

USS Caliente Association



PIPELINE

December 2008

President's message

Hello Shipmates,

Let me introduce myself. My name is Pat Hurton and I was elected President of the Association at the business meeting of the San Antonio reunion. After serving as President and Pipeline editor since late 2002, Bob Howard decided to take a much needed break from both positions. Bob has done an excellent job in fulfilling the roles of President and Pipeline editor for the past five reunions but chose not to run for office again. Norm Street was elected Vice President (Norm has volunteered to continue to head our recruiting team), William (Red) Ward has volunteered to take on the Secretary's position and Karl Seitz has volunteered to be the Pipeline editor. I have been the treasurer since late 2002 and will continue in that position until someone is elected to the job.

The Reunion

The reunion at San Antonio was very successful. We had over sixty persons attend, including a dozen shipmates who attended a reunion for the first time.

On Thursday we had registration and a reception for all hands. I want to thank Brady and Irene



A smaller version of this picture of the USS Caliente (AO-53) is used in the Pipeline masthead with the permission of Dan Davis, who took it during the 1971-72 WestPac deployment of the USS Arnold J. Isbell (DD-869). For more pictures of the Caliente during the same Unrep, visit his Web page www.ussarnoldjisbell.com/ussarnoldjisbell/71westpac4/71westpac4.htm

Martin and Warren and Bobbie McGee Froscheiser for giving up their time to assist in preparations and for providing some of the goodies for the reception. I'm sure those of you who attended will agree, that with the additional participation of our members, the reception was an enjoyable evening for all of us. We hope to take this experience and build on its success for the next reunion reception.

Friday saw most of the shipmates and spouses board a bus for a tour of San Antonio and Fredricksburg, Texas. In Fredricksburg we were able to visit the Nimitz Museum, the George Herbert Walker Bush Museum and the Museum of the Pacific. Interspersed in these activities were lunch and the all important shopping opportunities in this historical Texas town. After returning from Fredrickburg, there was time to rest up before our reunion banquet. The banquet is usually scheduled for the Saturday of the reunion weekend but, due to scheduling conflicts with the host hotel, it was decided Friday was the better choice.

At the banquet we recognized Larry Baker, Bob French and Brady Martin for the fiftieth anniversary of their having served on the Caliente. A lone sailor statue (from the Navy Memorial) was presented to each. We also recognized John Creedon, Chuck Howell, Merle Kersten and J.C. Van Duesen for having served during World War II. John Creedon and Merle Kersten served on the Caliente during WWII.

Unfortunately missing were two of the Association's founding members and regular reunion attendees Joe Benziger and his wife Jo and Bob LeGacy and his wife Nancy. Both served on the Caliente during WWII but had other commitments and could not attend. Both have expressed their regrets at not being able to attend and send their best wishes to all shipmates. Another noticeable absence was Ann Murphy. Her husband Francis was also a founding member of the Association and Ann usually attends in remembrance of Pappy who was also a WWII vet on the Caliente. Her son Tim, his wife Rita and daughter Kelly were able to attend and represented Ann well.

At the dinner Bob Howard was presented with a special plaque and Lone Sailor statue for his dedication and service to the Association. Billie Kersten provided some of the entertainment with her fine singing voice as did John Creedon. Susan Street, Carolyn Jacob, Norma Vallejo and the Murphy ladies provided dancing entertainment throughout the evening including the Macarena and Electric Slide dance instructions. After dinner shipmates and wives continued to enjoy our DJ and all were invited to complete the evening in the Hospitality Suite.

On Saturday morning we held our business meeting (minutes follow) and then it was free time for shipmates and their wives or a continued tour of San Antonio, one of the local missions and the San Antonio Shoe Factory (SAS Shoes). The day seemed to fly by. A lot of shipmates and their wives spent time on San Antonio's River Walk. It is a great place to amble around, shop for trinkets or dine. There is entertainment in the evening and it provided a very pleasant place to relax.

Sunday morning consisted of shipmates and wives saying farewell to each other and wishing each other well until the next reunion that will be held October 1 through 4 in Minneapolis, MN. Preliminary information is contained on the USS Caliente website at www.usscalienteao-53.com. Please make your comments and or suggestions to either myself or Norm Street. We are trying to provide what you desire and will consider all suggestions. The more inputs we get the more we can satisfy our member's desires.

Welcome Aboard to our new members:

Fred Bryarly, who lives with his wife Elizabeth in Northridge, CA, was an E4 when he served on the Cal from 1956-1958.

Ed Cameron, who lives with his wife Elizabeth in Park Ridge, IL, was an LTJG when he served on the Cal from 1969-1972.

Jerlon Dolihite, who lives with his wife Linda in Castleberry, AL, was an E4 when he served on the

Cal from 1970-1973.

O. Dean Goodrich, who lives in Missoula, MT, was an MM2 when he served on the Cal from 1965-1967.

Frank Kleier, who lives with his wife Joann in Villa Hills, KY, was an E3 when he served on the Cal from 1972-1973.

Meredith Lawson, who lives with his wife Deborah in Rapid City, SD, was an MM2 when he served on the Cal from 1966-1967.

Jose (Marty) Martinez, who lives with his wife Rita in Pomona, CA, was an F1 when he served on the Cal from 1952-1954.

Ray (Herc) Otremba, who lives with his wife Gail in Rosemount MN, was a BM3 when he served on the Cal from 1969-1971.

Daniel Morrison, who lives with his wife Miriam in San Antonio, TX, was an MMC when he served on the Cal from 1969-1971.

Vincent Nolan, who lives with his wife Meredith in San Francisco, CA, was an E4 when he served on the Cal from 1970-1972

Martin Pellerin, who lives with his wife June in Bakersfield, CA, was a Lt when he served on the Cal from 1970-1972.

Thomas Pledge, who lives in Saudi Arabia, was an RD2 when he served on the Cal from 1955-1956.

Dixon Reed, who lives in Rouge River, OR, was a DC3 when he served on the Cal from 1964-1967.

Jerry Spedowski, who lives with his wife Nancy Kay in Big Rapids, MI, was a CS3 when he served on the Cal from 1962-1964.



USS Caliente Association
President: Pat Hurton
Vice President: Norm Street
Secretary: Red Ward
Pipeline Editor: Karl Seitz



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

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

Association dues are \$10 per year due Jan. 1, payable by Jan. 15. Checks should be made out to The USS Caliente Association and mailed to Pat Hurton, 14075 Kelsey Drive, Chico, CA 95973-9262.

Visit Norm Street's Caliente Website at www.usscalienteao-53.com/index.htm

In Memoriam:

We are sad to note the passing of our shipmates;

Alfoe Giacometti, 81, served on the Cal in 1946 as an E3. Alfeo was a retired contractor who was born in Pennsylvania and passed away in Portsmouth, VA on October 17, 2008. Alfeo is survived by his wife of 59 years Mary.

Jerald S. Hodges, 76, served on the Cal in 1955 as a DK3. Jerald was a farmer in Sikeston, MO and later worked as a parts manager for a farm implement company. Jerald passed away in Leesburg, FL on October 18, 2008. Jerald is survived by his wife of 49 years, Peggy.

Request for pictures:

Amanda Duvall, daughter of Thomas Nigro, is asking for assistance from his former shipmates. Thomas, who passed away in 1985, served on the Cal about 1966-67. Amanda wants to know if any members have cruise book or other pictures of Thomas that they would share with her. Amanda's e-mail address is arnigro43@hotmail.com or pictures can be sent to me, Pat Huron, 1407 Kelsey Drive, Chico, CA 95973-9262 and I will take care of it. If any member has a cruise book and can't just copy any pictures, we would be extra carfeul about returning it to them.

Dues:

Please remember that annual dues are due 1 Jan. 2009. The dues remain at \$10 per year. Please submit them to USS Caliente Association, c/o Pat Hurton, 14075 Kelsey Drive, Chico, CA 95973-9262. If you don't know what year you are paid through, call or e-mail.

USS Caliente Association Minutes – 2008 Business Meeting 11 October 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Howard at 8:00 AM. 32 members were present.

Old Business: No old business to discuss

Treasurer's Report: Pat Hurton gave the treasurer's report (at end of these minutes). There is a balance of \$11,190.38 in the Association's checking account.

New Business:

Proposed revisions to the Association By-Laws:

Bob Howard read two emails reflecting comments received on the proposed revisions to the Association's By-Laws. Pat Hurton responded that he had already discussed the comments with the party submitting them and that the party was satisfied with Pat's response and had no further questions or comments.

John Creedon made a motion to accept the By-Laws as proposed. Discussion was then held on the motion. Larry Baker noted that the proposed revisions do not include the definition of a quorum. Larry

proposed: For the purposes of conducting business, a quorum shall be the presence, at the business meeting, of the majority of the member in good standing attending the reunion.

After discussion Pat Hurton called for the question and a vote was held. The motion, as amended by Larry Baker’s suggestion, was voted on and passed. (The revised bylaws can be found at the end of this newsletter.)

Site of the next reunion:

The floor was opened to suggestions for the next Association reunion site. Norm Street suggested Minneapolis, Minnesota, John Creedon suggested the Norfolk, Virginia area, Ron Hengl suggested Chicago, IL and Merle Kersten suggested somewhere in the region of Rapid City, South Dakota.

Discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of the various sites and a vote was held on all the suggested locations. Minneapolis, MN received 25 votes. 25 votes were the plurality of the votes and Minneapolis, MN was selected as the site of the 2009 reunion. The exact dates were left open.

Election of Officers:

Pat Hurton volunteered to be the new President. Norm Street volunteered to be the new Vice President. Pat Hurton volunteered to act as Treasurer until a replacement can be found. Norm Street recommended Bill “Red” Ward as the new Secretary.

Bob Howard made a motion to accept the volunteers by acclamation. All were elected by acclamation.

Other Business:

Discussion was held regarding the position of Pipeline editor. Norm Street recommended Karl Seitz for the position. Pat Hurton supported the recommendation. As this is an appointed position no vote was necessary.

There being no other business to discuss a motion was entertained to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM

Treasurer’s Report

Opening Balance 10/15/2007 \$8,883.29

Expenses

Memory Books - 2007 Reunion	\$1,143.68
USS Caliente Rosters	\$570.75
Pipeline	\$1,573.68
Treasurer's Costs	\$490.47
USS Caliente Patches/Rocker	\$615.87

USS Caliente Sympathy Cards	\$270.66
Awards for Members	\$604.00
Bank Charges	\$16.00
Total Expenses	\$5,285.11

Income

Renewals	\$2,680.00	
New Members	\$2,128.00	
Donations - Navy Memorial	\$539.00	
Donations - General Fund	\$265.00	
Shellback Cruises - 2007 Reunion	\$668.09	
Reunion Late Payment	\$355.00	
Subtotal Reunion Income		\$1,023.09
Sale of Hats (\$500 paid in 2007 for hats)	\$738.35	
Interest on CD	\$218.76	
Total Income	\$7,592.20	
CD - Renewal 9/22/08	\$4,593.02	
Cash	\$6,597.36	
Total Balance 10/11/2008	\$11,190.38	

Editor's message

by Karl Seitz

Pipeline editor

Welcome to the latest incarnation of the Pipeline. As the new editor, allow me to introduce myself and ask for your help in creating the Caliente Association newsletter that is envisioned by your elected officers and myself.

First to the introduction. Like all of you or a relative, I served on the USS Caliente. I reported to the ship in early fall 1961, while it was undergoing an overhaul in Long Beach, Calif. I was straight out of boot camp in San Diego. I was assigned to Second Division. I left the Caliente in July 1964 as I neared the end of three years active duty. The ship had recently returned to Long Beach from Portland, Ore., where it underwent a major modernization. By that time I was Personnelman Second Class, working in the Ship's Office as part of X Division. In between, I also served a stint as Operations Department yeoman. We made two cruises to Westpac during my time, 1962 and 1963.

After I left active duty, I moved to Birmingham, Ala., for what I thought would be only my college years. Instead, while still attending Birmingham-Southern College, I began a 37-year newspaper career that ended when the Birmingham Post-Herald ceased publication in 2005. It was the smaller of the city's two daily newspapers but had also been, until about 10 years before it was purchased and closed by the competing newspaper, the second largest newspaper in Alabama. At that point I retired. For more than 30 of those years, I was the newspaper's chief editorial writer and editorial page editor.

I met my wife, Pat, while we were students at Birmingham-Southern. We have been married 38 years

so far. We have one son. He, his wife and our three grandchildren (ages 10, 7 and less than three months) live in Huntsville, Ala.

Now to the Pipeline. When I was persuaded to take this job, I accepted it as an editor. That means I'm not supposed to be writing very much. Instead, I will be taking the material submitted by you and your association officers and transform it into newsletters such as the one you are now reading. The more contributors we have, the better the newsletter will become.

President Pat Hurton and other officers will, of course, be using the Pipeline to provide information to members. However, we want this publication to be a forum where you share your memories of life on the Caliente with your shipmates and other readers along with catching them up on what has happened to you in the years since.

I know some of you are saying to yourself, I can't write. I heard that from a lot of newspaper readers over the years. Most of them were wrong. They could write well enough to make their points to other readers. All they had to do was try. You can, too.

Don't worry about all the rules and nitpicks that English teachers love. Just write as clearly as you can about the memory you want to share. As your editor, I can correct the few grammatical errors that make any real difference, including spelling. I can also tighten your prose if it rambles too much or is too long. But I can't do that if you don't submit it.

If you use e-mail, please send your memories to seitzao53@gmail.com. For those who don't use e-mail, submissions should be sent to Karl Seitz, 1212 30th St. South, Birmingham, AL 35205-1910.

We want pictures, too. Although I can convert other formats, jpeg pictures are preferred via e-mail. For postal submissions, please send a copy, not the original print. I can return the copy after I scan it if you wish.

Our membership covers the entire time the Caliente was in commission. Surely there are lots of stories just waiting to be shared. For example, here are three I've found the outlines of in various Internet searches. On 26 Jan. 1947, the Caliente tied its anchor chain in a knot while anchored near Terminal Island in Long Beach. That merited a brief mention in Time magazine. In June 1958, a team of sailors from the Caliente won the annual Dragon Boat race in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. And on 9 Oct 1963 the Caliente and the USS Nereus (AS-17) collided off the California coast during an Unrep exercise. If you were involved in any of those incidents or many others over the years, your shipmates would love to hear your story.

The Pipeline is a place to share that memory, as some of your shipmates have done in this issue.

Memories

A Christmas memory ...

By Bob Stadlman , BM3

1971-73

In the days before Christmas 1972, my ship left the coastal waters of North Viet Nam and traveled toward the Indian Ocean. The Pakistan/India conflict was requesting the presence of the United States Navy's Seventh Fleet. My ship, the USS Caliente AO-53, was a refueling ship — a floating gas station. Our Job was to refuel and supply the rest of the fleet. The days in the Indian Ocean were 100 plus degrees and at night it would cool to around 90. My ship had the capacity to make fresh water out of seawater, but most of this was pumped to the other ships. This meant we had no extra water for showers. When it rained everyone ran on deck and did their best to clean up. We hoped the rain shower

would last long enough to rinse the soap off, it usually didn't. After many days of no showers, we all smelled bad. Some of the guys stopped changing their clothes altogether, trying to have "gross out" contests.

On Christmas Day 1972, our captain allowed the entire ship to have showers. These were very short showers; one where you turned the water on and got wet, then shut the water off and then soaped down and scrubbed up, then the water went back on for a fast rinse. That night we rigged up a large canvas tarp and raised it up on the main deck and we had an outdoor movie. That warm night — under the stars, in the middle of the Indian Ocean, with a moonlit sky — it seemed that every star known in the universe was sparkling. We were traveling along at about 12 knots (14-15 mph), as the ship was slowly rocking side to side, the smell of the sea and popcorn surrounded us as we all sat and watched a movie on that clean Christmas evening.

That night was at odds with the times, as it truly was a peaceful and memorable evening — so many years ago.

(note: This originally appeared as a letter to the editor in the Daily Herald, a suburban Chicago newspaper.)

Just in the Navy

By Tom Hightower, RM3

1945-46

I was transferred to the Caliente in early 1946 from my previous ship, the USS Vulcan (AR5). In the spring of 1946 the Caliente participated in shuttling oil from Bahrein, Arabia, to Tokyo Bay. We were the first Navy tanker to make this run.

We sailed from Tokyo Bay and made first port at Singapore. We made liberty and explored each of the port cities on our cruise. Our next port was what was then Columbo, Ceylon. After Columbo, we sailed through the Malacca Straits to Bahrein.

The Straits had been mined and there were many still floating free. Our gunners exploded several of them and I remember watching a mine float by alongside the ship in our wake. Upon docking at Bahrein, we were filmed by news cameras. (Don't know where they were shown). We made liberty and went swimming in the Persian Gulf. The water was beautiful, but cold and very salty. I will always remember this as an experience of a lifetime.

Life on the Caliente was fun. The war was over and we were just "in the Navy." Commander Eastman, the skipper, made acquaintance with Roman Catholic Monks in a monastery overlooking Hiroshima, Japan. He arranged for them to come aboard and give us a first-hand description of the events surrounding the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Shore Patrol duty in the Kamakura, Japan, area was also memorable. We were paired with marines from the 1st Marine Division.

The only name I recognize in the association that was on board with me is "Red" White from New Orleans. I know that Al Ziska is deceased and was told some time ago that Snodgrass, RM2, is also deceased. Also, only three or four are listed 45-46.

Operation Redwing

By Terrance V. Cairns, YN3

1956-57

During my tenure aboard the Caliente, I was privileged to participate in Operation Redwing. During this time I was given an opportunity to witness two A-bomb and one H-bomb blast while the ship

ferried mail and supplies to and from Eniwetok, Kwajalein, and Bikini Atolls. I remember the coral wall I helped build around the ball field to protect it from an oncoming blast, which washed away it and the ball field anyway and the nickel beer and ten-cent mixed drinks available on Bikini. I also remember the sea was really clear, so warm it smelled, and the weather was extremely hot.

On this and a later cruise, I was able to see Hong Kong, Sasebo and Yokosuka, Japan, and, of course, I remember the ship visiting Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Formosa and Okinawa.

I also relish the encounter we had with a typhoon and the sight of water towering over the ship and then washing over the tank deck and, sometimes, into our sleeping compartment.

At the time, I didn't want to be in the Navy and didn't get along with the officers, but, in retrospect, boy, was I fortunate to experience all that I did. I wouldn't trade these experiences for anything.



Ed Fordyce tells below the story behind this picture of some Caliente sailors and their new Australian friends at the EM Club with a case of San Miguel and after everyone traded hats. Unfortunately, neither Ed (second from left) nor Dale Hunt, SM2, (fifth from left) can identify their shipmates. If you know who they are, let the Pipeline know and we will share their identities in a future issue.

Subic party with the Aussies

By Ed Fordyce, PN3

1960-1962

When the call for memories of the Caliente was received, the first thing that entered my mind was the

exercise with Task Group 77.6 and the HMS Ark Royal. On 1 May 1962, we rescued two of their aviators who had bailed out of their Sea Vixen into the South China Sea. Soon thereafter, in port in Subic Bay, four of us walked up on the quarter deck of the Ark Royal and asked if we could look around. The petty officer of the watch said he would be off duty in a few minutes and would give us a tour. He sure did that!

We were all over a lot of that ship, including their air conditioned petty officer's lounge — where we had a ration of grog and some ale. So, we invited them over on the base to our EM club where the party continued. Then downtown in Olongapo. It was a very memorable and fun experience.

On return to the ship, coming up the gangway wearing a British beret, I was stopped by Officer of the Deck CWO Hanna. He proceeded to give me a good old Navy chewing out and sent me back down the gangway and had me come back up again without the beret on. Then he chewed me out again. That was a memorable experience also, but not so much fun.

After getting off the Caliente and out of the Navy, I went to the University of Iowa, married Karen, had three kids, worked in a commercial bank for 39 years and retired in 2005. Found out about the Caliente Association in 2007 and have attended the 2007 and 2008 reunions. They have been great.

These days I spend a lot of time on my hilly timbered land South of the Cedar River where I have a DNR Forest Stewardship Plan going on. There is an 1865 log cabin on that land. Also, several trips each year to visit the ten grandkids. So it goes.

I am looking forward to seeing more old shipmates and making more new friends at the Minneapolis reunion next October.

A Case knife and Zippo lighter

By Warren Froscheiser, FTG3

AKA FRO

AKA Mr. Wizard (Thanks for the nickname, John Jaeger)

1965-68

While serving my time in that Growing-Up-Stage, I worked at a hardware store and then a rental and repair store in Nebraska. After pleasantly surprising my parents, I graduated from high school. (Sure wish I still had my class ring to pass on to the grandkids. But a young lady in Kowshung, Taiwan, decided she needed it more than I did, and kept it after “distracting” me for a short time.) While working 65 hours a week at \$1 an hour, which made payroll calculations very simple, I decided I wanted to join the Navy and gain some education as well as “see the world.”

After boot camp in San Diego, I went to Fire Technician A School at Vallejo, Calif. There I learned about radar-controlled gun mounts and maintaining and troubleshooting them. My first and only station after school was the Caliente. After a brief leave back in Omaha, I arrived in San Francisco. I took a cab to the bus station to catch a bus to an Air Force base to catch the flight to the PI. Small problem: I had laid my orders and complete service record on the hood of the cab while I loaded my sea bag and didn't retrieve it. I backtracked a few times, stopping at stores to see if someone might have turned it to them ... no luck. It took a lot of talking to get on that flight with only my ID card and a story. But I made the trip, flying from San Francisco to Manila and riding a bus to Olongapo to catch the ship at Subic.

Soon after boarding, I was assigned a rack and locker and shown to the “Gun Shack” where Third Division “hung out.” During the first full day, I was shown the gun mounts — four 3-inch 50 Slow Fires! I had just completed a six-month school about electronics and radar to control the guns, and I was now on a ship with lead computing gun-sights. For you non-gunnery folks, a lead computing sight is two

gyroscopes sealed within a box. We weren't authorized to "fix" the box if something went wrong. Instead we needed to get a replacement and replace the defective unit. It boiled down to being a pretty easy assignment.....until Condition 1 Alpha.

Third division manned the two high lines. I worked as a cargo handler, rig master and finally a winch operator. I won't go in to the hours spent without sleep and packing down a 10-minute meal in one minute between unreps. You've all been there.

In addition to the still fond memories of close relationships with many shipmates, unbelievable sights and experiences, my two most valuable assets were my Case knife and Zippo lighter. Not many of us would even think about not having either item on our person at all times. That Case knife, with the built-in marlin spike, could cut a 1-inch rope with one fast cutting motion. A true lifesaver. And that Zippo lighter, well with one hand I could run the winch and with the other light a Camel. Another lifesaver!

Forty plus years later, the three of us are still together. The Zippo hangs in a Caliente memory shadow box my kids put together. And the Case continues to serve me well in my shop. It's handle was broken long ago, but the edge will still cut what I ask it to.

Deceased shipmate

By Steven Young

My father-in-law, Joseph C. Brobisky, HMC, served on the Caliente when it was decommissioned in the Port of Long Beach and Los Angeles. I found your site by accident, but am sure that Joe would have been happy to visit with his crewmates. I'm sorry to say that his wife, Thelma, passed away in May 2005. Both are interred at the National Cemetery in Riverside. Best wishes from us to the crew and friends.

What's happened since

By Floyd Leon Tarpley, CS3
1959-62

I left the Caliente in December 1962 and was discharged in July 1965. I served in Supply Division and guess it stuck. I have owned T&T Pipe & Supply Inc. in Crane, Texas, for the past 25 years. Oilfield business is good, has its ups and downs, but over the long run, it is a living.

My wife Peggy and I had four children, three girls, one boy. I met Peggy before going aboard Caliente and found her again once discharged. We have had a good life, been many places, done so much while there and have been blessed with eight grandchildren, the last two being 6 now, twin grandsons. The energy they display reminds me of my youth, if only I could come up with a natural pill to restore all our energy. I think it would be a winner. Anyhow, crewmates, I just wanted to relay a little info about where I have been and where I am now.

My thoughts do go to those days, sailing the seas, smelling the salt air, trying to walk upright in heavy seas, men getting hurt down on the pumping deck, waves washing them through piping, Hong Kong, women painting the ship for our garbage, taking cab over the mountain to Repulse Bay with Bill Minchew, swimming on the beach there.

All the ports visited have memories for me. I tell all my friends my military service consisted of traveling the world at taxpayer expense. It was a maturing experience for me, and I was proud to be serving in the company of so many good men (and an occasional misled pair discovered in the salad bar?). Oh well, they were removed fast enough. Keep up the memories. Caliente was decommissioned and scrapped, I guess we will be also, but let's put it off as long as possible.

Still likes ocean

By James F. Briggs Jr., PO3

July 1965-July 1966

I was born and raised in the west Texas city of San Angelo. I went on active duty in 1965. I joined the Navy to see the world and sail the oceans.

After leaving active duty in 1967, I completed my education at Angelo State University, graduating in 1970. Then I moved to Houston where I met and married my wife, Arlene. I worked as a grocery manager, computer programmer and teacher.

I still like the ocean. My wife and I have taken several cruises, and I can easily drive to Galveston, Texas, to look at the Gulf of Mexico.

By-Laws of the USS Caliente Association

Revision 1

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section A: The name of the organization shall be: The USS. Caliente Association (hereinafter known as the Association).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section A: The purpose of the Association is to assist shipmates, who served aboard the U.S.S. Caliente (AO-53), to meet and communicate with each other and to enhance the history of the ship through stories provided by members.

ARTICLE III: MEETINGS

Section A: Periodic reunions of the members shall be held. The goal is to hold a reunion approximately every twelve to eighteen months.

Section B: As part of each reunion, a business meeting shall be held. At the business meeting the location, and approximate date, of the next reunion shall be determined.

Section C: As part of each business meeting officers shall be elected.

Section D: Robert's Rules of Order shall define any items not delineated herein regarding meetings and voting.

Section E: For the purposes of conducting business, a quorum shall be the presence, at the business meeting, of the majority of the members in good standing attending the reunion.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section A: Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. No Officer shall receive any compensation or other benefit of material value. The Association officers are the only persons who can conduct business in the name of the Association.

Section B: The officers shall be elected at each reunion business meeting.

Section C: The duties of the President shall be to preside at the reunion business meeting, protect the general welfare of the Association and render assistance to the Association officers as required. The President will co-ordinate the arrangements for the reunion for which he is elected. The President, working with and through the Treasurer, shall account for all monies and pay all bills associated with the reunion. Excess monies from a reunion will be turned over to the Association Treasurer. The President shall ensure that a final reunion report is included in the first Pipeline that is distributed following the reunion.

Section D: The duties of the Vice President are to assist the President and to assume all duties of the President in the absence of that officer. He will render assistance to the other Association Officers as necessary.

Section E: The duties of the Secretary shall be to record the proceedings of the business meeting; respond to or refer any correspondence to the proper officer; assist in the gathering of materials for a periodic newsletter called the "Pipeline".

Section F: The duties of the Treasurer shall be to receive all monies of the Association; maintain any bank accounts that may be opened by the Association and provide a financial statement at the regular business meeting, recapping all receipts and expenditures of the Association. The Treasurer shall ensure that the President is an authorized signature on any Association bank account.

Section G: The President, with the concurrence of the majority of the other officers, shall be able to appoint positions that will assist in the running of the Association. Such positions can include, but not be limited to; a Pipeline editor, a membership chairman, a webmaster, historian and chaplain.

Section H: The Association officers may ask for the resignation of any officer who is neglect in, or cannot perform, his duties. If the officer resigns the other officers can appoint a temporary replacement. The position will come up for vote at the next business meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Section A: Membership in the Association shall be primarily, but not limited to, those persons who served aboard the U.S.S. Caliente (AO-53) while the ship was in commission. Spouses and relatives may be granted membership as appropriate.

Section B: Active members consist of those persons who are current in their yearly dues payment.

Section C: Honorary memberships may be granted to those persons who have directly or indirectly

contributed their time, talent or assistance to the Association and to the widows of former shipmates. Honorary membership may be granted through a recommendation of any active Association member. All persons recommended for honorary membership shall be presented to the Association at a reunion business meeting. A majority vote of the active members present and voting at that business meeting shall be necessary for honorary membership. Honorary members shall not be required to pay annual dues.

Section D: Life membership shall be granted to any Association member who pays a one-time fee of one-hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) or if over eighty (80) years old on January 1st of the current year the sum is fifty dollars (\$50.00). Life membership may be granted to other persons by a majority vote of the active members present and voting at any business meeting of the Association.

Section E: Active members who have failed to pay their dues by January 1st of any calendar year will be notified and placed on the inactive membership roster. Inactive members may be reinstated to the active list by paying the current year dues. If the member is not reinstated after two (2) years on the inactive membership roster, he will be removed from roster.

ARTICLE VI: VOTING

Section A: Only active members shall participate in voting

Section B: Voting for Officers; a majority vote must be obtained to elect any candidate to office. If a majority is not obtained, and there is more than one candidate, there will be a runoff vote between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

Section C: Voting on other actions (except Amendments – see Article VIII);

- 1) If there is more than one item being voted on, the item receiving a plurality (the most number of votes) shall be deemed the winner.
- 2) If there is only one item being voted on a majority vote, of the active members voting, is necessary to carry the item.

ARTICLE VII: DUES

Section A: The amount of annual dues shall be determined at the business meeting. A majority vote, of the active members voting, shall determine the dues amount for the coming year.

Section B: No dues are required from life members.

Section C: No dues are required from Honorary Members.

ARTICLE VIII: EXPENDITURES

Section A: The Treasurer and/or the President are responsible for payment of any debts of the Association. Normal debts include, but are not necessarily limited to;

- 1) bills associated with production and distribution of the “Pipeline”,

- 2) bills associated with mailings to members regarding dues i.e.,
 - a) renewal confirmation
 - b) new memberships confirmation
 - c) past due notices to members who have failed to pay their dues.
- 3) bills associated with recruiting,
- 4) bills associated with reunions but not covered through member payments for the reunion,
- 5) bills associated with the purchase of U.S.S. Caliente shoulder patches and ship's patches or other memorabilia as appropriate.

Section B: The Treasurer and the President, in concurrence, shall be authorized to make other expenditures of up to two hundred dollars (\$200.00). Any such expenditure must be specifically presented to the members present at the next reunion business meeting.

Section C: Incurrence of any other liability shall have the concurrence of the President, Vice President and Treasurer prior to the liability being incurred. Given such concurrence, the liability may be incurred and payment then made. Any such expenditure must be specifically presented to the members present at the next reunion business meeting.

Section D: U.S.S. Caliente memorabilia shall only be purchased with the concurrence of all the Officers of the Association. The sale of memorabilia shall be through the President or the Treasurer, with the goal of not making or losing money. If the sale results in profit the funds shall be placed in the Association bank account.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Section A: Amendments to these by-laws shall be made by a majority vote of active members voting at any business meeting.

ARTICLE X: FINIS

Section A: When the time should come that the members of the Association decide that to continue to exist as an Association is no longer practical, the following rules shall apply:

- 1. The decision to disband can be decided at a regular business meeting by a majority vote of the active members present and voting at that meeting. In the event it is not practical or desirable to have a regular business meeting all active members shall be notified of the intention to disband and shall be polled with regard to their individual desire. The majority vote, of those choosing to vote, shall prevail.
- 2. Any outstanding financial obligations of the Association shall be identified and paid.
- 3. All remaining monies and property, belonging to the Association shall be donated to the U. S. Navy Memorial in Washington D.C.
- 4. A notice of action taken shall be sent to Association members who have current regular or email address on file.

ADOPTED: DATE: _____

PRESIDENT: _____

VICE-PRESIDENT: _____

SECRETARY: _____

TREASURER: _____

ADOPTED: CITY AND STATE: _____