

## BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION



March 2012

Greetings Shipmates:

Below is a write-up from John & Desiree with the reunion information.

We would like to say Happy and Healthy New Year to all our Balch/Porterfield friends. We hope all that attended the almost NOT reunion in Williamsburg, VA had a great time. We sure did. Jim and Pat Siler did a BRAVO ZULU of a job considering only days away from the reunion, we had NO HOTEL! The Embassy Suites and their GM Chris Covert treated us like Kings and Queens!

Now moving forward, Desiree and I are working hard on the upcoming reunion to be held Sunday 9 September 2012 through Saturday 15 September 2012 in Kerrville, TX.

**Y O Ranch Hotel  
2033 Sidney Baker St  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
877-967-3767**

The rooms are \$89.00 which includes a full Breakfast Buffet for 2 each morning. The rates are good 3 days before and after our reunion dates. When contacting the hotel for reservation, please state you are with the USS Balch/Porterfield Reunion. The cut-off date for reservation is 7am 9 August 2012. If you are computer savvy, you can see the Y O Ranch's website at [www.yoresort.com](http://www.yoresort.com).

The hotel is 45 minutes from the San Antonio Airport. We are looking into means of transportation from and to the airport. Hopefully we will have information in the next newsletter.

We have two trips planned. The first will be to San Antonio. We will be touring the Alamo, taking a river barge ride and lunch on Tuesday. The second on Thursday will be a full day in Fredericksburg for our Memorial Ceremony at the Admiral Nimitz Museum.

Desiree and I attended the Mini-Reunion last year in Kerrville and were able to see the sights. The Memorial Day Ceremony at the Nimitz Museum was the best ceremony we have attended. The country is beautiful and so much to see and do. If you have never been to the Nimitz or Kerrville, this is a reunion you really should try and attend.

We look forward to seeing everyone again.

Desiree and John Bryan



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



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

From an Old Shipmate's Corner:

We lost another old Balch shipmate last June, Norm Vogel. Norm and his wife Shirley would have been married 67 years last September. Another "WWII marriage that wouldn't last," but did. They made many reunions a few years back but due to health conditions, they had to stop attending. They helped Hugo and Marie Blomgren put on the St. Paul reunion in 1985 and it was one of the best. Norm joined the Navy in 1939 and served on the Balch until he was discharged in 1945. After WWII, he stayed in the Naval Reserve and was called back and served three years in the Korean War. He will be missed by us [his Shipmates], his wife Shirley, three children, nine grandchildren, and twenty great grandchildren.

Sam Thomas

We received the following in an email from Dan Brown's (RM2, 51-54) wife Janny on March 8. "Hi guys. This will have to be a shared e-mail. Perhaps we should have written sooner re this but Dan always felt that we should not load our friends down with problems. Dan is very, very sick and will probably have one, two or three more weeks. 12 years ago he came down with bladder cancer and with radiation and every 6-monthly check up, he thought, it has all gone away. At the end of April/early May last year, it came back with a vengeance and with two bouts of chemo, it has not worked. I am just back from the hospital with his instructions of writing to you guys and to let all of you know that you are very dear to him. I really don't know how to phrase all this right now at this time of total sadness. Will be meeting the head doctor tomorrow to see if Dan can at least come home for a few days before going to the hospice???? Take care and I will keep in touch as and when I can. Love, Janny"

We received an email from John Clark (ETN3, 66). He is attempting to find documentation that the Porterfield was in DaNang and that he did go ashore there. He is trying to get a claim approved with the VA and needs proof that he and the ship were in an area where Agent Orange was being used. If any of you have been successful with claims or have information proving the ship was there, please let me know so I can put you in touch with John.

We received an email from George "Chuck" DeKay (Balch, LT, 43-45), telling us that Ray Dunn (Balch, LT, 43-45) passed away in 2010. Chuck is 92 and seems to be doing well. I love getting emails from guys in their 90s!

If you know of anyone who served aboard the Balch or the Porterfield who isn't a member, 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're on Facebook, please join the USS Porterfield group page. It's a place where you can keep up with your shipmates. 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, please let us know so we can include it in newsletters.

Pat's Yahoo email address was hacked on March 16. If you received a message from her with a link, it's not from her. Please delete it. If you receive any email, even from friends or family, that seems odd, don't click on any links. It could be a virus or an attempt to steal your identity. If anyone emails you asking you to verify personal information, such as social security number or address, do not give out that information. Legitimate businesses will never send emails asking for this type of information. Also, when you are sending emails, please use the BCC option to type in email addresses, so the addresses won't show when the recipient opens that email. If you're forwarding a message, be sure to remove any email addresses you see in the message. In this day of identity theft and email fraud, we can't be too careful.

We're looking forward to the reunion in September and hope to see a lot of you there.

Fair winds and smooth sailing,

Jim & Pat Siler

### **Additions to Memorial List**

Ray Dunn, Balch, LT, 43-45

William J. Glasser, Porterfield, MMC, 57-59

Norman Vogel, Balch, RDM2, 42-45

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

John Wiley, Porterfield, 63, jwdgort@comcast.net

Please fill out the form below and return it with your check, payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Assn., to Tom Hamilton, 17004 Doty Rd., New Haven, IN 46774.**

All prices include tax and gratuity, including for the coach drivers. Entertainment at the banquet included in cost of banquet.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>September 9, 2012</b>	<b>Price Per Person</b>	<b>Number of People</b>	<b>Total</b>
1300	Quarterdeck Opens	Reg. \$5.00		
	Check in, pick up name badges and welcome packages	Kitty \$25.00		
2200	Quarterdeck Closes			
<b>Monday</b>	<b>September 10, 2012</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
	Free Day			
1500	Board of Directors Meeting			
1700	Quarterdeck Closes			
1730	Cocktails, cash bar			
1800	Welcome Buffet	\$45.00		
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>September 11, 2012</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
0830	Depart for San Antonio, Tour Alamo & Menger Hotel			
1200	Lunch at Rio Rio			
1300	River Boat Ride			
1630	Return to Hotel	\$51.00		
	Free Evening			
2200	Quarterdeck Closes			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>September 12, 2012</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
	Free Day and Evening			
2200	Quarterdeck Closes			
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>September 13, 2012</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
TBA	Depart for Fredericksburg			
1100	Memorial Service at Nimitz Museum			
1200	Lunch at Nimitz Museum			
1330	Tour Nimitz Museum			
TBA	Return to Hotel	\$45.00		
	Free Evening			
2200	Quarterdeck Closes			
<b>Friday</b>	<b>September 14, 2012</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
TBA	Business Meeting & Raffle			
1700	Quarterdeck Closes			
1800	Cocktails, cash bar			
1830	Grand Banquet (circle your choice(s))			
1900	Chicken Marsala	\$42.00		
	Shrimp Scampi	\$44.00		
	Prime Rib	\$52.00		
	Music & Dancing			
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>September 15, 2012</b>			
0800	Farewell Breakfast	No charge		
	Total			

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Spouse/Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Your rate or rank when aboard \_\_\_\_\_ Which ship? \_\_\_\_\_ Years Aboard 19\_\_ - 19\_\_

Please fill out the form below and return it to **John Bryan, 2644 Rosewood Ct., Orange Park, FL 32065.**

All prices include tax and gratuity, including for the coach drivers. Entertainment at the banquet included in cost of banquet.

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Name of Spouse/Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Your rate or rank when aboard \_\_\_\_\_ Which ship? \_\_\_\_\_ Years Aboard 19\_\_ - 19\_\_

## 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  
patricia.siler67@gmail.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.

The main page has been updated and the Roster and Memorial List will be the next to be 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.