



Est. 2002



Dave Bader – President
Bob Slovey – Secretary
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NEWSLETTER

Issue # 78

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New Home for T-Bone's Artifacts



By **Mart Black**, AICP, Associate Member

Houma, La.

The artifacts and memorabilia donated by the *USS Terrebonne Parish* (LST 1156) Reunion Association to Houma's Regional Military Museum (RMM) have been moved to a better and larger display case. The new display, which is multi-level and lighted, is the focal point of an area within the RMM dedicated to the T-Bone.

The new case was given to the RMM by Paramount Pictures as part of deal which involved the rental of other RMM military artifacts for a movie, *G.I. Joe II*, partially filmed in New Orleans. Upon arrival at the RMM, the case had to be re-assembled and re-wired by the T-Bone's curator.

The extra work was necessary because the case was partially disassembled for shipping.

Unfortunately, the move also damaged the case's electrical components. The size of the display case, several times larger than the original case which housed T-Bone memorabilia, allows more of the

ship's interesting artifacts to be displayed. In addition, the 3-ring binder, assembled by ship's historian **Rick Erisman**, RM3, and containing the ship's history is now displayed on a bookstand for easy viewing.

Visitors to the display can flip through pages of ship's history while standing next to many of the artifacts which make the T-Bone's history come alive.

Items currently moved to the new display case represent a broad array of memorabilia. Attached to the outside of the case (as you can see in the photo below) is the ship's brass plaque, boldly announcing that the items contained therein are from a once proud U.S. naval vessel named after Terrebonne Parish. This plaque was donated by LT (jg) **Monty Billings**. Also, shown above the case is the COMLANSHIPFLOT II logo.



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(Continued from Page 1)

Two items of particular historical value are the ship's Quarterdeck Clock, donated by **Don Muhleman**, FTG2, and repaired to full working condition at no charge by a local clock smith, **Steve Legendre** of CLOCK WORKS, and the Commanding Officer's napkin ring which was given to the ship's first commanding officer by Bath Iron Works, and subsequently handed down to each commanding officer in turn. The sterling silver napkin ring was turned over to the RMM by the T-Bone's last CO LCDR **Mark V.V. Nelson**.



In 18-24 months, perhaps, the RMM will open a new and expanded museum at its present site in Downtown Houma. Thanks to the generosity of voters in Terrebonne Parish, a small millage was passed in late 2010 which allowed bonds to be sold to pay for the expansion and provide the RMM with additional operating funds. With luck, the new RMM wing will be operational in time for the Association's next reunion.

The expanded facility will allow the Regional Military Museum and Foundation to more easily host patriotic programs and gatherings, accommodate an ever-growing collection of authentic military equipment, vehicles, memorabilia, and artifacts, and more prominently and proudly proclaim the region's military history and heritage of which the *USS Terrebonne Parish* (LST 1156) is a very important part.

New Items Added

Recent additions to the display case since the Savannah Reunion include the plaque presented to LCDR **Mark Nelson** by RADM **Griffiths**, USN, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern

Command at the conclusion of the Bita Grande Exercises in Panama Canal Zone, the T-Bone's last deployment in 1971 before decommissioning and handing over to the Spanish Navy.

Also added to the display were the 2008 mural dedication paperweight, the *Second Annual Reunion* commemorative mug, and the *9th Reunion* commemorative gift, the Travelware Tumbler with ship's, history and milestones in wrap-around printing format. They are pictured below.



WORTH REPEATING

"Always forgive your enemies - Nothing annoys them so much."

- Anonymous

~ *Suzanne Patzer, Ed.D, Columbus, Ohio*



On July 4, 1776, the thirteen colonies claimed their independence from England, an event that eventually led to the formation of the United States.

Each year on July 4th, also known as Independence Day, Americans celebrate this historic event.

Conflict between the colonies and England was already a year old when the colonies convened a Continental Congress in Philadelphia in the summer of 1776. In a June 7 session in the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall), Richard Henry Lee of Virginia presented a resolution with the famous words:

“Resolved: That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.”

Lee’s words were the impetus for the drafting of a formal Declaration of Independence, although the resolution was not followed up on immediately.

On June 11, consideration of the resolution was postponed by a vote of seven colonies to five, with New York abstaining.

However, a Committee of Five was appointed to draft a statement presenting to the world the colonies’ case for independence.

Members of the Committee included John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Robert R. Livingston of New York and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia. The task of drafting the actual document fell on Jefferson.

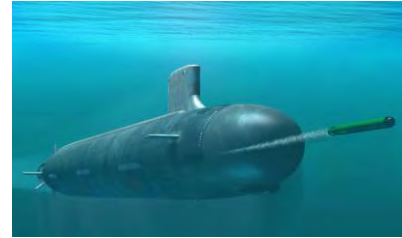
On July 1, 1776, the Continental Congress reconvened, and on the following day, the Lee Resolution for independence was adopted by 12 of the 13 colonies, New York not voting. Discussions of Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence resulted in some minor changes, but the spirit of the document was unchanged.

The process of revision continued through all of July 3 and into the late afternoon of July 4, when the Declaration was officially adopted. Of the 13 colonies, nine voted in favor of the Declaration, two – Pennsylvania and South Carolina – voted No, Delaware was undecided and New York abstained. John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence.

It is said that John Hancock signed his name “with a great flourish” so England’s “King George can read that without spectacles!”

We reprint this historical message about the origin of the Declaration of Independence each July in recognition of July 4th.

5 Virginia-class Subs Named for States

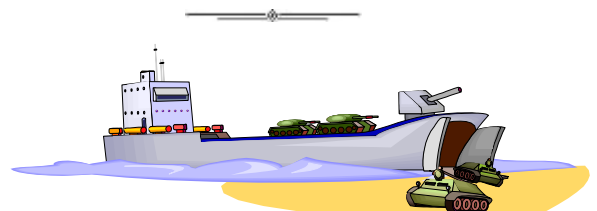


The Navy announced the names of the five latest Virginia-class attack submarines, all named for states, according to a Navy news release issued last month. Two of the selections carry forward names of World War II battleships distinguished in combat.

The names are:

- Illinois for SSN 786. The second ship to bear the name of the state where every enlisted sailor attends boot camp upon joining the service.
- Washington for SSN 787. Third ship to have that name, which honors the Navy bases around Puget Sound, the third-largest fleet concentration area, the press release said.
- Colorado for SSN 788. Third ship to bear that name. Second ship was a battleship that took part in the Tarawa invasion.
- Indiana for SSN 789. Third ship with that name and named for state where the Naval Surface Warfare Center is based.
- South Dakota for SSN 790. Third ship with that name. Second ship was a battleship that “fought extensively in the Pacific theater during World War II,” the release said.

SOURCE: Navy Office of Information



New VA Form Available for Ordering Veterans' Grave Marker Medallion

By **Don Snyder**, YN3, Guest Columnist
USS CAMBRIA (APA 36) ('55-'57)

Anderson, Indiana

Shipmates – a subject we all regret to face is death. As military people, the Department of Veterans Affairs offers programs sometimes not known by all. For example, a recent news release by the VA outlines a revised process for families of deceased veterans to receive a medallion which can be affixed to grave markers at private cemeteries that indicates the Veteran status of the deceased.

“This new form streamlines the ordering process, making it easier for families to order the medallion,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “The families want everyone to know that their loved one was a Veteran. We should help them do that in any way we can.”

Previously, families ordered the medallion using the form to order a government headstone or marker. VA has introduced a new form – VA Form 40-1330M – for use solely to order a medallion. The older form, VA Form 40-1330, remains in place to order a traditional government headstone or marker.

The medallion is a device furnished in lieu of a traditional Government headstone or grave marker for Veterans whose death occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. Under federal law, eligible Veterans buried in a private cemetery are entitled to either a government-furnished grave marker or the medallion, but not both.

The medallion is available in three sizes: 5 inches, 3 inches and 1 ½ inches in width. Each bronze medallion features the image of a folded burial flag adorned with laurels and is inscribed with the word “Veteran” at the top and the Veteran’s branch of service at the bottom.

Next of kin receive the medallion, along with a kit that allows the family or the staff of a private cemetery to affix the medallion to a headstone, grave marker, mausoleum or columbarium niche cover.

The medallion is available only to Veterans buried in private cemeteries without a government

headstone or marker. Families of eligible decedents may also order a memorial headstone or marker when remains are not available for interment.

More information about the medallion or headstones and markers can be found at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmorder.asp>. To download the VA Form 40-1330M, Claim for Government Medallion, go to <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-1330M.pdf>.

VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. Nearly four million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict - from the Revolutionary War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan -- are buried in VA's national cemeteries on more than 19,000 acres.

Veterans with a discharge issued under conditions other than dishonorable, their spouses and eligible dependent children can be buried in a VA national cemetery. Other burial benefits available for all eligible Veterans, regardless of whether they are buried in a national cemetery or a private cemetery, include a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone, grave marker or medallion.

Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from the VA Web site on the Internet at www.cem.va.gov or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.

Army Museum Unveils Honor Wall

The Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, North Carolina recently unveiled its Medal of Honor wall. The wall features the names of 73 individuals who were assigned to airborne or Special Forces units when they were awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for gallantry in combat.

For more information, visit the Airborne and Special Operations Museum website at www.asomf.org/.





The Count

Michigan Alum Can't Find the Plate

We did some minor league baseball research recently and came up with the following Associated Press article about LT **Ed Lubin's**, one game appearance in the 70s with the Class A Salinas (Calif.) Packers.



In his playing days at the University of Michigan, he had better stats than he did in this outing. Only posting one loss in his senior year to arch-rival Ohio State University Buckeyes.



Four-ball Lubin. Making a pitch for a local baseball team was a project KDON(AM) Salinas, Calif., took literally when it put its general manager, Ed Lubin, on the mound as starting pitcher for the Class A Salinas Packers in their game against the league-leading Bakersfield, Calif., team. Mr. Lubin, who had a 21-1 pitching record as a student at the University of Michigan, was signed to a one-day, \$1 contract by the Packers as part of an audience-promotion stunt that offered a color-TV set to the fan who could guess how many pitches the broadcaster would make before being relieved by a pro. Four turned out to be the winning number as Mr. Lubin sent the first batter on an instant walk to first base and was himself waved to the dugout. The Packers' contract with Mr. Lubin wasn't a total loss. Attendance at the game was 1,400, biggest in August.

Away All Boats



The Birth of the LCVP

By Don Snyder, YN3, Guest Columnist
USS CAMBRIA (APA 36) ('55-'57)

Anderson, Indiana

Higgins boats, almost forgotten, are now being brought back to life by dedicated individuals. Some of them served on Higgins PT boats and landing crafts, but others are being restored by people that know about the true story of what Higgins Industries did for the world. These pleasure crafts and military vessels are very rare and fall deep into the heart of their restorers.

Andrew J. Higgins had a vision, a drive, a passion that kept him going through good times and bad. Born in Columbus, Nebraska in 1886, he had a love for boats that would last him all of his life. A tough man that developed some of the first work boats that could navigate commercially in shallow waters, named Eureka "tunnel drive" vessels.

After moving to New Orleans (the hub of the world), a port where it made naval shipping possible, Higgins Industries was born. Higgins wooden boats developed quite a reputation for their toughness in the Southern climate. They were very effective in the swamp waters of Louisiana.

Andrew Jackson Higgins and Higgins Industries grew from being a small Southern boat company to owning and operating seven large plants, employing 30,000 employees at one point in thier operation. During WWII, Higgins Industries was the largest producer of landing craft and PT boats for this country, even blocking off city streets in New Orleans to build those boats that our country so desperately needed.

So many ideas and so many inventions came from Higgins Industries that we take for granted today. Higgins Industries not only built PT boats and landing craft, but also trained naval officers and personnel how to use their boats.

(Continued on Page 6)

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During the war, Higgins Industries was awarded the largest government contract during WWII to produce assault craft that would ensure our country's efforts in winning the fight.



Higgins military craft were fast and the design of the LCVP (Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel) allowed our troops to be dropped onto the beaches of Normandy, Omaha, Juno and other places that naval vessels had a difficult time in doing so.

Higgins Industries employed some of the greatest people - people dedicated to the cause of winning the war.

In Jerry Strahan's book, *Andrew J. Higgins and The Boats That Won WWII* President Eisenhower was said to have referred to Andrew J. Higgins as "the man who won the war for us". Higgins boats were the perfect vessel for the war front.

They were not only transportable, but could be broken down and reassembled in just a number of hours. There was no need to pre-soak the hulls and waiting for them to swell up before use.

Congress has recently commissioned a Gold Medal of Honor for Andrew Jackson Higgins to recognize the efforts of all the workers and his work during the war. Higgins pleasure craft were designed after their Big Brothers the PT boats.

If you have the opportunity to see a Higgins at a boat show, you will know it when you see it. They are different with their left hand steering, floor accelerator pedals (one of Higgins trademarks) and their shift levers on the columns, just as you would find in an automobile.

There are only about 200 Higgins pleasure craft left, so if you see one, consider yourself lucky. They drive different, they look different, they are beautifully designed and well thought out, not just an inexpensive plywood boat put together, but one that was built by the many hands that also built the Landing Crafts and PT boats during the war.

We had lots of LCVPs on the Cambria, and I can safely say from experience that you have never been seasick until you rode in, and got sick in, a Higgins Boat.

No Well Deck on New Assault Ship Tripoli

One of the Navy's newest amphibious ships, the Tripoli (LHA 7), a big-deck assault ship for the Navy and Marine Corps, to be built at Huntington Ingalls' shipyard in Pascagoula, La., will be an aviation-centric assault ship.

The new ship will be doing away with the floodable well deck found in other LHA and LHD assault ships in order to provide more room for aircraft.

Tripoli will displace 45,000 long tons on a length of 844 feet and beam of 106 feet. In addition to a crew of 1,059, berthing will be provided for 1,687 Marines, and the ship will be powered by a gas turbine propulsion plant. The ship will operate F-35B Joint Strike Fighters, MV-22 Osprey tilt rotors and the full range of Marine Corps helicopters.

Delivery of Tripoli is scheduled for June 2018.

After Tripoli, the Navy will return to building assault ships fitted with well decks to operate small craft and amphibious vehicles.

Source: Navy Office of Information



The new big-deck assault ship Tripoli will not feature a well deck, allowing more space for aircraft and aviation facilities.

10th LST 1156 Reunion



Annapolis - Baltimore, Maryland

September 2013

IN MEMORIAM

Sam Portelli, SN **1937 – 2011**



We have just learned of the death of **Samuel “Sam” Portelli, SN**, ('57-'60), who passed away in August 2011 in Fair Lawn, New Jersey.

Sam was born in New York, and resided in northern New Jersey. He attended Fairleigh Dickinson University, and served on board the LST 1156 from May 1957 to March 1960 in the Deck Division.

Sam, a *Plankholder* member of the T-Bone Association since its inception in 2002, attended many of our reunions during his active membership, including our 2010 event held in Las Vegas.

He will be deeply missed by all of his former shipmates, officers, and LST 1156 Association members.

Survivors include his son Robert, daughter Rosemarie, and two grandchildren.

A memorial gathering to honor Sam's life took place in Fair Lawn on August 19, 2011.

Leroy (Roy) Wood, EN3 **1939 - 2012**



Leroy “Roy” Wood, EN3, ('58-'59), passed away April 15, 2012 at Hospice House, North Jackson, Ohio. Roy was born in Youngstown, Ohio.

He served as an Engineman Third Class in the Engineering Division of the LST 1156 from 1958 to 1959. In his civilian career, Roy worked in the maintenance department at GM Lordstown, Ohio complex for over 30 years. He built Street Rods and participated in many street rod events. Roy was also a "Jack of all trades."

He was an Eagle Scout and a lifetime member of the Boy Scouts of America.

Roy, a member of the T-Bone Association since 2005, attended our fifth and sixth reunions at Pensacola and the Great Lakes.

He will be deeply missed by all of his former shipmates, officers, and T-bone Association members.

Roy leaves his wife, Rachel; three daughters; two sons; twelve grandchildren and two great-children.

Memorial services were held on April 19, 2012 followed by a Mass of Christian Burial, in North Jackson.



The LST 1156 Association mourns the passing of our shipmates and friends.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Unisex Cover as Push for ‘Gender-blind’ Fleet



The fleet is planning to test unisex headgear for both officer and enlisted uniforms, eliminating different covers for men and women.

Male and female sailors may soon wear the same hats - both “Dixie cups” and the combination covers worn by chiefs and officers.

Navy uniform officials are preparing to test this premise, and whether female sailors should wear the same blue crackerjacks as their male peers, as part of the Navy's latest push to make female sailors fit in better.

The test starts this summer, when women with the ceremonial guard and the Fleet Forces and Pacific Fleet bands will wear Dixie cups and combo covers at performances, according to a Navy official who requested anonymity to discuss policy not yet final.

After the shift to winter uniforms, they will wear blue crackerjacks instead of the suit like service dress blues women now wear, the official said. In August, female Naval Academy midshipmen and band members will take part in the hat trial.

By January, when the tests are expected to wrap up, roughly 1,050 women - sailors, chiefs, officers and mids - will have taken part in the trial, according to Navy officials.

SOURCE: Navy Office of Information

Personal Impressions

By Sue Carney, Ph.D.



Frederick, Md.

I always envisioned myself as a college professor at a primarily undergraduate institution, and while I have reached that goal, Hood also has some master's programs that have given me the opportunity to supervise graduate student projects.

Our Environmental Biology Master's program, like all of our graduate programs, is a part-time program with courses offered in the evenings. We cater in particular to students who are working full time. Many of them are teachers, looking for an increase in pay and to gain material/ideas for their courses, and others are career changers, looking to transition from one field to another.

Students in our program must choose either the thesis or independent project (pretty much a 'mini-thesis') option along with the required coursework to complete their degree.

I was initially excited at the prospect of being at a college with a master's program, because I saw it as a potential way for me to keep my research progress moving readily along. I soon learned, though, that part-time students do not work very fast. Because most of them do have full-time jobs and families, the time that they have to devote to research is extremely limited; some students take as long as six or seven years to complete all of their degree requirements.

However, in our department, we do have three full-time graduate assistant positions. Students who are accepted to be graduate assistants receive a tuition waiver in exchange for being a teaching assistant for one of our introductory level lab courses each semester, and they receive a stipend so that they can focus on being a graduate student full-time.

Two of the graduate assistants who started three years ago ended up deciding to work on projects in my areas of expertise, and so I became the advisor to both of their thesis projects.

Both students have worked on projects that required a lot of troubleshooting, and it took them a long time to get over some hurdles. However, both have eventually done so and have spent the past semester wrapping up their analyses and writing their theses.

It has been interesting to be on the other side of this process, because I feel like it was not too long ago that I was in their shoes. We have gone back and forth with many drafts, and finally, both of them have gotten to the point where their other thesis committee members and I agree that they are ready to defend.

One student will defend this week, and another will defend within a month. At this point, the defense is really just a formality, because they have each been put through the rigors and they know their material better than anyone else.

Assuming they give good presentations and handle questions from the audience and the committee well, they will soon earn their degrees. Then, both students will need to focus their attention on submitting a manuscript for publication before they each head to different doctoral programs in North Carolina.

Surely that will bring many more rounds of revisions, but when the whole process is complete, it will be a win-win situation all around; they will have their first scientific publications, and I will have another couple to add to my dossier.

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

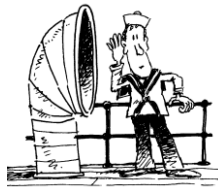
Judy's Thought for the Day

"Every time you subtract a negative from your life you make room for a positive."

- Anonymous

- Judy Robinson, Associate Member
Kirkwood, Missouri

T-BONE TALK



Cutting-edge Destroyer is Biggest ever Built for Navy



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



The Zumwalt, shown in the rendering above, is the Navy's next-generation destroyer, an enormous, technology-laden warship that is an important part of the U.S. Asia-Pacific strategy.

Bedford, Va.

An enormous, technology-laden warship that some Navy leaders once tried to kill because of its cost is now viewed as an important part of Navy's Asia-Pacific strategy, with advanced capabilities that the Navy's top officer says represent the Navy's future.

The stealthy, guided-missile Zumwalt that's taking shape at [Bath Iron Works](#) is the biggest destroyer ever built for the [U.S. Navy](#).

The low-to-the-water warship will feature a wave-piercing hull, composite deckhouse, electric drive propulsion, advanced sonar, missiles, and powerful guns that fire rocket-propelled warheads as far as 100 miles. It's also longer and heavier than

existing destroyers - but will have half the crew because of automated systems.

The 600-foot-long ships are so big that the General Dynamics-owned shipyard spent \$40 million to construct a 106-foot-tall building to assemble the giant hull segments.

The first, the Zumwalt, will be christened next year and delivered to the Navy in 2014.

According to Navy officials, the ship fits perfectly into the new emphasis on bolstering the U.S. military presence in the Pacific in response to Asia's growing economic importance and China's rise as a military power.

The Zumwalt's new technology will allow the warship to deter and defeat aggression and to maintain operations in areas where an enemy seeks to deny access, both on the open ocean and in operations closer to shore, the Navy says.

The Zumwalt's 155 mm deck guns were built to pound the shore with guided projectiles to pave the way for the Marines to arrive in landing craft, and they're far more cost-effective in certain situations than cruise missiles, said [Eric Wertheim](#), author of the "[Naval Institute's Guide to Combat Fleets of the World](#)."

Down the road, the ship could one day be equipped with an electromagnetic railgun, a powerful weapon that uses a magnetic field and electric current to fire a projectile at several times the speed of sound.

Production will stop after three ships, and the Navy will go back to building tried-and-true [Arleigh Burke](#)-class destroyers, 510-foot-long ships featuring a versatile Aegis radar system that's being modified for ballistic missile defense. Even with modifications, the ships will cost far less than the Zumwalt-class ships.

SOURCE: [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#)

10th LST 1156 Reunion

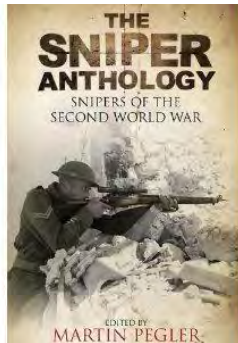


Annapolis - Baltimore, Maryland

September 2013



Bookshelf



- **SNIPER ANTHOLOGY:** *Snipers of the Second World War*, edited by **Martin Pegler**, Penguin Books, 2011, 256 pages

Review by **John Tonkin**, LCPL, USMC ('54-'58)
TRAEX 1-56 (LST 1156 1/56 – 3/56)

Dayton, Ohio

Revered by some as the ultimate warrior and condemned by others as ruthless assassins, the combat sniper is more than just a crack shot. This collection of biographies, written by leading military historians, explores the careers of the top snipers of World War II.

Snipers are highly disciplined, calm professionals skilled in marksmanship, reconnaissance, and camouflage. During World War II, these lethal fighters were deployed by both sides to deadly effect. Because they were condemned as cold-hearted killers who took lives without risking their own, sniper veterans often concealed their wartime duties. However, modern snipers, and those of the past, are recognized today as representing the peak of combat skills.

The remarkable stories of ten combat snipers of the Second World War are told by military men aptly skilled to do so. Drawing on firsthand accounts that have never been published, the authors supply details of their subjects to give graphic insight into each sniper's skill.

As well as providing incisive technical information, authors offer a glimpse of the character and personality of their chosen snipers, giving them a human face. The list of snipers includes World War II's most accomplished fighting figures such as Finland's Simo Häyhä; Germany's finest shooter, Sepp Allerberger; Russia's famed Vassili Zaitsev

and Lyudmila Pavlichenko; and America's Bert Kemp.

The stories detail the bitter cold in which Eastern Front snipers Zaitsev and Allerberger often fought; the stinking, steaming jungles where Japanese snipers lost their lives atop palm trees; tales of personal revenge that drove Pavlichenko; how Häyhä applied his skills as a moose hunter and skier to become World War II's deadliest sniper; and how West Tennessee farmer Bert Kemp used his amazing ability for precision and almost supernatural marksmanship to become one of America's unsung heroes.

These gripping, in-depth narratives go beyond the cursory treatment in existing histories and are essential reading for anyone wanting to learn about the role and technique of the sniper during the Second World War.

Say Can You See



Students of the new Air Force Rifle/Carbine Qualification Course take a moment to adjust their rifles so that they can sight the weapons with gas masks at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., June 12, 2012. The new course focuses on firing while moving, target recognition and operating in a chemical warfare environment.

Visit Our Website



www.tbone1156.com



Fort Worth Completed Months Ahead of Schedule



Completed two months ahead of schedule, the second littoral combat ship built by Marinette Marine Corp. was turned over to its U.S. Navy crew June 6.

Resembling a high-tech version of a Civil War era ironclad, at least from the front, the 377-foot vessel known as the LCS-3 Fort Worth is part of the Navy's new wave of ships designed to patrol close to shore - the meaning of littoral.

The Fort Worth will be used mostly within 200 miles of shorelines to neutralize pirates, mines and other threats.

The key feature is the ability to switch quickly from one combat mode to another. Switching equipment modules can transform the ship from a mine- or submarine-hunter to a surface war vessel, for example.

A conventional ship of the Fort Worth's size would carry a crew of about 200, with 11 to 14 needed on the bridge. But littoral combat ships require only a 44-member crew, including just three on the bridge.

All hands, including officers, are cross-trained to do multiple jobs, including washing their own laundry and helping with ship maintenance.

Crew members have a high level of experience, which is important given the shared responsibilities.

The crew will undergo about 60 days of training before they take the Fort Worth to its commissioning in Galveston, Texas. The Fort Worth will be based in San Diego.

The Living quarters are nicer than on larger Navy vessels, with private bathrooms and double, rather than triple, bunks.

Two crews will alternate four-month tours of sea duty.



FISCALLY FIT

By Dave Bader

FY '13 Membership: 119

Columbus, Ohio

Membership renewals for Fiscal Year 2013 (6/1/2012 – 5/31/2013) are underway. To date, we have 106 Regular Members, and 13 Associate Members who have renewed their dues. Welcome Aboard to the following individuals whose memberships have been received since our last

Newsletter:

Regular Members

- **Gary Benson**, YN2, (12/54-9/56)), Hudson Falls, N.Y.
- **Charles Snyder**, QM3, ('3/59-1/62), Dallastown, Pa.
- **Stephen Kopchik, III**, SN, (12/60-9/62), Seymour, Conn.
- **Donald Howell**, LT(jg), Engineering Officer ('67-'69), Bohannon, Va.
- **Lewis Fankell**, EM3, ('54-12/55), Grayson, Ky.
- **Frank Edmunds, Jr.**, LCDR CO (9/69-1/70), Ocala, Fla.
- **Richard Broyles**, SH3, (1960), Mena, Ark.
- **William Spivey**, BM3, (10/64-1/66), BMC, USN (Ret.), USN, Cocoa, Fla.
- **Thomas "Monty" Billings, Jr.**, LT(jg), ('67-'70), Naples, Fla.
- **Ronald Raymond**, SK3, (9/65-10/67), Orlando, Fla.
- **Ed Goerling**, FT3, (8//52-7/56), Plankowner, Naperville, Ill.
- **John Aller**, SHB3, ('64-'67), Palm Harbor, Fla.
- **E. Wayne Smith**, DK2, (9/70-8/71), Fuquay-Varina, N.C.
- **Leonard Sobilo**, GMSN, ('54-'56), Hamburg, N.Y.
- **Peter DeWolf**, ET3, (1/55-9/57), Albuquerque, N.M.
- **James Elder**, EM3, ('57-'59), Garden Grove, CA
- **Chester Bentley, Jr.**, EN2, (10/54-4/58), Noblesville, IN



'AHoy - NOW HEAR THIS'

Archives Update

This Year in History

By Ship's Historian **Rick Erisman**, RM3, ('70-'71)



Pittsburgh, Pa.

To commemorate the celebration of our *Tenth Anniversary* as an Association 2002 -2012, here is an updated history of our association.

The USS Terrebonne Parish (LST 1156) Association was formally organized in 2002. It currently has a paid membership of 140, which includes former officers and crewmembers, in addition to former Marine Corps personnel, family members of deceased shipmates, and associate members from the external community.

The first annual reunion was held in Norfolk, Va. April 9-13, 2002; the second annual reunion was held in Houma/Terrebonne Parish, La., April 30-May 3, 2003; the third annual reunion was held in Charleston, S.C. April 21-24, 2004; the fourth annual reunion was held in San Antonio, Texas April 13-16, 2005; the fifth annual reunion was held in Pensacola, Fla. April 26-29, 2006; and the sixth and final annual USS Terrebonne Parish (LST 1156) Association reunion was held in the Great Lakes, Ill. May 9-12, 2007.

Association members voted to hold reunions on a biennial schedule beginning in 2009. The *Seventh Reunion*, the first biennial event, was held in Norfolk, Va, May 13-16, 2009, the site of our *First Annual Reunion* in 2002. The *Eighth Reunion* was held in Las Vegas, Nev., September 15-18, 2010. The *Ninth Reunion* was held in Savannah, Tybee Island, Ga., May 16-19, 2012.

The *Tenth Reunion* is scheduled to be held in Annapolis-Baltimore, Md. during September 2013.

A ship's Historical Interpretive Plaque was presented May 2, 2003, during the *Association's*

Second Annual Reunion, to the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government in Houma, Louisiana for permanent display in their government offices. A gold-framed *Proclamation and Gold Key to Houma-Terrebonne* was presented to the Association by *Parish* President, **Robert Bergeron** and *Council* Chairman-District 7, **Clayton Voisin**.

On April 23, 2004 a framed photo of the ship, the ship's official plaque, along with all signatures of former *LST 1156* officers and crewmembers in attendance became a permanent addition to the Charleston Clarion Hotel's *Military Hall of Fame* display. The Clarion Hotel became a Ramada Inn on July 1, 2006 and military reunion plaques are now displayed in its *Military Hall of Honor*.

On April 14, 2005, a Memorial Plaque was dedicated to the *USS Terrebonne Parish (LST 1156)* in the Plaza of the Presidents at the National Museum of the Pacific War, Admiral Nimitz State Historical Park, Fredericksburg, Texas.

On May 9, 2007, a watercolor painting of the *USS Terrebonne Parish (LST 1156)* entering Malta harbor during the 1958 Mediterranean cruise was donated by **Gordon Robinson**, YN3 ('58-'62). Gordon commissioned artist **J. Everett Draper** to paint the watercolor from a photograph.

The painting was presented June 18, 2007 to **C.J. Christ**, President and Chairman of the Board, of the Houma Regional Military Museum to be displayed in the "Navy" section to further extend the ship's legacy in its namesake parish.

In extending the legacy of the *LST 1156* to current and future generations, the *Association*, including members and friends of the *Association* commissioned that a mural of the ship be prepared in the ship's namesake *Terrebonne Parish*. The mural, completed in 2005 on the wall of the Mardi Gras Bingo Hall by artists, **Hans Geist** and **Elisha Gomez** provides a permanent visual memory of the *LST 1156* underway. A 3-D metal mast and flag atop the wall completes the mural.

The mural was dedicated October 24, 2008 with shipmates and associate members, residents, friends and local officials attending. Local media provided TV and newspaper publicity.

On January 2, 2008 the inventory of 128 historical ship's archives and memorabilia that were donated by shipmates were sent to the Regional Military Museum in Houma/Terrebonne Parish, La. for display. A new multi-level, lighted display case was given to the Museum by Paramount Pictures in May 2012 thanks in large part to the efforts of **Mart Black**, *AICP*, *Associate Member*.

Health 1

Listen to the Music



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

Columbus, Ohio

Music may soothe the savage beast, but it also invigorates the docile mind. Reading, playing, and listening to music can have a number of positive effects on your brain.

Reading and singing can help increase your brain's auditory and language-processing functions, and playing an instrument boosts reaction speed and manual dexterity.

In addition, music can improve symptoms of several health problems:

- **Pain.** Patients who listened to music while recovering from hernia or varicose-vein surgery reported less pain than a control group of patients who did not in a trial involving 182 patients.
- **Parkinson's Disease.** Rhythmic music can help patients move around more easily. In addition, patients who participated in music therapy after knee replacement surgery experienced less depression.
- **Stress.** Mellow music can reduce blood pressure, stress, and heart rate after surgery.
- **Insomnia.** In a study of 30 older adults, listening to soft music for 45 minutes before bed improved sleep time and daytime drowsiness.



Whatever your preference, put on your favorite tune and see your mood – and your health – lifted.



Once a Marine

USMC General Named Influential Female Athlete

The first woman to command the Marine Corps' legendary recruit training facility in Parris Island, S.C., was honored last week in Washington, D.C., alongside the likes of **Tina Fey**, **Queen Latifah** and **Ellen DeGeneres** as one of 40 influential women who participated in high school or college athletics.

Brig. Gen. **Lori Reynolds**, who played basketball at the U.S. Naval Academy during the early 1980s, took command of the Corps' East Coast recruit depot in June 2011. Her military career includes stints as commander of the 9th Communication Battalion and later as commander of the I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The event, held June 21 at the JW Marriott hotel in Washington, marked 40 years since Congress enacted Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972.

The law requires institutions receiving federal funding to provide equal opportunity to women and men. That includes access to academic and extracurricular activities.

Reynolds graduated from the academy in 1986.

The other service member honored was Coast Guard Rear Adm. **Sandra Stosz**, the first female superintendent of a U.S. service academy. She served as co-captain of her high school track team and as a member of the school's sailing team.

Other honorees include journalists, doctors and government employees.



Brig. Gen. **Lori Reynolds** played basketball at the U.S. Naval Academy during the early 1980s.

Say a Little Prayer



By **Paula Johnson**, *Historian*

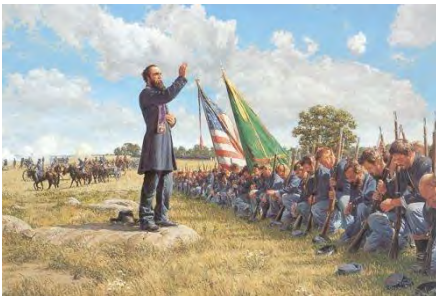
Columbus, Ohio

Faith brought great comfort during the Civil War. The role of the Chaplain was to provide comfort and spiritual well-being during a time of great stress.

The position, however, was a rather precarious one in that there was no uniform, rank or insignia and regulations were, at best, vague. Most chaplains were unsure of their duty; there was no training and little supervision.

Initially, the position was only open to white, male, ordained, Christian clerics. In 1862, Jewish rabbis were accepted and black clergy in 1863. A female minister, **Ellen Gibson Hobart**, was adopted as chaplain by the 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery, although her application was never approved by the Department of War. She would eventually be paid for her service - in 1876.

Chaplains were considered non-combatant, and per general orders on both sides, were granted immunity and were released, if captured.



Their main focus was to perform non-sectarian religious duties, on and off the battlefield. In addition to the obvious: Sunday services, prayer meetings, confessions, last rites, blessings before battle, comforting the wounded and burying the dead. They also assumed the role of nurse, surgeon's assistant, stretcher bearer and water carrier - often under heavy fire.

Back in camp, the chaplain was responsible for the welfare of the men in his charge, and also maintained a library of religious and popular volumes. He organized entertainments such as

literary societies, lectures, spelling bees, chess tournaments and musical recitals. While not occupied with writing letters to the families of the dead and wounded, or teaching the illiterate and keeping regimental records, he might be found digging wells and latrines, foraging for food and commandeering shelter for the sick and wounded. His was a vocation which requires flexibility, perpetual energy and total devotion to duty.

A uniform was eventually approved: a black captain's frock coat and trousers and a black hat and epaulets which were embroidered with gold crosses.

The average pay (Union) was \$100 per month and also included daily rations, fodder for his horse, tentage, allowance for stationery and uniform. In the south, the chaplain's pay was \$75 - with few additional benefits.

Approximately 3,700 Americans served as Chaplain (2,400 USA - 1,300 CSA); Methodist and Presbyterian were the most common affiliations. 97 chaplains received special commendations, including four Medals of Honor; four members of the clergy were promoted to the rank of general (one USA - three CSA). Twenty chaplains were killed in action (11 USA - nine CSA); with 105 non-combat deaths (73 USA - 32 CSA).

Only one Navy chaplain died in battle: **John L. Lenhart** perished on board the *USS Cumberland* (the next Navy chaplain would die on the *USS Arizona* at Pearl Harbor).

Confederate chaplain and physician, **John P. Richardson** of the 4th Mississippi would die as a Prisoner of War at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio.

My husband (Eric) and I took a trip to Camp Chase to see if we could find Dr. Richardson.

Here is the result of that trip:



Celebrations!



Birthdays

Compiled by **Terry Rowe, SK2**, ('59-'62)

Dahlgonegha, Ga.

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

July

- **Richard Broyles, SH3**, (1960), **July 7**
- **Denis Carter, EMC**, ('69-'72), **July 30**
- **David (Gene) "Cranny" Cranford, BM3**, ('68-'71), **July 20**
- **Gary Crossland, RM2**, ('57-'59), **July 27**
- **James Gilbert, SM2**, ('66-'69), **July 29**
- **Rodger Harris, CS3, "Harry the Cook"**, **July 18**
- **Clair "Dutch" Hinderliter, SK3**, ('59-'62), **July 22**
- **Richard Kunz, SN** ('66-'67), **July 26**
- **Stan Okin, RM3**, ('55-'56), **July 20**
- **Raymond Pfeiffer, RM3**, ('70-'71), **July 1**
- **Robert Rackleff, PN3**, ('65-'67), **July 12**
- **William Spivey, BM3**, ('64-'66), **July 31**
- **Charles Vores, CSSN**, ('63-'65), **July 17**

August

- **Ronald Bloss, GM3, Plankholder**, ('52-'55), **August 23**
- **Jerry Bolmarcich, BM3**, ('52-'55), **Plankholder, August 6**
- **Robert Swisher, FN, Plankholder**, ('52-'54), **August 16**
- **Harold Templet, PN2**, ('70-'71), **August 1**
- **Andrew Vyniski, FN**, ('62-'63), **August 12**
- **Carlton Warner, GMSN**, ('57-'60), **August 2**
- **Leslie Wise, EN3**, ('59-'63), **August 10**

September

- **Jim Adams, LT (jg), 1st LT**, ('70-'71), **Sept. 19**

- **James Baker, BM3**, ('61-'64), **Sept. 30**
- **Mike Brost, EN2**, ('63-'67), **Sept. 13**
- **Peter DeWolf, ET3**, ('55-'57), **Sept. 4**
- **Rick Erisman, RM3**, ('70-'71), **Sept. 23**
- **Robin Horn, BT3**, ('58-'61), **Sept. 9**
- **Frank Jarema, ENS**, ('59-'60), **Sept. 15**
- **Stephen Kopchik, III, SN**, ('60-'62), **Sept. 14**
- **Alan Miller, RD3**, ('62-'65), **Sept. 21**
- **E. Wayne Smith, DK2**, ('70-'71), **Sept. 25**
- **Richard Swisher, LT(jg)**, ('61-'64), **Sept. 10**

Dempsey Serenades the Coast Guard



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. **Martin Dempsey** appreciates the hardworking men and women of the Coast Guard so much, he thanked them...in song.

At the 8th annual Tribute to the Coast Guard on June 12 in Washington, D.C., Dempsey broke into a rendition of **Frank Sinatra's** "My Kind of Town," replacing the lyrics with "This is my kind of team, the Coast Guard is, my kind of team, the Coast Guard is, my kind of people too, people who always come through."

He began the performance with a request for audience participation, stating "At some point in this song, you will pick up on the chorus and I will point to you. And you better deliver because I'm the chairman," jokingly threatening "Don't make me take your crest off my coin!"

This isn't a first for Dempsey, who also performed "New York, New York" at a combat karaoke night at the Baghdad airport and "Christmas in Killarney" with the First Armored Division's band in Germany, last December.



- What's Ahead-



Tenth LST 1156 Reunion

Wednesday

- LST 1156 Reunion Kick-off Event –

Thursday Date TBA

Group Tour

Tour: U.S. Naval Academy

Lunch: Officers Club

USNA Museum Tours

USNA Gift Shop

Friday Date TBA

- Business Meeting –

Group Tour

Star Spangled Tour: Ft. McHenry

Lunch:

Baltimore on the Inner Harbor

Historic Ships Tour:

USS Constellation

USS Torsk (SS 423)

USCG Taney

LV 116 Chesapeake

*** Reception & Banquet Dinner ***

Group Photos

Guest Speaker: TBA

Naval Support Activity Color Guard

Saturday Date TBA

**DC Military Tour: World War II, Korean and
Vietnam Memorials**

Reunion Registration Deadline: Aug. 1, 2013



Fiscal Year '13

'Recruit, Retain, Reclaim!'



FY '13 (6/1/2012 - 5/31/2013)

Annual Dues (\$25.00)

Send to:

Dave Bader

Membership Chair (Acting)

102 St. Andre

Worthington, OH 43085

Checks payable to:

USS Terrebonne Parish (LST 1156) Association



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Rev. George Fox, FT3, Chaplain**

**Nick Gardner, QM3, E-mail Coordinator
Rick Erisman, RM3, Historian
Mark Allen: Webmaster - *Red Bank Web***