accounts have been verified as of 10/21/05 by PNP's Jack Campbell and Bob Maxwell who are both present. I use two CGCVA computers, one is on line and the other is not because it contains our membership data and I don't want it infected with a virus. This one computer is 6-1/2 years old and may need a replacement prior to the next reunion.

1584 QD Logs last mailed to 740 Life members, 756 Regular members and 88 Honorary members, widows, friends.

**Baker Herbert, CGCVA Secretary-Treasurer**

the rest of the program while most of the attendees were still working on their entrees. VADM Allen was introduced and provided an eloquent speech, primarily alluding to the little-known aspects of Hurricanes' Katrina and Rita. His remarks were awe-inspiring and made everyone proud to have served in or be associated with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Next came the primary purpose of the Awards Banquet — presenting a plaque to the CGCVA Coast Guard Person of the Year. At this convention we presented our 2004 POY award to AST3 William D. "Dave" Foreman, for his heroic actions while stationed at USCG Air Station Elizabeth City, N.C. His Coast Guard Medal citation reads as follows:

*"Petty Officer Foreman is cited for extraordinary heroism while serving as rescue swimmer on Coast Guard HH60J helicopter 6026 on 28 february 2004. The aircrew was engaged in the night rescue of six persons from the M/V Bow mariner that sank following an explosion of its 11 thousand metric ton cargo of ethanol 50 miles east of Chincoteague, VA. The horrific explosion cast the ship's 27 crewmembers into frigid 43-degree water covered with a lethal combination of ethanol and diesel fuel. Understanding the ramifications of entering into the explosive environment, Petty Officer Foreman bravely volunteered to be hoisted down into the toxic water to affect the rescue of an unknown number of survivors in a damaged life raft. Once inside the raft, Petty Officer Foreman, with disciplined composure in this toxic environment, conducted a comprehensive survey of the scene and triaged the victims. Realizing that the original plan to instruct the survivors on rescue basket operations would not work, Petty Officer Foreman made the courageous decision to remain on the raft to assist each survivor. His confident, unhurried manner overcame the multiple obstacles of language, aircraft noise, and chemical contamination while he lifted the survivors from the raft into the cold water for further transfer to the rescue basket. Disregarding his own personal welfare and experiencing extreme physical illness from the effects of prolonged exposure to the deadly chemicals and cold water, Petty Officer Foreman was able to execute the litter hoist of the last survivor. Once back in the helicopter, petty Officer Foreman's focus remained on the mission. At the hospital, before being admitted overnight for exposure, he was able to pass vital patient information to emergency room personnel in spite of his weakened state. Petty Officer Foreman saved six lives. His courage, judge-*



*ment and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."*

Ironically, Petty Officer Foreman is now stationed at USCG Air Station New Orleans, one of several Coast Guard units heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina. He, like many Coast Guard folks and families, lost a lot of personal possessions but still carried out countless search and rescue operations to assist others impacted by the storm's wrath. In fact, as much as Dave wanted to spend more time with us at the convention, he needed to take care of his own affairs before he could join us. He arrived only about an hour before the Awards Banquet and ended up leaving with Admiral Allen, since the admiral was flying back to New Orleans that evening.

And, although he could only be with us for a brief time, Petty Officer Foreman, like previous recipients of the CGCVA POY award, demonstrated tremendous humility, saying he was simply doing what he had been trained to do when he made the successful rescues in February 2004. He said he was quite humbled to be honored by real Coast Guard heroes. Dave is certainly an exceptional young man and a fine representative of the Coast Guard. It's just too bad we weren't able to spend more time with him. I was honored to have Admiral Allen assist me in making the CGCVA POY presentation to Dave.

Admiral Allen also participated in the swearing-in of the newly elected CGCVA officers and, once the official banquet activities had concluded, he and Petty Officer Foreman bid good-bye and departed for USCG Air Station Clearwater.

Our new president, Gil "Frenchy" Benoit, made brief remarks and then went ahead with the raffle and Wild Fajita auction. My thanks to all who donated gifts for the raffle. The auction for our beloved mascot, Chu Hoi, was very spirited and I believe the winning bid was \$300, offered by Mr. Joseph Kite. Joe is a WWII Marine Corps veteran and he accompanied Charlotte Bart, a WWII SPAR, to the reunion. Thanks Joe! By the way, Joe opted not to actually take Chu Hoi home with him but instead gave the Caretaker duties to Frenchy. Frenchy, in turn, gave temporary custody of Chu Hoi to Bob Maxwell so that the Wild Fajita could make his first West Coast tour. Good luck Chu Hoi and we'll see your handsome mug again in San Mateo in 2007.

At the conclusion of the raffle and auction, everyone braved the building winds and light rain at the Hospitality Suite for some post-banquet cocktails and to talk to old friends before heading to bed or packing to leave. Yes, Wilma had finally made her presence known but the hurricane didn't have any impact whatsoever on the convention activities. About the only impact it had was on everyone's travel plans the following day. The Tampa airport was closed down for most of the day due to high winds and all flights were cancelled until that evening. I heard that many of the main highways and interstates were jammed with folks trying to elude the storm and that's why several attendees opted to depart early. Just hope everyone got home safely. All in all, a great time so don't miss the next reunion in Spring 2007.

Finally, thanks to Paul and Liz Scotti, Taylor Lapham, LTJG Alex Moore for sending me photos and captions. It certainly helped augment the photos I was able to get. **Swiftly**

### [Minutes of the Convention Business Meeting](#)

The Tenth Biennial Business Meeting of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association was called to order by the National President Ed Swift, LM at 1730 Busch Gardens Holiday Inn, 2701 E. Fowler Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33612. All Officers and Trustees Johnson and Maxwell present together with PNP Jack Campbell, Chairman, Board of Trustees. Secretary Herbert led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Chaplain, Bill Miller gave the opening prayer. The President recognized VADM Thad Allen, USCG Chief of Staff and Past National Presidents, Jack Campbell and Bob Maxwell, and thanked those in attendance. The President called for the reading of the minutes, 24 April 2004, Drawbridge Inn, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky. The minutes were read and it was moved by Bob Maxwell, seconded by Terry Gravis that the minutes be approved as read. Motion Carried. President called for correspondence. The Secretary stated that one item of correspondence had yet to be acted on and that was a letter from LM Len Fuchs recommending local CGCVA Meetings. All other correspondence, other than routine, was forwarded to the President. President Swift gave his State of the Association Report.



*That's no pirate ship... it's a Coast guard cutter. See the flag!*

## The Awards Banquet



*Vice Admiral Thad Allen makes the keynote address at the CGCVA Convention Awards Banquet.*



*CGCVA Coast Guard Person of the Year for 2004, AST3 William "Dave" Foreman of USCG Air Station New Orleans.*



*New CGCVA Vice President Paul Scotti with wife, Liz.*

**Committee Reports:** Vince Stauffer, By-laws. Need to change By-laws to retain \$35.00 in reserve per life member. Motion by PNP Bob Maxwell to change. Seconded by LM Gil Benoit. Motion carried.

Pat Ramsey, Membership Chairman reported that 1,496 USCG members served in the Middle East and that he is attempting to recruit them. LM Terry Gravis stated we all falling behind in recruiting. Urged everyone to get the word out to former ship-mates. Terry vows to get three more members before next reunion. President challenged everyone to bring in at least one new member.

President stated that Robert MacLeod was very successful as our project officer on the two Vietnam Memorials.

It was noted that Walt Gore, our Chief Master-at-Arms and Parliamentarian had crossed the bar.

Bill Wells reported that the CGCVA Website is working well. We are able to communicate through the website and even tell sea stories. President Swift urged all to utilize website and let others know about it.

The Association has a good \$2,000.00 to \$2,500.00 in small stores assets and while the cost of our electronic equipment is about \$13,361.00, the true cash value is no more than 10% or about 1,361.00. In my opinion, this is because electronic equipment is updated almost monthly and the older equipment is mostly junk.

LM Bill Figone moved to accept the Financial Report. Seconded by Vince Stauffer. Terry Gravis thanked the Secretary/Treasurer. Motion carried.

VP Gil Benoit stated that he is working on getting more USCG gear into the National D-Day Museum's Atlantic and Pacific Wings.

Charlotte Bart, WWII Spar was recognized, as were Past National President's Jack Campbell and Bob Maxwell. Silver Star recipient Gerry Goff was recognized.

**Old Business:** None. Recessed for dinner at 1822 Hours. Reconvened at 1850 Hours.

**New Business:** VADM Thad Allen re-introduced. Admiral Allen gave his job description as Principal Federal Official of the Department of Homeland Security. He said on 5 September 2005, President Bush called him and asked him how soon he could go to New Orleans. Admiral Allen replied immediately and he relieved Mike Brown, FEMA. Admiral Allen said 1,500,000 evacuated, 200 to 250 thousand homes destroyed and that no previous natural disaster had been this devastating to America. The 1927 disaster displaced 700,000 and the Dust Bowl displaced 400,000. VADM Allen said we can all help the USCG families who lost so much in Katrina/Rita by contributing to Coast Guard Mutual Assistance. President Swift thanked Admiral Allen.

LM Harry King stated that there was a Cherry Festival in Traverse City, Michigan around the 4th of July each year and could the CGCVA participate in a float. President stated that the idea was great but that the CGCVA really didn't have that much money at this time. Harry said he will work with area people and try to improvise.

Member Clyde Allen asked about our next Reunion. PNP Bob Maxwell said San Mateo, California was the area he, Ed Burke and Bill Figone were looking at and that San Mateo and other California Bay area cities were divorcing themselves from San Francisco. No CGCVA activities during a San Mateo Reunion would be scheduled for San Francisco. Any questions on this see Bob Maxwell or Ed Burke.

Bill Wells stated that there will be a Veterans Recognition in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 11, 2007 and that 12 Coasties were there in 1982 for a similar event and only two were at the last one.



Member and retired MCPO Bill Miller reported on the VA Hospital in Orlando, Florida

**Election of Officers:** LM Bill Figone nominated Gil Benoit for President, seconded by Noel Bell. Nominations were closed after three calls and Gil Benoit was unanimously elected.

PNP Bob Maxwell nominated Paul Scotti for VP, seconded by Baker Herbert. Nominations were closed after three calls and Paul Scotti was unanimously elected.

Baker Herbert nominated PNP Bob Maxwell for 2-term Trustee, Ed Burke nominated Terry O'Connel for 2-term Trustee and Terry Graviss was nominated for 2-term Trustee. The nominees left the room and the following 2-term Trustees were elected: Bob Maxwell and Terry O'Connell.

Ed Burke nominated Baker Herbert for Secretary/Treasurer, seconded by Gil Benoit. After three calls nominations were closed and Baker was elected.

PNP Bob Maxwell moved that dues be increased to \$18.00 per year, seconded by Pat Ramsey. A discussion on the motion, and motion withdrawn as was the second.

Ed Burke moved to increase dues to \$30.00 for two years, seconded by Pat Ramsey. Motion carried.

**Good of the Order:** Radiation was discussed and it is important to follow all procedures.

Clyde Allen reported that medical records are available. Gil Benoit said there never were any Coast Guard records destroyed by fire and they are available.

PNP Bob Maxwell asked that the President of the CGCVA visit the West Coast as it would be good for recruiting and that all members should do what they can for recruiting.

Bill Wells said it was necessary to hunt for CG information.

A travel trailer was donated to couple who lost their home in hurricane.

Paul Scotti discussed the Coast Guard Coffee table book - about \$75.00 and weighs about seven pounds.

Vince Stauffer stated that Ed Swift was the new Executive Secretary for the CWOA.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. President declared the meeting adjourned at 1750 Hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Baker Herbert, National Secretary-Treasurer

## *President's Report of Activities (April 2004 through October 2005)*

During the past 18 months, the following activities have been initiated, carried out, and/or completed under my guidance as CGCVA National President. This report is to be read in full or synopsisized at the October 22, 2005 Business Meeting during the CGCVA Convention/Reunion in Tampa, Florida and be included in the minutes of the meeting:

Continued fund-raising efforts and completed project to build two monuments recognizing the contributions of the Coast Guard during the Vietnam War. Working in partnership with project originator CAPT Donald Taub, USCG (Ret) designed and built monuments and arranged for two appropriate unveiling and dedication cere-

## The Awards Banquet



*The Remembrance Table*



*CGCVA Web master Bill Wells wins the Coast Guard blanket.*



*Tommy Bowden takes home the Coast Guard Racing Team flag.*

monies. Raised more than \$13,000 for project, primarily from CGCVA membership. Directed VP Gil Benoit to represent CGCVA at unveiling and dedication ceremony at USCG Recruit Training Center, Cape May, NJ on 16 July 2004 while I served as primary CGCVA representative at unveiling and dedication ceremony at USCG Academy, New London, CT on 2 October 2004. Both projects resulted in considerable exposure for CGCVA. CGCVA Historian, CWO4 Paul Scotti, USCG (Ret) served as keynote speaker at Cape May dedication; while CGCVA member CAPT Alex Larzelere, USCG (Ret) served as keynote speaker at Academy dedication. Trustee Robert MacLeod was my project Officer, coordinating fund raising efforts and serving as primary CGCVA liaison with various Coast Guard units & personnel involved with projects.

Coordinated various projects with World War II 60th Anniversary Commemoration Committees resulting in several CGCVA members participating in activities both stateside and abroad. Provided names of identified veterans of identified campaigns/battles to committees for consideration. Projects included:

— In June 2005, PNP Jack Campbell and LM Marvin Perett were among the first group of 100 U.S. D-Day veterans to travel to France and receive the French Legion of Honor Medal.

— In March 2005, LM Marvin Perrett traveled to the Pacific to attend 60th anniversary commemoration of invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

— In September 2005, LM Vince Stauffer and his wife Betty were honored as USCG representatives at America's Celebrate Freedom Salute in Vancouver, WA.

— In July 2005, PNP Jack Campbell traveled to Northern Ireland for VE-VJ Day ceremony and dedication of the GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower Pier in Bangor. In June 2005, he attended a "France Says Thank You to America" reception at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. In May 2005, he and member Terry Lee visited the French destroyer Jean Bart in New York City.

President Swift or otherwise indicated Association representatives participated in the following official functions:

— Veterans' Day Ceremonies held at USCG Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery (Nov. 2004)

— Change of Command Ceremony for RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara at Fifth Coast Guard District, Portsmouth, Va (June 2005).

— Coast Guard Ball in Washington, D.C. (Nov. 2004)

— Women in the military 'Services of America' (WIMSA) Convention in Washington, D.C. (March 2004)

— PNP Joe Kleinpeter attended Building Dedication ceremony at USCG Station Montauk, NY. (Building named after DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal, USCG, who was killed in Iraq 2004) CGCVA made \$250 donation to ceremony. DC3 Bruckenthal was made a CGCVA Honorary member at Kentucky CGCVA Convention April 2004.

— Along with CGC Chase Association, presented plaque to CWO4 William Carson, Cape May TraCen PAO for his years of strong support to both organizations (Oct. 2005).

— Presented personalized CGCVA ballcap, Honorary CGCVA membership Certificate and congratulatory letter to CAPT Dorothy C. Stratton on her 106th birthday.

— Sent Honorary CGCVA Life Membership Certificates and congratulatory letters to all CGCVA Coast Guard Persons of the Year who had not been honored previously, based on membership vote at Reno Convention.

— Various Coast Guard Day Celebrations throughout the U.S.

— Various USCG Change of Command Ceremonies across U.S.

Produced six issues of CGCVA national magazine, Quarterdeck Log.

Through exceptional work provided by webmaster Bill Wells, enhanced official CGCVA website: [www.coastguardcombatvets.com](http://www.coastguardcombatvets.com), adding expanded sections for photo library, viewing of current and past issues of Quarterdeck Log, and opinion page for members.

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

Presented \$600 CGCVA Scholarship to Ms. Autumn C. Alberts.

Several CGCVA members including LM Marvin Perrett, LM Paul Scotti, Alex Larzelere, LM Gil Benoit and Mike Walling participated in television projects.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ed Swift, National President.



## 20th Anniversary Convention & Reunion



*Swift sees the light... Miller Lite that is.*



*Mare Swift and Rene O'Connell*



*Ed Burke and Jane and Bob Maxwell take a quick peek at the tip jar in the Hospitality Suite. "Is that a hundred dollar bill in there?" asks Jane.*



*They say it's not a good party unless something gets broke or someone gets hurt. Well, Nancy Burke got hurt and broke her left wrist so that guaranteed a good time!*



*Ed Swift and Noel Bell at the Hospitality Suite. As the outgoing president, Ed gets a message from Nancy Burke.*



*Tommy Boiwden goes diving into frigid waters for a cold brewski.*

## Visit the USCGC Mohawk

Longtime readers of the *QD Log* will quickly recognize the name of *USCGC Mohawk (WPG-78)*. The little ship has made headlines in a number of cities along the East Coast as she looked for a permanent home.

Built in 1934 in Wilmington, Del., the 165-foot cutter returned there for several years in the '80's as a floating restaurant. Now you can visit this vessel at the Miami-Dade Historic Maritime Museum.

The *Mohawk* served ably in World War II, while assigned to North Atlantic escort operations, launching a total of 14 attacks against Nazi U-boats. The cutter's at-sea rescue operations include the rescue of 293 survivors from the *USAT Chatham* and the rescue of 24 men from the *SS Bayberry*. She is the only remaining Coast Guard subchaser in existence as 30 of her sister ships were lost during the war. As the last remaining ship of her kind, the *Mohawk* is the Memorial Ship of the "Battle of the Atlantic."

The Miami-Dade Historical Maritime Museum was founded to recognize South Florida's contribution during World War II, the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, and current Homeland defense, paying respect to citizens who gave their lives for the defense of our country. The museum plans to acquire additional ships. To learn more, go to: [www.uscmohawk.org](http://www.uscmohawk.org) or call (305) 799-1143.

## From An FS Sailor

I served on the *USCGC Madalan* as a sound operator after attending a school in New London, Conn. The ship patrolled on the Atlantic coast. It was a sailing vessel and the listening was done while under sail. Most of the listening was done at night with the hope to catch German subs on the surface. I was only on this duty for a short time before being transferred to *FS-261*. This was a brand new ship and I was part of the original crew. We started from ground zero as nothing was on board when we came aboard. After sea trials and official acceptance, we sailed to San Pedro, Calif. We sailed to Hawaii and then on to Ellice Islands, New Guinea, New Calidonia, Australia, and the Philippines. The crew was removed in Manila and sent home in January 1946.

I saw a notice of a reunion of Coast Guard Combat Veterans in the St. Petersburg newspaper and got in touch with George Bock of Largo, Fla. George said there was a lack of information about people in the Coast Guard who served on the FS ships since they were controlled by the Army. I am sending in my CGCVA Membership Application and will try to find some



*USCGC Mohawk (WPG-78) during World War II*

former shipmates to get them to join as well. Sorry I am unable to attend the Tampa Convention.

**Walter Burnette**

## From an LST Sailor

I am writing a book about life on the Coast Guard-manned *USS LST-18* in World War II and, while shuffling through my photos I found a poem from the September 1944 issue of the Pacific edition of "Yank" magazine. I thought that

since some of the CGCVA WWII vets might be familiar with a similar "New Guinea" jungle, that maybe they would get a kick out of it. I don't know if you can print this type of material but I know it would make folks laugh like hell. It says more about the mud, etc., of New Guinea than any historian could do in a thousand words. **CWO4 David Wischemann, USCG (Ret.)**

**Editor's Note: Dave is correct. The poem is a laugh riot and no I can't print it all in the QD Log. However, if anyone recalls it, the title is "Thoughts of a Troppo Trooper" and here is the first portion:**

*Oh sing a song of Guinea-land, a pocket full of slime,  
Sixty-billion blowflies, a buzzin' all the time.  
Snakes and ants in front and back, and lizards on my flank,  
Say isn't that a dainty dish to set before a Yank?  
Behold in all his truculence, the wallaby connibial,  
A pocket-book edition of a pocket-book marsupial.  
He bounces and he bounces with a shock absorbant ease,  
And gaily bouncing with him are his fifty thousand fleas.  
He bounces 'round my tent at night, he bounces in and then,  
He leaves his mark, and while it's dark, he bounces out again.  
I wake up and I look and think, "Why wasn't he a dear?"  
Cause there within my shoe he left the nicest souvenir.  
God bless thee little wallaby; God bless thee bouncing fauna,  
I bless the day we met, but I'll be glad the day you're gone-a!  
Oh sing a song of Guinea-land, a barrel full of mud,  
Leeches and mosquitoes in a bacchanale of blood.  
Fungus in the lister-bag and termites in the tank,  
Say isn't that a dainty dish to set before a yank?*

## Andrew Jackson Higgins

The Summer 2005 *QD Log* issue included a feature story on Andrew Jackson Higgins, entitled "The Man Who Won The War." It was about the creator of the various "Higgins" boats that carried U.S. troops ashore during numerous amphibious assaults in the European and Pacific Theaters during World War II. Here's some additional information on this brilliant man and the landing craft he created.



When the United States Fifth Army landed at Salerno, Italy and GEN Douglas MacArthur's forces captured Salamaua in New Guinea, the American Navy totaled 14,072 vessels. Of these boats, 12,964, or 92% of the entire U.S. navy, were designed by Higgins Industries, Inc. Of that number, 8,865 were built at the Higgins plants in New Orleans, La.

When the government began ordering his craft for military purposes, Higgins expanded into eight separate plants in the city, employing more than 20,000 workers. At the peak of production, the combined output of his plants exceeded 700 boats per month. His total output for the Allies during World War II was 20,094 boats, a production record for which Higgins Industries several times received the Army-Navy "E", the highest award that the Armed Forces could bestow upon a company.

In August 1944, Higgins was called to a meeting with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the White House. By this time, Higgins was known worldwide as the major provider of the boats for Allied forces. Roosevelt had not called Higgins to discuss boats. Instead, he told Higgins that he would be called upon to participate in "the most vital project of the war." The project, later known as the Manhattan Project, carried the highest secret classification, and at that time, neither he or anyone else at his plant could be given any information other than the specifications for the parts they were to produce.

Roosevelt told Higgins that for seven months, other companies had been trying to manufacture the parts without success. Now, the President put the challenge to Higgins, who accepted it eagerly and recommended that the production be carried out at the Michoud facility near New Orleans. Security would be maintained by explaining that the finely machined parts were for radio and radar communication, and every employee had to agree to an oath of secrecy.

Higgins hired elderly retired people to do this work, a group that far outnumbered the skilled engineers working on this project, and no one knew that parts of the atomic bomb were being manufactured by Higgins at the Michoud plant.

### **Keeping Seas Safe**

I have always been proud to have been in the U.S. Coast Guard and for helping out in World War II, but I've always been disappointed the USCG wasn't given credit due. I'm sure there's many mates out there who feel the same. The follow-

ing newspaper article shows one way to get the word out. Even the reported who interviewed me wasn't aware of the Coast Guard's efforts in WWII. Tom Taylor

Tom Taylor knows firsthand the importance of the Coast Guard in World War II. But that's not enough. "I always get upset about the lack of publicity," he says.

He knows that history, because he was there, aboard a Coast Guard-manned destroyer escort helping to keep transports safe as they crossed the North Atlantic. He also saw service in the Mediterranean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

In addition to escort duty, the Coast Guard participated in landing operations in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and the Pacific. At Normandy, 99 vessels were operated all or in part by Coast Guard crews. Out of 241,093 who served in the Coast Guard during WWII, 574 were killed in military operations.

The problem, said Taylor, was the soldiers and marines in the operations often didn't know they were on Coast Guard craft. "We wore the same uniforms as the Navy," Taylor said. "The only difference being a shield emblem on the arm."

Taylor didn't serve at the landings, but he had to cross the stormy Atlantic at least 12 times on a destroyer escort, a ship he described as being "the same size as a destroyer, but not built to last as long." Their job was to protect transports from German submarines. The wolfpacks took their toll on the transports, especially the slow-moving Liberty ships, but Taylor's ship, the *USS Camp (DE-251)*, had only one possible encounter with a U-boat.

"We fired depth charges and then hung around a while, but didn't see anything," Taylor said. "A few days later another convoy passed through the same area and saw some debris, so we were credited with a possible kill."

The *Camp* was seriously damaged once during the war, but not by enemy fire — it collided with a convoy ship. On Nov. 17, 1944, the *Camp* cut across the bow of another vessel. Taylor recalls that they were trying to keep the transport out of a minefield, although the official account is less specific. The transport slammed into the *Camp*, shearing off 50 feet of the *Camp's* bow. Only one crewman was lost — a sonarman who had relieved Taylor at his post two hours earlier. "The remote controls of the sonar unit were out, so a man had to sit on the keel and operate the unit by hand. I had the midnight to 4 a.m. watch, and the man who relieved me was lost in the collision, which happened about 6 a.m.," Taylor said.



WORLD WAR II 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
COMMEMORATION-EUROPEAN THEATER

### **BACKGROUND**

Taylor graduated from Zanesville (Ohio) High School in the spring of 1942, and then volunteered for the Coast Guard that fall. “When I was a kid, I saw a newsreel that showed the Coast Guard going out in dories to rescue people off a ship. I think that led me into it,” Taylor said.

He entered the Coast Guard along with four other local boys. The night before they left for the service, Bette McClellan threw a party for her friends and classmates. “I knew Tom at the time — he was dating a friend of mine,” Bette said. She married Tom after the war.

The group headed for boot camp at Manhattan Beach, N.Y. “We got separated after boot camp and I lost track of the others,” Taylor said.

After basic, Taylor was assigned to the rescue station at Boston, and then went to York Beach, Maine, where he spent four months on beach patrol. Then it was off to Portsmouth, N.H., to petty officer’s school. “When I got back to base, there was a bulletin asking people to sign up for sea duty, which I did,” Taylor said.

Taylor went with other Coast Guard members to Norfolk, Va., for destroyer escort training, and then went to Brown Shipyard in Houston for the commissioning of the *USS Camp*. From there they took the ship to Galveston for final fitting, then it was back to New England where they finally got ammunition for the guns. They went to Bermuda for gunnery training, firing at “sleeves” towed by aircraft, and for anti-submarine training.

That’s where they practiced dropping depth charges and firing the “hedgehog,” a device on the bow of the ship, which fired an array of explosive charges ahead of the ship at submarines. Training included learning how to interpret the sonar

signals to make attack runs on the German submarines. The crew of the *Camp* set a record of 19 out of a possible 20 “kills” during training and was only surpassed by a Navy destroyer which had a sonar man with perfect pitch.

“A captured German officer who was there during our training said he was sure glad we never made an attack on his sub,” Taylor said.



*CGCVA Life Member Tom Taylor served in the Coast Guard from 1942-46. (Photo by Dante Smith, Times Recorder)*

### **ON CONVOY DUTY**

In January 1944, the *Camp* had its first taste of convoy duty. “There were 100 ships in the convoy, one of the largest up to that time, protected by a flotilla of Coast Guard destroyer escorts.” Taylor recalled.

The North Atlantic in January is not a pleasant place, with high seas sending water crashing over the decks. “I watched the inclinometer (a device measuring the amount of roll the ship was enduring) roll over more than 60 degrees. We referred to the ship going over two and under one, meaning going over two waves and into the third one. We said we should get flight pay and submarine pay in addition to our sea duty pay.”

On that first trip, they escorted the convoy to Great Britain, then joined the guard of another convoy in the

Mediterranean. When they got to Casablanca, they turned the convoy over to the protection of the British navy, then headed back to the U.S. to guard another convoy to Britain, this time to Northern Ireland.

“We made the run to Ireland four or five times,” Taylor recalled. “The crew never knew where they were heading.

# ANTISUBMARINE 1941-1945



Only the officers knew so we were in a kind of suspense all the time.”

But they were often in Londonberry and became acquainted with the local women. “They didn’t have any lipstick or perfume, and things like that, so we’d load up with those kind of items when in Boston or New York and take them to Londonberry. Those things made us very welcome,” Taylor said with a laugh.

On one Atlantic crossing, while near Iceland, they even witnessed St. Elmo’s Fire, Taylor recalled. “It’s an eerie sight — all the stays and shards take on a florescence at night. It’s due to atmospheric conditions and only lasted a short time, until we sailed out of the area. We only saw it that one night.”

Although the Coast Guard played a major role in the D-Day landings at Normandy, operating many of the landing craft and rescue ships, Taylor and the *Camp* weren’t a part of that operation. However, the day after the invasion, the *Camp* was sent to pick up a cruiser that had been damaged during the invasion and towed it back to England.

The next convoy was to go to Scotland, and it was on this trip that the *Camp* lost its bow in a collision with one of the transports. “We put into dry dock at Cardiff where they attached a temporary bow,” Taylor said. They then returned to the U.S. for permanent repairs.

Intact again, the *Camp* went to Bermuda for a shakedown cruise and to try out the new guns she had been outfitted with. “We found out that they didn’t reinforce the decks enough to support the guns,” Taylor said. “We had to go into Charleston and have the decks reinforced.”

### **OFF TO THE PACIFIC**

The war in Europe had ended, so the *Camp* headed through the Panama Canal and out to Pearl Harbor, where they began two or three weeks of maneuvers preparing for the invasion of Japan. “Then Harry Truman dropped the bomb, thanks God,” Taylor said.

Because of his length of service, Taylor was eligible for stateside duty. He was asked to continue on duty in the Pacific, but Taylor said, “I told them to give me my ‘Ruptured Duck’ and get me out of here.” Taylor had seen a lot of the world in his time of service but he was ready to go home.

“When I was in school I liked geography. After I was in the service, I got to see a lot of those places we had studied,” he said. We were in all theaters of operation and had been to

Africa, the Mediterranean, England, Ireland, Bermuda, Guantanamo Bay (twice), the Panama Canal and Hawaii.

“I was sent to Honolulu where I had to wait for a ship going back. I finally came back on a Coast Guard troop ship with all kinds of people aboard. It was so crowded we practically had to sleep in the bilge to get home. I was thrilled to see the Golden Gate Bridge.”

While in Hawaii, he and some friends tried to go swimming on the beaches, but they had to go too far out to find water deep enough. Finally, someone said they could go to the pool at Fort Shafter. “We went to the pool and I saw a guy that looked like my cousin, Dick Taylor — and it was,” Taylor said.

### **BACK IN THE STATES**

When we finally got back to the United States, Taylor said they boarded a train but it took them two days just to get to Idaho, so he got off and started hitchhiking. “We reached Columbus only 24 hours after the train was to have arrived,” Taylor said. He had some time left in Portsmouth, N.H., and then Detroit, but was finally discharged in March 1946.

Back in Zanesville, Taylor didn’t spend much time collecting his “52/20” benefits (\$20 a week for 52 weeks), but after two weeks took a job for \$15 a week with an engineering survey crew. He then went into sales work and eventually started his own company, Southeastern Advertising, selling all kinds of advertising materials. In 1964, he opened a golf course north of New Concord, Taylor Terrace Golf Course, only the second 18-hole course in Muskingum County.

He is a life member of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association and eager to tell people about the role the Coast Guard played in World War II. Some of his love for the Coast Guard must have rubbed off on his oldest son, Jeff, who retired after spending 22 years in the Coast Guard.

**Chuck Martin**  
Times Recorder Staff Writer

*Editor’s Note: The above article was published in the December 16, 2003 Times Recorder. And Tom is quite correct, not many folks are aware of the many contributions by the Coast Guard during World War II, or for that matter, in any of our Nation’s armed conflicts. If you, as a CGCVA member, have the opportunity to “tell your story” to the media or as a speaker, please do so. Every little bit helps! And don’t forget the USCG Historian’s Office is still looking for first-person accounts and memoirs by Coast Guard WWII veterans..*



## *From an AKA Sailor*

I'm sending in my check for another two-year CGCVA membership, along with photo copies of my transfers and dates documenting my 17 months on the *USS Eridanous (AKA-92)* and during the time it was anchored at Bougainville (January 29 - February 7, 1944). While there, one of the officers wanted some mohagany and I volunteered (stupid me!) He made it possible and while I was at the Sea-Bee saw mill I was able to observe the Fijian night fighters work on our landing strips with enemy gunnery action across the river. The Japanese sent at least one plane every afternoon to see what we were doing. I'll never forget it. Our guns got hot every day but we kept their planes high.

**Ernest F. Bellenbaum**

## *My Spouse Served In Vietnam*

I have been actively searching for women whose husbands (or fiancés) served, as mine did, in the military in the Vietnam War-to gather and tell our stories-our memories of who we were growing up in those changing times, what we did while waiting for our men to return, and who we are now.

To date I have interviewed over 70 amazing women who have shared their stories with me. Each has been a special journey into the past-not seeking the sensational, but visiting areas of comfort, whatever each person wishes to tell about the time she waited, as we all have a story to tell. I also respect the fact that we all have doors that might not be opened to others. Since memory has become less reliable with age, I request permission to tape record our discussion. For those women who wish to remain anonymous, I offer using a pseudonym and changing other relevant names of people and places for the final written project, which I hope will be a book. Most of the women have said no one had ever asked about their own life and experiences during the war and are eager to have the stories told. With wisdom and hindsight, they have offered advice for military wives of today and tomorrow, for this latest war has meant that families will once again face the unexpected in yet a different era.

I am an ordinary woman who lived in and through some extraordinary times. The project began over these many years as I wrote down and saved my personal reflections. Like so many others, since the outbreak of the war in Iraq, I was reliving the past more than any other time since Vietnam with all-too-vivid reminders as I sat transfixed in front of the television,

captivated by "embedded" correspondents broadcasting live from battle zones. I was struck by the vast contrasts with the type of news that had been available during the Vietnam War. My most vivid memory of the media remains facing Walter Cronkite in my living room each night as he updated body counts--and of course the ever-present anti-war protests.

In 1967, at the then advanced age of 24, I married a young man from my small hometown. He was called to active duty to fulfill his college Army ROTC obligation. As a new military wife, I quit my job and followed him south to Ft. Benning, Georgia, then north to Ft. Holabird, Maryland. When he received his orders to Vietnam, young, idealistic, and optimistic about the future, we accepted unquestionably the call to duty. The family gathered at the airport to bid a tearful farewell as he left for Vietnam. Pregnant and suddenly on my own, I returned to the home of my parents for comfort and support. I kept up a quiet, brave face and anticipated destiny and the birth of our baby. Although my husband returned, our marriage, I believe, suffered a different kind of collateral damage from that war, and we divorced before our son began kindergarten. That son, the only child each of us ever had, served proudly in the United States Coast Guard after being graduated from the USCG Academy. This spring we all had the pleasure of gathering to witness his marriage at last. I might even get to join the grandmothers' club someday!

And here I am so many years later getting older and speaking with by telephone or meeting personally with women I never knew when we were all waiting for our men to return home. I have made trips from my home on the Eastern Shore of Maryland-using accumulated air miles or driving my old jeep and staying

with friends and relatives along the way--traveling to and through Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maine, Maryland, Florida, Nevada, Tennessee, and was in Washington, DC last Veterans' Day and in the Chicago area twice last year. I have even had the opportunity and additional pleasure to meet in person some of the women with whom I'd spoken to previously by telephone. I was thrilled to be in Tampa before Wilma blew into town, meeting at last my first Coastie wives through the welcome received by the Coast Guard Combat Veterans and their delightful spouses willing to share their past. I hope to complete seven interviews from the group of wives who waited so long ago. I will always consider myself a Coastie mom, and the women's project would not be complete without representation from the USCG.



*In between interviews, Marion Phillips gets crocheting pointers from Liz Scotti. Liz was one of several Coast Guard spouses interviewed by Marion for a book she is writing on spouses whose husbands served in Vietnam.*

with friends and relatives along the way--traveling to and through Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maine, Maryland, Florida, Nevada, Tennessee, and was in Washington, DC last Veterans' Day and in the Chicago area twice last year. I have even had the opportunity and additional pleasure to meet in person some of the women with whom I'd spoken to previously by telephone. I was thrilled to be in Tampa before Wilma blew into town, meeting at last my first Coastie wives through the welcome received by the Coast Guard Combat Veterans and their delightful spouses willing to share their past. I hope to complete seven interviews from the group of wives who waited so long ago. I will always consider myself a Coastie mom, and the women's project would not be complete without representation from the USCG.



Should any wives wish to contact me, or should you wish something additional or re-written, I shall be happy to provide additional information.

With sincere gratitude and kind personal regards, **Marion Phillips** at P.O. Box 2616, Easton, MD 21601-8950. Phone: (410) 490.3618.

### *USCGC Chase Reunion*

April 29th, 2005 saw members of the USCGC Chase Assoc. reunion group converge on USCG Tracen Cape May, N.J., to attend the recruit graduation ceremony. The Chase Assoc. was holding its 2nd ships reunion in Atlantic City, N.J. from Apr. 18th - May 1st at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center. Within the *Chase* group visiting the training center were 10 members of the CGCVA who served aboard *Chase* during its Vietnam deployment.

Upon our arrival we were greeted by CWO Bill Carson, the Base public affairs officer who welcomed us aboard and guided us to a reserved seating area (for the *Chase*) in the Ida Lewis auditorium to see the pre graduation films about the Recruit training and the duties of the Coast Guard. We were then introduced to SA Tiffany Singleton who was assigned to be our official guide for the day. Following the very entertaining and informative films we were directed to the gymnasium where the graduation was to be held due to the threat of rain. Again, special reserved seating was provided for the *Chase* visitors. Since there were CGCVA members in attendance, CWO Carson asked that we participate in the presentation of the CGCVA Physical Fitness award. I volunteered to be the representative and was guided to the area where the Base dignitaries were seated and given a few instructions as to the correct protocol. As we were preparing for the ceremony to start the Base CO, CAPT Curtis Odom, whom I had met last July during the CG Vietnam Memorial Monument dedication, spotted me wearing my *Chase* hat and made it a point to step over to say hello and to welcome us aboard.

The graduation ceremony began promptly at 1100 with the assembly of the graduating Companies, posting of Colors and



*CGC Chase Association reunion attendees included several CGCVA members. They enjoyed a tour of USCG Training Center Cape May, N.J., and pose here at the Douglas Munro statue.*

music from the Training Center Band, followed by an impressive display of coordinated steps and maneuvers provided by the Training Center Silent Drill Team as they spun, tossed and caught bayoneted rifles. Needless to say we all felt mighty proud of them all.

As the ceremony progressed it became time for the Awards presentation. Those of us that were to present the various awards were directed to form up together with the graduates who would be receiving them. Soon it was my turn to present the CGCVA-sponsored Physical Fitness award which consists of a watch and certificate. I then broke ranks, stepped up to Captain Odom and after a respectful salute was given the award to present. I then turned to face the winning recruit, soon to be SA Daniel R. Dominguez, and with a hand shake and a hearty "Well Done Coastie" handed him what he had worked so hard to achieve. The ceremony finished up with the presenting of the Graduate Certificates to each new

Coast Guardsman while their name and duty assignments were read. It wasn't a surprise that when a particular Seaman Apprentice was told he would be assigned to the Cutter *Chase* that a loud and enthusiastic cheer was heard coming from a group of old timers.

The ceremony ended with the retiring of colors and the dismissing of the graduating Companies. I must admit it was a

genuine honor to have played a part in the presenting of the Awards.

Following the Graduation we were off to the Galley for



*CGCVA member Chris Wood (second from right) prepares to present the CGCVA Physical Fitness Award at a recruit graduation.*



*CGC Chase Association members enjoy a reunion photo-op.*

lunch but first made a stop at the CG Vietnam Memorial Monument (which is located between the Gym and Galley) to pay our respects, reflect on our service and take photos. Lunch was just great with an assorted menu of tasty treats being offered.



**CGCVA member Chris Wood smiles after winning the CGC Chase painting.**

Having had our fill, Tiffany lead us over to the 210-foot Cutter *Vigorous* where we were greeted by a crew member who gave us the official tour. A 210 is kind of like a scaled down version of a 378 and I know that we all felt like there just wasn't enough room on that boat having been spoiled by the roominess aboard the *Chase*. The tour was very informative and I know that the wives and guests had found new respect for what it was like to live and work aboard a cutter.

After we departed the *Vigorous* our favorite guide walked us over to the Douglas Munro Memorial for photos and then over to the Base Exchange where everyone seemed to find something "Coast Guard" to buy.

Our Base tour finished up at the Chief's Club but not before running into Captain Odom again who took the time to shake hands and make sure we were having a good time. At the Chief's Club we were shown the Portrait Gallery of the first, and all past and present Master Chiefs of the Coast Guard. We departed TraCen Cape May with new found pride of who we are, where we've been, and what we have done, and much respect for those new Coasties who are following in our footsteps for they too have a big job to do.

We returned to the Clarion in Atlantic City to find more of our shipmates arriving for the official kick-off of the Chase Assoc. reunion which went on through Sunday and was a great success. The highlight for me was winning the top prize in the raffle of a commissioned painting of the *Chase*.

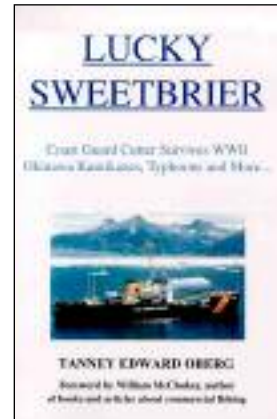
I highly recommend that any ship reunion groups and even the CGCVA consider gathering in the Greater Cape May area and include a trip to the TraCen on Friday to attend the graduation and take a tour. Captain Odom, CWO Carson and the entire training center staff really rolled out the Red, White and Blue Carpet for us and I am sure that they would for you too. Semper Paratus!

**Christopher F. Wood (Woody)**

## CGCVA Authors Abound

Over the past few years, several CGCVA members have had books published, and several are available through our Ship's Store (see page 29). Our new CGCVA vice president, Paul C. Scotti, authored "Coast Guard Action in Vietnam" but he's certainly not alone.

CGCVA member Tanney Edward Oberg recently penned the 192-page book, "Lucky Sweetbriar: Coast Guard Cutter Survives WWII Okinawa Kamikazes, Typhoons and More..." The non-fiction book is singularly written from an enlist-



ed man's perspective with many "down and dirty" startling recollections that will interest readers of action tales, WWII veterans, current and former Coast Guard and Navy sailors, and U.S. history buffs.

"Lucky Sweetbriar" is a true story lived by the small crew of a small ship in a big war. It covers the ship's commissioning in 1944 through combat at Okinawa, including chapters on the devastating attacks on the *USS LST-808* and battleship *USS Pennsylvania*.

Oberg, who served as radioman-in-charge aboard Sweetbriar during WWII, spent over six years in the research and writing and he traveled to Cordova, Alaska for the ship's decommissioning.



Another CGCVA member, Gordon Grimes, has authored an autobiography entitled "For What It's Worth: The Life and Extraordinary Times of Gordon Grimes.

The book includes his WWII Coast Guard experiences from Boot Camp to duty aboard *LT-535*, *FS-317*, and *LT-634*.

**CGCVA member Steve Petersen shows off a copy of "Coast Guard Action in Vietnam" he bought at the Tampa convention. Steve served in Vietnam with Explosive Loading Detachment #4.**





## From The Membership Chairman

Well folks I had a great reunion in Tampa. Hope to see more of you in San Mateo, California at our next reunion.

I got back home to N.C. safely, then headed for the coast to do some fishing. While at the coast, I visited Camp Legune Marine Corps Base and got to see the Coast Guard Special Operations training center headed up by CAPT Alexander. I had a special treat for all you cannon cockers as I observed some small arns training going on that day. They were all a great bunch of guys. I met with their training officer and public affairs officer and gave them several back issues of the *Quarterdeck Log*. There are currently 117 men attached to this unit. Some of the men there were Iraqi War veterans and I hope to pick up some new members.

I next visited the Coast Guard station at Wrightsville Beach, N.C. There I met with the Senior Chief and some of the crew members. I left several *Quarterdeck Logs* with them too. Once again, some of the men there that were also eligible for CGCVA membership so perhaps we'll see some more new members. Those Coasties loved having me around and treated me with celebrity status.

In regards to the Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award we recieved at the Tampa Reunion, I washappy to see that the commadant reconigized us. We all now need to capitolize on this award for membership purposes. I urge all CGCVA members to contact local news media in their area to

see if they will get the word out about the award. We do not often get a chance to put forward to the public our Coast Guard Combat Association.

Please keep beating on the doors for new members and I will thank you in advance for doing so. Until next time, Semper Paratus! **Pat Ramsey**

### *Las Cruces Veterans Memorial Wall*

A 200-foot wall listing every theater of war from the Revolutionary War and the names of all men and women who served from Dona Ana Couty, N.M. was dedicated Nov. 11th. One Vietnam vet said with tears in his eyes, "I never was honored for my service in Vietnam, and now I finally have had that long awaited acknowledgement."

The U.S.Coast Guard was represented by ETC Don Haldeman, the OIC at the USCG Las Cruces LORAN Station.



*CGCVA member Taylor Lapham and Chief Haldeman at the new Memorial Wall.*

## Let Your Name Live On

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

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

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

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

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

***What a Great, Rough and Bumpy Reunion***

It was so hot in our Hospitality (Gazebo) Suite that Jane Maxwell said her Right Guard deodorant went left, and my 5-day deodorant pads gave out before the 1st day was over. Still, it will forever remain a very memorable occasion.

We were without one of our most capable members for the first couple of days. Nancy Burke broke her wrist and wound up in the hospital but that didn't keep her down long. She was back working the Registration Desk soon after being released. What a trooper! Nancy, I hope the arm doesn't give you too much trouble, heals fast, and you continue to feel great.

It is indeed an honor to have been nominated and re-elected President of the Auxiliary for another term, thank you! Congratulations also to Linda Benoit and Jane Maxwell who were re-elected as Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer.. Linda dreamed up and made the lovely centerpieces for our Auxiliary Friendship Dinner Meeting. Jane kept and gave great records and accounts of all our business transactions. Thank you ladies, you made it a wonderfully successful meeting. I couldn't have done it without you.

I want to welcome ALL of our new members, we are happy that you chose to join us. It is our goal to make you feel welcome and we hope that you've enjoyed being a member thus far.

Congratulations also to the newly elected men: Gil Benoit, as President, Paul Scotti as Vice President, and Baker Herbert re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer. Also, congratulations to the outgoing President, Ed Swift... you've been one of the greatest! Thank you Ed for the nice card and all your kind words. I know your continued work as Quarterdeck Log editor and all the other aspects you lend a hand to will be as great a job and greatly appreciated.

As we left the Holiday Inn in Tampa, we were met by Hurricane Wilma's high winds and rain. My umbrella will never be the same, and I thought for a moment that I was going to be air lifted to St. Elsewhere. We said out good-byes and drove up the street for breakfast. When we finished, the rain had subsided and the wind had slowed a bit. We headed north with high gusting cross winds but the sky was "Carolina Blue". We



*(Above) Liz Scotti, Shirley Ramsey and Linda Benoit at the Convention Awards Banquet.*



*(Left) Bob and Jane Maxwell and Shirley Ramsey work a shift at the Hospitality Suite Registration Desk.*



*(Above) Liz Scotti and Susan Roberts-Forsberg busy themselves during an afternoon lull in reunion activities.*

*(Right) CGCVA Auxiliary President Shirley Ramsey speaks at the Awards Banquet.*



stopped for the night in Georgia and as I opened my suitcase and saw my bathing suit. I just shivered (as I am sure the ones headed north did also). It was like leaving home in the summer and returning in the winter.

I look forward to the next 18 months and our next reunion in San Mateo, Calif. It has been a few years since we've been there.

I pray that all of you returned home safely and your homes were the same as when you left. Until next time don't forget to pray for our Nation, our President, all of those in

authority over us and above all, OUR TROOPS who are putting their lives on the line for us.

I remain Sincerely yours,  
**Shirley Ramsey**

P.S. If anyone has something of interest

you would like included in the QD Log, please e-mail me at [ramseypatrick@bellsouth.net](mailto:ramseypatrick@bellsouth.net). (By the way, we don't open mail unless you identify yourself at the beginning)



## CGCVA Small Stores

*The following CGCVA items are now available. Send orders to Baker Herbert at P.O. Box 544, Westfield Center, Oh., 44251-0544. Call Baker at (330) 887-5539 or e-mail at [USCGW64@neo.rr.com](mailto:USCGW64@neo.rr.com). Please make checks payable to CGCVA. Prices shown include first-class or "Book Rate" postage.*

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

**CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS:** 255' Owasco Class; 378' Hamilton Class; 270' Class; 210' Class; and USCGC Mackinaw. Each ship of class imprinted on one side of ornament with commissioning & decommissioning dates; color drawing of ship on other side. **\$7.00** each (shipped in display box).

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

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

**LAPEL PIN:** Pewter, Yellow Ribbon surrounding USCG Emblem. **\$5.00**

**LAPEL PIN:** Pewter, Yellow Ribbon surrounding CGCVA Emblem. **\$5.00**

**BOOKS:** "Coast Guard Navy of WWII" by William Knight. **\$20.00**. "Coast Guard Action in Vietnam" by CGCVA member Paul C. Scotti **\$20.00**. "Coast Guard In World War One" by CGCVA member CAPT Alex Larzelere **\$30.00**. "Rescue At Sea" by Clayton Evans **\$40.00**. Coast Guard Combat Veterans, Turner Publishing **\$35.00**. "Always Ready - Today's U.S. Coast Guard" by Bonner and Bonner **\$15.00**. "The Coast Guard At War, Vietnam 1965-1975" by CAPT Alex Larzelere **\$30.00**. "Hooligan Sailor" by Leon Fredrick. **\$9.00**.

**SHIRT:** Short sleeve, polyester/cotton, CGCVA logo on right side with name over left pocket. Available in white, red or blue in sizes S, M, L, XL. **\$35.00**. Must state name for pocket. Size XXL, add \$2.00. Size XXXL, add \$3.00.

**ZIPPER PULL:** USCG Emblem, DHS Emblem and US Flag Emblem. **\$2.00**

**PATCHES:** CGCVA, RONONE, Con-Son, ELD, ELD-Eagle, Sattahip, Market Time, CG-TAC. Each **\$5.00**. Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club. **\$6.00**. Small CGCVA. **\$3.00**

**PLAQUE:** 3-D Hand-crafted CGCVA Emblem, made from various woods and felt, 11-inch diameter. **NEW ITEM. \$35.00**



*11-inch CGCVA Wooden  
Plaque*

### ***CG Academy Visit***

CGCVA PNP Jacka Campbell and Trustee Herb Weinstein recently visited the Coast Guard Academy and, in ceremonies similar to those at Training Center Cape May, presented CGCVA watches to two selected cadets. Later, the following cards were received by Jack:

"Thank you very much for the CGCVA award you presented to me at our lunch. I am so honored to have received this award from you. It was so nice having lunch with you and Mr. Weinstein. I loved hearing all of your sea stories, they were so



interesting and eventful. I can't wait until I have some Coast Guard stories of my own to share. The watch you gave me is wonderful. I am proud to wear it wherever I go. Thank you again. Sincerely,"

like to thank you for the time you shared with me at lunch and for the stories you enlightened me with. Thank you. Respectfully,"

**4/c Jeannie Crump**

Jack also received this letter:

"I respectfully request to thank you for the Coast Guard Combat Veteran Award. I was extremely honored. I would also

**4/c J. Church**

**Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

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

**STUDENT'S NAME:**

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

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

**SPONSOR'S NAME:**

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

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

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_ Complete: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Awarded: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Cc: CGCVA National Secretary/Treasurer  
CGCVA National President









*CGCVA member Chris Wood customized his Harley with a POW-MIA theme. He says that Orange County Choppers (Discovery Channel show) built a nice one but he did his first. Sweeeet!*

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

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VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
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