

RESERVATION FORM

U.S.S. JOHN R PIERCE DD753
65TH ANNIVERSARY
SEPT – 28TH TO OCT - 4TH
NORFOLK, VA
(Please print all information)

Shipmate Name (name on tag)

_____ (_____) _____

19____ to 19____ Rate_____ Rank_____

Spouse Name (name on tag)

_____ (_____) _____

City/Town_____ State_____

Guest Name (name on tag)

_____ (_____) _____

City/Town_____ State_____

Guest Name (name on tag)

_____ (_____) _____

City/Town_____ State_____

Sept – 28 - Monday – 1200-1700 Registration Open
1200 – 2200 Hospitality Room Open

Sept – 29 – Tuesday – 1000-1800 Registration open
1000-2000 Hospitality Room Open
See old and meet new shipmates
Dinner on your own

Sept – 30 – Wednesday – 1000-1700 Registration Open
1000-2200 Hospitality Room Open
Dinner on your own
1930-2130 Live Entertainment

Oct – 1 – Thursday – 1000 Board buses for Navy Base
Memorial Service...Navy Chapel
Lunch on Base...Mess Hall
Tour Base

Tour of ship (If Available) If not tour of old Norfolk City
Back to Hotel
Dinner on your own
1930-2130 Live Band – Trip back to the 50's and 60's

Oct – 2 – Friday – Ready for Banquet
1600 – Photos in Lobby at Water Fall and Fire Place
1600–1715 – Cash Bar Open
1715 – Banquet Room Open (BRING CAMERA)
1800 – Dinner-Sit down
1845 – Guest Speaker
1910 – Awards
1945 – Door Prizes/Drawings

Oct – 3 – Saturday – 0930 – Executive Meeting
1030 – General Meeting
1200 – Hospitality Room Open
Time to pack – Shop the Ships Store – Rest for trip home

Oct – 4 – Depart – Good Byes – Have a safe trip home and thank you for coming

DINNER
TWO SELECTIONS – PICK ONE PER ATTENDEE

#1_____Prime Rib	#2_____Stuffed Flounder with Crabmeat
Herb Roasted potato	Scalloped Potato
Garlic Green Beans	Asparagus w/Hollandaise sauce on the side)

Garden Salad with Ranch, Italian or Blue Cheese
Vanilla Ice Cream to go with Special Cake

Registration	\$15.00 X _____ Persons = \$ _____
Tour	\$44.00 X _____ Persons = \$ _____
Dinner	\$31.00 X _____ Persons = \$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Make All Checks or Money Orders Payable to.....

USS JOHN R PIERCE DD-753 SAILORS ORG INC.

MAIL TO

USS JOHN R PIERCE DD-753 REUNION
c/o ED MILLETT
P.O. BOX 344
NASSAU, DE 19969

All Payment Must Be Received by Aug 25, 2009
If you cannot make it within 5 days, a refund will be made except for the registration fee



THE FIERCE PIERCE

NEWS LETTER FIRST QUARTER 2009

Hope everyone had a great holiday season and made it through the long cold winter. It was not too bad here in the south. I know those members who live up north had a very COLD and ICY winter. I would image everyone is glad warmer weather is here.

DUES

We currently have 204 members, of these 80 are lifetime members, 121 pay dues annually and 3 are classified as over 85 and pay no dues. Of the 121 members who pay dues annually, only 59 are current (or put another way 62 are delinquent). Remember dues are used to cover the expenses of the organization, such as newsletters, web site, etc. If your dues are due, I have attached a note to your copy of the newsletter. The organization would appreciate if you would mail your dues to Carl. Thank you.

REUNION

The 2009 reunion planning is proceeding along. The reunion will be held in Norfolk, Va., September 28 through October 4, 2009. We will be staying at the DoubleTree Hotel, 880 N Military Highway, Military Circle, Norfolk, Va. If you are an internet user, you can link to the hotel on our web site. Just go to www.ussjohnrpiercedd753.com on the left click on Reunion 2009 and when the page opens click on the DoubleTree Icon and you will be connected to the John R Pierce registration page. Other wise please dial 1-757-461-9192. **When making reservations be sure, you use code JRP.**

At the 2007 Norfolk reunion, we had (if my memory serves me correct) 55 members attend. Total attendance was around 105. At the general membership meeting, when queried about the 2009 reunion everyone in the room indicated they would be attending. In addition, many other members who did not attend Norfolk indicated they would attend the 09 reunion, as we would be celebrating the 65th year since the commissioning of the ship. I want to encourage every member to attend. The reunion committee is working hard to put on one of the best (if not the best) reunion ever.

A few of our elderly members have indicated this might be the last reunion they will be able to attend. Again, we are encouraging all members to attend to meet old friends and establish new ones. **LET'S HAVE A HUGE TURNOUT!!!**

Please note the cost of the tour includes lunch on base.

The reunion committee would like to stress that it is extremely important that you return the attached reunion registration form by August 25th, 2009, as we need to place orders with vendors so items can be shipped to us by September 20th. We also need the head count so we can make arrangements for buses, meals, name tags etc. If you find that you can not make it within 5 days of the reunion, you will get a refund of all but the registration fee.

Bob Wilno requests that any one having pictures of the ship or shipmates, etc, to please send him a copy, as he would like to put together a presentation that will be shown at the reunion. Please send to Robert Wilno, 25 Panama Road, Chatsworth, NJ 08019. If you would like the pictures back make sure, you let Bob know.

If you have any question about the reunion, please contact Ed @ 302-645-7035 or Bob @ 609-726-1138.

TIN CAN SAILORS

Shipmate Ben Bowen has pointed out to me (and rightfully so) there was no mention of making a donation to Tin Can Sailors at the Mobile reunion. Ben has made a motion that we donate \$500 dollars to Tin Can Sailors. By copy of this newsletter, I am notifying the membership that unless a majority of members opposes this I will direct the treasurer to make a \$500 dollar donation to Tin Can Sailors. If any one opposes this, please notify me by May 1, 2009.

THE ONLY SUMNER CLASS TIN CAN IS SINKING

Ben also noted that the USS Laffey is having problems and needs help. He noted that our group visited Charleston, SC in 1999 and toured the USS Laffey DD-724, plus held our memorial aboard her. The following is copied from the Laffey web site. Any one wishing to make a donation to this worthwhile cause please mail your donation to the address below.

The USS LAFFEY DD-724 fought at Normandy, Iwo Jima, Philippines and took on 22 kamikazes in 80 minutes at Okinawa. She survived the Korean War and 25 more years of Cold War sailing. She has now sprung some very bad leaks and is need of dry dock service. As you know, the LAFFEY is based at Patriots Point Naval Museum in Charleston, SC. She has been there since 1981. She is the last of her kind and is taking on water at the rate of 2000 gallons per hour. The pumps are handling it right now but we need your help. To pull her, dredge to get her out of her mooring, tow her up river to the dry dock and repair the bottom will cost in the area of 3 million dollars. Patriots Point and the Laffey Association are looking for any donations we can get to save this important piece of naval history. Any amount you can afford would help immensely to help save our ship. Many of you have visited our ship and enjoyed the memories that she brought you. Please do what you can to help preserve this great ship so others can share the experiences that you had aboard your tin can. Please make checks payable to: Patriots Point Development Authority make notation for SAVE THE LAFFEY on check and envelope.

Mail checks to:

Patriots Point Development Authority
40 Patriots Point Road
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Attn: C.F.O.

2010 REUNION

While planning for the 2009 reunion is underway, it is never too early to begin planning the next reunion. We have a couple of exploratory committees working on possible locations for the 2010 reunion. Dennis Foster and Randy Tharp are looking into Kalamazoo, Michigan while Marcia Doherty is investigating the Dallas/Fort Worth area. More information will be presented at the Norfolk reunion.

ELECTIONS

My reign of terror is about to end. In fact, at the 2009 reunion general meeting the organization will need to elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Director. Shipmates, we need folks to step up to the plate and get involved.

USS JOHN R PIERCE TREASURER REPORT SEP 30, 2008 - FEB 28, 2009

INCOME:	ANNUAL DUES	\$435.00	EXPENSES:	08 REUNION REFUNDS	\$546.00
	NSF REFUND	\$30.00		08 REUNION EXPENSES	\$1,696.00
	SHIPS STORE	\$361.00		09 REUNION DEPOSITS	\$725.00
	INTEREST	\$146.39		STAMPS	\$8.40
	08 REUNION	\$39.00		NSF FEE	\$30.00
	08 REUNION RAFFLE	<u>\$295.00</u>			
TOTALS:		\$1,306.39			<u>\$3,005.86</u>

	Sep 30, 2008 Closing	Feb 28, 2009 Closing
Checking (1)	\$690.64	690.64
Checking (2)	\$7,316.25	\$5,476.75
Saving	\$5,025.26	\$5,031.59
CD1	\$2,325.35	\$2,383.69
CD2	\$8,423.37	\$8,476.00
CD3	<u>\$5,420.08</u>	<u>\$5,442.81</u>
Total	\$29,200.95	27,501.48

SICK CALL

On December 30 2008, shipmate Dennis Hovermale underwent triple by-pass surgery. I spoke with Dennis a month or so after the surgery and he is doing well and looking forward to the 2009 reunion.

Judy Groth, wife of shipmate Robert Groth, has been under going treatment for cancer. Here are updates on her condition.

Dear Cecil,
FYI

Just got back from the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville where Judy had lung cancer surgery. We have not started follow up treatments yet but will as soon as she recovers from surgery. She had a nodule in her left lung for about 9 months and while monitoring it, it had not grown. However, in the last 3 months it had increased from approx. 2.0 cm to 2.2. A local pet scan showed it to be negative and also a bronchoscopic biopsy also showed it to be negative. The local doctor sent us to Mayo a/c it was suspicious to him and wanted a second opinion. Upon going in they found it to be malignant and removed the lower left lobe. Biopsies taken of 7 surrounding lymph nodes were done and 6 of them were negative however the seventh showed a spread, hence the follow up treatment she will receive asap. Hope all will be well and see you in Norfolk in 09. Hope you and yours have a blessed Christmas and Very Happy New Year.

Your shipmate,

Bob Groth

Dear Cecil,

It's been a long 3 1/2 months..... Hopefully we will make a full recovery. Judy was scheduled for 4 chemotherapy treatments of which she had the fourth one this past Wednesday. She would have a treatment and then two weeks off before the next one. Other than a few minor side effects she has handled the treatments very well. Next week additional blood work will be done and the week after that she is scheduled for another PET scan. The results of that will come within the following two weeks. We will know more at that time

The following is an up date from Shipmate Robert Chambers on his condition:

Hi Cecil,

Things are going really well for me. I am still getting 'chemo' treatments and think after two more they will set me up for a heart MRI. The tests I had several weeks ago did show what the doctors are trying is working. The cancer is moving away from my heart and there is even a space between my heart and cancer. The echo-sound they did does not show all what they want to see so that is why they want to do the heart MRI. My chemo doctor said since I had good response to radiation on my arm in the past years they might go that route to go after the cancer in my lung. What is so strange is my heart is very strong and healthy with no skip or any abnormal sounds. And my lungs have great air capacity and my oxygen level runs from 97 to 99%. All my doctors do not know why these cancers are not effecting me. They just say I am odd and everything about me is odd. Oh well that is ok I am still "above ground" They are learning a lot from my problem so maybe that is why God is leaving me here on earth.

Thanks for your interest and all the prayers my shipmates have been sending up-----

That old saying "What you see is what you get" well what you see with me is an old man---what you get is a real miracle. Carol has been taking wonderful care of me.

Bob Chambers

NEW MEMBERS (WELCOME ABOARD)

NAME	RATE/RATE	YEARS ON BOARD
JIM KERR	SN	1970
WILLIAM WILSON	LT	1958-1960
FREDDIE CHAMBERS	SN	1957-1958
JAMES CAIACCIA	RD2	1971-1972
GEORGE GANNON	SA	1950
EDWARD MOREY	MM3	1952-1956
FRANCIS HARVEY	HMC	1962-1965

TAPS (SHIPMATES)

NAME	RATE/RANK	YEARS ON BOARD	DATE
HUGH YARRINGTON	SO3	1944-1946	12/23/2008
WILLIAM "BILL" IPPENSEN	PN3	1954-1956	02/21/2009
RAY ALDERMAN JR.	MM2	1962-1965	03/05/2009

TAPS (FAMILY MEMBERS)

CAROL WALLACE	(WIFE OF SHIPMATE ROBERT WALLACE)	01/07/2009
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SHIFT COLORS

The Navy publishes a newsletter for retirees titled “Shift Colors”. This publication is sent to approximately 650,000 retirees in 50 different countries. The following is from the spring 2009 issue:

“This issue of *Shift Colors* may not be reaching you in print form. We received your polls. We know you prefer to receive printed copies of *Shift Colors*, but the economic and budgetary issues that have affected lives across the nation are affecting us as well. While there are no funds to print *Shift Colors* at this time, we are still producing issues online. We know that this isn’t the preferred method and some of our readers don’t have internet access. Please know that we’re exploring options to print *Shift Colors* in the future. Our goal is to return *Shift Colors* to your mailbox, but until then, we’ll continue providing information as best we can with limited funding.”

For retired members you can still obtain a copy of shift colors on line. Just type the following into your browsers window <http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Publications/ShiftColors> if you do not have access to the internet I would suggest you ask your children, grandchildren, a neighbor or friend to get you a copy. Most libraries have internet access and they have folks who will help you as well. You can also give me a call and I will print and mail you a copy. Just call 337-537-7533.

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN

(From Shift Colors)

On October 1, 2008, retirees who reached 70 years of age and have paid SBP premiums for at least 360 months (30 years) will now have their monthly premiums suspended. No action is required for the member for the premiums to be suspended. If you have questions please call Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) at 1-800-321-1080 or 1-216-522-5955.

New law authorizes veterans’ salutes during National Anthem

(Courtesy Department of Veterans Affairs)(Shift Colors)

Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect this month.” The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation’s armed forces”, said former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation’s flag.” The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year’s provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform. Traditionally, members of the nation’s veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization’s official headgear. The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14. The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of uniform military personnel during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008.

Navy plans ‘Navy Weeks’ nationwide in 2009

Listed here is the 2009 Calendar for America — the official schedule of Navy Weeks across America. Multiple Navy demonstrations and displays are scheduled for each Navy Week including: the Blue Angels, Leap Frogs, ship visits (where possible), Navy bands, namesake ship crews, lag officer speakers, SEAL (Sea, Air and Land) and Explosive Ordnance Disposal displays, DoD’s America Supports You, grassroots organizations and premiere recruiting assets such as the F/A-18 flight simulator, and the Navy NASCAR show car.

The 2009 Weeks are:

St. Louis, Earth Day Festival / Chinese Culture Days, April 18-26
Des Moines, Iowa, Drake Relays, April 20-26

Denver, Cinco de Mayo Festival, May 4-10
Spokane, Wash., Lilic Festival, May 11-18
Janesville, Wis., Blue Angels Air Show / Armed Forces Day, May 24-31
Rochester, N.Y., Air Show, May 25-31
Chattanooga, Tenn., Riverbend Festival, June 5-13
Oklahoma City, Riverfest / Fitness Challenge, June 12-20
Pittsburgh, Wings over Pittsburgh Air Show, June 14-21
Boston, Harbor Festival, June 30 - July 6
Salinas, Calif., Blue Angels Air Show, Aug. 2-9
Omaha, Neb., Defenders of Freedom Air Show, Aug. 24-30
Columbus, Ohio, Navy vs Ohio State Football game, Aug.31 - Sept. 6
Knoxville, Tenn., Boomsday, Sept. 1-7
York, Penn., York Fair, Sept. 4-13
Reno, Nev., Air Races, Sept. 14-20
Albuquerque, N.M., International Balloon Festival, Oct.3-11
Greenville, S.C., Fall for Greenville Festival, Oct. 5-11
Houston, Blue Angels Air Show, Oct. 24 - Nov. 1
New Orleans, Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival, Nov.9-14

For more information visit: www.navyweek.org

SURVIVORS' PAYMENTS LONG OVERDUE

(This article submitted by Frank Ashby from DAV Magazine)

The Department of Veterans Affairs is taking immediate actions to rectify an oversight and is identifying and paying surviving spouses who are eligible to receive a one-time compensation or pension payment for the month of their veteran's death. The VA failed to implement a 1997 change in law which resulted in some surviving spouses not receiving the veteran's compensation or pension payment for the month of death. A veteran's widow brought the problem to the attention of Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii), who asked the VA to investigate the issue. The VA realized the error and formed a special task force to identify and pay the beneficiaries who never received the benefit or were inadvertently required to repay the money issued for the month of a veteran's death. In some cases, the VA took the money from the surviving spouses' bank accounts. The VA has identified nearly 11,000 surviving spouses of deceased veterans who were scheduled to receive a lump-sum payment by Dec 31. The payments totaled about \$24 million. More than 73,000 were found to have been previously paid. Meanwhile, the VA is tracking down eligible survivors. The VA doesn't have current addresses for many, which makes the process of contacting them difficult. Surviving spouses most likely to be affected are those who never applied to VA for survivors' benefits following the death of a veteran. The task force is reviewing VA's payments records for veterans who died after Dec 31, 1996, and who are survived by a spouse. The review will identify those to whom VA owes retroactive benefits for the month of the veteran's death. Current address information is being obtained for as many of these beneficiaries as possible. Part of the problem is that the VA does not keep data on Veterans' spouses. VA will continue issuing retroactive payments to eligible surviving spouses as additional unpaid beneficiaries are identified and current address information is obtained. A special VA Survivors' Call Center has been set up for spouses who believe they may be entitled to this retroactive month-of-death benefit. Surviving spouses are encouraged to contact the VA Survivors' Call Center at the toll-free telephone number, 1-800-749-8387. The Call Center will assist surviving spouses in providing VA with the information needed to determine their eligibility. Inquiries may also be submitted through the internet at www.vba.va.gov/survivorsbenefit.htm. VA is aggressively changing its processing procedures to ensure this benefit is correctly paid to all surviving spouses in the future. VA's disability payment system will also be enhanced to automate the month-of-death payment for all eligible surviving spouses. It is regrettable that the spouses of the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our country have been wrongly denied this last month of payments. I urge all survivors of veterans who died after Dec 31, 1996, to check with their DAV National Service Office or the VA to see if they were affected by this error and make sure the VA has their most current address. It is commendable that the VA has moved so quickly to correct this error and to recognize those who served our country by caring for their families.

*****REUNION INFO*****

REUNION DATES: SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 4, 2009

THE HOTEL IS THE DOUBLETREE LOCATED AT

880 NORTH MILITARY HIGHWAY
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
USA 23502-3796
Tel: +1-757-461-9192
Fax: +1-757-461-8290

1 KING BALCONY NON-SMOKING RATES FROM 75.00 USD/Night
2 DOUBLES BALCONY NON-SMOKING RATES FROM 75.00 USD/Night

THE HOTEL WILL HONOR THE RATE FROM 3 DAYS BEFORE UNTIL 3 DAYS
AFTER THE REUNION, OR FROM SEPTEMBER 25 UNTIL OCTOBER 7, 2009

YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY AUGUST 28, 2009 TO
GUARANTEE THE RATE

PLEASE USE CODE: JRP

The reunion committee would like to stress that it is extremely important that you return the attached reunion registration form by August 25th, 2009, as we need to place orders with vendors so items can be shipped to us by September 20th. We also need the head count so we can make arrangements for buses, meals, name tags etc. If you find that you can not make it within 5 days of the reunion, you will get a refund of all but the registration fee.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A GIFT FOR THE RAFFLE

USS JOHN R PIERCE DD-753 SAILORS ORGANIZATION, INC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: CECIL THOMPSON

Tel: 337-537-7533

Email: cthomp9785@hughes.net

VICE-PRESIDENT: OPEN

SECRETARY: DOUGLAS SIMON

Tel: 757-625-0374

Email: simon2ofus@aol.com

TREASURER: CARL COX

Tel: 937-969-8246

Email: karlcox@woh.rr.com

DIRECTOR: ROBERT GROTH

Tel: 863-467-1646

Email: bojuokee@aol.com

DIRECTOR: DENNIS FOSTER

Tel: 269-729-4808

Email: denchilli@earthlink.net

DIRECTOR: RANDY THARP

Tel: 269-968-6283

Email: tharpr@att.net

PAST PRESIDENT: OPEN

APPOINTED POSITIONS

CHAPLAIN: ED MILLET

Tel: 302-645-7035

Email: gmsnodd753@aol.com

REUNION 2009: ED MILLET/ROBERT WILNO

Ed Millet – 302-645-7035 gmsnodd753@aol.com

Robert Wilno – 609-726-1138 jrpdd753@aol.com