

USS Caliente (AO-53) Association



PIPELINE

Dec 2016

Boston Reunion Recap

By Jeff Sturgis

Twenty-two members of the USS Caliente Association along with 20 spouses, sons and daughters attended the USS Caliente Reunion that was held at the Boston/Quincy Marriott September 8-11. The reunion kicked off with a reception on Thursday afternoon where arriving members were able to check in, renew friendships and make plans for their stay.

Friday was spent on a tour of historic Boston area sites. The day started with a trip to Lexington and Concord where the Revolutionary War started with the “shot heard ’round the world.” Then we traveled to the historic Faneuil Hall/Boston State House area with its markets and eating establishments. Some of us ate at the Union Oyster House which opened in 1826 while others ate one of the many eating establishments in the area. John Creedon was even able to find a dish of chocolate ice cream for desert!

The tour then proceeded to the Chelsea Navy Yard for a tour of the USS Constitution Museum and of the USS Constitution. Even though the ship was in dry dock undergoing a complete restoration, we were able to board her and listen to stories about her history told by the active duty sailors assigned to duty at the site. A bonus for some was the USS Cassin Young (DD-793) which is berthed behind the Constitution. The Cassin Young is a veteran of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the battles off Guadalcanal as well as other action in WWII and Korea. The day ended as we all got a taste of the famous Boston traffic as it took the tour bus about an hour and a half to travel the 15 miles through the “Big Dig” back to the hotel.

Saturday morning consisted of breakfast, followed by the annual business meeting. Pat Hurton, Karl Seitz and Norm Street were recognized for all their work, past and present, on behalf of the association. Executive



From start to finish

John Creedon, QM1, was one of the original crew members of the USS Caliente. Gene Fujimoto, LTJG, was one of the last. Both were at the Boston reunion.

Committee members Mike Copeland, Dave Ludemann, Greg Perett, Tom Rawlinson, Steve Selzer and Jeff Sturgis were also thanked for their efforts in making the reunion a success. After Pat Hurton presented the financial report, discussion centered on the next reunion. The group confirmed Portland, OR, as the West Coast venue and members spoke of the attractions that are available in that area. John Creedon told the story of the Caliente's experience during World War II when the USS Mississinewa (AO-59) was sunk by Japanese submarine that slipped through the submarine nets at Ulithi. The Mississinewa had taken the Caliente's anchorage and John witnessed the attack from his watch station. The rest of Saturday was a "free" day. Some traveled into Boston on the subway to walk the Freedom Trail. Others stayed in Quincy and visited the Adams Historical Site or the USS Salem (CA-139) which is berthed in the harbor.

The high point of the reunion was the banquet that was held on Saturday night. The banquet started off on a somber note as Pat Hurton and Dave Ludemann conducted a "Two Bell" ceremony honoring those members and spouses who have passed away during the last year. The ceremony was preceded by the Navy Hymn and ended by a beautiful rendition of "Taps."

Once the ceremony concluded, the atmosphere brightened as the attendees were able to socialize and enjoy a wonderful meal while being entertained by a trio called "Jazz in the Air." The "JGs," consisting of Greg Perett and Jeff Sturgis, also made their annual appearance adding "Charlie on the MTA" to their repertoire of sea ballads which they sang to the enjoyment of all. The evening concluded shortly after John Creedon, the only WWII veteran present, was serenaded by a lively rendition of "Anchors Aweigh."

Sunday morning came with breakfast and fond farewells as most of us headed for the parking lot and the airport for our trips home. The shipmates and family who attended enjoyed great weather, a beautiful venue, many "sea stories" and each other's camaraderie. All are looking forward to next year in Portland. The planning has already begun. The first details are below with more forthcoming in future issues of the Pipeline as those plans solidify.

Portland Reunion Update

By Jeff Sturgis

Plans for the Portland, Oregon, reunion are starting to solidify. We have just signed a contract with the Marriott Portland Downtown Waterfront. We obtained a great room rate for a downtown hotel at \$150.00 a night with the rates extending for two nights before and two nights after the reunion which will be held from Thursday, September 7 through Sunday, September 10, 2017.

Being downtown, there are many restaurants and attractions within walking distance of the hotel. For those who drive, the parking will be similar to what it was in New Orleans: the hotel provides valet parking, but there are cheaper alternatives in several nearby parking garages. The airport is 9 miles away, and a shuttle service is available for \$14. Pat Hurton is working on a tour for Friday, and I am working on entertainment for the banquet on Saturday. I encourage you to visit <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/pdxor-portland-marriott-downtown-waterfront/> to view the hotel and its amenities. You can also google "Portland Oregon attractions" to see what the city has to offer.

This should be another great opportunity for us to renew old acquaintances and to make some new ones. We hope that our West Coast members who were unable to make last year's reunion in Boston will be able to make it to Portland.

Check the next issue of the Pipeline for more information and the reunion registration form. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions at 207-782-8323 or jandssturgis@roadrunner.com.

Taps

We have belatedly learned of the deaths of Bill Bushyhead and his wife Nancy Jane of Grove, OK. Bill died 21 Aug 2012 at Joplin, MO. He was born 3 April 1936 in Claremore, OK. Bill served on the Cal from 1959 to 1962 as a QM3. His Navy career lasted from 1954 to 1976 when he retired as a Chief Petty Officer - Navigator. After his Navy days, Bill worked at and retired from the U.S. Postal Service. Nancy Jane Bushyhead died 18 Sept 2010 in Grove, OK, following an extended illness. She was born 20 Feb 1942 in Spavinaw OK. Nancy and Bill were married 6 Sept 1961. Nancy worked most of her life as a mail carrier. Bill and Nancy are



USS Caliente Association
 Chairman: Jeff Sturgis
 Executive Committee: Mike Copeland, Dave Ludemann, Greg Perett, Tom Rawlinson and Steve Selzer
 Treasurer: Pat Hurton
 Pipeline Editor: Karl Seitz



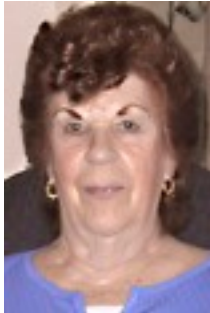
The Pipeline is the official quarterly newsletter of the USS Caliente Association. It is a place to share your memories and pictures. Please send them via e-mail to seitzao53@gmail.com or by regular mail to Karl Seitz, 1212 30th St. South, Birmingham, AL 35205-1910.

Association dues are \$10 per year due Jan. 1, payable by Jan. 15. Checks should be made out to The USS Caliente Association and mailed to treasurer Pat Hurton, 156 Greenfield Drive, Chico, CA 95973-0185.

Chairman Jeff Sturgis can be reached via email at jandssturgis@roadrunner.com or by mail at 84 Old Woodman Hill Rd, Minot, ME 04258

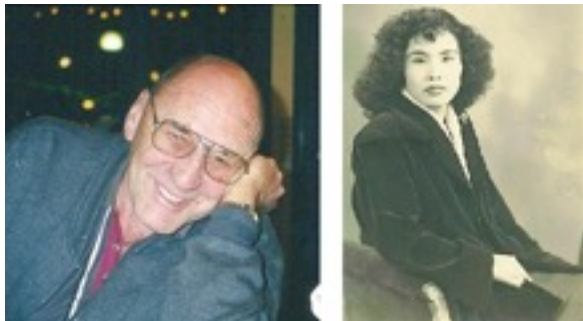
Masthead picture of USS Caliente (AO-53) used with permission of Dan Davis.

survived by sons Glenn and Joe Bushyhead and daughter Laura Etling. In addition, Nancy was survived by siblings Patsy Miller and Roy Raymond.



We have also belatedly learned of the death of Gertrude Geer, widow of Fred Geer who served on the Cal from 1945 to 1946 as a S1. Gertrude, a resident of Warren, OH, was born on 23 July 1926 and passed away on 17 Oct. 2015. She is survived by her grandchildren, Deanna (James) Gardiner, Vanessa (Robert) Groner and Greg (the late Carolyn) Click Sr., all of whom she had raised after the death of her daughter. Other survivors include four great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Donald W. Moyer of Westerville, OH died in Dublin, OH on 27 Jan 2016 at age 86. Donald served on the Cal from 1951 to 1953 as a LTJG. Born in Tipton, IN and raised in Bellevue, OH, he married Barbara Gardner, who survives him, on 30 Apr 1955 in Cradock, VA. Donald was a professional engineer for the Ohio Department of Transportation for 38 years and also practiced law part time. He was active in the Sons of American Revolution and served as director of the Fallen Timbers Battlefield Preservation Commission. In addition to his wife, he is survived by daughters Ginny (Bruce) Blake and Cindy (Tom) Bonds and three grandchildren.



We have belatedly learned of the deaths of Charles "Bud" Ogiers and his wife Ritsuko "Tosh." Bud was born 16 Dec 1929 and died 24 Apr 2013 at home in Chula Vista, CA Tosh was born 19 May 1927 in Kumamoto, Japan and died 15 Dec 2013 at home in Chula Vista. Bud served on the Cal from 1966 to 1969 as a SKC. .

Fay Payne, wife of Ira Payne, died 17 Feb 2015 in Roseville, CA. She is buried at Dixon's National Cemetery. Ira served on the Cal from 1959 to 1960 as a DK2. Fay was born 3 March 1938 in Shamrock, TX. She was the last of nine siblings. Fay and Ira were married in Turlock, CA on 5 Feb 1956 during their senior year of high school. Fay had four children and fostered six others. One son and two foster children predeceased her. The other foster children were reunited with their parents. She is survived by children Brenda Tuner, Eugenia Cox, Dana (Janet) Payne and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.





Ernest L. "Red" White Sr. died 10 Sept 2016 in North Carolina where he had recently moved to be closer to his family. Red served on the Cal from 1945 to 1946 as a COX. Red was born 11 Feb 1927 in New Orleans where he lived most of his life. He is survived by sisters Mercia Kaupp and Julianne Andressen, children Anita (Al) Karle, Kathy (Patrick) Henry, Ernest (Patti) White Jr., four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Editor's message

There is a yearly rhythm to the production of the Pipeline. While many things are found in every edition, the focus of a particular issue varies in a predictable pattern.

There is always a message from Jeff Sturgis, chairman of the Executive Committee. There is always a collection of obituaries. There is often something concerning association business from Pat Hurton. It is the remaining contents that vary with the season

The December issue, such as you are now reading, is largely a report on the reunion that was held the previous September. A significant portion of that report is in the form of pictures. This year, as has been the case before, the bulk of the photographs are from the camera of Bill Lawler (LTJG, 1968-1970). Additional photos this year come from Bryan Skokan (LTJG, 1966-1968) and Jeff Sturgis. Other contributors have provided pictures in previous years.

The March issue begins the build-up to the annual reunion. But it is usually the issue that has the most space dedicated to memories and other items related to the Caliente and its crew.

The June issue usually has the most information about the upcoming reunion, but also contains memories and other items related to the Cal and its crew.

The September issue in recent years has been filled with last minute information about the reunion and encouragement to attend. There is also some room for memories.

Every issue of the Pipeline is dependent on contributions from you, our readers, whether crew members or members of their families. Without your contributions, the Pipeline will not reach its potential.

Picnic on Con Son Island

George Bateman, BT2, 1964-1967, requests that any shipmates who remember when the Caliente held a picnic on Con Son Island during his time on the Cal write an article for the Pipeline. He is particularly interested in knowing the date of the picnic from somebody who knows when the picnic was held.



A reminder if you are on Facebook, Jack Hughes has created a Facebook group for former crew members of the USS Caliente (AO-53) and their families.



Friday's Tour

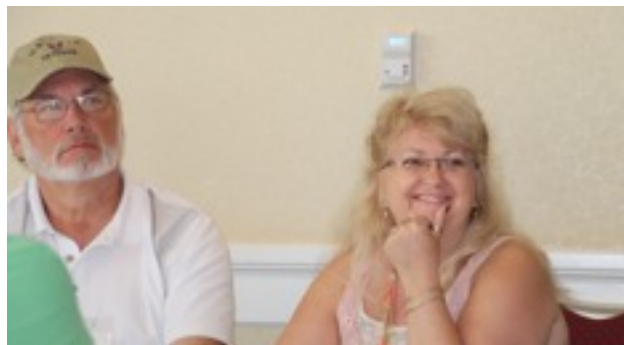
Many attendees climbed aboard a bus to see places and things associated with the start of our nation. At top we listen to our guide explain what happened at Concord, MA. From left clockwise: Monument at Concord, Buckman Tavern in Lexington, MA (now a visitors' center) and the main deck of the USS Constitution in Boston.





Several attendees used free time Saturday to visit the USS Salem (CA-139) which is being restored as a museum in Quincy, MA. At left, our intrepid photographer Bill Lawler stands in front of one of the Salem's twin 5-inch mounts. Greg Perett, Ed Fordyce and Bryan Skokar pose in front of the main 8-inch turrets.

Mornings



Top left: Charleen Hurton, June Niquette, Bonnie and Bryan Skokan, Connie Cola and Kathie Bentson. Top right: Bob French and Al Schwartz. Bottom left: Steve and Linda Selzer. Bottom right: Tom and Jean Rawlinson.

The Banquet



Top: The “JGs” and “Jazz in the Air.”

Middle: Larry Baker and Dana and Ira Payne.

Bottom: Dillard and Judy Givens and Zelda and John Coleman.



Reunion attendees

Larry and Ida Baker, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA; Dave and Kathie Bentson, Nokesville, VA; Joe and Connie (daughter) Cola, Rochester, NY; John and Zelda Coleman, Jena, LA; Mike Copeland, Muncie, IN; John and Dianne Creedon, Larchmont, NY and son David; Ed Fordyce, Mt. Vernon, IA; Bob and Barbara French, Nicholasville, KY and daughter Roberta Warren; Gene and Marie Fujimoto, Middletown, RI; Dillard and Judy Givens, Sebastian, FL; Pat and Charleen Hurton, Chico, CA; Bill and Nancy Lawler, Indianapolis, IN; Dave and Martha Ludeman, Millington, TN; Jim and June Niquette, Pt. Ludlow, WA; Ira and Dana (son) Payne, Orangevale, CA; Gregg Perett, Arlington, VA; Tom and Jean Rawlinson, Indianapolis, IN; Allen Schwartz, Murells Inlet, SC; Karl and Pat Seitz, Birmingham, AL; Steve and Linda Selzer, Edinburgh, IN; Bryan and Bonnie Skokan, Centreville, VA; and Jeff and Susan Sturgis, Minot, ME.

Two Bell Ceremony Begins with Navy Hymn

Bells have a centuries-long tradition of varied use in navies and merchant fleets of the world. They have been used for signaling, keeping time and providing alarm. Their functional and ceremonial uses have made them a symbol of considerable significance to the United States Navy.

American ships of the Revolutionary War period and our early national years adopted many of the practices and traditions of the British Royal Navy, including the use of bells. In 1798, Paul Revere cast a bell weighing 242 pounds for the frigate Constitution, also known as today by its nickname "Old Ironsides".

In days past, two bells [toll two bells here] marked the end of the routine day aboard ship. It also was time for tattoo (a signal on drum, bugle or trumpet for soldiers or sailors to return to their quarters) and soon, taps would sound throughout the ship. Certainly this is a most appropriate time to honor our departed sea service shipmates.

A table is set containing;

- 1) A red rose to signify the blood our departed shipmates shed
- 2) A crystal glass of water to quench their thirst for freedom
- 3) Salt to remind us of the pain they feel lest we forget them
- 4) The china is bone white as is the purity of their hearts and sacrifices

These items are placed on a white linen table cloth that could be used as a clean bandage for their wounds. We take this time to remember them. The place we set for them, this evening, is a special place, as is the place we hold for them in our hearts, our minds and our Navy.

As all of us know, our wives play a major part in our Navy life. We would like to honor those wives who passed away this last year.

- 1) Carol J. Meade, widow of Kenneth H. Meade who served on the Cal from 1952-1954, Patricia H. Weatherbee, widow of James R. Weatherbee who served on the Cal from 1951-1953 and Gertrude E. Geer, widow of Frederick Geer who served on the Cal from 1945-1946 [two bells here]

And now we honor our shipmates who passed away in the last year;

- 1) David J. Babulski, Radarman 3rd class, 1965-1967 [two bells here]
- 2) Morris G. Banks, Signalman 1st class. 1967-1970 [two bells here]
- 3) William R. Bushyhead, Quartermaster 3rd class, 1959-1962 [two bells here]
- 4) Steven R. Hammer, Radioman 3rd class, 1967-1969 [two bells here]
- 5) Robert W. Jackson, Captain, 1966-1967 [two bells here]
- 6) James R. Longster, Yeoman 1st class, 1951-1954 [two bells here]
- 7) John A. Maltese, Quartermaster 3rd class, 1943-1945 [two bells here]



- 8) Kenneth L. Marshall, Boatswains Mate 3rd class, 1951-1955 [two bells here]
- 9) Kenneth H. Meade, Fireman, 1952-1954 [two bells here]
- 10) Daniel D. Morrison, Machinist Mate Chief, 1969-1971 [two bells here]
- 11) Charles “Bud” Ogier, Chief Storekeeper, 1966-1969 [two bells here]
- 12) Gerald R. Robert, Senior Chief Storekeeper, 1961-1963 [two bells here]

And lastly to all our other shipmates and wives who passed away this last year and are unknown to us [two bells here]

“Would you please bow your heads”

1) “The toll of the ship’s bell reminds us of the reverence we owe to our departed shipmates, [two bells here]

2) To those who guard the honor of our country ... upon the sea ... in the air ... and on foreign soil, [two bells here]

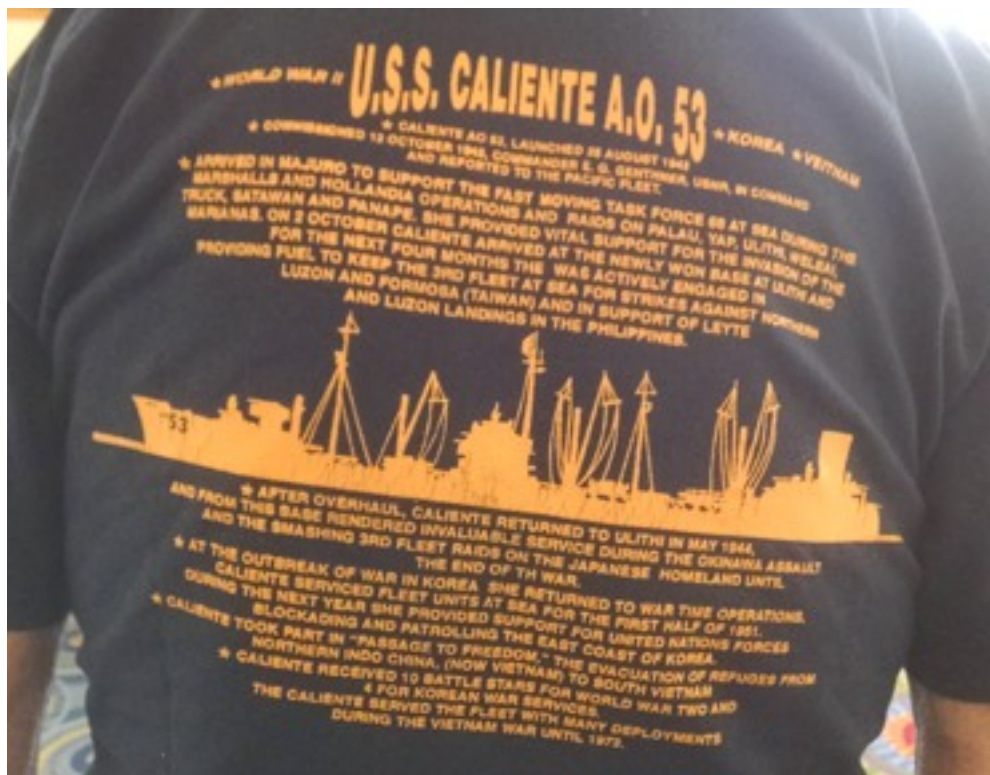
3) Let it be a reminder of the faith they confide in us, [two bells here]

4) Let us who gather here not forget our obligations to our absent shipmates and wives, [two bells here]

5) Let us offer a silent a silent prayer for our departed. This moment of reverence we dedicate to the memory of our shipmates and their wives who have gone before us” [two bells here]

[Bugler plays taps slowly after the ringing of the bells.]

The table is now removed from the floor signifying that our shipmates are not present with us for this meal.



John Creedon wore the history of the USS Caliente to the business meeting.