



THE FIERCE PIERCE

NEWS LETTER FOURTH QUARTER 2008

The 17th annual reunion was held in Mobile, Alabama, October 14-16, 2008. The turnout was on the small side but a good time was had by all. Several members visited the USS Alabama BB-60 and the USS Drum SS-228. The banquet meal consisted of steak and all the trimmings, and believe me it was OUTSTANDING. A few of us visited the Casinos located in Biloxi. I don't know about others but the wife and I tried to get the economy back on track by contributing to a couple of the Casino payrolls. Our guest speaker was Retired Navy Captain Hal Pierce who is currently the Port Coordinator for the port of Mobile. Captain Pierce spoke on what veterans (including the crew of the USS John R Pierce DD-753) means to the present and past. Several members cancelled their plans to attend due to illness and/or injury.

The following is a listing of those who attended:

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ashby	Mr. & Mrs. Leigh Bartlow
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Dempski	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene DesRoches
Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Fell	Mr. & Mrs. John Ferrell
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Foster	Mrs. William Grady
Mr. Odis Hibler	Ms. Marcia Doherty
Mr. Dennis Hovermale	Ms. Dorothy Benson
Mr. & Mrs. Roderick Kent	Mr. & Mrs. Jay Lose
Mr. Harvey Masimore	Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Mills	Mr. Robert (Doc) Olsen
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Piper	Mr. & Mrs. David Reed
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Sigler	Mr. & Mrs. Randy Tharp
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Thompson	Mr. Robert Wallace
Mr. Robert Wilno	Mr. Richard White

Due to no quorum being present, a board meeting was not held.

A General meeting with the crew and spouses was held. The minutes of that meeting is attached.

Reunion Financial Report

Income:	\$2,243.00 (Registration)	Expenses:	Dinner:	\$1,553.73
	<u>\$ 295.00 (Raffle)</u>		H. Room	\$ 342.73
Total:	\$2,538.00		<u>Refunds:</u>	<u>\$ 624.00</u>
		Total:		\$2,520.46

Ship's Store Sales: \$361.00

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The 2009 reunion will be held September 28 – October 4, 2009, in Norfolk. Exact details will be forthcoming.

Can current and former service members still be buried at sea?

This question was posed at the reunion - I believe the following answers that question.

Burial at Sea is a service offered to eligible service members, veterans and family members. Individuals eligible for this program are active-duty members of the uniformed services; retirees and veterans who were honorably discharged; U.S. civilian-Marine personnel of the Military Sealift Command; and dependent family members of active duty personnel, retirees, and veterans of the uniformed services. To apply for a Burial at Sea, the person authorized to direct disposition (PADD) needs to print out and complete a Burial at Sea request form, available at

<http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/CasualtyAssistance/MortuaryServices/Burial+At+Sea.htm>

The following documents must be submitted with the form:

- A photocopy of the death certificate
- The burial transit permit or the cremation certificate
- A copy of the DD Form 214, discharge certificate, or retirement order

The disposition of remains involves getting all paperwork together and coordinating for the burial with a port of embarkation. Available ports can be found by calling Mortuary Services at 1-866-787-0081. Cremated remains (Cremains): Cremains must be in an urn or plastic or metal container. The cremains package should be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested. Intact Remains (casketed): Specific guidelines are required for the preparation of casketed remains. All expenses are the responsibility of the PADD. For more information, contact the Mortuary Services office at Navy Casualty in Millington, Tenn., at 1-866-787-0081 to receive the preparation requirements.

Need a copy of your DD214 or Service Record:

Attached is Standard Form 180 (SF-180) along with instructions and where to mail the form to obtain copies of records.

2008-2009 Dues:

If you pay dues on an annual basis, the 2008-2009 dues are now due. Dues are due Oct 1st of each year. As a matter of fact, there are still a few members who have not paid their 2007-2008 dues. To find out if you are current you can call Carl Cox at 937-969-8246 or Cecil Thompson at 337-537-7533.

Reminder if you are over age 85 you no longer are required to pay dues.

Please mail dues, in the form of a check to: Carl Cox, 4610 Hominy Ridge Road, Springfield, OH 45502.

SHIPS STORE

A commercial enterprise CAFEPRESS.COM is sending out emails identifying its self as The USS John R Pierce (DD-753) Store. This might be misleading as they are not associated with our group. Our store is operated by Robert Wilno and he does not send out emails. We receive no proceeds from sales by this group.

USS J.R.PIERCE TREASURER REPORT SEP 30, 2008

INCOME	ANNUAL DUES	\$790.00
	SHIPS STORE	\$0.00
	INTEREST	\$159.51
	08 REUNION DEPOSIT	\$2,243.00
	WEBSITE REFUND	\$211.29
SUB TOTAL		\$3,403.80
EXPENSES	NEWSLETTER	\$211.29
	WEBSITE	\$315.09
	08 REUNION REFUND	\$78.00
SUB TOTAL		\$604.38
TOTAL		\$2,799.42

	JUN 02, 2008 OPENING	SEP 30, 2008 CLOSING
CHK (1)	\$690.64	\$690.64
CHK (2)	\$4,671.64	\$7,316.25
CD 1	\$2,297.45	\$2,325.35
CD 2	\$8,341.11	\$8,423.37
CD 3	\$5,393.01	\$5,420.08
SAV	\$5,007.68	\$5,025.26
TOTAL	\$26,401.53	\$29,200.95

LIFETIME FUND: \$12,000.00

Wells Fargo, Wachovia Agree to Merge

SAN FRANCISCO & CHARLOTTE, N.C.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Wells Fargo & Company (NYSE:WFC) and Wachovia Corporation (NYSE:WB) said today they have signed a definitive agreement for the merger of the two companies including all of Wachovia's banking operations in a whole company transaction requiring no financial assistance from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or any other government agency. Under the agreement, Wells Fargo will acquire all outstanding shares of common stock of Wachovia in a stock-for-stock transaction. In the transaction, Wells Fargo will acquire all of Wachovia Corporation and all its businesses and obligations, including its preferred equity and indebtedness, and all its banking deposits.

Note: We still have accounts with Wachovia (now Wells Fargo) consisting mainly of three Certificates of Deposit worth \$16,168.80. We also have a checking account with \$690.64 in it. These CD's are secure and I see no reason to cash them in and take a penalty for early termination. Wells Fargo (as of now) is a very secure bank. In fact, CD 2 is being renewed. **The FDIC insures all of our money.**

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME ABOARD

NAME	RATE/RATE	YEARS ON BOARD
Anthony L. Volpe	CS3	1964-1965
Keith D. Brauer	IC2	1963-1965
Richard C. White	SA	1964
Gordon F. Delp	MS1	1971-1972
Daniel Stephens	FN	1957-1958
Greg D. McSwain	MM3	1967-1968
William L. Patten	BM3	1964-1967

SICK CALL

Shipmate Robert Chambers has been diagnosed with cancer. The following is an email I received from him.

“Thanks so much for having my check sent back. You really didn't have to do that but the mess we are in every little bit helps. As of now we are waiting for a bed to come available at Duke Hospital. They will be doing cancer surgery on my left lung and heart-----then if I am still around in a month they will do brain surgery on me brain where it has also started-----but that one is very small. Then soon as that is done will start chemo. They tell me it is going to be a long hard haul. If everything goes we will see you next year in Norfolk.

Thanks again,
Your shipmate,
Bob”

Ms. Barbara Cleasby wife of shipmate Gary Cleasby underwent brain surgery. She suffered a seizure while returning home from visiting her son. (Gary was on the trip as well). The following is an email I received from her.

“John R. Pierce

Thank you for the card, your thoughts, & prayers! I feel so privileged to have such beautiful people in my life from the John R. Pierce! They kicked me out of the hospital Sat., said I didn't need them...two of the therapists told me I walked too fast for them :-). I surely never would have believed this could happen to me, but I'm thankful that we were close to home & that Gary had such good sense to have taken me to the fire station where they immediately worked on me, where if he would have taken me to the EM, things probably wouldn't have moved along as fast! I don't remember too much, just pieces, at one point while on the interstate yet, I have a hard time explaining what I felt, it almost was as if I were floating somewhere, it was a calm feeling, but I wasn't aware of anything, it just seemed like we were floating in & out of traffic & @ one point I felt very nauseous & I can kind of remember hearing a guy saying my name & told me his name was Josh & that he was a paramedic, that's about it, I don't remember being checked in the hospital, or having a couple MRI's..... when I did come around, I was thinking I was going to watch the Price is right, but Gary said it was 10:00 @ nite....I'm behind a week, I've lost it...a week ago this morning I had the surgery....the good Lord was there for me all the while, being the neurosurgeon who was on call that nite happened to be one of the top in the nation, cute little bugger & his partner turns out to be a gal our youngest son Troy went to school with, she too is a sweetheart, so kind, & my anesthesia's was such a beautiful lady from Jamaica. I am so lucky! Gary & the kids have been so attentive & our families & friends. Never under estimate the power of prayer! I have soooooo much to be great full for! I was so worried & scared before the surgery, but I am now doing pretty darn good, each day is better than the one before & my hair will grow out, but will sure feel better once I can wash it!! Right now everyday is a bad hair day!

I wish we could be there @ the reunion, sharing laughs & HUGS! We were both looking forward to coming down to Mobile, but next year we will be there....please tell everyone hi & We will be thinking of you all...have fun & may God Bless you all! Take care & everyone have a safe trip home!

L/Barb Cleasby”

Audie Lawson wife of Al Lawson fell and injured her ankle and knee. Here is an email I received from Al. Her current condition is..

“Hello Cecil--We won't be able to make the reunion after all. My wife fell down on the concrete patio last week and severely twisted her right knee and left ankle. She has been bedridden since. She manages crutches but it is very painful. Xrays have shown nothing and she is going in for an MRI this afternoon. I'm the chief caretaker, but a nurse visits three times a week.

Please give our best regards to all and have a very successful reunion.”

Shipmate Ed Millet. Underwent hip replacement surgery. Ed is progressing very well. He is currently home and is undergoing therapy. He and Bob Wilno will be going to Norfolk soon to work on the 2009 reunion.

Shipmate David Reed. Approximately one year ago, David had a heart transplant plus shoulder reconstructive surgery. He is doing excellent and attended the Mobile reunion.

Shipmates Jeff Mills and Marcus Fell. Both underwent open-heart surgery. Jeff underwent double by-pass surgery while Marcus had triple by-pass. Jeff was in the hospital when hurricane Gustav passed through Baton Rouge. Both are doing excellent and both attended the Mobile reunion.

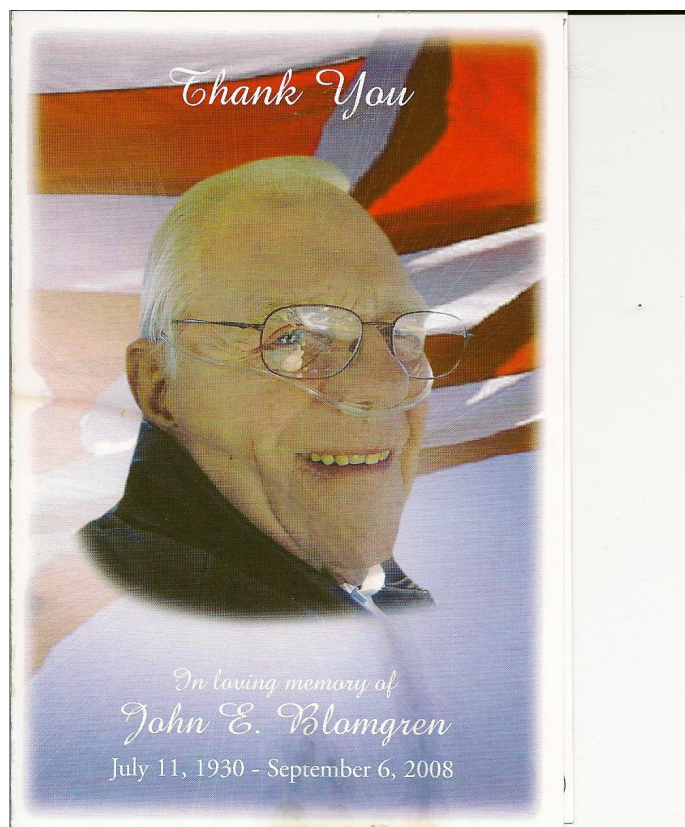
TAPS (SHIPMATES)

NAME	RATE/RANK	YEARS ON BOARD	DATE
EDWIN L READING	SN	1950-51	06/29/2006
ELBERT W STRODE	GM3	1949-51	05/26/2007
JOHN E BLOMGREN	MM1	1951-54	09/06/2008

TAPS (FAMILY MEMBERS)

RONALD WILNO	(SON OF SHIPMATE ROBERT WILNO)	11/01/2008
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The following card was received from Ms. John E Blomgren



*Dear Carl and other & all
members of John's John R
Pierce family,*

During a time like
this we learn
how much our friends
really mean to us.
Your expression of
sympathy will always
be treasured.

*Thank you so much for
all your love and support
& beautiful notes & messages.*

*The family of
John E. Blomgren*

*The girls & I will see you
in Norfolk in 09!
Susan (Blomgren)*

THE HUMOR PAGE

THE LOVE DRESS

The mother-in-law stopped unexpectedly by the recently married couple's house. She rang the doorbell and stepped into the house. She saw her daughter-in-law standing naked by the door." What are you doing?" she asked." I'm waiting for my husband to come home from work", the daughter-in-law answered." But you're NAKED!" the mother-in-law exclaimed." This is my Love Dress." the daughter-in-law explained. "Love Dress? But you're naked!" "My husband loves me to wear this dress! It makes him happy and it makes me happy. I would appreciate it if you would leave because he will be home from work any minute." The mother-in-law was tired of all this romantic talk and left. On the way home, she thought about the Love Dress. When she got home, she got undressed, showered, put on her best perfume and waited by the front door. Finally, her husband got home. He walked in and saw her standing naked by the door." What are you doing?" He exclaimed." This is My Love Dress." She replied." Needs ironing." he said.

30 Ways to Simulate Being in the Navy When You're at Home

1. Lock all friends and family outside. Your only means of communication should be with letters that your neighbors have held for at least three weeks, discarding two of five.
2. Surround yourself with 200 people that you don't really know or like: people who smoke, snore like Mack trucks going uphill, mail and use foul language like a child uses sugar on cereal.
3. Unplug all radios and TVs to completely cut yourself off from the outside world. Have a neighbor bring you a Time, Newsweek, or Proceedings from five years ago to keep you abreast of current events.
4. Monitor all home appliances hourly, recording all vital information (i.e. plugged in, lights come on when doors open, etc).
5. Do not flush the toilet for five days to simulate the smell of 40 people using the same commode.
6. Lock the bathroom twice a day for a four-hour period.
7. Wear only military uniforms. Even though nobody cares, clean and press one dress uniform and wear it for 20 minutes.
8. Cut your hair weekly, making it shorter each time, until you look bald or look like you lost a fight with a demented sheep.
9. Work in 19-hour cycles, sleeping only four hours at a time, to ensure that your body does not know or even care if it is day or night.
10. Listen to your favorite CD 6 times a day for two weeks, then play music that causes acute nausea until you are glad to get back to your favorite CD.
11. Cut a twin mattress in half and enclose three sides of your bed. Add a roof that prevents you from sitting up (about 10 inches is a good distance) then place it on a platform that is four feet off the floor. Place a small dead animal under the bed to simulate the smell of your bunkmate's socks.
12. Set your alarm to go off at 10 minute intervals for the first hour of sleep to simulate the various times the watch standers and night crew bump around and wake you up. Place your bed on a rocking table to ensure you are tossed

- around the remaining three hours. Make use of a custom clock that randomly simulates fire alarms, police sirens, helicopter crash alarms, and a new wave rock band.
13. Have week-old fruit and vegetables delivered to your garage and wait two weeks before eating them.
 14. Prepare all meals blindfolded using all the spices you can grope for, or none at all. Remove the blindfold and eat everything in three minutes.
 15. Periodically, shut off all power at the main circuit breaker and run around shouting "fire, fire, fire" and then restore power.
 16. At least once a month, force the commode to overflow to simulate a 'black water system' boo boo.
 17. Buy a gas mask and smear it with rancid animal fat. Scrub the face shield with steel wool until you can no longer see out of it. Wear this for two hours every fifth day especially when you are in the bathroom.
 18. Study the owner's manual for all household appliances. Routinely take an appliance apart and put it back together.
 19. Remove all plants, pictures and decorations. Paint everything gray, white, or the shade of hospital smocks.
 20. Buy 50 cases of toilet paper and lock up all but two rolls. Ensure one of these two rolls is wet all the time.
 21. Smash your forehead or shins with a hammer every two days to simulate collision injuries sustained onboard Navy ships.
 22. When making sandwiches, leave the bread out for six days, or until it is hard and stale.
 23. Every 10 weeks, simulate a visit to another port. Go directly to the city slums wearing your best clothes. Find the worst looking place, and ask for the most expensive beer that they carry. Drink as many as you can in four hours. Take a cab home taking the longest possible route. Tip the cabby after he charges you double because you dress funny and don't speak right.
 24. Use fresh milk for only two days after each port visit.
 25. Keep the bedroom thermostat at 2 degrees C and use only a thin blanket for warmth.
 26. Ensure that the water heater is connected to a device that provides water at a flow rate that varies from a fast drip to a weak trickle, with the temperature alternating rapidly from 2 to 95 degrees C.
 27. Use only spoons, which hold a minimum of 1/2 cup at a time.
 28. Repaint the interior of your home every month, whether it needs it or not.
 29. Stand outside at attention at dawn and have the poorest reader you know read the morning paper out loud. Be sure to have him skip over anything pertinent.
 30. Every four hours, check the fluid level in your car's radiator. Check the tire pressure and replace air lost from excessive pressure checks. Be sure to place red tag on ignition stating "DANGER: DO NOT OPERATE" while you perform these checks. Inform your neighbor as to the results of these checks, have him tell you to repeat the checks because he did not see you perform them.

USS JOHN R PIERCE DD-753 SAILORS ORGANIZATION
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, MOBILE ALABAMA ANNUAL REUNION
OCTOBER 16, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Cecil Thompson at 0945

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Prayer by Shipmate Rod Kent

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the previous meeting.

Treasurer's report was presented. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Sep 30, 2008 treasurer's report.

Old business:

In accordance with IRS instructions President Thompson submitted the required documents to have our tax exempt status restored. The IRS reviewed these documents and has restored our tax exempt status. Thanks to Gene Slavin for several old news letters including minutes. These were used to validate that we are still a viable organization. Thanks to John Hopper, for past financial data proving our income was less than \$25,000 annually. In addition, the IRS now requires organizations that have less than \$25,000 annual income to file a tax return. It is a very simple procedure and has to be done on line. The 2008 return was filed by President Thompson (which is required after Oct 1st each year) and was accepted by the IRS. Note while our group is exempt from taxes on its income, persons and/or organizations making donations cannot claim these donations as deductions.

New business:

2009 Reunion. Robert Wilno updated the group on the 2009 reunion scheduled to be held in Norfolk, Va. Exact date has not been determined but it will be held in late September or early October, 2009. One event he hopes to arrange is a "Beach Party". As soon as detailed info is known it will be promulgated to the membership.

Nominating Committee (Rod Kent, Robert Wilno and Robert Wallace) was introduced. Randy Tharp was nominated to replace Ron Piper as Director (Three Year). After nominations were closed Randy was unanimous elected. Thank you Ron for serving.

A number of members, who paid their registration fee, did not attend. Most of these were due to illness and/or injury. It was unanimously decided to refund their registration fee.

Surviving spouses. There was discussion that more needed to be done to keep surviving spouses involved with the organization. It was agreed that surviving spouses would not be required to pay dues and that communications such as news letters, reunion invites etc would be mailed to them. Ms. William (Myrna) Grady suggested that a Ladies Auxiliary would be a good way to proceed. Everyone thought this was an excellent idea, and was unanimously agreed to. This will be undertaken at the next reunion.

There being no more business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Since the Secretary was not present these minutes were taken and prepared by Cecil Thompson.

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



PLEASE KEEP ME INFORMED (337-537-7533) OF ILLNESS, INJURIES, DEATH OR OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES CONCERNING MEMBERS, SPOUSES AND FAMILY. I WOULD LIKE TO PUBLISH IN THE NEWS LETTER, KEEPING THE "CREW" INFORMED. IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE PUBLISHED? MAYBE A BIRTHDAY? ANNIVERSARY? AGAIN JUST GIVE ME A CALL AND I WILL PUT IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

Volume: 18
Issue: 4

News Letter Editor: Cecil Thompson

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PAST PRESIDENT: OPEN

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