



April 2016

Greetings!

We hope everyone survived winter. Here in Virginia, it was a mild one with very little snow. We have had a fair amount of rain and a LOT of wind. We know there are parts of the country that have had flooding and hope anyone in those areas made it through ok. Spring has arrived and we are happy to see the flowers blooming.

We are getting excited about the reunion in October in Jacksonville, Florida. We are looking forward to having a large turnout. Ronnie "Sweetpea" and Jerry Ann Holt will be our hosts. Those of you who attended our reunion in Nashville know that they know how to put on a good reunion. The reunion will run October 11-16, 2016. The Doubletree Hotel overlooks the St. Johns River. We met with the Holts at the hotel last year and were very impressed.

**If you receive Tin Can Sailor newspapers, the reunion information is incorrect! It states the reunion will be in San Diego. The information on their website is correct and states Jacksonville, FL. The error was on the part of Tin Can Sailor and they assure us that the next issue will be correct.**

**Hotel:**

DoubleTree by Hilton Jacksonville Riverfront  
1201 RiverPlace Boulevard  
Jacksonville, FL 32207  
Phone: 904-398-8800

**Reservations:**

Phone: 800-222-8733 (available 24 hours a day). Ask for USS Henry W. Tucker or Group Code USH  
Internet: [https://secure3.hilton.com/en\\_US/dt/reservation/book.htm?inputMod-ule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=JAXJRDT&spec\\_plan=CDTUSH&arrival=20161006&departure=20161019&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT](https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/dt/reservation/book.htm?inputMod-ule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=JAXJRDT&spec_plan=CDTUSH&arrival=20161006&departure=20161019&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT)

**Room Rates:**

\$99.00, Sunset View, \$109.00, Waterfront View, \$139, Waterfront View junior suite. Prices do not include tax.

**Tours:**

We have three tours planned.

October 12, St. Augustine Tour

October 14, Memorial Service, Jacksonville Tour and Lunch

October 14, Dinner Theatre

Within a week at the end of August last year, we lost three of our “plankowners,” all of whom attended the reunion in Kerrville, TX. Skip Welch and Bill Newell had been fixtures at reunions and were always entertaining with their sea stories. William Capp attended his first ever reunion and was thrilled to be there with his old shipmates. All participated in the dedication of the USS Henry W. Tucker plaque at the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, TX. To say that they will be missed is an understatement. We also lost some of our Korean era shipmates. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers. We hope the family members who attended reunions with them will attend future reunions. We also received word that Capt. John H.D. Williams, Commanding Officer from 1965-67 passed away on April 7. Capt. Williams never attended a reunion but always kept in touch. He usually called and/or wrote at least once a year. We always looked forward to talking with him.

Ronnie “Sweetpea” Holt’s father-in-law passed away in March. We extend our thoughts and prayers to him and Jerry Ann.

Our hard working crew locator, Bob Miller, has been having some health problems lately. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. Without Bob, our association would be very small.

Gary O’Neil has a new book out. This one is about aircraft carriers. Below is a letter he put on the Tucker Facebook page:

Hello shipmates.

I have just published a new Navy History book. This time it is about Aircraft Carriers and the Navy’s great effort over the years to make them much safer for their crews without sacrificing their incredible capability. I have presented 47 different devastating fires that have occurred since the beginning of WWII to the present. Each fire is described in detail with the causes and the incredible heroics of the crew in efforts to save their ship. First person accounts are a part of this narrative. Recommended design and procedure changes are discussed and implemented based on the causes and circumstances.

This book reads like a fast paced novel with narratives from people who were there, and will keep you interested throughout.

I have decided to place this book on Amazon’s book website rather than shipping from my home like I did for our History Book. The Tucker’s role is mentioned prominently in two of the fires, USS Boxer (CV-21) during the Korean War and USS Forrestal (CVA-59) during the Vietnam War. I am presently working on getting it into Barnes & Noble book stores. Their procedures are long and thorough, so it may take a while. I will keep you informed on the progress.

To order from Amazon books, go to: <http://www.amazon.com/books>

In the books search box, type: SEA OF FLAMES. This takes you to the book listing.

Add the book to your cart. The price is \$16. Shipping from Amazon is variable based on promotions etc.

This book would be a nice gift for anyone that served aboard an Aircraft Carrier or any carrier support ship including destroyers.

Questions? Email me at [gto875@gmail.com](mailto:gto875@gmail.com)

Gary T. O’Neil

If you know of any shipmate who is not receiving newsletters, please send us contact information on him. Also, if you have a Tucker baseball cap, be sure to wear it when you are out and about. Guys have told us that they've been approached by someone who was on the ship and because they saw the baseball cap. We have a large database which includes names of shipmates we haven't been in contact with. Bob Miller has done an outstanding job finding people, but we know there are many more out there. On the website there is a list of "missing" crew members. If you see anyone on that list and have any information on him, even where he came from, we'd like to know.

**!!!! IMPORTANT !!!!**

**If your address, phone number or email address changes, please let us know as soon as possible. We send over 600 newsletters by USPS and over 800 by email. After each newsletter goes out, the post office returns many. Some have new addresses and we incur additional postage to resend them. Some have no forwarding addresses and we have to remove them from future mailings. We also receive many email returns because people's email addresses aren't valid. This means we have to add them to the USPS mailing, incurring additional postage. Sadly, some of those have never informed us of mailing address changes, so they are returned as well. If we don't have a valid address or email address for you, you will no longer receive newsletters.**

Fair winds and smooth sailing,  
Bill & Pat Siler



**DoubleTree by Hilton Riverfront  
Jacksonville, FL**



The first picture is the front of the hotel and the second is a view from downtown Jacksonville, across the St. John's river in Jacksonville, which still has the Crown Plaza at the top. It was bought by DoubleTree last year and has been completely renovated. The hotel has beautiful rooms and views. Sometimes there are dolphins swimming in the river! The hotel has two restaurants. There are other restaurants just a short distance away. There is water taxi service across the river to shops and restaurants. There is a very nice waterfront walkway and there is a Lone Sailor statue on the walkway. The room that will be our hospitality room has spectacular river views.

### **Additions to the Crew List**

Coleman, Maurice E., SK2, 70-71  
Wilkie, Norman, GMG3, 66-70

### **Additions to the Memorial List**

Ahmann, John J., RD3, 47-48  
Brucken, Allan, SA, 65-67  
Capp, William L. "Bill," FC3, 44-46  
Chandler, Myron H. DC3, 56-59  
Driver, Clifton D. "C.D.," BM3, 51-54  
Felder, Harry E., RD2, 52-55  
Hayes, Robert W., ENS, 46-48  
Hudgins, James F. "Fred," BT3, 51-54  
Moore, Roy, MM1 63-66  
Newell, William H. "Bill," SN1/c, 45-46  
Tisdale, Carnell, SHL3, 67-70  
Welch, Virtus "Skip," ETM2, 45-47  
Williams, John H.D., CDR, 65-67  
Yost, Franklin A. "Frank," SN, 52-53

Lutrick, Joan R, wife of Richard Lutrick, FTG2, 60-62  
Paxton, Joy D., wife of Walton Paxton, GMSN, 51-55

If you know of anyone who is ill or who has passed away, please let us know. This includes spouses. All the names of those who have passed away since the last reunion will be read at the Memorial Service at the reunion in Jacksonville.

Please fill out the sign-up sheet below and the information at the bottom of the page and return with your check, payable to **Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund**, to Bill Siler, 835 Claybanks Dr., Callaway, VA 24067-4524.

Time	Tuesday, Oct 11, 2016	\$ per Person	# of People	\$ Total
12:00 pm	Hospitality room opens, pick up name badges      Registration:	\$40.00		
5:00 pm	Hospitality room closes			
6:30 pm	Welcome pizza party	\$10.00		
	<b>Wednesday, October 12, 2016</b>			
8:30 am	Hospitality room opens			
9:30 am	St. Augustine tour (return 4:00 pm)	\$65.00		
	Free evening			
10:00 pm	Hospitality room closes			
	<b>Thursday, October 13, 2016</b>			
8:30 am	Hospitality room opens			
	Free day and evening			
10:00 pm	Hospitality room closes			
	<b>Friday, October 14, 2016</b>			
8:30 am	Hospitality room opens			
9:45 am	Memorial service & city tour (return 2:15 pm)	\$75.00		
5:30 pm	Dinner Theater (return 10:45 pm)	\$65.00		
10:00 pm	Hospitality room closes (or before dinner theater if all go)			
	<b>Saturday, October 15, 2016</b>			
8:30 am	Hospitality room opens			
	Business meeting and raffle (please bring an item for raffle)			
5:00 pm	Hospitality room closes			
6:00 pm	Cocktail hour			
6:30 pm	Banquet Buffet	\$60.00		
	<b>Sunday, October 16, 2016</b>			
8:00 am	Farewell Breakfast Buffet	\$25.00		
	Total Amount of Check			

Please include all information, so we can check to see if we have all your correct information on the database.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rate/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Years: 19\_\_ 19\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first reunion? Yes \_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Will you be staying at the hotel: Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

## **Contact Information**

James W. "Bill" Siler, Jr.  
Pat Siler  
835 Claybanks Drive  
Callaway, VA 24067-4524

Email: jwsilerbtc@gmail.com  
silerpugs@yahoo.com

Phone: 540-483-5727

Bob Miller (Crew Locator)

Email: millerbrothers875@hotmail.com  
Phone: 773-271-6848

## **Website**

The Tucker website address is [www.hwtucker2000.com](http://www.hwtucker2000.com). Please visit the website. There are crew lists, a memorial list, the ship's history, all newsletters and much more. Note: Gary O'Neil has sent a revised history for the website and it has not been uploaded as of this newsletter. We hope to update the history pages as soon as possible. Soon the website address will change. As soon as we have it up and running, we'll get the word out.

## **Facebook**

The Tucker Facebook group is USS Henry W. Tucker DD/DDR 875. If you're on Facebook, be sure to join the group. It has over 200 members and we know there have to be more of you who are on Facebook. The members are very active, posting pictures and communicating with one another. Family members are also welcome to join.

## **Baseball Caps**

We have baseball caps for sale. They come in either cloth back or mesh back. They are navy blue with gold lettering and the ship's profile in gray. The price is \$12.00, which includes shipping. To order, please indicate your preference of solid or mesh and send a check payable to Henry W. Tucker Reunion Fund to Bill Siler at the address above. Caps are also on sale at reunions.

## **Coffee Mugs**

Mugs are cobalt blue with ship profile and the ship's name and hull number. We have both DD and DDR, so please indicate which you would like. Price is \$10.00, and shipping will vary depending on where it's sent. Please contact Bill Siler (information at the top of this page) and let him know where you live and how many mugs you want to order. He'll get the shipping amount from the post office and let you know how much it will be. If you will be at the reunion, they will be available with no shipping!

## **Cruise Books on CD**

Bob Miller has had all Tucker cruise books put on CD and they are available for sale. They are \$25 each. To order, please contact Bob at the email address or phone number above.

## **USS Henry W. Tucker DD/DDR 875 Reunion Association Mission**

The mission of the USS Henry W. Tucker Reunion Association is to bring together shipmates from the entire time the ship was in commission, 1945-1973, as the USS Henry W. Tucker (DD and DDR 875) USN and 1973-1993 as the Marcilio Dias (D25) of the Brazilian Navy. Our intent is also to keep alive the memory of this fine ship and the brave men who served aboard her. This includes Henry Warren Tucker, the World War II hero for whom she was named. See the ship's history for information on him. All shipmates of all rates and ranks and their families are considered to be part of the Tucker Family and all are welcome at reunions. This includes widows. We honor those who have gone before, our departed shipmates.