



# NEWSLETTER

## Summer 2009

# Reunion 2009 - Milwaukee

*Don't forget to register for our 12<sup>th</sup> reunion.*



Milwaukee is a premiere Midwestern meeting destination. State-of-the-art convention facilities are conveniently located at Midwest Airlines Center. Within walking distance of the convention center is Milwaukee's dynamic downtown, offering a wide range of shopping, dining and nightlife options, the River Walk, Water Street Entertainment District, Downtown Theater District, museums, professional sports and over 3,000 hotel rooms.

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### **Editor's Note**

You are welcome to send in any contribution to this newsletter. This is our newsletter. All entries are welcome. Nothing is insignificant. Please send via email: [edwardclynchi@verizon.net](mailto:edwardclynchi@verizon.net) or US Mail:

Edward C Lynch  
5 Bridle Way  
Whiting NJ 08759-5167

If you haven't already done so, please send your registration for this 12<sup>th</sup> reunion to The Reunion BRAT. If you need a registration form you may call me, Ed Lynch, 732-716-0889, or Walt Marczak, 931-648-9843. You may also call The Reunion BRAT directly at 360-663-2521 or [info@TheReunionBRAT.com](mailto:info@TheReunionBRAT.com). Please mark the dates: October 8 - 11, 2009. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

BY WALTER MARCZAK

We have completed the final details concerning organizing and planning for our reunion in Milwaukee. Everyone should have received a registration packet from the BRAT and information on making hotel reservations. Please notify any of the officers if you have not received your packet.

We are expecting a large turn out this year because Wisconsin is so centrally located. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again and also to welcome our new members and those who have not attended a reunion before.

One of the highlights of the reunion is the raffle which is conducted the evening of the banquet. We will again have Bristol wearing apparel and items donated by the membership. We welcome any donated items to add to the raffle table. The profits from the raffle table help us to enhance your reunion experience.

Please visit the Bristol website often ([ussbristoldd857.org](http://ussbristoldd857.org)). Any new information about the Association and the reunion will be posted there.

See you in Milwaukee!



# USS BRISTOL TO THE RESCUE

*Two downed navy pilots rescued by Bristol crew*



The USS Bristol DD-857 received accolades from CARDIV 1 for the rescue of two pilots from USS Midway CV-41. In the photo above left, you see the two airmen in their survival raft paddling toward Bristol. In the photo right, you see the pilots climbing the rope ladder to board Bristol. The pilots were retrieved from Bristol via helicopter. The retrieval took place on the

fantail while Mount 53 was trained to starboard. As a reward for the rescue of their pilots, Midway sent ten gallons of ice cream for the rescuers. Great work Bristol!!



Photo left: Helicopter from USS Midway CV-41 hovers over Bristol fantail to retrieve rescued pilots and delivering ten gallons of ice cream. Is this the same ice cream that Don Esposito allegedly ate while he locked himself on CIC? If you can help with the dates and location of this rescue, please let me know at [edwardclynch1@verizon.net](mailto:edwardclynch1@verizon.net)



**Bristol visits Aberdeen, Scotland, January 22, 1953**



*News clippings from The Scottish Daily Mail, January 22, 1953. These items sent to me by John Watt.*

The wheeling, screaming gulls gave first welcome to visiting American Navymen as the U.S. destroyer Bristol was escorted into Aberdeen harbour by tugs yesterday afternoon.

The Bristol, which is on a six-day visit, has served in Korean waters, where she co-operated with British frigates and the Australian cruiser Sydney.

The Bristol, under the command of Commander D. K. O'Connor, is the second U.S. destroyer to bear the name of the late Rear-Admiral Mark L. Bristol, who served for forty-three years in the American Navy. She was commissioned on March 17, 1945.

Large crowds gathered at the harbour

to greet the Bristol, which was welcomed on behalf of the Royal Navy by Commander P. J. H. Hoare, staff officer, Rosyth, who was accompanied by Lieut.-Commander Birnie, R.N.V.W.R., and Dr A. C. West, representing the Navy League.

A programme of entertainment is being arranged for the officers and men during their stay in Aberdeen. Last night the commander and several of his officers attended the W.R.N.S. Association dance in the Northern Hotel. They have also been invited to the Arts Ball to-morrow.

To-day Commander O'Connor will pay a courtesy visit to Lord Provost Graham at the Town House. About an hour later the Lord Provost will visit the destroyer.

**ABERDEEN WILL WELCOME THEM**

*Silhouetted against a northern sunset and the granite spires of Aberdeen, the American destroyer Bristol swings gently at her moorings in the Albert basin. The vessel is on a courtesy visit to the city for the next few days, and today the officers will be given a civic welcome by the Lord Provost.*

**INSPECTION** By a Lord Provost



Lord Provost Graham inspecting a guard of honour on the U.S. destroyer Bristol at Aberdeen yesterday. He is accompanied by Commander O'Connor. Officers and men of the ship's company will be guests of the corporation at lunch to-morrow.

**Do you recognize any of these sailors? If you do, let me know.**



## *News You Can Use*

### **7 Misconceptions About the Stimulus**

by Kimberly Lankford

Thursday, April 9, 2009 provided by Kiplinger's Personal Finance

Since President Obama signed the economic-stimulus package into law February 17, I have received many questions about its provisions. And I've noticed that there are a lot of misconceptions about the plan. Here's the lowdown.

#### **Misconception #1: Most people will get their stimulus money as a check this year.**

Instead of receiving a check from the government, most single taxpayers will see an adjustment to their tax withholding in their paychecks in 2009 and 2010, giving them about \$45 extra per month for the rest of this year (married workers will receive an extra \$65). If you're self-employed, you can adjust your quarterly tax payments to benefit from the tax credit. Then you will claim the credit when you file your 2009 tax return next spring, bringing your tax bill in line with your reduced payments.

The stimulus also provides a one-time payment of \$250 to recipients of Social Security, Railroad Retirement and Veterans Administration benefits. (People who applied for any of these benefits for the first time after January 31 don't get the money; only those on the rolls in November and December 2008 and January 2009 are eligible.) You'll get the money electronically or by check, depending on how you receive those benefits. Retired government employees who don't receive Social Security will also get a \$250 credit when they file their 2009 returns.

#### **Misconception #2: The adjustment to withholding will have to be paid back when you file your tax return next year.**

Wrong -- the stimulus is actually a tax credit of 6.2% of taxable wages in 2009 and 2010, to a maximum each year of \$400 for single taxpayers and \$800 for married couples filing jointly. The credit is refundable, which means that you can still receive the full credit even if it is worth more than your total tax liability.

Paychecks are being adjusted now to get more money into the economy faster. You'll claim the credit when you file your return next year, so your tax bill should adjust in line with the stimulus money (and you might get some extra money at tax time if your withholding wasn't adjusted enough to account for the extra credit during the year, which may happen for some married people in single-earner households).

But not everyone qualifies for the credit. It begins to phase out for single filers with adjusted gross incomes of \$75,000 or higher, or \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly, and it disappears entirely for single filers with AGIs of \$95,000 or more, or \$190,000 for joint filers.

#### **Misconception #3: The first-time home buyer's credit needs to be repaid.**

You may not have to repay the credit, depending on when you bought the house.

If you buy a house between January 1, 2009, and December 1, 2009, you could receive a credit for 10% of the home's purchase price, up to \$8,000. This credit does not have to be repaid as long as you own the home for at least three years.

If you bought a first home between April 9, 2008, and December 31, 2008, you are eligible for a tax credit of 10% of the home's purchase price, up to \$7,500 -- but the credit must be repaid over 15 years, starting two years after you claim the credit. If you sell the home before you finish paying back the credit, the balance is due in full the year of the sale.

*Continued on Page 5*



The 2008 and 2009 credits begin to phase out if your modified adjusted gross income is more than \$75,000 (or \$150,000 if you're married filing jointly). The credit disappears entirely after your income reaches \$95,000 if you're single, or \$170,000 if married filing jointly. You are considered a first-time home buyer if you (and your spouse, if you are married) didn't own a primary residence in the past three years. The credit does not apply to rental property and vacation homes.

**Misconception #4: You can't get the 2009 first-time home-buyer tax credit until you file your tax return next year.**

Actually, taxpayers who buy a first home in 2009 do not need to wait until they file their 2009 return (by April 15, 2010) to benefit from the credit. To get the money into the economy faster, the federal government is giving you a choice of claiming the first-time home-buyer credit on either your 2008 or your 2009 tax return.

There's actually a way to benefit from the credit even before you buy your first home. If you plan to buy by the November 31 deadline, you can reduce your withholding on your paychecks right away. The increased take-home pay could help you with the down payment. File a new W-4 form with your employer to adjust your withholding. (And remember to re-adjust your withholding again next year.)

If you have already filed your 2008 return, you can use Form 1040X to amend it. If you purchase a first home after the 2008 tax-filing deadline of April 15, 2009, you can still claim the credit on your 2008 tax return either by requesting a six-month extension for filing your return (which doesn't extend the deadline for paying any taxes owed) or by filing an amended return.

**Misconception #5: You need to apply through the government to get the COBRA health-care subsidy.**

Contact your former employer, not the government, to take advantage of the COBRA subsidy. If you were laid off since September 1, 2008, and are already receiving COBRA coverage, then you'll pay 35% of the COBRA health-insurance premiums, and your former employer will pay the remaining 65%. The government will then reimburse your former employer for the subsidy through a payroll tax credit.

If you were laid off on September 1, 2008, or later but didn't sign up for COBRA coverage, you'll get a second chance to elect COBRA and benefit from the subsidy. You should receive a notice from your former employer soon, or contact your former employer to find out about the steps for signing up.

**Misconception #6: You can receive the COBRA subsidy the entire time you're covered by COBRA.**

Federal law requires most companies with 20 or more employees to let former employees keep group health-insurance coverage for up to 18 months after they leave their jobs. But the 65% COBRA subsidy lasts for only nine months. After that, the premiums will jump back to the full price - and the average employer health-insurance plan costs \$12,680 per year for family coverage, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

If you have health issues, COBRA may still be your best bet despite the hefty price tag. But many people can find a better deal by buying their own health insurance. You can get price quotes for individual policies at [eHealthInsurance.com](http://eHealthInsurance.com), or find a local health-insurance agent at the National Association of Health Underwriters Web site. Check out your options at least one month before your COBRA subsidy expires so you'll have plenty of time to find out how much an individual policy would cost.

The subsidy ends if you find a job and your new employer offers health-care coverage or you become eligible for Medicare. And COBRA does not apply if the company stops offering health coverage to current employees or shuts down entirely.

**Misconception #7: The number of weeks you can receive emergency unemployment benefits has been extended.**

The stimulus does not provide additional weeks of benefits for people who use their 33 weeks of emergency unemployment-compensation benefits; it just expands the dates that the program will be available.

A federal law passed last year provides an extra 20 weeks of emergency unemployment compensation to workers who exhausted their regular unemployment benefits, plus an additional 13 weeks of extended benefits for residents of states with high unemployment rates (contact your state unemployment-benefits office for details about your state's rules).

The emergency unemployment-compensation program was scheduled to expire on August 27, 2009, and the last day to apply for benefits was originally set to be March 31, 2009. As a result of the stimulus law, unemployed people who exhaust their regular state benefits now have until December 31, 2009, to apply for extended benefits and can receive compensation until May 31, 2010.

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***Using VA Can Help Veterans Cut Health Care Costs***

With the country in a recession, the VA is trying to spread the word about programs it has to help veterans struggling financially due to a job loss or decreased income.

Veterans whose previous income was ruled too high for VA health care may be able to enter the VA system based upon a hardship if their current year's income is projected to fall below federal income thresholds due to a job loss, separation from service or some other financial setback. Veterans determined eligible due to hardship can avoid co-pays applied to higher-income veterans. Qualifying veterans may be eligible for enrollment and receive health care at no cost.

Also eligible for no-cost VA care are most veterans who recently returned from a combat zone. They are entitled to five years of free VA care. The five-year "clock" begins with their discharge from the military, not their departure from the combat zone.

Each VA medical center has an enrollment coordinator to provide veterans information about these programs. Veterans may also contact VA's Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222-8387 or visit the VA health eligibility Web site at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility).

***Transcribed from DAV Magazine March-April 2009, Pg 38***

***Some to See Another Reimbursement Increase***

Service-disabled and low-income veterans who are reimbursed for travel expenses while receiving care at VA facilities should have seen an increase in their payments beginning Jan. 9.

A recently passed law that the DAV advocated for allows the VA to cut the amount it must withhold from their mileage reimbursement. The deductible amount will be \$3 for each one-way trip and \$6 for each round trip--with a cap per calendar-month of \$18, or six one-way trips or three round trips, whichever comes first. The previous deductible was \$7.77 for a one-way trip, with a calendar-month cap of \$46.62.

In November, the VA announced its second increase in the mileage reimbursement rate during 2008, from 28.5 cents to 41.5 cents a mile. Service-disabled and low-income veterans receiving care or counseling at VA facilities are eligible to be reimbursed by VA for travel costs. Veterans traveling for Compensation and Pension examinations also qualify for mileage reimbursement. The VA can waive deductibles if they cause financial hardship.

***Transcribed from DAV Magazine March-April 2009, Pg 39***

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**SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS:** Many seniors believe that Social Security benefits are guaranteed and cannot be taken away by Congress. However, it is important always to understand that Congress has the authority to change the current benefit scheme or raise Social Security taxes at any time and for any reason. Under current law Congress collects Social Security taxes of more than \$785 billion from the current workforce of approximately 163 million workers. The money collected is used to pay out nearly \$585 billion to 50 million social Security recipients. The difference between what is paid out and what is collected, known as the surplus, is placed into a 2.2 trillion trust fund and invested in non-marketable special issue government securities to meet future obligations. These special securities are similar to Treasury notes but are only available for purchase by the trust fund and related government owned trusts. The note serves to pay the costs of past debts and the expense of its current deficit. In other words, the surplus is traded for an IOU to the social Security trust fund.

The government spends the funds on everything from debt obligations, to illegal alien health care and things in between and beyond. But the government's debt keeps growing and at some point the IOU will come due. When it does, its payment means more borrowing, benefit reductions or higher taxes. As long ago as 1983, Congress accepted the Greenspan Commission recommendation to sharply increase payroll taxes for Social Security, raise retirement age, and reduce benefits because the program was going broke. Today, we face a similar situation. According to Social Security trustee estimates, around 2016 the amount of social Security benefits paid will exceed taxes collected. When that happens, Social Security benefits are defenseless against actions of Congress to reduce the earned benefit of Social Security. In the U.S. Supreme Court decision *Flemming vs. Nestor* (1960), the Court held that there are no accrued property rights to payment of Social Security benefits. Congress can do anything it wants. That means our trust in the program is a political promise from Capitol Hill. To secure that promise we need to protect our Social Security Trust fund, stop robbing our future and stop social security benefit cuts.

At the start of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Social Security Protection Act (H.R.236) was introduced by Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL) to protect the Social Security beneficiaries against any reduction in benefits. If enacted it would prevent Congress from the consideration of any legislation or joint resolution that reduces current benefits or cost-of-living increases to Social Security beneficiaries. The author of the bill is a strong veterans supporter as well as a key member of the House Ways and Means Committee, which is at the epicenter of decision-making on social Security. The bill would stand as a bulwark against the continuing raid on social security to pay for day-to-day operations and pork barrel projects. It would offer a special protection against congressional weakening of benefits and provide a measure of comfort to many "Americans who rely on their monthly retirement check for their entire retirement. All present and potential beneficiaries of the Social Security program are encouraged to contact their legislators to ask them to cosponsor H.R.236. [Source: NAUS Journal Mar/Apr 2009 ++]

**LONG-TERM CARE for VETS:** The Department of Veterans Affairs needs to revamp its long-term care planning process or face shortages of funds and personnel, according to a report released by the Government Accountability Office last month. The audit of VA's strategic plan for providing institutional care in nursing homes and noninstitutional care in veterans' homes or the community showed that VA underestimated cost projections and workload assumptions, which could lead to trouble in the future. According to GAO, VA has plans to increase workload to close gaps in noninstitutional care by a factor of 167% between 2007 and 2013. In its FY 2009 budget justification, VA estimated that it will increase its long-term care spending over FY 2008 using cost assumptions that appear unrealistic, GAO says. VA estimated that spending for both nursing home and noninstitutional care would increase by about \$108 million and \$165 million respectively. This would bring the total to \$4 billion for nursing home care and \$762 million for noninstitutional care.

However, this increase was arrived at by assuming that nursing home costs would increase 2.5% in that year—a number that GAO considers unrealistically low. The GAO considers the VA's estimate of the increase in costs for noninstitutional care too low as well. In its 2009 budget justification, VA did not explain how it would increase the workload of long-term care services to meet its goal of a 167% increase by 2013 while keeping to such a low budget increase. The GAO report includes several recommendations to ensure VA's future projections do not leave the department coming up short. Those include using realistic cost assumptions and workload projects for estimating spending and providing a full report on which measures they are using for their estimates to increase transparency for Congress and for future GAO audits. VA officials received an early copy of the report and agreed with the recommendation for more transparency; however, the change in administration occurred before the VA leaders responsible for the FY 2009 budget could comment on the specifics of the report. According to VA numbers, the department provided noninstitutional long-term care to 41,022 veterans in 2007, and projects that it will be required to provide such services to over 109,000 by 2013. [Source: U.S. Medicine Stephen Spotswood article Mar 09 ++]



## 1940 REMEMBERED

BY WALLACE DANN

*In October 1940, my Baltimore based US Naval Reserve Division was ordered to active duty. I was from Apprentice Seaman to Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. Our division was sent to Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay Cuba. Arriving there, I was assigned to the Gunnery Department.*

*In those days, the USS Texas, not yet in drab gray paint, and one or two cruises would anchor in the bay for several days. While present, they would participate in gunnery practice somewhere in the Windward Passage. The several targets used for these exercises were erected upon long wooden barges. Each target, as I can now remember it, consisted of six twenty foot 12" x 12" wooden masts. Affixed to the masts from deck to mast top were wooden lathes. It was the duty of us seamen to nail the lathes to the masts. When the target barges were lathed up, they were towed to sea. At sea, the gunners would blast our handiwork apart, and the barges were towed back to wharf side where we seamen, under the vigorous supervision of station gunnery personnel, would go to work removing the splintered lathes and replace them with new lathes. It was tough, unpleasant duty to scamper around the splintered and blown apart woodwork in 100 plus degree heat under a blazing tropical sun.*

*I became a happy seaman when the Chief Gunner's Mate and the department head, a regular Navy Lieutenant from Baltimore, looked into my civilian record and saw that before being called to active duty, I had worked in a bank. Whereupon, I was transferred to desk duty in the Gunnery Office. I didn't bother to tell the Chief and department head that I had never ever operated a typewriter, a was a "banker" solely by being a "bank runner" who spent his days delivering securities and documents to different banks around town.*

*The Gunnery Office was in the screened in porch of the Chief's quarters. My drudgery days, at that point were over. Paper work was made even more pleasant as the Chief's wife and children kindly supplied me with all sorts of delicious food. This was the start of my naval career.*

*With best wishes,*

*/s/ Wallace Dann.*

**Editor's Note: Wallace Dann became a plank owner of Bristol serving as YNC. After WWII, Wallace Dann received a commission as Naval Officer.**

Photo below: USS Texas BB-35 preparing to fire main battery of 14" guns.




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## SACK LUNCHES

I put my carry-on in the luggage compartment and sat down in my assigned seat. It was going to be a long flight. 'I'm glad I have a good book to read. Perhaps I will get a short nap,' I thought.

Just before take-off, a line of soldiers came down the aisle and filled all the vacant seats, totally surrounding me. I decided to start a conversation. 'Where are you headed?' I asked the soldier seated nearest to me. 'Petawawa. We'll be there for two weeks for special training, and then we're being deployed to Afghanistan.'

After flying for about an hour, an announcement was made that sack lunches were available for five dollars. It would be several hours before we reached the east, and I quickly decided a lunch would help pass the time. As I reached for my wallet, I overheard soldier ask his buddy if he planned to buy lunch. 'No, that seems like a lot of money for just a sack lunch. Probably wouldn't be worth five bucks. I'll wait till we get to base'. His friend agreed. I looked around at the other soldiers. None were buying lunch. I walked to the back of the plane and handed the flight attendant a fifty dollar bill. 'Take a lunch to all those soldiers.' She grabbed my arms and squeezed tightly. Her eyes wet with tears, she thanked me. 'My son was a soldier in Iraq; it's almost like you are doing it for him. 'Picking up ten sacks, she headed up the aisle to where the soldiers were seated. She stopped at my seat and asked, 'Which do you like best, beef or chicken?' 'Chicken,' I replied, wondering why she asked. She the front of plane, returning a minute later with a dinner plate from first class.

**Continued on Page 9**



'This is your thanks.' After we finished eating, I went again to the back of the plane, heading for the rest room. A man stopped me. 'I saw what you did. I want to be part of it. Here, take this.' He handed me twenty-five dollars. Soon after I returned to my seat, I saw the Flight Captain coming down the aisle, looking at the aisle numbers as he walked, I hoped he was not looking for me, but noticed he was looking at the numbers only on my side of the plane. When he got to my row he stopped, smiled, held out his hand, and said, 'I want to shake your hand.' Quickly unfastening my seatbelt I stood and took the Captain's hand. With a booming voice he said, 'I was a soldier and I was a military pilot. Once, someone bought me a lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot.' I was embarrassed when applause was heard from all of the passengers.

Later I walked to the front of the plane so I could stretch my legs. A man who was seated about six rows in front of me reached out his hand, wanting to shake mine. He left another twenty-five dollars in my palm. When we landed I gathered my belongings and started to deplane. Waiting just inside the airplane door was a man who stopped me, put something in my shirt pocket, turned, and walked away without saying a word. Another twenty-five dollars! Upon entering the terminal, I saw the soldiers gathering for their trip to the base. I walked over to them and handed them seventy-five dollars. 'It will take you some time to reach the base. It will be about time for a sandwich. 'God Bless You.' Ten young men left that flight feeling the love and respect of their fellow travelers. As I walked briskly to my car, I whispered a prayer for their safe return.

These soldiers were giving their all for our country. I could only give them a couple of meals. It seemed so little...

A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America' for an amount of 'up to and including my life.'

That is Honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.'

**Editor's Note: I tried to verify this on Snopes.com. I found this article but Snopes could not determine if this were true or not. I thought it merited inclusion in our newsletter.**

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### Medal of Honor Recipient, Ed Freeman

You're an 19 year old kid. You're critically wounded, and dying in the jungle in the Ia Drang Valley, 11-14-1965, LZ X-ray, Vietnam. Your infantry unit is outnumbered 8 - 1, and the enemy fire is so intense, from 100 or 200 yards away, that your own Infantry Commander has ordered the MediVac helicopters to stop coming in.

You're lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns, and you know you're not getting out. Your family is 1/2 way around the world, 12,000 miles away, and you'll never see them again.. As the world starts to fade in and out, you know this is the day.

Then, over the machine gun noise, you faintly hear that sound of a helicopter, and you look up to see an un-armed Huey, but it doesn't seem real, because no Medi-Vac markings are on it.

Ed Freeman is coming for you. He's not Medi-Vac, so it's not his job, but he's flying his Huey down into the machine gun fire, after the Medi-Vacs were ordered not to come. He's coming anyway. And he drops it in, and sits there in the machine gun fire, as they load 2 or 3 of you on board. Then he flies you up and out through the gunfire, to the Doctors and Nurses.

And, he kept coming back..... 13 more times..... And took about 30 of you and your buddies out, who would never have gotten out.

Medal of Honor Recipient, Ed Freeman, died last Wednesday at the age of 80, in Boise, ID . . . May God rest his soul!

I bet you didn't hear about this hero's passing, but we sure were told a whole bunch about some Hip-Hop coward beating the crap out of his "girlfriend."

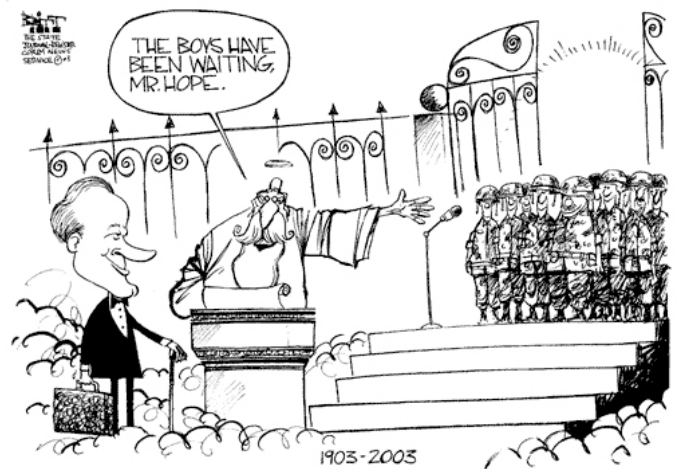




**For those of us who remember Bob Hope**

Long ago and far away, in a land that time forgot,  
 Before the days of Dylan, or the dawn of Camelot.  
 There lived a race of innocents, and they were you and me,  
 For Ike was in the White House in that land where we were born,  
 Where navels were for oranges, and Peyton Place was porn.  
 We learned to gut a muffler, we washed our hair at dawn,  
 We spread our crinolines to dry in circles on the lawn.  
 We longed for love and romance, and waited for our Prince,  
 And Eddie Fisher married Liz, and no one's seen him since.  
 We danced to 'Little Darlin,' and sang to 'Stagger Lee'  
 And cried for Buddy Holly in the Land That Made Me, Me.  
 Only girls wore earrings then, and 3 was one too many,  
 And only boys wore flat-top cuts, except for Jean McKinney.  
 We fell for Frankie Avalon, Annette was oh, so nice,  
 And when they made a movie, they never made it twice.  
 We didn't have a Star Trek Five, or Psycho Two and Three,  
 Or Rocky-Rambo Twenty in the Land That Made Me, Me.  
 Miss Kitty had a heart of gold, and Chester had a limp,  
 And Reagan was a Democrat whose co-star was a chimp.  
 We had a Mr. Wizard, but not a Mr. T,  
 And Oprah couldn't talk, yet, in the Land That Made Me, Me.  
 We had our share of heroes, we never thought they'd go,  
 At least not Bobby Darin, or Marilyn Monroe.  
 For youth was still eternal, and life was yet to be,  
 And Elvis was forever in the Land That Made Me, Me.  
 We'd never seen the rock band that was Grateful to be Dead,  
 And Airplanes weren't named Jefferson, and Zeppelins were not Led.  
 And Beatles lived in gardens then, and Monkees lived in trees,  
 Madonna was a virgin in the Land That Made Me, Me.  
 We'd never heard of microwaves, or telephones in cars,  
 And babies might be bottle-fed, but they weren't grown in jars.  
 We hadn't seen enough of jets to talk about the lag,  
 And microchips were what was left at the bottom of the bag.  
 And Hardware was a box of nails, and bytes came from a flea,  
 And rocket ships were fiction in the Land That Made Me, Me.

Buicks came with portholes, and side shows came with freaks,  
 And bathing suits came big enough to cover both your cheeks.  
 And Coke came just in bottles, and skirts below the knee,  
 And Castro came to power near the Land That Made Me, Me.  
 We had no Crest with Fluoride, we had no Hill Street Blues,  
 We had no patterned pantyhose or Lipton herbal tea  
 Or prime-time ads for condoms in the Land That Made Me, Me.  
 There were no golden arches, no Perrier to chill,  
 And fish were not called Wanda, and cats were not called Bill.  
 And middle-aged was 35 and old was forty-three,  
 And ancient were our parents in the Land That Made Me, Me.  
 But all things have a season, or so we've heard them say,  
 And now instead of Maybelline we swear by Retin-A.  
 They send us invitations to join AARP,  
 We've come a long way, baby, from the Land That Made Me, Me.  
 So now we face a brave new world in slightly larger jeans,  
 And wonder why they're using smaller print in magazines.  
 And we tell our children's children of the way it used to be,  
 Long ago and far away in the Land That Made Me, Me.





**Humor**

Excuses, Excuses...

A senior citizen in Florida bought a brand new Mercedes convertible. He took off down the road, flooring it to 80 mph and enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left on his head.

"This is great," he thought as he roared on down I-75. He pushed the pedal to the metal even more. Then he looked in his rear view mirror and saw a highway patrol trooper behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring.

"I can get away from him with no problem," thought the man and he tromped on it some more, and flew down the road at over 100 mph, then 110, 120 mph. Then he thought, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this kind of thing."

He pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the trooper to catch up with him. The trooper pulled in behind the Mercedes, and walked up to the man. "Sir," he said, looking at his watch. "My shift ends in 30 minutes and today is Friday. If you can give me any reason why you were speeding, that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The man looked at the trooper and said, "Years ago my wife ran off with a Florida State trooper, and I thought you were bringing her back."

The Dead Horse....

Young Chuck who lived in Montana bought a horse from a farmer for \$100. The farmer agreed to deliver the horse the next day.

The next day the farmer drove up and said, "Sorry son, but I have some bad news... the horse died."

Chuck replied, "Well, then just give me my money back."

The farmer said, "Can't do that. I went and spent it already."

Chuck said, "Ok, then, just bring me the dead horse."

The farmer asked, "What ya gonna do with a dead horse?"

Chuck said, "I'm going to raffle him off."

The farmer said, "You can't raffle off a dead horse!"

Chuck said, "Sure I can, Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead."

A month later, the farmer met up with Chuck and asked, "What happened with that dead horse?"

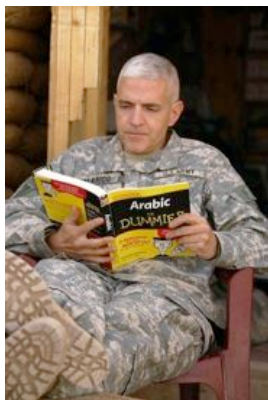
Chuck said, "I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at two dollars a each and made a profit of \$998."

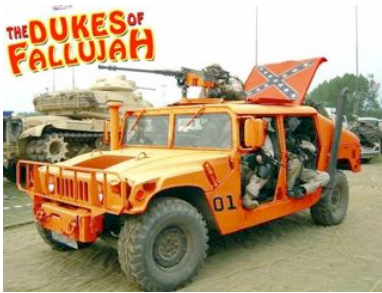
The farmer said, "Didn't anyone complain?"

Chuck said, "Just the guy who won. So I gave him his two dollars back."

Chuck grew up and now works for the government. He's the one who figured out how this "bail-out" program is going to work.

**Our warriors still have a sense of humor**





### Calendar

**October 8-11, 2009**

Milwaukee Reunion

**October 9, 2009**

Optional Milwaukee city tour & Harley Davidson Museum.

Optional Fireside Dinner Show

### Contributors

TONY MOLNAR



This is the before version of Tony. Tony is our association Treasurer.

RAMON SOTO

Warrior Sense of Humor

WALLACE DANN

Wallace is a plank owner

JOHN WATT

John served our association as Secretary and President.

ED LYNCH



Ed is our newsletter Editor

**USS BRISTOL DD-857 Website**

**Remember to register with our website. Log on often. Make contributions to our newsletter. Have a great Summer.**

**Don't forget to send your registration for our reunion to The Reunion Brat, 50721 State Hwy 410 E., Greenwater, WA 98022 or call 360-663-2521, email: [info@thereunionbrat.com](mailto:info@thereunionbrat.com)**