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Website: [www.tbone1156.com](http://www.tbone1156.com)

## NEWSLETTER

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### ***USCG Hurricane Katrina „Air Boss“ Headlines 9<sup>th</sup> Reunion Program***



**CDR Timothy A. Tobiasz, USCG**  
**Commanding Officer USCG Air Station Savannah**



In August 2005, as Operations Officer of Coast Guard Air Station New Orleans, Commander Timothy A. Tobiasz led air rescue operations after Hurricane Katrina impacted the Gulf Coast region. In a ten-day period, crews from Air Station New Orleans saved over 1,400 lives nearly tripling the number of lives saved in the previous 40 year history of the unit.

Commander Tobiasz, this year's reunion guest speaker will give a PowerPoint presentation during our banquet dinner on May 18 at the Ocean Plaza Resort on the USCG Search and Rescue during and after Katrina.

His after dinner remarks will provide attendees with an up close look at the operational efforts of the Coast Guard during that storm.

In July 2010, Commander Tobiasz reported to his current assignment as the Commanding Officer

of the USCG Air Station Savannah after serving in Coast Guard Headquarters' office of CG-821 as the Budget and Program Reviewer for Deputy Commandant for Mission Support and the Enterprise Strategy and Management directorates. In that capacity, he was responsible for reviewing and defending the Coast Guard budget before Congress, the White House Office of Management and Budget, and the Department of Homeland Security.

Commander Tobiasz's prior assignments include Military Liaison to the U.S. Senate, Coast Guard Congressional Affairs, where he garnered support for the Commandant's legislative agenda through extensive interaction with Congressional members and their professional staff.

Other operational assignments include tours at Coast Guard Air Stations Clearwater, Fla., San Diego, and Kodiak, Alaska.

Commander Tobiasz has qualified in eight aircraft including Flight Examiner in the HH-60J Jayhawk, HH-65C Dolphin, MH-90 Hornet, and Aircraft Commander in the HC-130H Hercules. He has logged over 6,500 flight hours and holds multiple fixed and rotary-wing FAA ratings.

His personal awards include four Meritorious Service Medals, two Air Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, five Coast Guard Achievement Medals, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and numerous unit and team awards.

Commander Tobiasz was awarded a B.S. in Aeronautics, cum laude, and a M.S. in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in 1990 and 1999 respectively.

He is also a 2009 graduate of the Naval War College and a Fellow of the MIT Foreign Politics, International Relations, and National Interest program.

Commander Tobiasz is married to the former Miss Wendy Biscontine of Moline, Ill. They have three children, Madison, Joshua, and Ryan.

## T-BONE TALK



### *Savannah's Beach Resort: 9th Reunion Hotel HQ*



### **Hospitality Served Here Since 1889**



By **Kellie Lord-Zieba**, Director of Sales,  
*Ocean Plaza Resort*

*Tybee Island, Ga.*

For those LST 1156 Association members and guests who are attending the *Ninth LST 1156 Reunion*, I thought I would share some interesting information about our hotel, and Tybee Island as well.

The area and our hotel have a rich history, and we are certain you will enjoy your stay with us.

Your reunion headquarters hotel was originally built more than 122 years ago in 1889. The legendary Hotel Tybee once stood at the same location that the Ocean Plaza Beach Resort occupies today.

That hotel was acclaimed as the "Finest resort between Atlantic City and Miami on the Atlantic Coast."

In its day the Hotel Tybee set the standard for resorts in the United States and featured a lavishly appointed dining room, a saloon, a dancing and group meeting pavilion, elevators, and an electricity generation plant to provide electric lighting to every room. It even had its own artesian waterworks which provided fresh water throughout the property.

That hotel survived hurricanes, world wars, and the Great Depression. It was the center of activity during Tybee Island's Golden Age in the roaring 1920s. The original Hotel Tybee, built featuring a coastal Victorian architecture, burned down in 1909.

#### **The Second Hotel Tybee Circa 1930**



The second rendition of Hotel Tybee, built in a majestic Mediterranean Revival architecture opened on the same site in 1911. It was demolished by its previous owner in 1960.

#### **Tybee Island: The Hidden Treasure**



While staying at the Ocean Plaza, you will discover Tybee Island's rich history. Also, by visiting local museums, monuments and historic sites, you will learn how Tybee Island was first discovered in 1520 by Francisco Fordillo, a Spanish explorer.

You can learn why Spain fought a bloody war with France over sassafras plants; why historians believe that Tybee Island is really the place where Blackbeard the Pirate buried his treasure; how a decisive Civil War battle between Confederate and Union forces was fought at nearby Fort Pulaski; how Fort Screven, located on the north end of the island, was a training camp for thousands of American soldiers during World Wars I and II, and how that fort witnessed the tragedies of war when Nazi submarines sank ships as they left the Savannah harbor during World War II.

One interesting historical fact is that since Tybee Island's discovery in 1520, seven different flags have flown over Tybee Island. These flags were those of the Spanish, French, British, Pirate, and Confederate States of America, United States of America and the State of Georgia.

You can learn more about our hotels history by visiting our website: [www.oceanplaza.com](http://www.oceanplaza.com)



## **Accessing Veterans" Information**



By **Hilda Hoffman-Arnold**, Associate Member

*Sierra Vista, Arizona*

As a member of the Officers" Wives Club at Fort Huachuca here in Arizona I have found that when a veteran passes away, the surviving family has need of acquiring a variety of information related to Veteran"s rights and other matters.

With that in mind, I thought I would share some information that might be helpful to families of deceased veterans. Here are a few of the more important organizations to make contact with upon the death of a veteran:

Contact should be made with the National Personnel Records Center – 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5100. When doing that you will need to provide the full name, Social Security Number, date of death, and the veteran"s branch of service.

Any additional information the family may have, such as: the deceased"s DD-214; service number; date of separation; date and place of birth; and medals received. It may be necessary to complete the Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining to Military Records," which they will provide upon request.

There are some additional resources that can be especially helpful. They include the following:

- If you live near a base/fort call and request to speak to a "Casualty Assistance Officer" who will walk you through the data system.
- If you are retired military you may want to call "Defense Finance & Accounting

Services" (DFAS) 1-800-321-1080 (7:00 am to 7:30 PM Eastern Time M-F).

- Military Widows/Widowers may wish to obtain a copy of DFAS-CL 1340.3-G DFAS "Your Guide to Survivor Benefits" a very handy booklet.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs has a booklet entitled "Federal Benefits for Veterans Dependents & Survivors". This is highly recommended and you can usually find a copy at any VA Medical Center or write to Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Ave., NW Washington, DC 20420.

Surviving family members should also contact their state"s Regional Office for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and speak with a "Veteran Advocate" who may be able to assist. Family members need to utilize all of the above resources. This information is helpful whether you are retired military, a spouse or a service veteran.

*Associate Member Hilda Hoffman-Arnold is the widow of Plankholder Daris "Huck" Hoffman, RD3, ("52-"55).*

### **Fiscal Year „13**

#### ***„Recruit, Retain, Reclaim!"***



**FY "11 (6/1/2012 - 5/31/2013)**

**Annual Dues (\$25.00)**

**Send to:**

**Bill McKnight, CSSN**

**Membership Chair**

**P.O. Box 818**

**Buckhannon, WV 26201-0818**

**Checks payable to:**

**USS Terrebonne Parish (LST 1156)  
Association**



**Est. 2002**





## Distance Support

*A World of Support at Your Fingertips*

### The Power of Prayer

By Rev. **George Fox**, FT3, ("D-"6), Chaplain,  
Pastor, North Flushing Assembly of God



*Flushing, N.Y.*

The tabernacle, the altar of Incense: the symbol of prayers and communion of God's people ascending to God, Ex. 30:1-10. God answers prayer.

When we face severe problems, trouble, or crises, God answers prayer. When we face terrible trial or temptation, God answers prayer. When we face sickness, disease, or accident, God answers prayer. When we face pain, suffering, terminal illness, or death, God answers prayer.

When we face the difficult times of life - if we pray, cry out to God from the depths of our heart - God hears and answers our prayers. When we need comfort, guidance, assurance, security, companionship, friendship - God hears and answers our prayers. He meets our needs always.

This is the significance and purpose of the Altar of Incense. The Altar was used to offer up the most pleasing and acceptable aroma that can be imagined.

This symbolized the pleasure and acceptance of God that He was pleased with the aroma and accepted the offering being made. What is the offering? Prayer, the prayers of His dear people.

The Altar of Incense symbolized the prayers of God's dear people ascending up to God.

To follow in my subsequent columns: the design and materials of the altar, the purpose of the altar, the holiness of the altar.

*Rev. George Fox's column provides Association members with a single place to learn about spiritual support, or request, distance support services. He can be contacted by e-mail at [revgfox77@aol.com](mailto:revgfox77@aol.com), or by phone at 718.762.7895, (C) 917 749 7895.*

## Evoking the World of War



**CHICAGO, Ill.** - A 1944 poster by Jon Whitcomb published by the Navy Department's Industrial Incentive Division on display at the Pritzker Military Library.

The U.S. Navy Dispatch message shown in the upper right hand corner of this poster is a call "To all producers of landing craft: We must send our armed forces ashore on many fronts to meet and crush the enemy. Invasion craft are needed everywhere - at once! Meet your schedules - Every beachhead won by our men depends upon boats built by you!"

This poster is just one of 1,500 prints and posters housed in the 40,000-square-foot library in downtown Chicago. Also included in their collection of military history are 36,000 books, 7,000 photographs 1,500 artifacts and 1200 videotapes and DVDs.

### 9<sup>th</sup> LST 1156 Reunion



**Mark Your Calendars NOW!**



**Southern Revival**

**May 16 – 19, 2012**

## Family Seeks Information



By **Barbara Talbert**

*Charlotte, N.C.*

I am trying to locate any information about my deceased father, **William (Bill) Adcock**, while he was stationed aboard the USS TERREBONNE PARISH (LST 1156).

I would appreciate receiving any information or memories of my Dad from any of his former shipmates.

He passed away in July, and our family is anxious to learn more about his time on board the LST 1156. According to his DD 214 he was in the Navy and on board the 1156 in 1962-1964, during the Cuban Missile Crisis. I know the ship was involved with that operation while he was on board.

We are seeking any personal memories his shipmates may have of him. His obituary is on page 12 of the newsletter.

Do you have any memories you can share with me and our family if you served on board with him and know of him?

We would like to be able to also share this information with his grandchildren so that they too will have an awareness of his naval service and duty in the Amphibious Force on board the LST 1156.

The T-Bone Association and its website and Facebook site have been very helpful so far. I've been able to get a copy of the ship's history, the most recent Newsletter, and have shared the information with our family. We have truly enjoyed learning more about the ship he was on, and also the LST 1156 Association.

As a way of extending Dad's Navy service and his service to our country, we also want to share his shipboard service with his grandchildren.

I have also included a couple of photos taken of him and a few of his shipmates, and hope you can also identify them.

To those of you who were on board with him, and if you are willing to share those memories with us, please contact me either by email at:

[Barbara.Talbert@McKesson.com](mailto:Barbara.Talbert@McKesson.com) or by USPS

mailing to: Ms. **Barbara Talbert**, 8220 Chrisbry Lane, Charlotte, NC 28215. Thank you.

## *A New „Old Salt“*

By custom, the surface warfare officer with the earliest Officer of the Deck qualification is recognized as the Navy's "Old Salt" - an award initiated in 1988 by the Surface Navy Association.

On Dec. 16, that distinction was bestowed on Adm. **John Harvey**, commander of Fleet Forces Command, in a ceremony aboard the amphibious transport dock ship San Antonio at Naval Station Norfolk.

The current Old Salt is the recently retired Adm. **Mike Mullen**, who stepped back into civilian life Sept. 30 following four years as the nation's top military officer and 43 years of service. There was no interim Old Salt, according to Fleet Forces Command officials.

Harvey, who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1973, earned his OOD qualification on Oct. 11, 1977, aboard the nuclear-powered cruiser Bainbridge. He assumed command of Fleet Forces in July 2009.



*Here's the Old Salt, left, and the Old Salt-to-be back in 2005, when Mullen, then the chief of naval operations, promoted Harvey to vice admiral.*

### **Judy's Thought for the Day**

*"Just give me a happy ball club, and we'll be hard to beat."*

- **Billy Southworth**, MLB Hall of Fame Manager

- **Judy Robinson**, Associate Member, Kirkwood, Missouri

# To the Dream



**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

*By Roger O. Crockett, Guest Columnist*

It was January 1956, and a crowd of angry black men, women, and children milled outside Martin Luther King Jr.'s smoldering house in Montgomery, Ala. Many brandished broken soda bottles, .38-caliber guns, or knives, hungry for revenge after white extremists had hurled homemade bombs through a window endangering King's wife and 10-week old baby.

The humiliation of back-of-the-bus oppression and a nation's searing hostility had pushed them to the doorstep of violence. King faced the fiery throng, shaken but calm, and urged restraint. "I want you to love your enemies," he told them, persuading the crowd to reject violence that night. "We must meet hate with love."

Like no other leader, King was able to give America's conscience a voice. He demanded a better nation – one committed to breaking the back of racism without shedding blood.

King was a patriot, too. The black freedom struggle, he argued using references to the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, was nothing less than a way to an improved democratic republic. Such values touched white America. It became hard to disagree with his message.

A third-generation Baptist minister, King was born into a comfortable Atlanta home in 1929. Before earning a doctorate in theology from Boston University he became the 29<sup>th</sup> pastor of Montgomery's historic Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. It was there that King's words began to shape how the nation grasped its racial crisis.

King preached the night before he was assassinated in 1968. By then President Lyndon B. Johnson had signed the Civil Rights Act. The changes Martin Luther King helped set in motion ripple through America today – still work in progress.

*This column has appeared annually since 2003.*

## Official 2012



### Flag-flying Days

<b>January 1</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>
<b>January 16</b>	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>
<b>February 12</b>	<b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>
<b>February 20</b>	<b>President's Day</b>
<b>February 22</b>	<b>Washington's Birthday</b>
<b>May 13</b>	<b>Mother's Day</b>
<b>May 19</b>	<b>Armed Forces Day</b>
<b>May 28</b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>
<b>June 14</b>	<b>Flag Day</b>
<b>June 17</b>	<b>Father's Day</b>
<b>July 4</b>	<b>Independence Day</b>
<b>September 3</b>	<b>Labor Day</b>
<b>September 11</b>	<b>Patriot Day</b>
<b>October 8</b>	<b>Columbus Day</b>
<b>Navy Day</b>	<b>October 27</b>
<b>November 22</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>
<b>December 7</b>	<b>Pearl Harbor Day</b>
<b>December 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>

SOURCE: Disabled American Veterans, Cincinnati, Ohio





Nick Gardner

## The Thrill of Tybee Island: Then & Now

By Nick Gardner, QM3, ("D-"61)

*Savannah, Ga.*

With the upcoming ship's reunion to be held at Tybee Island, I thought I would share with you some of my experiences as a former resident of the Island.

We moved to Tybee, in the spring of 1988, and lived there until the spring of 1995, when we had to move because of our son's spinal cord injury. Tybee is a laid back island even today, but in 1988, the building explosion and sky rocketing property values had not yet struck.

Tybee is not a neon beach. It's the real thing.

Living on Tybee was remote to my work in Savannah, but living on the Island was well worth it. There was nothing like driving across that four or five miles of marsh in the evening to calm my nerves after a day's work as a railroad superintendent, and when I crossed Lazaretto Creek, I was in another world.

While crossing the bridge on a clear day, you could see across the mouth of the Savannah River as well as the shipping channel to Daufuskie & Hilton Head Islands. I think the year round residents back then numbered around 2,000.

### A Mayberry Touch

When we moved there, we referred to it as "Mayberry with a beach", and when a police car would go down Butler Ave., we would always say, "there goes Barney", in reference to Barney Fife. Tybee was also called the "Red Neck Riviera", and some still do refer to it that way.

The beach dunes back then were man-made from dredging, but have since built up nicely from very

effective snow fencing and other efforts. The new fishing pier was not built until after we moved.

Actually, the dunes in front of the Ocean Plaza Resort our HQ reunion location were not there then, and the beach was level with the parking lot, all the way out. Now the dunes come up to the level of the second story.

When we were living there, Tybee was quaint and everyone knew everyone else. At that time, we did not have house-to-house mail delivery, but a little post office down at the corner of Butler & Tybrisa St. where everyone had a post office box. That was the mail delivery system. A new and bigger post office was built shortly after we moved to Savannah.

The building restrictions will not allow anything over three stories high, over a parking area underneath. I recall someone built a house on the beach on the back side of the island, and there was a huge uproar from the neighbors. They finally named the street to the house "Too Tall Lane".



There were a lot of old houses and eccentric folks out there - but - we loved it, and rode our bicycles all over the island. Bikes are the preferred method of getting around, even today, for a more relaxed, beach attitude. As a point of interest, bikes can be rented for this purpose.

There were just a couple of places that were decent to eat a back then, and one of them was the World Famous Breakfast Club - an off the wall type place with great breakfasts. It was started and owned by a guy from Chicago, named Jodee Sladowski. He was picked to be one of the chefs at the **John F. Kennedy Jr.**, wedding down on Cumberland Island in 1996.

Newsletter readers, who have computers can Google the Breakfast Club, learn more about it and see the photos. It was only a couple of blocks down the street and we loved to go there.



### The Big Band Era

Tybee Island's glory days were in the 1920-30's, when it was the "in" place for the wealthy to hang out where the Big Bands, **Jimmy Dorsey**, **Glenn Miller** and others, played at the old Hotel Tybee and the pavilion on the old fishing pier which eventually burned.

*(Continued on Page 8)*

(Continued from Page 7)



This was our home, 1213 Butler Ave., on the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> & Butler which is one block from the beach. The old business district is on 16<sup>th</sup> St., (now Tybrisa) which was just a bunch of bars and hang outs back in those days, much like the "strip" outside the gate at N.O.B., Norfolk.

That area has now been revitalized with the new fishing pier and pavilion being built at the end of 17<sup>th</sup>. The whole island has built up - but - it is still quaint and laid back when compared to other beach areas.

Butler Ave. is the "main drag" and is the eastern terminus of U.S. Hwy 80.



At one time the tracks of the Tybee Railroad ran down the middle of where Butler Ave. is located. The trains turned in the area of the intersection of Butler Ave. and Tybrisa St.

There is so much history to explore on Tybee. The light house and what's left of Ft. Screven on the north end of the island, with the huge concrete bunkers, and with a museum located in one of them. The large old houses facing the ocean, known as Officer's Row, once housed the officers of Ft. Screven.

Those of you who will be attending the reunion in May will enjoy the town, the people, and the hotel. Joyce and I are looking forward to the reunion. It promises to be a memorable experience for "All Hands", guaranteed!

### 9<sup>th</sup> LST 1156 Reunion



May 16 – 19, 2012

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## Savannah Born Man-of-Music Johnny Mercer



Lyricist, composer and singer **Johnny Mercer** was born into the fourth generation of Mercers living in Savannah, Georgia.

His family's origins reached back into the colonial era, and he boasted links to the city's postbellum immigrant experience as well.

*"Johnny Mercer felt his greatest gift as a songwriter was the ability to catch the mood of a tune."*

- **Frank Sinatra**,  
Singer & actor

He had hit songs with **Bing Crosby** in the late 1930s, with **Jo Stafford** ("Candy") and on his own, especially "Accentuate the Positive."

On the radio he sang with **Benny**

**Goodman** and had his own shows, including "Johnny Mercer's Music Shop."

Greatly admired in the music industry both personally and for his intelligent, optimistic lyrics, he wrote or co-wrote over 1,100 songs, between 1920 and 1976 including "Blues in the Night," "That Old Black Magic," "One For My Baby," "Come Rain or Come Shine" (all with **Harold Arlen**); "Lazy Bones" and "Skylark" with **Hoagy Carmichael**; "I'm an Old Cowhand," "I Remember You," "P.S. I Love You," "Jeepers Creepers," "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby," "When a Woman Loves a Man," "Too Marvelous for Words," and "Fools Rush In."

Savannah's favorite son won Academy Awards for "The Atchison, Topeka and The Santa Fe" (1946, with **Harry Warren**), "In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening" (with **Hoagy Carmichael**), "Moon River" and "Days of Wine and Roses" (with **Henry Mancini**).

While Savannahian **Johnny Mercer** had the talent, Georgia provided the inspiration that made him one of America's most popular and successful songwriters of the twentieth century.



## Health 1



By **Beverlee Keels**, CMA (AAMA)

### Stave Off Kidney Stones

*Columbus, Ohio*

Around 5 percent of Americans endure the agony of kidney stones, according to Weill Cornell Medical College's *Food and Fitness Advisor*.

Unfortunately, having them once means there is a 50 percent chance you'll have them again. There are some unavoidable risk factors for kidney stones (e.g. age and male gender), but there are also dietary steps you can take to reduce your chances of stone formation.

Diets high in animal proteins, salt and sugar, and low in fluids are noted catalysts for kidney stone formation. Some research even suggests that obesity itself promotes stone growth.

Avoid salted snacks, pickled vegetables, and cured or processed meats to keep your sodium content – and your kidney stone risk – lower.

The overall biggest step you can take to combat kidney stones is simply to drink more water. Since dehydration is one of the most common factors in the development of kidney stones, drinking plenty of fluids helps keep your kidneys clear.

SOURCE: CMA Today

Associate Member **Beverlee Keels** is a Certified Medical Assistant at the Ohio State University Medical Center.

#### A SAVANNAH QUOTE

*"One of the most enchanting destinations in the United States, Savannah is adorned with extraordinary architecture, lush botanicals and charming city squares."*

- **John Berendt**, Author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil*

# FISCALLY FIT



By **Dave Bader**



## FY '12 Membership: 128

*Columbus, Ohio*

Membership renewals for Fiscal Year 2012 (6/1/2011 – 5/31/2012) are continuing. To date, we have 115 Regular Members, and 13 Associate Members who have renewed their individual membership dues.

Welcome Aboard to the following individual(s) whose memberships have been received since our last **Newsletter**:

#### Regular Members

- **Steve Brillhart**, QM3, (1/70-10/71) Kennett Square, PA
- **Lewis Fankell**, EM3, ("54-12/55), Grayson, KY
- **David Sturgeon**, EM3, ("64-"65), Haysville, KS
- **Chester Bentley, Jr.**, EN2, (10/54-4/58), Noblesville, IN

#### Associate Members

- **Sandra "Sammie" Malone**, Sullivan, IL  
*In memory of Richard D. Malone, YNT3, (, 55-, 58)*



**U.S. Navy's ongoing mission:**

**Maintaining the freedom of the seas.**

**"We"l never change our course . . ."**



## Bookshelf

### A Beguiling Portrait of Savannah



- *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, A Savannah Story*, By John Berendt, Random House, 1994, 356 pages



Review by **Pete DeWolf**, ET3, ("55-"57)

*Albuquerque, N.M.*

Recently, I mentioned to a friend that we are planning a visit to Savannah Ga. to attend my Navy reunion. He promptly suggested since I was going to Savannah, that I should read a book titled *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. I promptly ordered it from Amazon at a very reasonable cost.

This is a superbly written book. It is a delightful mixture of both humor and intrigue. My wife, Jean, and I couldn't put it down.

It seems the author (formerly the editor of "*New York Magazine*") found travel pricing quite reasonable during the early 1980's. He took advantage of this and visited numerous U.S. cities of interest to him.

In the course of these travels, he fell under the spell of Savannah, and moved there for a few years. Central to his story here is his acquaintance with Jim Williams, a Gatsby-like, newly moneyed antiques dealer, and Williams' sometime lover Danny Hansford, a "walking streak of sex" - a volatile, dangerous young hustler whose fatal shooting by Williams obsesses the city.

Other notable characters include Chablis, a show-stealing black drag queen; Joe Odom, cheerfully amoral impresario and restaurateur;

Luther Driggers, inventor of the flea collar, who likes it to be known that he has a supply of poison so lethal that he could wipe out every person in the city if he chose to slip it into the water supply; and Minerva, a black occultist who works with roots and whom Williams hires to help deal with what the antiques dealer believes to be Hansford's vengeful ghost.

Showing a talent for penetrating any social barrier, Berendt gets himself invited to the Married Women's Card Club; the rigidly proper Black Debutantes' Ball (which Chablis crashes); the inner sanctum of power-lawyer Sonny Seiler; and one of Williams' fabled Christmas parties (the one for a mixed group; the author opts out of the following evening's "bachelors only" event).

The imprisonment and trial of Williams, and his surprising fate, form the narrative thread that stitches together this crazy quilt of oddballs, snobs, sorceresses, and outlaws. The book is stylish, brilliant, hilarious, and cool-hearted.

I love the way the author describes his story characters. He says some of the names have been changed. That might explain why our shipmate Nick Gardner's name never came up.

He includes interesting facts about the city's history, giving insight into modern Savannah where the book has a noticeable presence in the city.

I understand the book is referenced at almost every tourist attraction. Additionally Mercer House, former residence of Jim Williams, has been transformed into a museum and replicas of the "Bird Girl" statue from the book's cover can be found throughout the city.

### **„The Book“ & the Movie**

In May of 1997 Warner Bros. turned the book into a movie directed by **Clint Eastwood**. The cast included **Kevin Spacey** as Jim Williams, **Jude Law** as Danny Hansford, **John Cusack** as the John Berendt character (renamed John Kelso), **Paul Hipp** as Joe Odom, **Jack Thompson** as Sonny Seiler (Seiler himself played the judge in the trial), **Irma P. Hall** as Minerva, and Eastwood's daughter **Alison Eastwood** as Mandy Nichols (a romantic interest of Odom in the book, of Kelso in the movie).

Playing themselves in the film were **Emma Kelly** and **The Lady Chablis**, and **Uga V**, the University of Georgia's bulldog mascot, played his sire.

*(Continued on Page 11)*

(Continued from Page 10)

Savannahians filled many minor roles and rounded out crowd and party scenes. Eastwood made good use of the tree-lined streets and historic squares, and several scenes were shot at Mercer House itself (Williams' mansion, built in the 1860s by Hugh W. Mercer, Johnny Mercer's great-grandfather).

The movie premiered in Savannah at the Johnny Mercer Theater on November 20, 1997, with **Kevin Spacey**, and **Paul Hipp**, with the **Lady Chablis** and local actors attending. The film opened nationwide the following day.

This is a great read for crime fiction/"faction" aficionados, as well as readers interested in old cities and the romance and mixed cultures of the deep South. But, if you're planning to come for our "T-bone" reunion, this is a must read. I should give a word of caution; the book does contain some "adult only" stuff!

That being said, this is overall a great read. I love stories that deal with multiple characters, and Berendt does a fantastic job of juggling their stories and personalities to give us a sense of the world they live in. It's amusing and dark, full of stories of blood and murder, scandal, death, parties and living the high life. I loved the book.

We have already made our reunion reservations, and can't wait to visit Savannah!

**Editor's note:** For reunion attendees who come in early, stay late or have a car for free time the Mercer House, the house where Jim Williams lived and Dorothy his sister currently lives, (shown below) is open for tours.

### The Johnny Mercer House



Photo by Nick Gardner, QM3



## Welcome to Tybee Island! Savannah's Beach

The LST 1156 Association's 9<sup>th</sup> Reunion is a drive 20 minutes east of Savannah, through a few miles of wide sky and salt marshes.

On this uniquely charmed island, nature lovers mingle with movie stars, bird watchers with good ol' boys. Pirate raids are regular happenings. There are parties of epic proportions and silent beach sunrises. And everyone on Tybee Island, from townie to tourist, watches out for the sea turtles.

There are miles of beach; forts and museums and a great old lighthouse; endangered birds and other animal species; kayaks and bikes to rent (along with all kinds of hotels, motels, cottage and condo rentals too).

Days on Tybee Island are as active, or lazy, as mood demands. Local galleries, shops and restaurants offer changes of pace and taste. And, of course, historic Savannah's nearby.

Tybee Island is the beautiful barrier island on the Georgia Coast that ancient Indians named "salt" ("duh bee" in the old Euchee tongue) - and a place you'll wish that you, too, had discovered long ago.



Savannah born **Johnny Mercer** wrote over 1,100 songs in his life, and nearly everyone can claim to know at least one of them.

The song *Moon River*, which he penned the lyrics to, is so popular, that it has been used as a test sample in a study on people's memories of popular songs.





## IN MEMORIAM

**William J. Adcock, II, EN3, USNR**  
1942 – 2011



The T-bone Association has learned of the passing of shipmate **William J. (Bill) Adcock, II, EN3**, ("62-"64), USNR, on July 23, in Charlotte, N.C. Bill, a Michigan native, was a member of the crew that participated in the Cuban missile crisis in October 1962. He also served aboard the USS Casa Grande (LSD 13) during his enlistment.

After his naval service he worked as a machinist at the New Britain Machine Company, a tool production company headquartered in New Britain, Conn. Following employment with New Britain Machine, he was employed with the Index Corp., a manufacturer of machine tools located in Stratford, Conn. During his employment with Index, the company relocated to Noblesville, Indiana, and he subsequently retired from their Noblesville plant. Bill loved his wife's cooking and enjoyed golfing, bird watching and reading.

Military burial will be at a later date at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Fla.

**Micheal D. McKinney, FN, USN**  
1945 – 2011



Shipmate and LST 1156 Association member since 2004, **Micheal D. (Mike) McKinney, FN**, (,66-,67) passed away at

St. Mary's Hospital in West Bloomfield, Michigan on November 5.

A native and life-long resident of Michigan, Mike joined the Navy Reserve in 1963 following graduation from high school. He attended boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois. He reported aboard the 1156 in January 1966, at Little Creek.

During his tour of duty on the T-bone he was assigned to the Engineering Division (Damage Control). The 1156 was his only duty station while serving in the Navy. Mike left the ship in December 1967, returned to his home state of Michigan, and was discharged in 1969 from the same Navy Reserve Station in Pontiac where he originally joined the Navy.

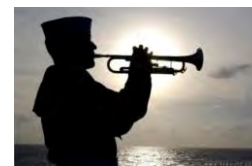
Following his discharge, he worked for General Motors in Michigan in a variety of positions, and retired from GM.

In his spare time, Mike enjoyed motorcycles, operating radio controlled models, collecting vinyl records, as well as being a musician.

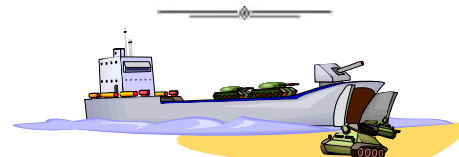


*Fair Winds and Following Seas*

*„Sounding Of „Taps“*



Once the first three notes of "Taps" are heard, they are recognized anywhere in the world. As the call is sounded in the evening, it tells the soldier; everything is safe, there are guards on duty, and all is secure.





An F/A-18D Hornet lands aboard the aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower, the first landing of an aircraft unmanned vehicle.

## „Hands-free“ Landing is a Step Toward Unmanned Naval Flight



*Submitted by Ralph "Eddie" Reynolds, FT3, ("68)*

*Bedford, Va.*

Are the days of "Top Gun" coming to an end?

Not yet. But the Navy moved a step closer to a new era of unmanned carrier-based aerial combat in July.

Aboard the Norfolk-based aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower off the Virginia coast, an F/A-18D Hornet, modified to emulate an unmanned aircraft, made its first carrier touchdown without a pilot's guiding hands.

The F/A-18D fighter jet was a stand-in for the X-47B, a bat-winged, fighter-sized unmanned aircraft under development by Northrop Grumman Corp. as part of the Navy's Unmanned Combat Air System Demonstration program.

The successful automated landing on the Eisenhower was "a very significant step" toward eventual use of unmanned drones on carriers, but it does not mean the end of manned naval flight is anywhere on the horizon, according to Navy officials.

The Navy's goal is to seamlessly integrate unmanned systems into the fleet. It's really in the

gaps - where it can complement manned assets and expand the Navy's capability in intelligence collection, surveillance and reconnaissance.

For instance, one of the gaps the Navy hopes to fill with drones is in long-duration flights that are beyond the capacity of a human crew.

Human pilots aren't going away anytime soon, but the dawn of unmanned naval flight portends a changing role for them.

The Navy is aiming to land the X-47B on a carrier in 2013.

SOURCE: Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

## First Navy Airship in 50 Years Unveiled at NJ Base



**LAKEHURST, N.J.** - The first Navy airship commissioned in 50 years had its public presentation last month in Lakehurst, the scene of so much history in lighter-than-air flight - and a center for its potential renaissance.

The MZ-3A is the Navy's scientific test platform for surveillance cameras, radars and other sensors, and won't be deployed outside the United States. But it's very significant as a return to an older technology, and there have been two years of testing to prove LTA [lighter-than-air] has a place in our military construct, according to Navy officials.

The airship is a modified A-170 built by the American Blimp Corp., capable of flying at up to 10,000 feet and cruising at around 50 mph. The Navy began the project in 2006 to use it as a flying laboratory.

The Navy's old lighter-than-air flight program at the Lakehurst naval air station ran from 1921 to 1962, when the last Cold War-era generation of blimps were decommissioned.

At more than 400 feet long, those ZPG-3W ships were twice the size of the Navy's new airship, and carried radar systems as part of the national early-warning network to watch for Soviet bombers approaching coastal cities.

SOURCE: Asbury Park, N.J. Press



By Ship "sHistorian **Rick Erisman**, RM3, ("70-"71)



## Archives Update

*Pittsburgh, Pa.*

As a volunteer and Navy veteran at the Heinz History Center in downtown Pittsburgh, I was asked to greet several navy reunion groups that were meeting here and touring the museum. They were shipmates of the USS Sproston (DD/DDE-577); USS Conway (DD-507); the Navy Aircraft Repair Overhaul Unit; and the USS Lloyd Thomas (DD/DDE-764).

This Veteran's Day I participated in the Avonworth Middle School's *Stars and Stripes: An American Story* (a current exhibit) experience class. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders listened to military veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam who brought artifacts from their service.

The students actively participated, by asking questions about the veterans' military service, and their wartime experiences. I was pleased to have been asked to participate in this year's program and learned that our young people have a keen interest in our military history.

At the center, I am also responsible for developing a military veteran database of history center volunteers who have served their country as a resource for future programs. This project has been both challenging and rewarding.

### A Short History of Tybee Island

In preparing to attend our 9<sup>th</sup> LST 1156 Reunion in Savannah/Tybee Island, I've done some historical research on the island, and wanted to share with you some interesting information that I came across that was developed by Katherine D. Ferreira, a local historian.

The origin of the name "Tybee", according to most historians, derives from the Native American Euchee Indian word for "salt", which was but one of the many natural resources found on Tybee.

Many flags have flown over Tybee. The first of which was Spain's. In 1520, Lucas Vasquez de Ayllon laid claim to Tybee Island as part of Spain's "La Florida" which extended from the Bahamas to Nova Scotia.

In 1605, the French were drawn to Tybee in search of Sassafras roots. The Spanish would fight the French in a naval battle just off the shore of Tybee Island to regain control over the area.

Spain would be forced to give up their claim to Tybee and other extremities due to superior French and British settlements.

In 1733, General James Oglethorpe and a handful of settlers came to the area. The first settlements were established on Tybee Island by Oglethorpe to check out water passages from the east.



**Tybee Island Light Station**

Tybee Island was considered extremely important to the development and future of Savannah and the colony because of its location at the mouth of the Savannah River. Tybee settlers built a fort at one of the settlements to insure control over access to the river, and Oglethorpe ordered a lighthouse constructed to mark the entrance to the river in 1736. That lighthouse station has been guiding mariners safe entrance into the Savannah River for over 270 years.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Tybee would again play an important military role in U.S. history. First Confederates occupied the Island. In December 1861, the Rebel forces would withdraw to Fort Pulaski under orders from Robert E. Lee. Union forces under Command of Quincy Adams Gilmore took control of Tybee and began constructing cannon batteries on the Westside of Tybee facing Fort Pulaski (a National Monument administered by the National Park Service) about one mile away.

On April 11, 1862 those cannon batteries would fire a new weapon called "rifled cannon" at Fort Pulaski and change forever the way the world protected its coastal areas. No one ever built a brick fort again after the battle, a turning point in military history.



# Personal Impressions

By Sue Carney, Ph.D.



## Blazer Athletics



*Frederick, Md.*

As a three-sport athlete in high school and a Division III college basketball player, my interest in sports has changed since I have become a faculty member (and, perhaps, older). I still exercise (although not nearly as much as I would like) to keep in shape and relieve stress, but my days as a participant in competitive sports are over.



Instead, I try to make time to see some of my students play games/matches on campus. I am happy to say that the athletic program at Hood has undergone a major transformation recently. When I started at Hood four years ago, I learned that people taking campus tours were often not taken to see the athletic facilities, and I soon understood why.

The gym and its equipment were mostly about 60 years old. The indoor pool and the basketball court were very small. The court was so small, in fact, that when Hood changed athletic conferences a few years ago, the basketball teams were not able to play home games on campus because the court did not meet the conference requirements.

Instead, the teams had to rely on generosity and complex scheduling at a local high school for a few years to have a „home“ court, and for the past two years, the teams played on a court at the gym of nearby Fort Detrick. This meant that everyone (players, coaches, spectators) had to go through

military security to get onto base to see their games. This was clearly not convenient.

While the women's volleyball team was able to compete in conference matches in the old gym, they had the unfortunate occurrence last year of a match cancelled midway due to rain – clearly the roof had some major leaks!



Our playing fields for the soccer, lacrosse, softball and field hockey teams were not much better, and our tennis teams had to play at courts in a park four blocks from campus. For the past few years, the administration worked to raise money for new athletic facilities.

## Our New Athletic Center



Last year, a new turf field, a revitalized softball field, and a fieldhouse were built and dedicated, and in early November, a brand new facility with a gym and an athletic center and many new pieces of weight-training and cardiovascular equipment opened.

Next summer, we will have six new tennis courts and a renovated outdoor pool as well. While all of this will be good for our athletic programs, it seems like it will be a great benefit to the college in general.

Other students, faculty, and staff will be more motivated to keep fit, and I think in general, we will look like a more attractive institution to prospective students.

The first men's and women's basketball home games in the new gym are on my schedule of games to attend – go Blazers!

*Dr. Sue Carney, is the daughter of deceased shipmate LT(jg) John Carney, former LST 1156 Engineering Officer ("68-"71). She is an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Biology & Environmental Biology at Hood College in Frederick, Md.*

# Celebrations!



## Birthdays

By **Terry Rowe, SK2**, ('59-'62)

*Dahlongegha, Ga.*

Here's wishing a **"Gator" Happy Birthday** to the following association members who are celebrating their special day during January, February or March this year:

### January

- **John Aller**, SHB3, ('64-'66), **Jan. 26**
- **Nick Gardner**, QM3, ('59-'61), **Jan. 31**
- **Gordon Robinson**, YN3, ('58-'62), **Jan. 1**
- **Ronald Robinson**, CSSN, ('58-'59), **Jan. 7**
- **John Stewart**, CS, ('71), **Jan. 1**
- **Larry Vandersnick**, EN3, ('62-'66), **Jan. 31**
- **Richard Wendelburg**, BT3, ('58-'62), **Jan. 23**

### February

- **Robert Bowers**, IC2, ('59-'62), **Feb. 8**
- **Charles Emrhein**, SH3, *Plankholder*, ('52-'53)
- **John Groff**, EN3, ('61-'65), **Feb. 2**
- **David Henk**, GM3, ('61-'64), **Feb. 28**
- **Fred Hubbard**, RM3, ('63-'66), **Feb. 4**
- **Ronald Raymond**, SK3, (, '65-, '67)
- **Fred Kraemer**, QM2, ('58-'62), **Feb. 21**
- **Joseph Lang**, LT(jg), ('61-'63), **Feb. 21**
- **Michael Macierowski**, EM3, ('61-'65), **Feb. 16**
- **George McClure**, LT(jg), ('55-'57), **Feb. 9**
- **Ronald Raymond**, SK3, ('65-'67), **Feb. 12**
- **Edward Ring**, HT2, ('69-'71), **Feb. 17**
- **Leonard Sobilo**, GMSN, ('55-'56), **Feb. 10**
- **Robert Woolsey**, BT2, ('59), **Feb. 27**

### March

- **David Belt**, ETN2, (, '69-, '71), **March 11**
- **Gary Benson**, YN2, (, '54-, '56), **March 15**
- **Ed Bulluck**, CAPT, SC, USN (Ret.) ('57-'59), **March 17**

- **Donald Devries**, EN3, (, '59-'63), **March 17**
- **Frank Edmunds, Jr.**, LCDR, CO (, '69-, '71), **March 17**
- **Joseph Klinger**, BM2 *Plankholder*, ('52-'55), **March 17**
- **Ed Lubin**, LT, SC, USNR, (11/58-5/60), **March 20**
- **Mike Murray**, LT (XO), (, '69-'71), **March 25**
- **James Pittman**, FN, (, '63-'65), **March 13**
- **Ralph "Eddie" Reynolds**, FT3, ('68), **March 5**
- **Colonel (Ret.) Frank B. Gregory**, TC, U.S. Army, **March 18**
- **Terry Rowe**, SK2, (, '59-'62), **March 29**

## Milestone Marked in Destroyer's Construction



**Bath Iron Works** held a keel laying ceremony last month to mark the completion of the first completed hull segment of the future Zumwalt in Bath, Maine.

The ceremony marking the "laying of the keel," is a Navy tradition dating to the days of sail, when the ship's keel served as the foundation of the wooden hull.

The low-slung Zumwalt will boast new technologies including a composite deck house, electric-drive propulsion and an unconventional wave-piercing hull. Displacing about 14,500 tons, the ship is 50 percent larger than current destroyers but will have half the crew thanks to automated systems.

The Zumwalt is the biggest Navy ship built in Bath since delivery of an oil tanker to the Military Sealift Command in 1984.

The late Adm. Elmo "Bud" Zumwalt, served on destroyers throughout World War II in the Pacific and was awarded a Bronze Star for valor at the Battle of Leyte Gulf. He also served in Korea and Vietnam before becoming the youngest chief of naval operations, appointed at age 49 by President Richard Nixon.

## Welcome to the Hostess City Of the South, Savannah!



By **Kristin Detwiler**, President,  
*Savannah Destination Management, LLC*

*Savannah, Ga.*

A jewel on the Georgia coast, Savannah once the state capital has been welcoming visitors since our founding in 1733. Voted just last year as one of the “Top Ten US Cities” by Conde Nast Traveler Magazine you will get to experience first-hand our great Southern Hospitality!

Savannah Destination Management is pleased to welcome the T-bone Association’s 9<sup>th</sup> LST 1156 Reunion to Savannah! It has been a pleasure to work with the association’s reunion director in planning the tours and activities that will showcase our beautiful city.

Our itinerary will begin on Thursday, May 17 with a visit to the Mighty Eight Air Force Museum. On January 28, 1942, fifty-three days after the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor, the 8th Air Force was officially activated in the National Guard Armory on Bull Street in Savannah, Georgia.

In 1983, Major General Lewis E. Lyle, USAF Retired, a B-17 veteran of 70 combat missions during World War II, began planning a museum along with other veterans. A highlight of the museum is The B-17 Bomber Airplane which is one of the two signature aircrafts housed at the museum.

Additional museum features include several aircraft display, an airmen memorial, B-17 gunner interactive exhibit, the Combat Gallery, and The Mission Experience.

A visit to Savannah would not be complete without a stop at Paula Deen’s, The Lady & Sons Restaurant. Many will recognize Paula from her two shows that have aired on the Food Network. Guests will enjoy a Southern Buffet Lunch in her world famous restaurant.

Our next stop will be the Ships of the Sea Museum housed in one of Savannah’s elegant historic homes built in 1819 for William Scarbrough. Mr. Scarbrough was one of the principal owners of the Steamship Savannah which was the first steamship to cross the Atlantic.

Guests will enjoy viewing the museum’s collections of ship models, paintings and maritime antiques from the great era of Atlantic trade and travel between England and America during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The museum also features a Historic Garden, one of the largest gardens in Savannah.

Finally on this experience guests will enjoy a mini-tour through the historic district home to stately Southern architecture and distinctive park-like squares.

On Friday, May 18 attendees will enjoy an exclusive tour of Hunter Army Airfield. Hunter Army Airfield combined with nearby Fort Stewart together provides an equipped and ready fighting force, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.

Our first stop on base is to hear the Command Briefing for the day. The tour will continue with a stop at the flight line for a look at the aircraft and to speak to the Crew Chiefs and Pilots.

Lunch will be enjoyed in the Mess Hall with soldiers that are currently stationed at the base.

The tour will continue on to the Coast Guard Air Station Savannah Post where guests will visit with the Air Station Pilots.

On Saturday, May 19 the group will make their way into Historic Savannah where we will board The Savannah River Queen a replica paddle wheeler of the boats that once operated upon the rivers of America.

As we enjoy lunch on board, we see Savannah from a different prospective. Here we will have a close-up view of Savannah’s shipping port, River Street and cruise by coastal marshland which puts the finishing touch on this delightful cruise.

I believe your itinerary touches on the many different areas of interest Savannah has to offer our visitors.

We look forward to welcoming you to Savannah and being with you as you reconnect with your shipmates and create wonderful memories during your annual reunion.





**- What's Ahead -**



***Ninth LST 1156 Reunion  
„A Southern Revival“***

**Wednesday, May 16, 2012**

**- LST 1156 Reunion Kick-off Event –  
Ocean Plaza Barbecue**

\*\*\*

**Thursday, May 17, 2012**

**Group Tour**

**Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum Tour  
Lunch: Paula Deen's Lady & Sons Restaurant  
Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum Tour**

\*\*\*

**Friday, May 18, 2012**

**- Business Meeting -**



**Group Tour**

**Hunter Army Airfield: Base & Flight Line Tour  
Command Briefing  
“Lunch with a Soldier” @ HAA DFAC  
After Lunch Tour: USCG Air Station Savannah  
Search & Rescue Demonstration**

\* \* \* \*

**\* Reception & Banquet Dinner \***

**Group Photos**

**Guest Speaker:  
Commander Timothy A. Tobiasz, USCG  
Commander USCG Air Station Savannah**

**Hunter Air Base Honor Guard**

\*\*\*

**Saturday, May 19, 2012**



**Riverboat Luncheon & Narrated  
Sightseeing Cruise aboard  
*The Savannah River Queen***

**Reunion Registration Deadline: 04/08/2012**

***Ninth LST 1156 Reunion HQ Hotel***

**SPECIAL REUNION RATES**



**Tybee Island, GA**

**Phone Reservations: 912.786.7777**

***For Group Rate Use:  
USS Terrebonne Parish (LST 1156) Association***

**Room Rates:**

**Inland View: \$89.00 + Tax/Night  
Ocean View: \$109.00 + Tax/Night  
(Rate(s) for 2 adults per room)**

- **Room Rates Includes Hot Breakfast Buffet for 2 adults**
- **Free On-site Parking**
- **Motor Coach Friendly**

**Hotel Reservation Deadline for Group Rate:**

**March 15, 2012**

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