

## BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION



December 2012

Greetings Shipmates:

We had intended to get this newsletter out a month ago, but you know what they say about good intentions...

The reunion in Kerrville, TX in September was excellent! John Bryan and Desiree were wonderful hosts and really lined up some excellent tours. The welcoming buffet was excellent and the entertainment by "Part of the Problem" was fun. They strolled around the room singing to different tables as we came in and then put on a good show after our meal. Our tour of San Antonio was excellent and included a visit to the Alamo, the historic Menger Hotel (where Teddy Roosevelt signed up his rough riders), a boat ride along the Riverwalk and lunch at Rio Rio. Our visit to Fredericksburg was also excellent. The Nimitz Museum, which Sam Thomas had been telling us all was a "MUST" see once in our lifetime, was everything Sam said and more. The courtyard with stone walls that contain plaques for many ships and individual sailors is very moving. The Balch and Porterfield are on a plaque and several WWII sailors also have plaques. I have to say, Sam Thomas was a handsome young sailor!!! Our memorial service was held in the courtyard. We then toured the Museum of the War in the Pacific, one of the best we'd ever seen. It is very well done. We were so impressed with the hotel (especially Faye Faure, who is really a member of the Balch-Porterfield "family") and all the places we visited that we will be hosting a reunion there in 2014 for the USS Henry W. Tucker DD/DDR 875. We are also going to have a plaque placed on the wall for that ship at the Nimitz Museum.

Gaylen and Idonna Robison are hard at work on the 2013 reunion, to be held in Salt Lake City, UT. It will be at the Hampton Inn Airport. The next newsletter will contain all the information, including room rate and contact information for the hotel, so you can begin making your plans. One difference will be dictated by Utah state law. **We will not be allowed to bring in our own alcohol - anywhere in the hotel (including sleeping rooms).** There will be a cash bar set up next to the Quarterdeck. Because of this, we will reduce the amount of the kitty this one time. The rest of the kitty money will go for soft drinks, snacks, lunch makings and paper goods for the Quarterdeck. State liquor laws are getting stricter and we can expect more and more to have restrictions on bringing in our own alcohol for reunions.



U.S.S. BALCH DD363



U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682

Please see Sam Thomas' letter in this newsletter. He has set up a mini-reunion at the Y.O. Ranch Hotel in Kerrville for Memorial Day weekend. If you didn't get to the reunion in September, you might want to think about attending. You won't be disappointed! Call Sam at 530-677-6384.

We received an email from Francis Marinaro. He is trying to determine if his father, Alexander J. Marinaro, served aboard the Balch. His father is confused about details of his time in the Navy and Francis would like to put the story together correctly. His father has mentioned the USS Balch steaming out of (in some narratives he says steaming into) Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. If anyone remembers his father, please contact him at fmarinaro@iname.com. If that doesn't work, try fmarinaro1@verizon.net. He would need his father's permission to access his service records, but his father hasn't signed the papers.

If you know of anyone who served aboard the Balch or the Porterfield who isn't a member of the association, please send us any information you can about him. A lot of guys have told us they were out and about wearing their ship's baseball cap and were approached by someone who also served aboard. So if you have a cap, be sure to wear it! If you don't have one and would like to order one, information is on the last page of this newsletter. They are also available at reunions.

If you're on Facebook, please join the USS Porterfield group page. It's a place where you can keep up with your shipmates. Lots of photos posted there. Family members are also welcome. Just type USS Porterfield in the search box and click on "ask to be added" when you get to the page. And be sure to "friend" us. Jim is James Bill Siler and I'm Patricia Anderson Siler. If you're not on Facebook and would like to be, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and sign up. It's easy and free.

If your address or email address has changed, please be sure to send us the change as soon as possible. Each time we send out newsletters, we get several mail and email returns. Some of the mail returns have new addresses, but many don't. If an email gets returned, we then have to add that person to the list of people to receive paper copies, increasing postage costs. If those are returned, we have no way of getting newsletters to you. If you have a new address for anyone on the list, please send it to us.

If you have news about yourself or your shipmates, or if you know of anyone who is ill or has passed away, please let us know so we can include it in newsletters.

Fair winds and smooth sailing  
Jim & Pat Siler

**"THE FIVE MOST DANGEROUS THINGS IN THE US NAVY"**

A Seaman saying, "I learned this in Boot Camp..."

A Petty Officer saying, "Trust me, sir..."

A Lieutenant JG saying, "Based on my experience..."

A Lieutenant saying, "I was just thinking..."

A Chief chuckling, "Watch this shit..."

## **Additions to Memorial List**

Larry O. Beck, RM3, 53-56  
Vernon Byrd, B, 36-38  
Melvin Davis, P, BM3, 62-64  
Clarence Hughes, P, TM2, 51-52  
Sullivan Lamar "Slim" Fleming, CS3, 52-54

Leo Furstenberg, P, BKR2, 43-46  
Paul Dudley Korf, P, FT2, 52-55  
James A Ormsby, B, Deck Force, 43-44  
Eugene A. "Gene" Schneider, Jr. B, 42-45

We've been informed of the passing of Red Clevenger's (P, Chief Engineer, 57-60) wife Mary Ann. Our sympathy goes out to Red.

## **Additions to Roster**

Harry "Hank" Biddles, P, LTJg, 68-69  
Jeanne  
1362 Tucson Ave.  
Norco, CA  
951-734-4644  
hbiddles@att.net

Tom Carter, P, ?, 58-60  
6 Wildwood Dr.  
Saco, ME 04072  
207-571-4819  
tj5288c@aol.com

Kenneth O. Cook, P, OCSC, 62-63  
207 Graham St  
Cleburne, TX 76033

Cecil Mack Ellis, P, ?, 58-60  
mackellis947@gmail.com

A.M. "Bub" Erwin, B, TPM3, 41-42  
3121 CR 145  
Alvin, TX 77511  
281-585-9870  
bube1923@yahoo.com

Larry Gilley, P, QM2, 62-65  
Mary Kay Gilley  
10024 Jimi Place SW  
Port Orchard, WA 98367  
360-876-4031  
lggilley@wavecable.com

## **Sick List**

Tom Page wrote to say he and Evelyn wouldn't be at the reunion because he is having cancer treatment. He said the treatments were going well. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

## **Address, Phone, Email Additions and Changes**

### New Email:

Wayne Barni, P, MM3, 64-67  
wbarni@yahoo.com

Sam Nicholson, P, STG3, 65-69  
gailnicholson1950@yahoo.com

### Address changes:

Alva Bowen, P, CDR, 63-64  
192 Duke of Gloucester St Ste 1  
Annapolis, MD 21401-2524

John Kinkead, B, SN1/c, 44-45  
498 Lisbon Rd  
Darlington, PA 16115-3309

Burtchie Bumbalough, P, BT2, 66-69  
129 Robertson Ln.  
Caryville, TN 37714  
865-630-1262  
Burtchie66@yahoo.com

Charles Sutherlin  
338 Valle Bonita Dr  
Farmington, NM 87401-3214

Barton Coble, P, RDSN, 65-67  
6141 E Skidmore Dr  
Cottonwood, TX 86326

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## Items of Interest to Veterans

### Social Security

Since 1957, if you had military service earnings for active duty (including active duty for training), you paid Social Security taxes on those earnings. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the Armed Forces reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security.

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your military service from 1957 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

Special extra earnings credits are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. Special extra earnings credits are **not** granted for inactive duty training.

If your active military service occurred

- **From 1957 through 1967**, we will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.
- **From 1968 through 2001**, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.
- **After 2001**, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

**Note:** In January 2002, Public Law 107-117, the Defense Appropriations Act, stopped the special extra earnings that have been credited to military service personnel. Military service in calendar year 2002 and future years no longer qualifies for these special extra earnings credits

### Cold War Certificate

We received this in an email from a crew member of another ship.

Are you all aware of the Cold War Certificate? If you served from September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991, you are authorized the Cold War Recognition Certificate. Here is a website to obtain your copy free. It will be mailed to you by the Secretary of Defense. <http://usmilitary.about.com/cs/genmedals/ht/coldwar.htm>

BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION



November 11, 2012

Dear Jim and Pat:

Just a short note. I called several times to see how you folks came out with the big storm. Guess you are busy, we sure hope and pray that you and your house are okay.

We had lunch with Pete and Vivien the other day. They were visiting there daughter in our area. Vivien needs a back operation so they will return to Oregon in a few days.

A few of us are planning a trip to Kerrville and Fredricksburg next Memorial Day. I will go if my health holds up and June is okay. She is not that great. Eula Rotter and her son plan on going--Tom and Ruth, Spradlin, Wescott and a few others are interested.

If you want you <sup>could</sup> put a little something in the next bulletin. We would go the Saturday before Memorial Day and stay thru the following Wednesday, five days.

I talked to Fay at the hotel and the rate would be \$92.00 plus tax.

If anyone is interested, let me know. They can make reservations-info below.

Fay Faure  
YO Ranch Resort Hotel  
2033 Sidney Baker  
Kerrville, TX. 78028  
(830)257-4440

Mention the Balch/Porterfield Reunion Association

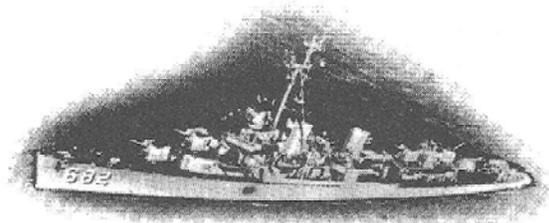
Hope you had a nice Veterans Day

As always

*Sam*



U.S.S. BALCH DD363



U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682

**Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association**  
**Expense Report**  
**Fiscal Year Ending October 31, 2012**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Balance 10/31/2011			\$ 11,432.96
<u>Income - non-reunion related</u>			
Silent auction		\$ 856.00	
Cap & Decal sales		\$ 227.00	
Donations		<u>\$ 715.00</u>	
Total non-reunion related income		\$ 1,798.00	
Balance			\$ 13,230.96
<u>Expenses - non-reunion related</u>			
Bank expenses	\$ 34.95		
Cap expenses	\$ 197.92		
Newsletter - printing & postage	<u>\$ 485.65</u>		
Total non-reunion related expenses	\$ 718.52		
Balance			\$ 12,512.44
<u>Reunion Income</u>			
Advance payment		\$ 400.00	
Registrations		\$ 210.00	
Kitty		\$ 1,050.00	
Raffle		\$ 195.00	
50/50		\$ 145.00	
Activities		<u>\$ 7,642.00</u>	
Total reunion income		\$ 9,642.00	
Balance			\$ 22,154.44
<u>Reunion Expenses</u>			
Monday night banquet	\$ 1,275.38		
Monday entertainment	\$ 650.00		
Tuesday activities & lunch	\$ 819.85		
Thursday activities & lunch	\$ 1,348.00		
Bus transportation	\$ 2,597.00		
Friday night banquet	\$ 1,606.21		
Friday entertainment	\$ 1,360.00		
Wreath	\$ 140.73		
Quarterdeck - food & beverages	\$ 751.64		
Printing, engraving & mailing	<u>\$ 76.08</u>		
Total reunion expenses	\$ 10,624.89		
Bank balance 10/31/2012			\$ 11,529.55

## Contact Information

Jim and Pat Siler  
835 Claybanks Drive  
Callaway, VA 24067-4524  
Phone/Fax: 540-483-5727

Email Jim: jwsilerbtc@gmail.com  
Email Pat: silerpugs@yahoo.com or

Tom Hamilton, Treasurer  
Phone: (home) 260-632-4019, (cell) 260-415-3555

Email: twrahamil2000@hotmail.com

## Website

<http://www.balch-porterfield.org>

The Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association website was created by Jeff Shaffer and maintained by him for many years. We owe him a debt of gratitude for all his hard work. Pat Siler has taken it over and is in the process of updating the site. Please be patient while this is being done.

If there is anyone with website expertise, especially working with photo albums, I'd welcome some help setting up a page with links to the various albums that are on the site. I'd like to see a really user-friendly page so that visitors to the site can find things easily. I hope that person would be willing to manage the photo section of the site going forward, uploading new photos, etc.

This newsletter will be posted on the website along with previous newsletters.

## Baseball Caps

We have baseball caps for sale. The price is \$12.00, which includes shipping. Please indicate which ship you were on.

To purchase, send a check payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association** to Jim Siler, 835 Claybanks Drive, Callaway VA 24067-4524.

## Patches

We have two patches and a decal for sale.

The first patch, with the Pacific Ocean globe with Pride of the Pacific on it, was issued during the Korean Conflict (price \$4.00) and the second patch, with a seahorse and spear came out in the 60's (price \$4.00). The decal is the same design as the 60's patch, with the seahorse (price \$1.00).

To purchase, send a check payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association** to Jim Siler, 835 Claybanks Drive, Callaway VA 24067-4524.