

THE SCUTTLEBUTT

The Newsletter of the *USS Buchanan (DDG-14) Association*

Summer, 2011

Vol. XI. No. 1 <http://www.uss-buchanan-ddg14.org> Editor: David B. Malone

The date for our next reunion has been announced. The reunion will be held on September 5th–9th, 2012 in San Antonio, TX. The site will be the Holiday Inn. The cost for rooms will be \$89.00 per night. That's all that Tim has at this moment. He is currently working on the details, such as tours and the banquet. At the present moment, Marian Browning is also working on some plans for Ladies activities at the reunion.

Other details will be forwarded as they become apparent.

USS BUCHANAN Association Treasurer's Report

PAID MEMBERS (64)

Acosta, Javier; Backer, Bill; Baile, Bruce; Batterman, Bill; Beinke, Phil; Bishop, Jack; Blasetti, Lou; Borg, Gene; Brinley, Bill; Browning, Rob & Marian; Cameron, Ted; Casmier, Dave; Connell, Dan; Crosser, Tom; Daisley, Dick; Dirickson, Larry & Helena; Egge, Dennis; England, Carl; Fanene, Lynn; George, David; Gerrard, Gerry; Gisclair, Benny; Glidewell, Mel; Heffernan, Michael; Herrman, Larry; Hethcoat, William; Holden, Wayne; Howard, John; Jackson, Michael; Kane, Ken; Kern, Tom; King, Richard; Lauenroth, Donald; Lightwine, Robert; Looney, Glenn; Malone, Dave; Marak, Ron; McNary, Bill; Melesky, Jay; Moses, Glendon; Myers, Dean; Nightingale, Tim; Nolan, Randy; Norrod, Michael; Otis, Bob; Proctor, Lou; Rudisill, Terry; Sample, Eric; Sena, Pat; Sheridan, Tom; Sisco, Glenn; Skogman, Richard; Smeltzer, Steve; Smigielski, Ted; Stanina, Jerry; Stoysich, Claude; Taylor, Jim; Thacher, Phil; Ursich, Al; Walla, Robert; Wihera, Victor; Ziesmer, James; Zimmermann, Dick

NEW MEMBERS SINCE APRIL 2010

Jack Bishop	HT3	1971 - 72
Benny Gisclair	BM3	1961 - 64
William Hethcoat	MACM (SW)	1981 - 83
Glendon Moses	RD2	1970 - 72
Tom Sheridan	STG3	1971 - 73
Eric Sample	ETN4	1967 - 68

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Javier Acosta	OS3	1971 - 75
Bruce Baile	SH3	1970 - 73
Bill Brinley	RD2	1967 - 70
Rob & Marian Browning	STG1	1975 - 79
Ted Cameron	STG3	1966 - 68
Wayne Holden	ET1/EW1	1968 - 73
Michael Jackson		
David Malone	OS3	1977 - 80
Tim Nightingale	SA (CS3)	1969 - 70
Lou Proctor	FTM3	1963 - 66
Steve Smeltzer	ETN2	1969 - 72
Al Ursich	FCC(SW)	1987 - 91

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance 1 May 2010	\$6,488.14
Dues	70.00
Ship store sales	282.40
Reunion advance	-500.00
Ship store expenses	-57.00
Balance 30 June 2010	\$6,283.54

A note from the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association

As you are aware, our organization, the Jacksonville Historic Ship Association, is in the process of obtaining the EX-USS CHARLES F. ADAMS DDG2 , to serve as a museum and memorial to all who served aboard the Adams Class Destroyers. The City of Jacksonville has approved of our project and now we are raising funds to accomplish this goal. As such, we are in need of volunteers to serve on the various committees, volunteer to work at the Adams Class Museum which is located at the Jacksonville Landing, downtown, and assist in the fund raising events we have scheduled. We are asking your help in contacting any members of your ship's organization who may be in the Jacksonville area who would like to contribute to this effort. Any help from your members would be greatly appreciated. The CHARLES ADAMS will only make it here by the effort of all the ships of that class. They can contact me at (904) 647 5177.

PAT STROUD FCCM (SW) Ret.

Editor's note: An article on the JNHSA's plans to bring the DDG-2 to Jacksonville

<http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2010-08-13/story/plans-attract-retired-destroyer-take-step-forward>

A Note from the Ship's Store Operator

Any shipmate who purchased a DVD from May 2006 to present that does not play correctly or they are not satisfied with the product should please contact Ship's Store operator Rob Browning via email, and he will send them a new "guaranteed" DVD at no charge, free S & H.

Also, the Ship's Store has 14 VHS copies of "Who Needs You, Buchanan?" and 6 VHS copies of "The Final Mission". A clearance sale is on for these VHS tapes at \$10.00 each, including S & H. Rob will take orders via email, first come first serve. Contact Rob via e-mail to make arrangements for purchase.

In Memoriam

Captain William J. Thearle, USN (Ret.) of Fremont, California passed away on Tuesday, 5 April 2011, after a brief illness. He was 78 years old.

"Jim" was a native of Northern California. He attended high school and prep school in San Francisco. Following a one year tour in the Naval Reserve, he received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating with the 9th company in the Class of 1955. His classmates nicknamed him "Spider." In 1959, he married "Lyn" (Marilyn) Twomey of Newport Rhode Island. His career in the Navy included seven sea tours in destroyers, culminating in tours as XO Waddell (DDG-24) and CO Buchanan (DDG-14). Buchanan was cited for critical naval gunfire support at Dong Ha, Vietnam by USNA distinguished graduate, Colonel John W. Ripley, USMC '62: "You had the support, and I needed it. You lost no time in getting it to me. Without it I have serious doubts that this letter would have been possible."

His shore tours included: Company Officer, USNA (his 9th company won the colors); Head, BUPERS LCDR Surface Warfare Branch; Staff, NATO Nuclear Planning Group, Office of SECDEF; Manager, Post-graduate Programs, Monterey; Staff, CNET; Faculty, Armed Forces Staff College; Nuclear Plans Officer, CINCLANT/CINCLANTFLT; and Live Oak-Berlin Contingency Plans. He also graduated from the Armed Forces Staff College, the Naval War College and the National War College.

Jim was a devoted husband and father and was famous for his sense of humor. He retired from active duty in June 1, 1985. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, "Lyn" Thearle. He was preceded in death by his oldest child, Suzanne Thearle-Walker. His other children include: daughter Lisa Thearle-Miller and her husband, Commander Robert Miller, MD '81; daughter Jennifer Thearle and her husband Anthony Cotton; son Charles James Thearle, USCG (Ret); and son Mark Christian Thearle CWO3 USCG and his wife Courtney. Jim leaves six grandchildren: Gabriela; Max, Gabe, Adison, Sadie, and Mason.

Services were held at the US Naval Academy Chapel on May 5, 2011 with interment in the US Naval Academy Columbarium.

The Crew's List

As many of you know, our Crew's List on the website (which contains the names of those who served in Buchanan along with their highest rating and their personal e-mail accounts) was in danger of being pirated for sending out SPAM. To counter that action, a login and password was attached to the file. I won't post that here for obvious reasons, but anyone needing it can contact Dino Myers. His e-mail address is posted on the Buchanan Association website, found on the banner of this newsletter.

Dave Malone- Editor

NOW ON THE BUCHANAN...

Moments in the life of USS Buchanan (DDG-14), taken from the ship's annual reports.

Forty Eight years ago... 1963:

The **BUCHANAN's** first Commanding Officer, Commander Webster was relieved by Commander Wilton A. Atkinson.

Forty Five years ago... 1966:

In July, **BUCHANAN** became Flagship for Commander, SEVENTH FLEET during his official visit to Bangkok, Thailand. In this same month **BUCHANAN's** guns opened fire against hostile forces for the first time to conduct shore bombardment against concentrations of hostile troops in South Vietnam.

Forty years ago... 1970:

On 9 July the command of **BUCHANAN** shifted when Commander W. James Thearle, United States Navy, relieved Commander Greff as Commanding Officer. Sea trials were conducted on 18 and 27 August before leaving Hunters point on 4 September for San Diego.

Thirty Five years ago... 1976:

The period 1 June through 9 July was a most trying one for the officers and crew of **BUCHANAN**. Refresher training was conducted during this period and all hands were actively involved in demonstrating **BUCHANAN's** operational readiness and ability to effectively respond in different casualty scenarios.

Thirty years ago... 1981:

There was one pleasant disruption of that inport period on July 25 when **BUCHANAN** got underway for a Dependents Cruise. This one day excursion gave the family and friends of **BUCHANAN's** crew the opportunity for a small taste of Navy life. On July 24, CDR Jere G. Mackin, was relieved of command of **USS BUCHANAN** by CDR Michael E. Mays in ceremonies held on board in San Diego.

Twenty Two years ago: 1989:

BUCHANAN paid port visits to Bunbury, Australia (29 June to 05 July) , Subic Bay, RP (17 - 21 July and 30 July to 02 August) , Hong Kong (24 - 27 July) and Pearl Harbor (15 - 16 August). A spectacular and much awaited for homecoming greeted **BUCHANAN** on 23 August at Pier 1 Naval Station San Diego.

Twenty years ago... 1991:

The final industrial availability, performed by Campbell Shipyards, commenced in **BUCHANAN** on 29 July 1991 in preparation for her decommissioning on 1 October 1991 and towing to Hawaii beginning on 15 October 1991.

Sea Story of the Quarter

You Can Leave The Military, But It Never Really Leaves You

By Ken Burger, The Charlestown Post and Courier, Thurs, March 4, 2010

Occasionally, I venture back out to the air base where I'm greeted by an imposing security guard who looks carefully at my identification card, hands it back and says, "Have a good day, tech sergeant." Every time I go back onto Charleston Air Force Base it feels good to be called by my previous rank, but odd to be in civilian clothes, walking among the servicemen and servicewomen going about their duties as I once did, years ago.

The military, for all its flaws, is a comfort zone for anyone who has ever worn the uniform. It's a place where you know the rules and know they are enforced; a place where everybody is busy but not too busy to take care of business. Because there exists behind the gates of every military facility an institutional understanding of respect, order, uniformity, accountability and dedication that becomes part of your marrow and never, ever leaves you.

Personally, I miss the fact that you always knew where you stood in the military, and who you were dealing with. That's because you could read somebody's uniform from 20 feet away and know the score. Service personnel wear their careers on their sleeves, so to speak. When you approach each other, you can read their name tag, examine their rank and, if they are in dress uniform, read their ribbons and know where they've served.

I miss all those little things you take for granted when you're in the ranks, like breaking starch on a set of fatigues fresh from the laundry and standing in a perfectly straight line that looks like a mirror as it stretches to the endless horizon. I miss the sight of troops marching in the early morning mist, the sound of boot heels thumping in unison on the sidewalks, the bark of sergeants and the sing-song answers from the squads as they pass by in review.

To romanticize military service is to be far removed from its reality, because it's very serious business, especially in times of war. But I miss the salutes I'd throw at officers and the crisp returns as we crisscrossed on the flight line. I miss the smell of jet fuel hanging heavily on the night air and the sound of engines roaring down runways and disappearing into the clouds. I even miss the hurry-up-and-wait mentality that enlisted men gripe about constantly, a masterful invention that bonded people more than they'll ever know or admit.

I miss people taking off their hats when they enter a building, speaking directly and clearly to others and never showing disrespect for rank, race, religion or gender. Mostly I miss being a small cog in a machine so complex it constantly circumnavigates the Earth and so simple it feeds everyone on time, three times a day, on the ground, in the air or at sea. Mostly, I don't know anyone who has served who regrets it, and doesn't feel a sense of pride when they pass through those gates and re-enter the world they left behind with their youth.

Face it guys [and gals], we all miss it. Whether you had one tour or a career, it shaped your life.