



## USS BRISTOL (DD-857) VETERANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER Winter 2008

### **Reunion 2008 – San Diego, CA: Reunion Raffle Table Donations.**

Duane & Kathy Haugan, 5 Framed Collage pictures of USS Bristol; Syd Goldsmith, 3 copies of book "Jade Phoenix"; Ed & Anne Lynch "Lone Survivor", "It's Getting Ugly", "Never Again", "Between You & Me"; Tony Molnar, "Freedom Is Not free" framed picture; Mary Riddle, Boat & See's Candy; Walt & Cindy Marczak 2 Statues, Lone Sailor; Doug Lipert Naval Base T-Shirt; Floyd Van Wie Gift Certificate, Olive Garden, Red Lobster, Out Back; Doug Hardesty "Dog Zebra" Identification Plate from USS Bristol Anne Marie Meek 3 Bath Sets with Gift /Cards Crystal 7; Rich Kolady Bath Set, Navy Shirt, Sailor Candle, 5 pc Hallmark frame set; Joan McCall Barbecue Set; Marty Walsh Portable Radio; Don Marcus Mystery Gift Envelope; Manny & Dolores Calimquim 4 sets of 3 each children's T-shirts; Joe & Delores Smith Cardinal Shirts; Doug & Linda Hardesty Midway Hat (Cap) and Aircraft Shirt; Peggy & Mike Murphy Flag & Schooner Set, Eagle & Ship & Plate; Don Tanner 2 Picture Frames; Roland Hernandez Coffee, Popcorn and Chili cooking ingredient kits; John & Gloria Edelin Bristol Sweatshirt (2X), Brass Anchor, Coasters, necklace & earrings; Frank Gruenewald Golf Bag Barbeque Set; Bill & Mary Blake CD Case Holder, Calculator. Thanks all of you for your generous contributions. Congratulations to all of you who were winners of those raffle table items.

Reunion 50/50 winners: William Blake, William Potabi, Marty Walsh, Jan Sylvia, Tony Molnar, Mary Riddle, Doug Hardesty, and, Norman Koch.

### **The Reunion Was**

#### **By Shirley Clark, in memory of Dick "Bristolski"**

**Szulczewski.** Shirley's comments: "I will do *'The Reunion Was'*. I know it won't be the same as if Dick could do it, but I'll give it my best."

Flying to San Diego; the beautiful city; the tours; the best bus driver guide that we've ever had the Midway; hospitality room; reception; Dinner cruise; old friends; making new

friends; memories; banquet; raffle; dance; memorial service; leaving San Diego; saying goodbye; the hugs. It is not where we are, it is being together with shipmates and friends. It is remembering the past and looking forward to the future. It is remembering a time we served in the United States Navy with pride and honor. A time to remember. One more time for Dick. God bless.

### **Reunion 2009– Milwaukee, WI.**

Here is a head's up for next year: Reunion dates are from 8 October through 11 October 2009. The Reunion BRAT will

be negotiating our behalf for hotels and optional tours. Please keep these dates open for planning purposes. Marty Walsh researched these web site for your perusal:

[http://www.wisconline.com/;](http://www.wisconline.com/)  
[http://www.milwaukee.org/;](http://www.milwaukee.org/)  
[http://www.milwaukee.org/guides/;](http://www.milwaukee.org/guides/)  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milwaukee;>  
[http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&client=firefox-a&channel=s&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&hs=eTw&resnum=0&q=milwaukee&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=X&oi=geocode\\_result&resnum=1&ct=title;](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&client=firefox-a&channel=s&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&hs=eTw&resnum=0&q=milwaukee&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&resnum=1&ct=title;)

[http://doubletree1.hilton.com/en\\_US/dt/hotel/MKECCDT-Doubletree-Hotel-Milwaukee-City-CenterWisconsin/index.do;jsessionid=DA54F655F1F](http://doubletree1.hilton.com/en_US/dt/hotel/MKECCDT-Doubletree-Hotel-Milwaukee-City-CenterWisconsin/index.do;jsessionid=DA54F655F1F)

### **President's Message.**

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other

### **Additional Message:**

With sunny California and the opportunity to get together again with my old shipmates still fresh in my mind, I have turned my sights to Milwaukee for another glorious get together. We're working now on putting together a reunion that will be both memorable and affordable. With prices continuing to rise, we are using this long lead-time in securing

### **Expanded Ship's Store**

We are in the process of expanding the items for sale through the ships store. We will shortly have available Bristol tee shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, hooded sweatshirts and denim shirts. These items will be embroidered with the ship's name, hull number and ship silhouette. Once we have the details

### **News You Can Use.**

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 110-181) changed Sect. 9, Title 4, US Code, which covers "Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag." "During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when

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[http://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/content/MKECCDT/media/pdf/MKECCDT\\_Doubletree\\_Hotel\\_Milwaukee\\_City\\_Center\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/content/MKECCDT/media/pdf/MKECCDT_Doubletree_Hotel_Milwaukee_City_Center_fact_sheet.pdf)

<http://www.visitmilwaukee.org/meeting%2Dplanners/gettinghere/>  
<http://www.mitchellairport.com/flight.html;>

<http://www.mitchellairport.com/>

<http://www.mitchellairport.com/getting.html>

individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time.

activities that will be pleasing to all. I have received numerous calls from members who are ready to descend upon Milwaukee. If you have not yet attended a reunion, I urge you to consider Milwaukee. If you think you will not remember anyone, it hasn't happened yet. We have shipmates from the 40's 50's and 60's. I'll keep you posted through out the year on the Bristol website. I hope to see you all at our 12<sup>th</sup> annual reunion in Milwaukee.

worked out, we will mail each member an order blank and details about the ordering process. The items will be specially ordered through the association ensuring that you will receive the correct size you ordered

the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present

should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should

**Shirley Clark says:**

When you get down to nothing-----god is up to something!!!!!!!!!!!!

Keep yourself clean and bright; you are the windows through which you must see the world.

**Shipmate Anecdotes:**

This is the section of the newsletter that I believe makes the whole thing worth reading. I just love to listen to that “around the world cruise” group (who stopped by to do some combat in Korea). Unfortunately, I didn’t have a recorder with me.

**Submitted by John H LeMay**

(John just joined our association this year. I hope that John’s submission encourages further input from the membership. Remember nothing is unimportant.)

One of the fondest [memories] was that we spent Christmas of 1960, in the harbor of VilleFranche, France. Someone arranged for 30 kids from an orphanage, Fondation Bellet’de Nice, in Nice, to visit the ship for a Christmas party. We had some notice and many [of the crew] worked hard decorating the ship with lights, posters, etc. The children arrived dressed to the nines in their little outfits. It was very hard to determine who was having more fun [the crew or the children]. Presents, food and hugs abounded for the several hours the children were with us. There was many a wet eye as they departed later in the day. I suspect that it was the first time out of the country for many of the crew and probably the first whole Holiday season away from home.

Later in the cruise we went into the Red Sea for a 6-week patrol. We visited most of the towns you have seen on the news for the past several years, including Dubai, Kuwait, Bahrain, Karachi, and Muscat. I believe it was in Bahrain that the local British regiment; who were then actively at war with the Arabs, invited a contingent of our petty officers to visit them in the desert for dinner and drinks. They picked us up at the ship in, I think it was an open backed lorry and off across the sand dunes/desert we went. Upon arriving at the barbed wire fort they were defending, the party commenced, and we realized they had more liquor than mix. That was about at the peak length of my handlebar moustache, and their senior NCO

stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.”

A government big enough to give you everything that you want is big enough to take away everything you have.  
Thomas Jefferson

The two worst things that could ever happen to a person is-----1. Having everything you want.  
2. Not having anything you want. Oscar Wilde

Next time I commiserate with these guys I’ll have a recorder. The following are some of the samples of how things were for our shipmates who have shared some of their experiences.

decided it should be shortened to the length of his and that the instrument of choice was a 3-foot long saber. Cooler heads prevailed and I returned to the ship unscathed. I do recall that we had at least 2 of our group fall out of the lorry on the way back and it took a lot of hollering to get the driver to go back for them.

Another story I remember from the cruise: We had a pretty good basketball team, I was not on it, and when in one of the Red Sea ports, Bahrain, the Brits invited us to play them. Before our team could slow down we were embarrassingly ahead and they had a very difficult time making a game of it.



Well disciplined aren't they.

# ORPHANS



The Captain says hello.



My attention Kids.

It was the day before Christmas and throughout the steel hull of the "Mighty B" many happy joyous voices were to be heard. The BRISTOL was sponsoring a Christmas party for the Fondation Bellet of Nice, France. The children, thirty in all, arrived around 1 o'clock and many Bristol fathers and envious single men were on hand at the bow to meet them. A tour of the ship was conducted, then down below for a big feed and a reel of cartoons. The big climax came when our Santa, Gilles Perreault, passed out the presents. At 4 o'clock, the smiles, happy eyes and sixty arms waving, departed for fleet landing. We are still wondering who had the better time, the children or the crew.



Some real happy smiles.

"WOW"



Chow's down.



# PARTY

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The Brits then invited us to play soccer, which was not at all popular in the US then and we put together a team of roustabouts, a hockey player, the Brits, and myself included ran us up and down the field till we begged for mercy, that is for them to score and get it over with.

Will look thru some of my other stuff for some other thoughts. As I type this I realize that was 48 years ago, and guess should not be surprised, as I had the 50th HS reunion not long ago. That Med Cruise was quite a trip for a young man, whose previous travels had taken him into Canada, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Then to the east coast for a brief time before the Navy. The slogan "Join the Navy and see the world" sure hit home and was a lot of fun. Photo at right of John LeMay in Suez Canal 19 Nov 1960.

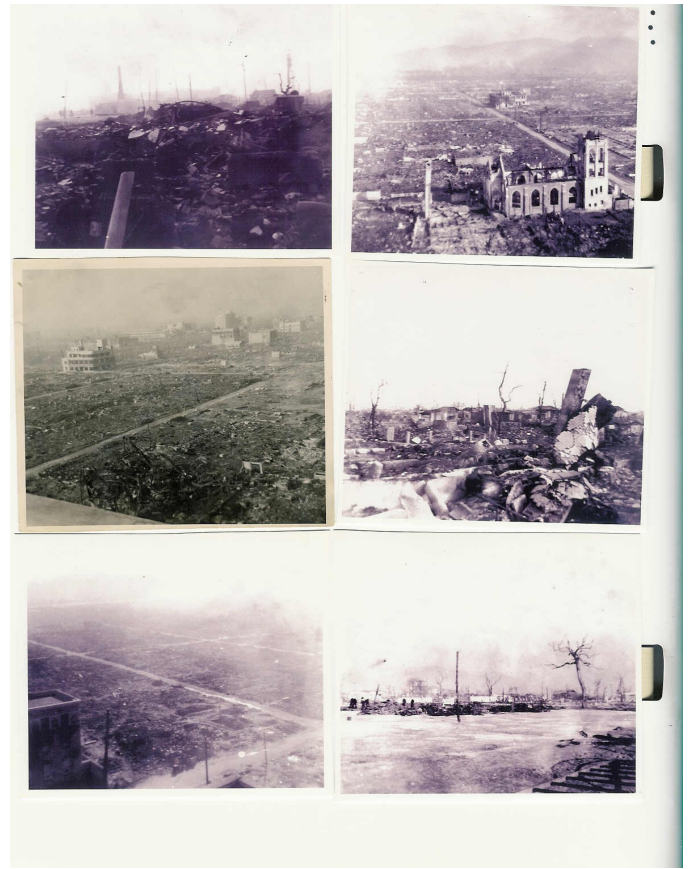


## Leo "Moose" Sangiolo submitted these tid bits

Moose Sangiolo told a story about one of the other torpedomen and him being assigned a duty to secure Bristol to a mooring point. It turns out that the other fellow had been concocting a cocktail from the torpedo fuel and the two TMs were a little drunk. Nevertheless, both men went over the side and accomplished the mission. The Captain ordered the Torpedo Officer to have the corpsman administer some spirits to "warm" these two brave sailors. Needless to say, these guys didn't need it.



**Moose has the mustache.**



**Hiroshima as viewed by Moose Sangiolo**

Can you imagine having these guys reporting to you? Well, I suppose you can overlook some of the strange behavior when you and your buddies are in a war zone. Next time you see John Duncan you can ask him how things were back then. He was the Torpedo Officer.

## On liberty in Japan after the surrender.



### Submitted by Shirley Clark, Historian

The first week of October in the Clark home in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, we are always ready to attend the USS Bristol DD857 Veterans' Association reunion. This year, 2008, will be the eleventh year for our reunion. We eagerly anticipated the days ahead. This year was somewhat different for us. We usually pack the car and start out for a wonderful experience of driving to the reunion. This year was different in that the trip was long, and due to health issues, and distance, we decided to fly. I had never been on an airplane. So-----you see, everything about this trip was a new experience for me.

As the time became nearer for the trip to San Diego, questions began to drift around in my brain. Would I be OK? Would I be nervous? Would I want to jump out onto the wing, and hold on for dear life? Well-----Surprise, surprise! None of these things happened. We flew from Louisville, Kentucky, to Greater Cincinnati Airport and then on to San Diego. To be honest, I could do this again, but I would not want to do this every day. I like the land and I like to watch the road stretch out in front of me. So for now, I'll just say---I've been there, now I'm very content to be back on the land.

But let me say for the record, as reunions go, this was one fine reunion.

The group was a very good balance of fine shipmates and guests. We all enjoyed being together. Old members and new ones bonded as on great group.

From the hospitality room to the memorial service, it was a great reunion for all attendees.

The city tour and going aboard the Midway was an excellent outing for all the shipmates and guests. On the dinner cruise; we all enjoyed a wonderful meal. The food was delicious, and the music and dancing for all those twinkle toes. You all were light on you feet, and gave us a good show. If you get the chance to sit life out or dance – I hope you will dance!!!

It never matters where we are or what we do while at the reunion, the only thin g that is important is that we are all together on more time. We always remember the old times and renew friendships. We also make new friends and new memories to carry with us throughout the next year.

It will be good to see all of you in Milwaukee. May God bless each of you. May you take good care of yourselves and of each other.

**VETERAN LEGISLATION 2008:** After months of delay, the Senate passed an omnibus veterans' benefits bill on 16 SEP that includes bigger benefits for veterans and their families, expanded home loans and a variety of other programs. The bill, S.3023, had passed the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee in June but lingered in limbo because of disputes over dozens of details. With congressional leaders aiming to end this legislative session of Congress soon, passage of the Senate bill was essential for any hope of passing a compromise bill in conjunction with the House this year. The Senate passed the bill by voice vote and with no debate. Sens. Daniel Akaka (D-HI), chairman of the veterans' committee, and Richard Burr of North Carolina, the committee's ranking Republican, said the bill passed by the Senate includes a host of compromises and includes the following provisions:

- It would order VA to simplify what it tells veterans when it denies benefits claims or asks for more information." Notification letters to veterans about the status of their claims have become increasingly long, complex and difficult to understand," Akaka said. "These notification letters must be simplified. They should use plain and ordinary language rather than bureaucratic jargon. Veterans should not be subjected to confusing information as they seek benefits."
- It would temporarily extend an increase in veterans' home loans through the end of 2011. The temporary measure allows loans of up to \$730,000, but it is due to expire at the end of 2008. Akaka said extending the loan limits for several more years "would enable more veterans to utilize their VA benefit to purchase more costly homes."
- It would apply the maximum loan limit to home refinancing, and let homeowners refinance with a veterans'

loan if they have 5% equity in their homes instead of the current 10% requirement.

- It would require more federal help for service members who have problems with employment and re-employment rights. Under the bill, the Labor Department would investigate more complaints and federal agencies would provide more assistance. The bill calls for mandatory training for federal human resources workers in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. Burr said every employer should obey the law, but the federal government has a particular responsibility to be a model employer. "The federal government should make sure that not a single returning service member is denied proper reinstatement to a federal job," Burr said. "Unfortunately, this is not happening yet."

- It would grant spouses of severely injured disabled veterans up to 20 years after the veterans are discharged to use education benefits, twice the time currently allowed.

- It would prevent the Department of Veterans Affairs from making changes in its disability-rating schedule without first notifying Congress. Burr said the current ratings system is "riddled with outdated criteria that do not track with modern medicine," especially in the areas of combat stress and traumatic brain injuries. VA has been working on several studies that could lead to an overhaul, but many veterans and lawmakers remain concerned that a change could result in lower benefits. Burr said the bill would "make sure these studies do not get put on a shelf to collect dust" by requiring a report to Congress on the findings and what action is planned by VA.

[Source: Navy Times Rick Maze article 19 Sep 08 ++]

### **It's a Fact!**

The longest acronym is "adcomsubordcomphibspac". It is a Navy term standing for Administrative Command, Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet Subordinate Command.

Please remember our shipmates who are unable to attend reunions due to increased age, illness, or, disability. Please keep these shipmates in your prayers.

### **Happy Thanksgiving**

**T** is for the trust the pilgrims had so many years ago; **H** is for the harvest the settlers learnt to grow; **A** is for America, the land in which we live; **N** is for nature and beauty which she gives; **K** is for kindness, gentle words, thoughtful deeds; **S** is for smiles, the sunshine everyone needs; **G** is for gratitude... our blessings big and small; **I** is for ideas, letting wisdom grow tall; **V** is for voices, singing, laughing, always caring; **I** is for Indians, who taught them about sharing; **N** is for neighbors, across the street, over the sea; and, **G** is for giving of myself to make a better me **by Judith.A. Lindberg**

### **Christmas Is a Time for Love and Fun**

Christmas is a time for love and fun,  
A time to reshape souls and roots and skies,  
A time to give your heart to everyone

Freely, like a rich and lavish sun,  
Like a burning star to those whose lonely sighs  
Show need of such a time for love and fun.

For children first, whose pain is never done,  
Whose bright white fire of anguish never dies,  
It's time to give your heart to every one,

That not one angel fall, to hatred won  
For lack of ears to listen to her cries,  
Or arms to carry him towards love and fun,

Or friends to care what happens on the run  
To adult life, where joy or sadness lies.  
It's time to give your heart to everyone,

**Hanukkah Thoughts**

Eight days the light continued on its own:  
A miracle, they say, but not more so  
Than ordinary lives of flesh and bone,  
Consuming wicks burned ashen long ago.  
Within there is a mystic lake of fire,  
Fuel-less energy, power uncalled,

For God loves all, and turns His back on none,  
Good or twisted, ignorant or wise.  
Christmas is a time for love and fun,  
A time to give your heart to everyone.

Unmeasured fount of obstinate desire,  
Hope burning, where no hope was ever held.  
Invisible source of all that's seen or seeing,  
Unseen light that animates the void;  
Unlit spark of indivisible Being,  
Shard of One that cannot be destroyed:  
To be so vast a miracle till death  
Is why we struggle fiercely for each breath.

**The officers of Bristol Veterans Association wish all of our shipmates the sincerest wishes for a happy Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year. God keep us all in good health until we meet again in Milwaukee.**

~~ In Memoriam ~~

**Our memorial service honored the memory of the following shipmates:** George W Hesser, MMFN, 1951-1953; Wayne Wilson, FN, 1962-1963, Herbert F Brister, Jr., 1946-1948; Dominick Baldino, BT3, 1957-1959; Joe E Egalite, RM3, 1950-1952; Frank J Ferrare, YN3, 1950-1952; and, Patricia Hodgins, Wife of Len Hodgins, ETN2, 1964-1966.

**Please remember these shipmates in your prayers, especially George White, Jr., son of George White, Sr., our Chaplain, and the White family.**