



# USS Caliente Association



USS CALIENTE AO 53

# PIPELINE

June 2007

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Hello Shipmates

I hope you are all enjoying nice Summer weather. First of all I need to make a couple of announcements. The dues were due on January 15<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't sent your 2007 dues, please do. If you are not sure if your dues are paid, look in the attached roster. If you haven't paid for 2007, this will be your last Pipeline.

Our By-Laws that were adopted in 2003 call for a President, Vice President, Secretary/Editor and Treasurer. Each of you should have received a copy at that time, or when you joined the Association. At the reunion in Charleston we will elect new officers. We need a new Secretary/Editor. Anyone interested in the job, please let me know.



## Ball Caps

I have ordered and received 50 Caliente Ball Caps. They are for sale. The price is \$15.00 which includes mailing. If you would like a Caliente Ball Cap, send me \$15.00 and I will send you one. Make your checks out to Robert (or Bob) Howard and send it to me at 2674 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2547

I will send you your cap. (We only have 50 and we have over 270 members, so hurry).

**Norm Street** and the membership committee have done a terrific job, as you can see by the new members we have listed below. They have practically doubled our membership in the last 6 months.

## New Members, WELCOME ABOARD

Douglas Ackley, Carl Anderson, Robert L. Anderson, Cal Barnum, Martin Boesch, Nolan J. Brouillette, William F. Brown, Frank Brownell, Jim Broyles, Paul Butner, Kenneth R. Cantwell, Raymond Crisp, Glenn W. Cummings, Roscoe S. Darby, Herb Dorsey, William Drew, Richard J. Eisenbeis, Fred Engelking, Arlen Flick, Edward Fordyce, Robert A. French, John Gargulak, Al Giacometti, Charles Godin, Charles Howell, Bob Kubarek, Brian Linehan, Bradford Ludwig, Peter Marcus, Francis Margis, L.M. (Mack) McGregor, Alfred L. McMullen, Don Nollar, Lloyd Oliver, David Owen, Lee Pack, Al Peters, Gordie Peterson, Burt Redmond, Ted Reynolds, Jim Schaub, William Schmidtke, Lawrence Schwab, Robert Sheehan (XO), Mike Short, Robert Stanfill Sr., Howard (Joe) Stratton, Obie Telford (Lynn), John M. Treiber, Edward M. Tyte, James Yourzek, Richard L. Weaver, Wesley W. Wilson, James R. Woodard, William C. Woodard, Stephen S. Woodward, Gary Youngquist, Waneta Zell.

## **Returning Members, WELCOME BACK**

Dale Bingaman, James Longster, Gary Engle, John Leeds, David H. Raihle Sr.

I have had some serious computer problems in the past few weeks and if I missed your name, I apologize. Let me know and I will take care of it. Normally I send an updated roster in the first Pipeline after the reunion. With so many new members, I am including it with this one.

### **Member News and Correspondence**

Shortly after I sent the March Pipeline out, I received the following email from Teresa Bowser, the daughter of **John Hale Jr.**

Dear Bob,

My Father passed away. I could not locate a phone # to call you. After a stay in the hospital in Jan. we got Hospice involved. They provided me with the medications and expertise, so he suffered very little. On the evening of his death, we held hands and looked into each others eyes and said goodbye without speaking a word. I kissed him goodnight and about three hours later he died in his sleep.

Thank you for all you have done with keeping the reunions going, which keeps shipmates in touch.

It was a pleasure meeting and getting to know you and your wife, even if for just a little while. I hope you and your family have a wonderful life.

Sincerely, **Teresa Bowser**

[tbowser7@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tbowser7@sbcglobal.net)

**John Hale** served on the Cal in 62-63 as an RMCS. He attended the reunion in Seattle with his daughter and son-in-law. John had planned to attend with his daughter and they missed the train, so her husband **Robert** drove them to Seattle from Winters, CA.. We had a nice visit. He also attended the Philadelphia reunion. He will be missed. John's wife pre-deceased him, so his daughter is an Honorary Life Member.

### **March 19, 2007**

I received a phone call from **Linda Heckadon-Scott**. Her father, **Charles Heckadon** died a few years ago. He served on the Caliente from 1952 to 1956. Her mother is still living in Wilamina, OR. She would like to hear from anyone that remembers her father. Her phone number is 971-237-5577. **Mrs Charles (Carol) Heckadon** is an Honorary Life Member now.

### **March 26, 2007**

The March Pipeline sent to **Leslie Donaldson** was returned. I was able to locate his son and was told that Leslie had passed away on 11 October 2006. He served on the Caliente 1944 to 1946 as an SK2

We received a \$200.00 donation from **Vivian H. Pennington** in memory of her late husband **RC Pennington** and her son Ronald. R.C was BM1 on the Caliente from 1943 to 1945. Thank you Mrs. Pennington.

### **April 1**

Received this email from **Ron and Barbara Hengl**

Bob and Rusty:

Wanted to alert you to the fact we will not be attending the Charleston reunion. We have "done" Charleston before, so will only be missing the camaraderie of the usual suspect group. We have had some health setbacks, not serious, put many aches and pains, and do not feel like changing planes and the accompanying hassle.

Getting out of Denver to almost anywhere in a single flight is next to impossible.(Chicago and Las Vegas OK)

We just returned from a driving trip (we take turns) to Mesa AZ to visit Ron's sister and her husband. He will not fully recover from his stroke at age 58 in August of 05, downsized and she needed some moral support. Ron declares everything is hard on his legs. So, though we will miss everyone (and meeting Rusty), we have decided

to fly our only granddaughter (grandchild) and her husband up from USVI where they live. He has only been "stateside" once, and that was the end of December 04 for the funeral of our oldest son and his about-to-be father-in-law. We have been talking about bringing them up for 2 years now, and have at least firmed up for a time in September when she can get vacation time off. We see this as money well spent. Have a great time, give everyone a hug for us, and maybe the next one will be somewhere for which we can make better connections. Enjoy. And we know with Rusty in charge, this one will be a humdinger.

Ron and Barbara

An email I received from **Brian Linehan**, one of our newest members.

I am trying to find a shipmate from 1961, Charles Letterman, and his name it had just a date, what does that mean. (Looking at the Caliente web page)

I have a funny story regarding him, myself, my wife and one of my wife's girlfriend to share with you. In 1961, right before our Westpak Cruise, I was a 17 year old wet behind the ears kid, with a 14 year old girlfriend (who is now my wife) we decided to run away and get married. So the four of us drove to TJ, Mexico while the ship was in San Pedro. We were stopped at the boarder and the police asked what are you going into Mexico for? and Chuck said "oh, they want to get married". Meaning me and my girlfriend, needless to say the police detained us. At that time they asked us would you like for us to call Shore Patrol or your Parents? Well, I said I'll tell what the punished would had been better if they had called the Shore Patrol, anyway they called my mom and dad and Sandie's mom and dad and sent us on our way home. At 17 years old, how the heck did I know it was a felony to take a little girl out of the USA. Well 43 years of marriage, three children, eight grandchildren I guess it worked out okay after all. So that is the reason I am looking for Chuck and I have not heard from him since 1962, I thought you might enjoy this little story of how a 17 year hospital Corpsman started his career in the Navy.

I think this is very exciting and I know it will be fun to be part of this organization, you can probably tell I was an out of control spoiled teenager, under the guidance of Chief Vanderham, HMC, the Navy and the US Marine Corp. sure did get me on the right track.

From **Frank Brownell**, another new member.

Hi Bob - I must say, I was quite surprised to get the call from Norm Street telling me about the Association. I'd looked up the Caliente several years ago on lines, seen that she had been scrapped for steel, and just figured that was the end of that. Never occurred to me that an actual organization of old shipmates might actually exist.

When I got to the websites, and started looking for names I might recognize, I was most delighted to see a few that I did. Now I need to find time to contact them and see what they have been up to for the past 40-plus years since I left her. When I went aboard in August 1961, I was a brand-new Ensign and assigned to Lt Joe DeRoma as a deck officer. We had just pulled into dry-dock, and I came aboard in a basket hanging from a crane. Plus, having just completed Naval Justice School while still in Newport, RI, I also took over as Ships Legal Officer. I don't remember a lot of activity in that area, but we did have at least a couple of trials and several Captain's Masts during the next 3 years. For the first cruise, I was in Deck Dept, and Gunnery Officer. Once back from that most memorable trip, I was moved to Operations as Ships Navigator, and served in that position during my second cruise. Upon return from that - plagued with several typhoons and a crossing overhaul in Guam, we took the fleet down the west coast to Panama for the Cuban Missile Crisis, and then left for Willamette Iron & Steel shipyard overhaul in Portland, Oregon, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1964. I stayed with the ship during that, brought her back down to San Francisco and home to Long Beach sometime in May or June, and left her on July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, 1964. I had come aboard mighty young and married, so my wife, Nancy, and I drove across Canada back to Iowa where I joined my Dad in the family business, Brownells, The Worlds Largest Supplier Of Tools And Accessories For The Gunsmith™. I've been here in Montezuma, Iowa, ever since. Grew the business, moving into the Presidency in 1989 or '90, raised 3 great sons, and was starting to settle into looking forward to a great retirement when my wife died of breast cancer in 2002, having fought it for about 12 years. So, here I am, single, 68, looking for a lady and still working. Of course, I'm really enjoying the fun of our firearms industry, too, doing more hunting, shooting, being outdoors. The company has done well, also. I was employee #11 in 1964; now were at about 165 or so, and we're the true leader in our niche. Lately,

I've become very involved in The National Rifle Association, serving on several committees, and I'll soon be on the National 4-H's Foundation and even more involved with their Shooting Sports program nationally as well as here in Iowa. We've built a great shooting facility here for our crew and use it for our own pleasure plus training police and SWAT teams, 4-H kids, Pheasants Forever kids, a couple of trap & skeet leagues - all that fun stuff. We're also into raising and training finished hunting dogs and a building a Hunting Preserve.

So life is good, body is still holding together fairly nicely, did a round with prostate cancer which they got very early, and a round with a blood clot on the brain from a fall on the ice, two herniated discs from a hunting trip. Otherwise, just the usual maintenance detail.

You know, one of the biggest shocks of this whole crew roster is finding out first names for so many of you. While we were serving on board, of course, I didn't get to know any of you really well - in those "olden days", the lines were mighty strict - fraternization and familiarity were simply not allowed. I look forward to being able to make one of the Annual Events someday to meeting some of you face-to-face as civilians. It will be fun. Unfortunately, this year I'm already pretty tied up for October - hunting season, you know. It'll just depend on the dates. Oh, and if any of you are into guns and would like a catalog - just email me, or go to our web site, [Brownells.com](http://Brownells.com) and request it. (Sorry, Bob. Spent all my life marketing!!)  
Very Best, Frank Brownell [Fbrownell3@brownells.com](mailto:Fbrownell3@brownells.com)

## The Reunion

For those of you that have not been to one of our reunions, you are missing a fun time. You may, or may not know anyone there from when you were on the ship. Even if you don't meet anyone you knew, you will meet a lot of new friends and be able to share stories of your own. I was a little apprehensive when I attended my first reunion in Long Beach, CA, but that vanished as soon as I walked in the door. This is a great bunch of guys and their wives. If you can make it, you will have a good time.

**Rusty Pickett** is doing a good job and this will be a very good reunion. So far there are 24, mostly old timers, signed up. I am hoping that a lot of the newer members will join us there. For those with internet access, go to the web address listed below to get the latest news about the reunion and to sign-up. For those of you that don't have internet access, I have attached the information and sign-up sheet. If you have any questions, you can call Rusty, or get in touch with me.

Bob Howard, 2674 Buena Vista Ave, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2547, 925-939-3662, 925-708-5065 Cell.  
<http://www.shellbackcruises.com/caliente.htm>

## Too Busy for a Friend.

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name.

Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down. It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers.

That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual.

On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. "Really?" she heard whispered. "I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!" and, "I didn't know others liked me so much." were most of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in Viet Nam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature. The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin.

As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to her. "Were you Mark's math teacher?" he asked. She nodded: "yes." Then he said: "Mark talked about you a lot."

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher.

"We want to show you something," his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. "They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it."

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him.

"Thank you so much for doing that," Mark's mother said. "As you can see, Mark treasured it."

All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, "I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home."

Chuck's wife said, "Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album."

"I have mine too," Marilyn said. "It's in my diary."

Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group "I carry this with me at all times," Vicki said and without batting an eyelash, she continued: "I think we all saved our lists."

That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

The density of people in society is so thick that we forget that life will end one day. And we don't know when that one day will be.

So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Tell them, before it is too late.

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**William A. Retz**

Rear Admiral USN (Ret)

Subject: Veterans Saluting

Please distribute this letter from "Naval Affairs" to all veterans on your address lists. I whole heartedly support the Admiral's comments, have been saluting during the weekly Kiwanis Club Pledge of Allegiance and bi-monthly MOAA Chapter meeting and encourage you to give this letter the widest possible distribution.

Veterans Saluting .....

Of late, a number of my retired and former military friends and I have talked about veterans saluting instead of placing

their hand over their heart when the national anthem is played, the pledge of allegiance is recited, the national colors pass in review or are posted, honors are rendered, or when Taps is played while salutes are fired at military funerals. The hand over the heart has simply been a custom. For military folks, saluting uncovered or indoors seems a bit unnatural, but somehow the hand over the heart never felt comfortable. For us, it was more natural to salute, plus we felt we had earned the right to salute if we wanted.

Now we are in yet another shooting war, adding new veterans every day. If the hand-over-the-heart custom is to ever be changed for us, now would be as good a time as any. We feel that thousands of veterans saluting at NFL, MLB, and/or NBA games while the national anthem is being played would send a patriotic message to the crowd and perhaps the TV audience. It would be visual evidence of how many have served, all still patriots if they are saluting - a fact otherwise unknown.

Recently a poll was conducted in the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) monthly magazine, prompted by an Army friend of mine, Major General Vernon B. Lewis, USA (Ret.). General Lewis wanted to see if other veterans agreed that the hand salute was a more appropriate way for veterans to honor the flag, fallen comrades and our country.

His e-mail address was included in the poll. Several hundred veterans responded electronically to the MOAA poll, with over 80% favoring the salute over the hand-on-the-heart method of showing respect. General Lewis received over 100 e-mails that reflected an even greater percentage of salute approvals. So it seems apparent that the vast majority of veterans feel more comfortable with the salute. I know I do. Those who oppose the idea could certainly continue the former method.

It is a matter of the heart, pride, and personal choice. MOAA, of course, is an officers' association, but I find it difficult to believe the enlisted veterans would feel any differently.

Veterans are by and large a proud and patriotic group of Americans. Most want to share their love of flag and country with others. So the sponsors have decided to encourage other veterans to salute if they are comfortable doing so, and to spread the word through unit organizations, associations, and veterans' publications. We believe this movement will pick up momentum and proliferate and very soon have a life of its own. We welcome the help of all vets in their own organizations and circles.

Rear Admiral S. Frank Gallo, USN (Ret)

## **Humor:**

### Four-Letter Words

A young couple got married and left on their honeymoon. Back at home for a few days, the bride called her mother.

"Well, how was the honeymoon?" asked the mother.

"Oh, Mama," she replied, "the honeymoon was wonderful! So romantic..." Suddenly she burst out crying.

"But, Mama, as soon as we returned, Sam started using the most horrible language. He's been saying things I've never heard before! All these awful four-letter words! You've got to come get me and take me home! Please, Mama!"

"Sarah, Sarah," her mother said, "calm down! Tell me, what could be so awful? What four-letter words has he been using?"

"Please don't make me tell you, Mama," wept the daughter, "I'm so embarrassed! They're just too awful! You've got to come get me and take me home! Please, Mama!"

"Darling, baby, you must tell me what has you so upset. Tell your mother these horrible four-letter words!"

Still sobbing, the bride replied, "Oh, Mama ... words like dust, wash, iron, and cook..."

Story from a Canadian courtroom.

If you ever testify in court, you might wish you could have been as sharp as this policeman. He was being cross-examined by a defense attorney during a felony trial. The lawyer was trying to undermine the policeman's credibility.

Q: "Officer -- did you see my client fleeing the scene?"

A: "No sir. But I subsequently observed a person matching the description of the offender, running several blocks away."

Q: "Officer -- who provided this description?"

A: "The officer who responded to the scene."

Q: "A fellow officer provided the description of this so-called offender. Do you trust your fellow officers?"

A: "Yes, sir. With my life."

Q: "With your life? Let me ask you this then, officer. Do you have a room where you change your clothes in preparation for your daily duties?"

A: "Yes sir, we do."

Q: "And do you have a locker in the room?"

A: "Yes sir, I do."

Q: "And do you have a lock on your locker?"

A: "Yes sir."

Q: "Now why is it, officer, if you trust your fellow officers with your life, you find it necessary to lock your locker in a room you share with these same officers?"

A: "You see, sir -- we share the building with the court complex, and sometimes lawyers have been known to walk through that room."

The courtroom erupted in laughter, and a prompt recess was called. The officer on the stand has been nominated for this year's "Best Comeback" line -- and we think he'll win.

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The next Pipeline will be published in September, just prior to the reunion in Charleston. I hope you all have a good Summer and good health.

Bob Howard.