

PIPELINE



of the USS CALIENTE ASSOCIATION

Late Fall Issue

December 2006



Hello Shipmates

I have a lot of news in this edition and there are a few things I need each of you to do. I need your response.

First of all though I want to wish all of you and your families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

I have some member's email addresses. I am emailing this Pipeline to each of the addresses I have. If you have an email address and you don't receive this through your internet service provider, that means I don't have your email address. Please send it to me, so I can email the next one. By emailing the Pipeline, we can cut down on the printing costs. There is a form to fill out in the back of this newsletter.

The other reason I need your response is that we are ordering a Caliente T-shirt for each one in the Association. Please fill out the form and send it back. If you have email, you can email the information to me. I will order the shirts in January, so please let me know ASAP.

Please remember, your USS Caliente Association dues are payable each year and due by January 15th. Please send your \$10.00 check payable to the Caliente Association to Pat Hurton, 14075 Kelsey Drive, Chico, CA 95973, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Wishing you all the very best. **Norm Street**

Norm Street sent a web address with a really nice Christmas Card. For those of you that can, go to this site and check it out; <http://ecard.ashland.edu/2004admission/index.html> Thanks again Norm.

In the last Pipeline I made two significant errors. People's names are very important to me and I made a mistake on two of them. The names in the group photo are all correct except for Paul Jacob's name. It should be Jacob, without the s. It was my error because I approved the proof submitted by the photographer. Please accept my apologies, Paul. In the roster, I misspelled Hal Osucha's name. It was spelled Ouscha. My apologies to you Hal.

I want to thank **Pat Hurton** and **Norm Street** for all their hard work and dedication. You guys are GREAT.

I received word that **Boyd Lenker** died. Boyd served on the Caliente from 1945 to 1946. Our condolences to his wife Betty.

We have more new members and returning members.

New Members: Welcome Aboard

William Hatzell, CS2, 1965 to 1968. He lives with his wife Brenda in Colorado Springs, CO.

James (Jim) Locke, Ltjg, 1971 to 1973. He lives with his wife Judith in Port Orange, FL.

Robert C. Cooper, SN, 1949 to 1950. He lives in Tulsa, OK.

Dennis A. Murphy, LT, 1972 to 1973. He lives with his wife Penny in Doylestown, PA.

Clyde Lafferty, GM3, 1958 to 1961. He lives in Silsbee, TX.

Joe Guthrie, BM3, 1963 to 1967. He lives in Water Valley, TX.

James LaDieu, ENC, 1968 to 1969. He lives in Clearlake, CA.

Kenneth Gilstrap, SN, 1954 to 1946. He lives with his wife Mildred in Bonham, TX.

Harold Daum, MM1, 1961 to 1965. He lives with his wife Christine in Granite City, IL.

Morris Woodburn, SN, 1950 to 1952. He lives with his wife Marjorie in Kearney, AZ.

Lynn Vanderham, HMC, 1960 to 1962. He lives with his wife Pat in Miami, OK.

Erich E. Stafford, HM2, 1955 to 1956. He lives with his wife Barbara in Winchester, KY.

Jed Stone, BT3, 1964 to 1966. He lives with his wife Virginia in Salt Lake City, UT.

Michael Dromboski, MMC, 1943 to 1946 (Life Member). He lives with his wife Elizabeth in Trenton, NJ.

Larry Holcombe, E4 1969 to 1971. He lives with his wife Kay in Greenville, SC.

Returning members: Welcome Back

Ken Murphy, EMC, 1968 to 1970. He lives with his wife Mitsuru in San Diego, CA.

Lyle Hand, QM3, 1955 to 1956. He lives with his wife Faye in Phoenix, AZ.

Wailen (Red) Bennett, FT3, 1961 to 1962. He lives with his wife Ann in Fillmore, CA.

Robert McGowan, MM2, 1962 to 1966. He lives with his wife Christine in Castle Rock, WA.

We received another \$25 donation from **Cynthia Lange**. Thank you for your generous contribution.

From **Norm Street**

I spoke with **Dale Hunt** - SM2 today and in July of this year he went to see his doctor with what he thought was some chest congestion. Long story shortened, they could not find anything wrong, but admitted him to the hospital for tests. On July 8, 2006 while he was in the hospital an artery to the heart ruptured. There was a surgical team at the hospital just finishing up another surgery and immediately opened him up for surgery and saved his life. As you know when this occurs if you are not already in the hospital you will die or be a vegetable for life. So our latest miracle man is Franklin Dale Hunt. He is doing great and has no ill effects from this.

We have two web pages now. The original one put together by Norm Street at: www.usscalienteao-53.com And the new one put together by me at: www.usscaliente-ao53.com . For those of you that can, please check them out to make sure the information is listed correctly. and give me some feedback. I would certainly appreciate it. I will be updating the new web page periodically, so check it out occasionally.

Reunion [News](#):

I had hoped to take a trip to Charleston, SC and scope out our next reunion. I have not been able to do that, but my friend Rusty Pickett is doing a great job of making the necessary arrangements. I hope to go in late February or early March and get a first hand look before I write the March Pipeline.

Rusty is a retired Navy Captain and a Master Cruise Counselor. He is the guy that arranged the Alaska cruise after the Seattle reunion. Rusty has started a web page for our reunion. For those that have internet access, go to <http://www.shellbackcruises.com/caliente.htm> . The page is being updated as the reunion arrangements are being made. There will be a sign-up sheet in the March Pipeline for those that don't have a computer.

I explained to Rusty that we wanted our reunion as close to downtown Charleston as possible. He asked if we were ready to pay \$200 to \$300 per night for a room. To make a long story short, our reunion will be at the Holiday Inn, Mt. Pleasant, SC. This is across the river from Charleston. This hotel hosts many military reunions every year and they have a good reputation. The reunion will start on Thursday, October 18 and end on Sunday October 21, 2007. The room rate is \$84.00 for Thursday and \$114.00 for Friday and Saturday. There will be an optional Dinner Cruise on Thursday evening, a bus tour of Charleston on Friday morning, a BBQ Friday evening and the usual Banquet on Saturday evening. Arrangements and costs are still being worked out. All the final details will be published in the March Pipeline. For those of you that can attend, start making your plans now. All arrangements including the hotel are to be made through Rusty Pickett. More info in March.

There are a lot of things to do in Charleston. Other tours are being considered. The Holiday Inn is a short distance from Patriots Point, a large Naval and Maritime Museum. The aircraft carrier, USS Yorktown, the destroyer USS Laffey and the submarine USS Clamagore are some of the vessels at the museum. Stay tuned for further information.

The following was sent to me by Captain Bob Jackson

(The diary of an attractive young lady):

DEAR DIARY . DAY ONE

I am all packed and ready to get on the cruise ship. I've packed all my pretty dresses and make-up. I'm really excited.

DEAR DIARY . DAY TWO

We spent the entire day at sea. It was beautiful and we saw some whales and dolphins. What a wonderful vacation this has started to be. I met the Captain today and he seems like a very nice man.

DEAR DIARY . DAY THREE

I spent some time in the pool today. I also did some shuffle boarding and hit some golf balls off the deck. The Captain invited me to join him at his table for dinner. I felt honored and we had a wonderful time. He is a very attractive and attentive gentleman.

DEAR DIARY . DAY FOUR

Went to the ship's casino . did OK ... won about \$80. The Captain invited me to have dinner with him in his state room. We had a luxurious meal complete with caviar and champagne. He asked me to stay the night but I declined. I told him there was no way I could be unfaithful to my husband.

DEAR DIARY .. DAY FIVE

Went back to the pool today and got a little sunburned. I decided to go to the piano bar and spend the rest of the day inside. The Captain saw me and bought me a couple of drinks. He really is a charming gentleman. He again asked me to visit him for the night and again I declined. He told me that if I didn't let him have his way with me he would sink the ship. I was appalled.

DEAR DIARY . DAY SIX

I saved 1600 lives today... Twice.

Please fill out this form and mail it to:

Bob Howard

2674 Buena Vista Ave.

Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2547

Name: _____

T-shirt size: _____

Or e-mail it to: rhoward328@aol.com

If you prefer, you can call me at 925-939-3662 and give me the information or leave a message.

Here is an article of interest

William A. Retz, Rear Admiral USN (Ret)

Veterans Saluting

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

Veterans Saluting

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rear Admiral S. Frank Gallo, USN (Ret)