

## BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION



January, 2011

Greetings,

We hope all those who attended the reunion in Salem, OR had a good time. We certainly did. Diane Essig and her sister Carolyn Fitch pulled out all the stops to make this an excellent reunion. Jim Siler cohosted the reunion with them.

The next reunion will be September 12-18, 2011 in Williamsburg, VA. hosted by Jim & Pat Siler. The next newsletter will have full details and a sign-up sheet. Williamsburg is a city with a lot of history and there are also opportunities for dining and shopping. We plan to go to the Mariner's Museum in Newport News and possibly Norfolk.

At the Board meeting in Salem, it was decided that the website would be turned over to the Board. Jeff Shaffer created and maintained the website and we are thankful to him for all his hard work. Pat Siler has begun work to update the website and will send an email notification when it is online. Pete Dutton has expressed interest in working on the photo section of the site. If there's a shipmate who has an interest in the history of the ships and would like to work on expanding what we already have, please contact Pat (information on the last page of this newsletter). It is hoped that the "new" website will be easy to use and interesting to all.

### Mini-Reunion

The Mini-Reunion will be held on Memorial Day weekend as usual. Sam Thomas has all the arrangements set.

Y.O. Ranch Resort Hotel  
2033 Sidney Baker  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
Tel: 830-257-4440  
Fax: 830-896-8189  
Dates: May 27-June 4, 2011  
Rates: May 27-June 1 - \$92.00 (single), \$92.00 (double)  
June 2-4 - \$89.00 (single), \$89.00 (double)  
Tax: 6% state, 7% city

The plan is to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Nimitz Memorial.

### Reunion 2012

At the reunion in Salem, it was decided to have the 2012 reunion at Kerrville, TX over the Memorial Day weekend and the following week. John Bryan and Desiree Centalozza have volunteered to host the reunion. Sam Thomas says that everyone should at least once attend the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Nimitz Memorial and this will give us that opportunity.



**U.S.S. BALCH DD363**



**U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682**

## Nimitz Memorial Walk of Honor

Every year over Memorial Day weekend, members of the association meet for a mini-reunion in Texas. Part of the mini reunion is a trip to the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg. The Balch and Porterfield are represented there with plaques.

There is a "Walk of Honor" at the Nimitz Museum. Below is an order form if you'd like to have a brick in the walk.

### BRICK ORDER


Ordered by \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Walk of Honor Brick Name Pavers

**H**onor those who have served in our nation's military-- and those in domestic, industrial, or civilian efforts who supported them-- by sponsoring an engraved brick paver in the Walk of Honor. A \$100 donation allows for three lines, with 14 spaces each, of engraving on a 4 x 8 inch brick paver. When the brick is installed, you will receive a certificate letting you know where the brick is located. Please mail the form on the left to: The Admiral Nimitz Foundation, 328 E. Main, Fredericksburg, TX, 78624 or e-mail [kaderli@nimitzfoundation.org](mailto:kaderli@nimitzfoundation.org). Checks to The Admiral Nimitz Foundation or VISA and MasterCard are accepted.



## News

On December 3, we received an email from Mary Hutten informing us that Ken passed away on Monday, November 29. Ken wasn't a shipmate, but was a much loved part of the Balch-Porterfield family. In recent years, he had many health problems but managed to come to many of the reunions. He will be missed.

On December 16, Sam Thomas called to say that Frank Kurtz (Balch, FN1/c, 36-38) has had a stroke. He's doing well but his hearing and speech have been affected. His son Richard is caring for him along with home health care. If you'd like to send a card or letter, his address is 4931 Mt. Etna Drive, San Diego, CA 92117. Frank attended most reunions, driving to each. He always had his golf clubs in the trunk so he could stop along the way to play a round.

Vivien Dutton had back surgery after the reunion. We've received regular updates from Pete, and she is doing very well.

We received news from Warren Seward that Evelyn passed away in January 2010.

We received word that Arthur "Art" Fischer (P, LCDR, 45) passed away.

We received an email from Ron Lytle that he had seen an obituary for William F. "Bill" Huschka, who passed away December 24 in Billings, Montana. He served on the Porterfield in the 50s. We don't have him on our roster. If anyone knew him and could tell us his rate and the years he was aboard ship, we'd appreciate it.

Fair Winds and Smooth Sailing  
Jim & Pat Siler

## Additions to the Memorial List

Huschka, William F. "Bill"  
P, 50s

Hutten, Ken  
Husband of Mary  
widow of Augie DeWolf  
Balch, 43-44

Longtin, Mary  
widow of Frank  
P, WTC, 43-47

Powers, Albert (Choppy)  
B, BM2, 39-43

Seward, Evelyn  
widow of Warren  
B, MM1, 42-45

## Additions to the Roster

If you are in contact with anyone who was aboard the Balch or Porterfield and isn't a member of the association, we encourage you to "recruit" them and send their address/phone/email information to us. There are many post-Korean era shipmates out there especially, and we need to bring them aboard. If you have a Balch or Porterfield baseball cap, we encourage you to wear it when you go out. You never know when you might meet a shipmate or a shipmate's family member. Our current database includes about 1,000 names, including those on the Memorial List.

Bailey, John D., wife Linda  
P, FA, 61  
1010 Silver Ridge Rd.  
Drasco, AR 72530  
501-691-3040

Gomez, Ernesto (wife Vivian)  
P, TM2, 64-67  
PO Box 2256  
Tijeras, NM 87059  
505-350-9095  
[Vbceg5@hotmail.com](mailto:Vbceg5@hotmail.com)

## Address, Phone, and/or Email Changes

Bennett, Edwin & Evy  
P, BT2, 52-55  
1125 Sky Line Dr.  
Medford, OR 97504  
541-857-6068

Fleetwood, Fred "Sonny"  
P, BT3, 62-65  
603A South Main Ct.  
Bixby, OK 74008  
918-943-3125  
[fred.fleetwood@gmail.com](mailto:fred.fleetwood@gmail.com)

Bivens, Jan  
Widow of Jim, P, BM3, 51-53  
New email: [janboop0@gmail.com](mailto:janboop0@gmail.com)

Harper, Earl  
P, BTC, 50-53  
5469 Corte Cercado St.  
Hemet, CA 92545-9162  
951-925-0325  
[Elharper230@msn.com](mailto:Elharper230@msn.com)

Butler, James "Jim"  
GMGSN, 63-65  
New email: [btlrglm@aol.com](mailto:btlrglm@aol.com)

Katan, Earl  
P, TM3, 52-54  
New email: [doriskatan@suddenlink.net](mailto:doriskatan@suddenlink.net)

## Sick List

Dutton, Vivien  
Wife of Pete  
P, MM2, 59-61

Kurtz, Frank  
B, FN1/c, 36-38  
Stroke, send cards to:  
4931 Mt. Etna Dr.  
San Diego, CA 92117

## Expense Report for 2010

<u>Item</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Balance 10/31/2009			\$ 11,590.39
<u>Income - non-reunion related</u>			
Cap & Decal sales		\$ 391.00	
Donations		\$ <u>660.00</u>	
Total non-reunion related income		\$ 1,051.00	
Balance			\$ 12,641.39
<u>Expenses - non-reunion related</u>			
Cap expenses	\$ 111.17		
Newsletter - printing & postage	\$ <u>1,334.64</u>		
Total non-reunion related expenses	\$ 1,445.81		
Balance			\$ 11,195.58
<u>Reunion Income</u>			
Registrations		\$ 180.00	
Kitty		\$ 900.00	
Raffle		\$ 140.00	
Activities		\$ <u>5,898.00</u>	
Total reunion income		\$ 7,118.00	
Balance			\$ 18,313.58
<u>Reunion Expenses</u>			
Oregon Gardens & lunch	\$ 548.50		
Evergreen Aviation Tour	\$ 1,192.00		
Wine Tasting	\$ 120.00		
Bus Transportation	\$ 1,820.55		
Lunch - Memorial Service	\$ 484.00		
Monday & Friday banquets	\$ 1,726.91		
Monday & Friday music	\$ 500.00		
Hotel service charges	\$ 639.00		
Quarterdeck - food & beverages	\$ 357.62		
Printing, engraving, & mailing	\$ <u>466.28</u>		
Total reunion expenses	\$ 7,854.86		
Bank balance 10/31/10			\$ 10,458.72

## Contact Information

James W. "Jim" Siler, Jr. (BT3, 64-66)  
835 Claybanks Drive  
Callaway, VA 24067  
Home: 540-483-5727  
Cell: 540-420-5809  
jwsilerbtc@earthlink.net

Pat Siler  
Cell: 540-420-5808  
silerpugs@yahoo.com

Please contact either one of us with address, phone, email changes and any other crew information. If you have questions relating to other subjects, we will see that it gets to the proper person if we don't have the answer. The best number to call is our home phone number.

### Website

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

The Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association website has managed by Jeff Shaffer for many years.

The website is in the process of being revamped by Pat Siler. Hopefully, it will be on line by the next newsletter.

### Baseball Caps

We have baseball caps for sale. The price is \$10.00, 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 Dr, Callaway VA 24067.

### 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 Dr, Callaway VA 24067.

### Facebook Page

For those of you who have computers and internet access, we have a "group page" for the USS Porterfield on Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)). It's a place where shipmates can swap sea stories, post pictures and otherwise keep in touch. There's even a "chat" feature where you can write back and forth in "real time". If you're already on Facebook, Type **USS Porterfield** in the search box at top of any page and click to search. Then click on the name of the ship to reach the page. At the top of the page, you will see "Join Group". Click on that and you're in. It's as simple as that. If you know of other shipmates who are on Facebook, you can "Invite" them to join as well. If you're not on Facebook, it's easy and free to join. We already have several members on there and welcome more, including family members. Reunion information will be on the page as well. To find us on Facebook, type James Bill Siler or Patricia Anderson Siler in the search box. When you find us, send us a friend request.