



The Fierce Pierce  
**USS JOHN R. PIERCE SAILORS ORGANIZATION, INC.**

**VOLUME 17**

**ISSUE 1**

**March 2007**

**Editor: Gene DesRoches**

**Circulation Editor: Beverly DesRoches**

**MEMBERS, PLEASE BE ADVISED THERE IS A COMMERCIAL WEB SITE [CAFEPRESS.COM](http://CAFEPRESS.COM) WHO IS SENDING OUT EMAILS OFFERING JOHN R PIERCE ITEMS SUCH AS T-SHIRTS, JACKETS, MUGS, HATS, ETC. THE EMAIL IDENTIFIES THEM AS THE USS JOHN R PIERCE (DD753) STORE. BE ADVISED THEY ARE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE USS JOHN R PIERCE DD-753 SAILORS ORGANIZATION.**

**WE DO NOT SEND OUT EMAILS ABOUT ITEMS CARRIED IN OUR SHIP'S STORE, THUS ANY EMAIL OFFERING ITEMS FOR SALE ARE NOT FROM OUR ORGANIZATION.**

#### **Editor's Notes**

**We received one of the letters and thank our President for the heads up.**

After the confusion and lost membership lists, we reluctantly agreed to the newsletter job. We wish Gene Slavin a speedy recovery from his illness and expect to see both Gene and Patti at our next reunion. They have been most helpful in setting up the letter format. We shall do our best to make our newsletter informative and interesting. The publication deadline is February 14, 2007, for the March 2007 issue. Since this is our first attempt, we would appreciate early entries and reports. We wish all a peaceful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

#### **President's Message**

By the time this news letter is published Thanksgiving 2006 will have come and gone. I hope each member and their family had a joyous and wonderful time. As we approach Christmas and New Years, we need to pause and be thankful that we live in the greatest country in the world, mainly due to the sacrifices of the men and women of the U. S. Armed Forces, especially those members who served on the USS John R Pierce DD-753. Please remember all service personnel both those on active duty and those who served in the past in your prayers. From my family to yours; MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The 2006 reunion was held in Excelsior Spring, Mo. While the turnout was low a good time was had by all. I thought the tour of the Harry S. Truman Library was very informative. My thanks to Rod & Verlee Kent for serving as reunion chairpersons. The memory book provided by Ron Piper was truly outstanding.

Since returning home I have been busy contacting current and former members that I could identify. This was to verify their status, addresses etc. That process went well; however, there are a few that we could not get in touch with as their address, phone number and/or email are incorrect. Generally there seems to be much enthusiasm for holding a reunion in Norfolk. As of this writing all recruitment functions including verification of current members has been transferred to Wes Kreske. If you have any question about your status please contact Wes at 3804 Fairlawn Heights SE, Warren, OH 44484 or email at [wesdd753@neo.rr.com](mailto:wesdd753@neo.rr.com). His telephone number is: 330-856-3354.

Speaking of the 2007 reunion, it is scheduled for Oct 2-7, 2007 at the Doubletree Hotel, Norfolk Airport, 880 North Military Highway. The memorial service will be held onboard the USS Wisconsin BB-64. For more information please visit [www.thenmc.org](http://www.thenmc.org). Reunion co-chairpersons are Ed Millet and Robert Wilno. If you are online you can go to the web site [www.ussjohnrpiercedd753.com](http://www.ussjohnrpiercedd753.com) where a page has been set up with reunion details. The webmaster has suggested we might wish to consider construction of a new web site. This will be discussed at the 2007 reunion. Effective with this publication, all news letters will be posted on the web site.

I would like to apologize as I listed my mail address incorrectly in the recent letter I sent to the members. My correct email is: [cthomp9785@hughes.net](mailto:cthomp9785@hughes.net).

Until next time, Fair winds, and Calm Seas.....Cecil

### TREASURER REPORT - 12/01/06

Checking .....	\$10,351.58
CD's.....	\$14,985.15
Total Assets: .....	\$25,336.73

Mail all dues to:  
Vince Pendolino  
13175 S. W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ct.  
Ocala, FL 34473  
Email: [dd753ocalavince@aol.com](mailto:dd753ocalavince@aol.com)

Dues are still \$15.00 per year and \$150.00 for lifetime membership. Make checks payable to:  
J.R. Pierce DD753 Sailors ORG.

The dues are due Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> (not Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>). The fiscal year runs from Oct.-Sept. If you haven't paid your 2005 dues, you are not a member in good standing. It is now time to pay for 2006.

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MO  
ANNUAL REUNION  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2006**

PRESENT: Wes Kreske, President  
Eugene DesRoches, Treasurer  
Cecil Thompson, Secretary  
Ronald Piper, Director

ABSENT: Eugene Slavin, Vice President  
James Diegel, Past President  
Ralph Mills, Director  
Angelo Ardingo, Director

A majority of board members constitute a quorum; a quorum not being present, no business was conducted. Some general discussion will be carried forward to the next reunion scheduled for October 2-7, 2007 in Norfolk, VA.

First: should the outgoing president assume the role of a director?

Second: Should the Vice President be automatically promoted to President at our annual election of officers in order to provide continuity?

These items will be added to the agenda for our next meeting.

Signed, Cecil Thompson, Secretary

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The nomination committee would like to thank the following people for agreeing to serve as officers of the USS John R Pierce sailor's organization

USS John R Pierce DD753 Executive Board 2007/2008:

President: Cecil Thompson  
Vice President: William Ippensen  
Treasurer: Vince Pendolino  
Secretary: Douglas Simon  
Treasurer: Vince Pendolino

Director (3): Robert Groth  
Director (2): Ron Piper  
Director (1): Angelo Ardingo

Nominating Committee:  
Rod Kent: Chairman  
Bob Wallace  
Bob Wilno

**USS JOHN R PIERCE DD753 SAILORS ORGANIZATION  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MO  
ANNUAL REUNION  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by President Wes Kreske.

There was no old business

New Business:

Ed Millet requested the floor, and was given permission to proceed.

Ed gave a review of the 2007 planned reunion. The reunion is planned for **October 2-7, 2007** in Norfolk, Va, at the Doubletree Hotel located on Military Circle, Room rates will be \$75 plus tax. The Memorial will be held onboard the USS Wisconsin BB-64. The USS Wisconsin is located at the National Maritime Center-Nauticus in Norfolk, VA. **MORE INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.** Co-Chairmen are Ed Millet and Robert (Bob) Wilno.

It was also decided that the 2008 reunion would be held in Florida. Possible sites in order are (1) Ocala, (2) Jacksonville and (3) Tampa. The exact location will be firmed up at the 2007 reunion. Chairman of this event is Vincent Pedolino.

The 2009 reunion will be held in Norfolk to commemorate the 65 years since the USS JOHN R PIERCE DD753 was commissioned. Chairman will be Ed Millett.

Rod Kent requested the floor and was given permission to proceed.

Rod stated that he, Robert Wilno and Bob Wallace were the three members on the nominating committee for Executive Board Positions and that the following positions were open. President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Director (1 position open). He further explained at this time there was only one nominee for each position. For President - Cecil Thompson, For Vice-President - William Ippensen, For Treasurer - Vincent Pedolino, Secretary - Douglas Simon and Director - Robert Groth.

Rod inquired from the floor if there were any more nominees for the upcoming positions. After a reasonable length of time there were none. Wes Kreske requested that nominations be closed and it was seconded by Ed Millet.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>St.</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>Spouse</b>	<b>Rt/Rnk</b>	<b>Aboard</b>
Petterson	Harry	34 Erlemann Pl.	Jeffersonville	NY	12748	Lilly	CS3	47-50

**TAPS**

Bud E. Thompson, DK2

Brian Humphrey, SK3

## **MEMBERS ATTENDING EXCELSIOR SPRINGS REUNION**

<b>FIRST</b>	<b>LAST</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Frank S.	Ashby	770-813-1827	<a href="mailto:frankgeashby@bellsouth.net">frankgeashby@bellsouth.net</a> <a href="mailto:Rvcdd753@charter.net">Rvcdd753@charter.net</a>
Robert Y.	Chambers	828-627-1952	
Gary D.	Cleasby	608-754-8553	<a href="mailto:gdeleas@ticon.net">gdeleas@ticon.net</a>
Frank A.	DePaola	508-672-6739	
Eugene	DesRoches	(727) 585-7958	<a href="mailto:desroc@gmail.com">desroc@gmail.com</a>
John B.	Ferrell	502-543-7954	
Robert L.	Foster	620-342-6096	<a href="mailto:Bjfooster28@sbcglobal.net">Bjfooster28@sbcglobal.net</a>
Robert J.	Groth	863-467-1646	bojuokee@aol.com
Wilburn N.	High	601-682-7131	
William F.	Ippensen	217-223-9254	
Roderick	Kent	515-285-2358	<a href="mailto:rvvkent@aol.com">rvvkent@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:Wesdd753@neo.rr.com">Wesdd753@neo.rr.com</a>
Wes	Kreske	330-856-3354	
William A.	Mathias	743-3300	
Edward	Millett	302.644-4081	<a href="mailto:gmsnnd753@aol.com">gmsnnd753@aol.com</a>
Jim	O'Bravich		
Robert A.	Olsen	518-235-1861	
Ralph	Olstad	(619) 465-4545	<a href="mailto:ralphpatplstad@aol.com">ralphpatplstad@aol.com</a>
Vincent J.	Pendolino	352.347-2031	<a href="mailto:dd753ocalavince@aol.com">dd753ocalavince@aol.com</a>
Ronald W.	Piper	317-662-1757	<a href="mailto:rbpiper@prodigy.net">rbpiper@prodigy.net</a>
David E.	Reed	813-945-1389	<a href="mailto:lilanddave@webtv.net">lilanddave@webtv.net</a>
Jack	Spruill	919.482-2819	
Douglas M.	Simon	757-625-0374	<a href="mailto:Simon2ofus@aol.com">Simon2ofus@aol.com</a>
C.F.	Steele	(502) 330-3102	
Cecil	Thompson	337-537-7533	<a href="mailto:Cthompson9785@hughes.net">Cthompson9785@hughes.net</a>
James	Waite	815.758-8345	
Robert A.	Wallace	254-865-2665	
Hugh W.	Yarrington	301-598-2379	<a href="mailto:Yarrington100@comcast.net">Yarrington100@comcast.net</a>

## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE**

Don and Marsha Hoeksema for doing the nametags once again for our reunion.

Andy Streit, HY-VEE for donation of bakery goods.

Deana Tice for providing bus transportation to our memorial service.

David Day, AM2, USN Navy Recruiting Station Des Moines for donating door prizes.

Derek Lawson for driving the bus to our memorial service.

Paul Turnquist, Motor Coach Operator for driving the tour bus and donating a USS John R. Pierce Reunion book.

John Beffa, SKC, (SW), USN (Ret) for providing and supervising the Honor Guard for our memorial service.

The Tin Can Sailor's Organization donated several door prizes.

I sent thank you letters to the above people with the exception of Don and Marsha Hoeksema as they will see this information in the December Newsletter.

Thank You,

Roderick and Verlee

### **PJ's CORNER**

#### **CHOCOLATE FUDGE**

1 1/3 C. Granulated Sugar  
1/4 tsp. salt  
2/3 C. Evaporated Milk (undiluted)  
1- 12oz. pkg. Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels  
1/4 C. Butter  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
16 lg. Marshmallows, quartered  
1 C. chopped walnuts, if desired  
(or 64 tiny marshmallows)

Combine sugar, milk, butter, marshmallows and salt in a 2 qt. saucepan. Cook, stirring constantly until mixture has boiled for EXACTLY 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add chocolate and vanilla and stir well until melted. Add desired nuts. Turn into an 8" square pan. Let stand until firm and then cut into pieces. Makes about 2 pounds of fudge.

#### **TRUFFLES**

2/3 C. whipping cream  
2 C. chocolate chips, melted over hot water  
Whip well and add 1/4 tsp. vanilla

Refrigerate 3 hours. Roll out in cocoa. Keep refrigerated.

### **REUNION NEWS**

2007 Reunion is tentatively set for Norfolk, Virginia. Bob Wino and Ed Millet are making a trip to Norfolk to finalize the site of our 2007 Reunion. We should have a report in our next newsletter.

## Bits and Pieces

If you want to read the history of the John R. Pierce, but have a difficult time on the web site, go to [www.johnrpiercedd753/history.htm](http://www.johnrpiercedd753/history.htm) for easier reading.

### RECOLLECTIONS

Recollection of a Pierce Sailor

By

Frank C. Weiland IV, SN

During the Med. Cruise of 1958-1959 we made a liberty call at Beirut, Lebanon during Christmas of 1958. One third of the ship was ashore when we got orders from Commander Sixth Fleet to get underway immediately and proceed to Iskenderun, Turkey to fight a fire aboard the super tanker Mirador, of Panamanian registry and Greek crew. As the port water was too shallow to accommodate her draft, she was anchored just off-shore.

While pumping JP-4 jet fuel to a much smaller tanker leased to U. S, NAVY an explosion killed a crewman on the smaller tanker, and 3 or 4 crewman on the Mirador.

I shall never forget the mad dash from Beirut to Iskenderun, at all ahead Flank speed. We could hear the forced draft fans in the forward Fire-room screaming all the way to the bow. The stacks with the DESRON 2 logo were pouring out a light brown efficiency haze, and the twin screws were spouting a six foot "Rooster Tail". Truly it was Four Boilers in overdrive. We arrived on the scene at about 0200. We sent a boarding party to assess the situation and recommend a plan to CDR. C. O. Williamson.

They decided to send a fire-fighting party aboard the Mirador at dawn. On the second day the fire was completely out and pumping was continued. Members of the Mirador crew returned only long enough to retrieve the horribly burned bodies of their crewmates. Members of the Pierce's 1<sup>st</sup> Division, including me, assisted in this morbid task. By the forth day, Mirador was stable in the water and our sister ship USS Soley DD-707 relieved us.

We were on our way back to Beirut to retrieve our fellow crewmen, when we received orders to return to Iskenderun. Tragically, a Damage Control man aboard the Soley was killed by asphyxiation in one of Mirador's gassy tanks.

Upon re-arriving and relieving Soley we continued pumping Mirador. On or about the second day we were relieved by a Greek Salvage tug. We returned to Beirut, and received quite a few of our crewmates by highline. The rest were at the US Embassy in Beirut. Several days later we received word that that Mirador had exploded and killed all the crew and the crew of the tug.

Today both Mirador and tug lie at the bottom off Iskenderun, Turkey. It has been so long that some of the sequence of events may not be entirely as they happened. If any of the association's members were aboard the Pierce during this time I would love to hear their re-collections of their party of the Mirador.

SN USS John R. Pierce DD-753

We will try to include recollections in every issue.

**USS John R. Pierce (DD753) Sailors Organization, Inc. Officers 2006-2007**

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