



THE FIERCE PIERCE

2ND QUARTER 2009

July is here and it is hot in Louisiana. I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good spirits, the best of health and that each member and their family had a great and wonderful July 4th. As President of this excellent group of former Navy service members who served aboard one of the finest, (if not the finest United States Navy Man-of-War ships) I just want to say as my tour as President comes to end, it really has been a joy. I am proud to be associated with this organization.

2009 REUNION

It is only two plus months until the Norfolk reunion. I hope all members have filled out their reservation form and mailed it in, or at least in the process of filling it out. The reunion committee asks that you PLEASE have the form to Ed Millet (Reunion Coordinator) by August 25th. This is so the reunion committee can make arrangements for Tours, Dinner etc. We also need to order handouts so they can be ready by reunion time.

A few members who have stated they plan to attend the reunion but will not attend the entire week have contacted me. I would suggest if you plan to attend less than the full time, you arrive by Wednesday, September 30, as we have some great entertainment planned for both Wednesday and Thursday night. The tour is Thursday and the banquet is Friday.

IT'S ELECTION TIME

The following board members will need to be elected (At the Norfolk reunion):

President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Director (1). Will need a volunteer to publish the newsletter. Anyone wishing to serve in any of these positions please contact Roderick Kent, Telephone: 515-285-2358 or email: rkvykent@aol.com. (Note that is vv as in victorvictor not a w as in whiskey)

SEEKING INFORMATION

"Peter Van Doren, who was in the Gunnery Department in 1954, is trying to collect information about Robert Gaines, GM2. As some of you may recall, Gaines was involved in an incident aboard ship when it was in Dundee, Scotland during the fall of 1954. He asks that anyone who remembers Gaines and knows what happened to him contact him by email at readingvand@aol.com. Peter is trying to put together a picture of Gaines, both before the incident and afterwards, and would like to hear from fellow shipmates who have information about him and what they thought of him." You can also send information to Peter Van Doren, 333 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10065

RMC CLYDE E. "DIXIE" HOWELL
(Forwarded by Charlie Twigg)

From: david.l.seymour@navy.mil
To: cbtwel@aol.com
Sent: 5/26/2009 1:41:17 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: RMC CLYDE E. "DIXIE" HOWELL

1. Hello sir.
2. It was the summer of 1959 when I visited PIERCE. My family was in Norfolk that time visiting the family of Chief Dixie Howell who was on the ship in the late 50's.
3. I decided then & there (I was only 13) that I wanted the Navy more than anything in the world.
4. I regret to inform you that RMC HOWELL died in Pensacola early this month. He would have been 89 in July.
5. I never knew a finer CPO in the Navy & I'm sure that feeling is shared by those sailors who came under his leadership & wise counseling.
6. Pls convey to all those in your reunion that knew him & they may contact me via e-mail.
7. Thanks sir.

D. L. SEYMOUR, YB1 (YNC, USN (RET))
(650) 603-9634 FAX: 9643

WEB SITE

I was contacted by the Kenneth G. Hyland family. CDR Hyland was the Commanding Officer of the Pierce from July 13, 1964 until March 28, 1966. The family provided several photos of the ship plus other documents, which has been posted on the web site. Go to www.ussjohnrpiercedd753.com on the left you will see a link "CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE HYLIND FAMILY", just click on the line and you will be taken to the page were the items are posted. In addition, several entries have been put in the quarterdeck log entries and guest log. This data will be avail at the reunion as well.

NEW MEMBERS

NAME	RATE/RANK	YEARS ON BOARD
Clifford D Misamore	MR3	1954-55
Glen E. Knisley	FP3	1954-55
Fred Bible	GM2	1971-72

TAPS

NAME	RATE/RANK	YEARS ON BOARD	DATE
SANTO J. FICARA	MM3	1962-1965	12/17/2003
LEANARD WITHERITE	MM3	?????	02/17/1979
JOHN D. GOULD	MM3	1962-1964	06/03/2009
ARCHIBALD GALLOWAY	LT (CHAPLAIN)	1943-1945	12/21/1998

SICK CALL

Judy Groth: The good news is that Judy is in remission since April 1, 2009. She will continue to have tests done (most recently a cat scan and pet scan) last week as follow-ups. Expect only good news when we visit with the oncologist next Wednesday. Thanks for all the prayers and well wishes. We too are looking forward to Norfolk.

Hi Cecil,

Thank you for your interest in my welfare. I am doing very well at this time-----matter of fact we just got back Sat. from a 7 day cruise to Alaska. We were support to have gone last year for our 50th anniversary but the cancer as you know came back big time--this makes 7 times I have had cancer. All 3 of my doctors do not know why I am still 'above ground' --medical speaking that is. All the prayers that you people and my many friends have set up for me is why I am still around----- THANK YOU. The cruise was just wonderful-----I made the trip just fine and had no trouble what-so-ever. Holland America ship lines was wonderful to us-all we have is praise for them and all the crew. Back to my cancer-----they decided to stop my chemo treatments about 6 weeks ago. Said my body has taken about all it can stand----(had 14) and the last few wasn't doing much for me. They think I should go with radiation--which I really didn't want to. Went to the doctor this morning (Tuesday June 30). Decided to go for it. Chemo has kept me here the past 6 months so maybe this will give me more time also. Had a CT this morning and they marked off on my chest where they will target the treatment. They will give me a call when they have all this figured out and when my treatments will start. We are planning on going to Norfolk but will just have to see how this goes. Thanks for keeping in touch and wanting to know how I am doing. Carol is really taking very good care of me.

Your shipmate
Bob Chambers

USS J.R.PIERCE TREASURER REPORT JUN 30 2009

INCOME	ANNUAL DUES	\$645.00	EXPENSES	09 REUNION	\$500.00
	INTEREST	\$78.78		TIN CAN SAILORS	\$500.00
	SHIPS STORE	\$34.00			
	09 REUNION	\$639.00			
SUB TOTAL		\$1,396.78	SUB TOTAL		\$1,000.00
	FEB 28, 2009	SEP 30, 2009			
	CLOSING	CLOSING			
CHK (1)	\$690.64	\$1,329.64			
CHK (2)	\$5,476.75	\$5,159.02			
CD 1	\$2,383.69	\$2,413.25			
CD 2	\$8,476.00	\$8,505.01			
CD 3	\$5,442.81	\$5,453.55			
SAV	\$5,031.59	\$5,037.79			
TOTAL	\$27,501.48	\$27,898.26			

ROBERT 'BOB' WILNO

BOB WILNO STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP. HE IS LOOKING FOR PHOTOS OF THE SHIP, CREWMEMBERS, DOCUMENTS, ETC. HE IS PREPARING A SLIDE SHOW FOR THE NORFOLK 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. YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT BOB AT HIS EMAIL: JRPDD753@AOL.COM

*****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 cannot 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

I WAS A SAILOR ONCE Reflections of a Blackshoe
By Vice Admiral Harold Koenig, USN (Ret), M.D.

I like the Navy, I like standing on the bridge wing at sunrise with salt spray in my face and clean ocean winds whipping in from the four quarters of the globe - the ship beneath me feeling like a living thing as her engines drive her through the sea.

I like the sounds of the Navy - the piercing trill of the boatswains pipe, the syncopated clangor of the ship's bell on the quarterdeck, the harsh squawk of the IMC and the strong language and laughter of sailors at work.

I like Navy vessels - nervous darting destroyers, plodding fleet auxiliaries, sleek submarines and steady solid carriers.

I like the proud names of Navy ships: Midway, Lexington, Saratoga, Coral Sea - memorials of great battles won.

I like the lean angular names of Navy 'tin- cans' Barney, Dahlgren, Mullinix, McCloy, -mementos of heroes who went before us.

I like the tempo of a Navy band blaring through the topside speakers as we pull away from the oiler after refueling at sea.

I like liberty call and the spicy scent of a foreign port. I even like all hands working parties as my ship fills herself with the multitude of supplies both mundane and exotic which she needs to cut her ties to the land and carry out her mission anywhere on the globe where there is water to float her.

I like sailors, men from all parts of the land, farms of the Midwest, small towns of New England, from the cities, the mountains and the prairies, from all walks of life. I trust and depend on them as they trust and depend on me - for professional competence, for comradeship, for courage. In a word, they are "shipmates."

I like the surge of adventure in my heart when the word is passed "Now station the special sea and anchor detail - all hands to quarters for leaving port", and I like the infectious thrill of sighting home again, with the waving hands of welcome from family and friends waiting pier side. The work is hard and dangerous, the going rough at times, the parting from loved ones painful, but the companionship of robust Navy laughter, the 'all for one and one for all' philosophy of the sea is ever present.

I like the serenity of the sea after a day of hard ship's work, as flying fish flit across the wave tops and sunset gives way to night.

I like the feel of the Navy in darkness - the masthead lights, the red and green navigation lights and stern light, the pulsating phosphorescence of radar repeaters - they cut through the dusk and join with the mirror of stars overhead.

And I like drifting off to sleep lulled by the myriad noises large and small that tell me that my ship is alive and well, and that my shipmates on watch will keep me safe. I like quiet mid-watches with the aroma of strong coffee - the lifeblood of the Navy - permeating everywhere.

And I like hectic watches when the exacting minuet of haze- gray shapes racing at flank speed keeps all hands on a razor edge of alertness.

I like the sudden electricity of "General quarters, general quarters, all hands man your battle stations", followed by the hurried clamor of running feet on ladders and the resounding thump of watertight doors as the ship transforms herself in a few brief seconds from a peaceful workplace to a weapon of war - ready for anything.

And I like the sight of space-age equipment manned by youngsters clad in dungarees and sound-powered phones that their grandfathers would still recognize.

I like the traditions of the Navy and the men and women who made them. I like the proud names of Navy heroes: Halsey, Nimitz, Perry, Farragut, John Paul Jones.

A sailor can find much in the Navy: comrades- in- arms, pride in self and country, mastery of the seaman's trade. An adolescent can find adulthood.

In years to come, when sailors are home from the sea, they will still remember with fondness and respect the ocean in all its moods -the impossible shimmering mirror calm and the storm- tossed green water surging over the bow. And then there will come again a faint whiff of stack gas, a faint echo of engine and rudder orders, a vision of the bright bunting of signal flags snapping at the yardarm, a refrain of hearty laughter in the wardroom and chief's quarters and mess decks.

Gone ashore for good they will grow wistful about their Navy days, when the seas belonged to them and a new port of call was ever over the horizon. Remembering this, they will stand taller and say,

"I WAS A SAILOR ONCE. I WAS PART OF THE NAVY, AND THE NAVY WILL ALWAYS BE PART OF ME."

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

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

APPOINTED POSITIONS

CHAPLAIN: ED MILLET

Tel: 302-645-7035

Email: gmsndd753@aol.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

REUNION 2009: ED MILLET/ROBERT WILNO

Ed Millet – 302-645-7035 gmsndd753@aol.com

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