



NEWS MAGAZINE

Official Publication of the American Merchant Marine Veterans



The SS American Victory on Tampa Bay during her sea trials. Since 1999, the American Victory has undergone a stem-to-stern restoration and raised more than \$3.5 million in cash and in-kind donations to make her seaworthy again.

IN PEACE AND WAR



1775

"BATTLIN' PETE"

Walt Disney Merchant Marine Emblem

The military service patch of the United States Merchant Marine was created by the Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, California in July, 1944. The Walt Disney Studios had become world renowned for their designs for military units of the United States Armed Forces.

On July 5, 1944, The United Seamen's Service, Inc. of Los Angeles, California, requested the Walt Disney studios to produce a patch for the Merchant Marine. An exhibition of wartime art of merchant seamen of the United Nations was scheduled at the Los Angeles County Museum from July 16 to August 13, 1944. In connection with this exhibition, The United Seamen's Service, Inc. wanted to display this new Merchant Marine patch art at a public ceremony on Sunday, July 23, 1944.

True to his commitment to the Armed Services, Mr. Walt Disney directed his artists to create a patch for the United States Merchant Marine, recognizing their efforts in the conduct of World War II. Using one of their colorful characters, Battlin' Pete, the patch was created showing Pete knocking out a humanized torpedo. The finished artwork was mailed on July 14, 1944. The "Walt Disney Merchant Marine Emblem" image of Battlin' Pete was done by Hank Porter, who was the head of the WW II

insignia unit at Disney Studios.

The patch was produced in a 5" diameter size, different from the many shoulder patches created for the other armed forces units, which were usually 2 1/2" in diameter. The Merchant Marine patch was usually worn on the front of jackets or blouses. The United States Merchant Marine now had the distinction of its own Walt Disney Service Patch.

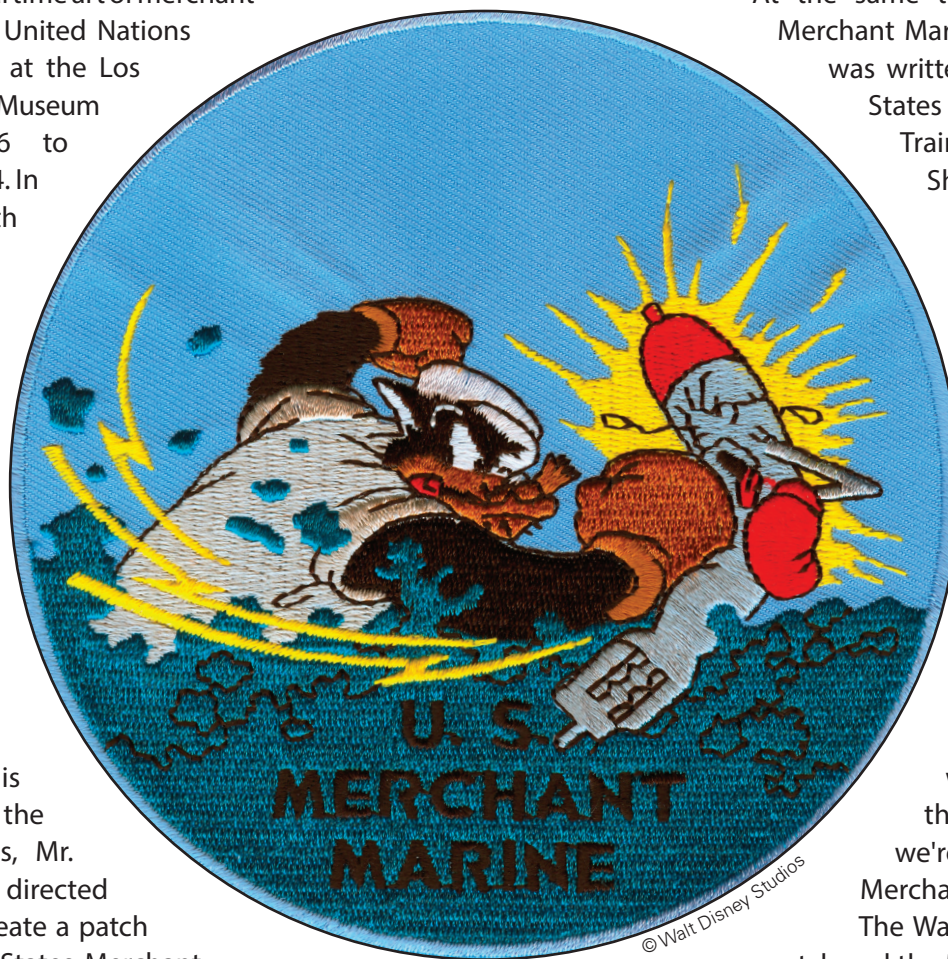
At the same time, the official Merchant Marine service song was written at the United States Maritime Service Training Center, Sheepshead Bay, New York. The song, Heave Ho, was written by Jack Lawrence, one of the musicians in the base band.

The song ends, "We can cross any ocean, sail any river, give us the goods and we'll deliver, damn the submarine, we're the men of the Merchant Marine."

The Walt Disney service patch and the Merchant Marine service song help tell part of the story of life at sea, the merchant marine defying the elements, and the actions of the enemy. Both remain a part of our country's proud military past and a memory of a merchant marine fleet that will never be seen again.

We shall also never see such a group of merchant seamen who sailed the Liberty Fleet in World War II.

(Special thanks to Jack Grothe and Don Trim bath for this information. -Ed.)





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NEWS MAGAZINE

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The editor and publisher of this magazine assume no
responsibility for errors in submitted material.

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AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS**

Serving America in Peace and War

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS

Serving America in Peace and War

PRESIDENT'S FIRESIDE CHAT

On November 12, 2008, at the invitation of General Matz, President of the National Association of Uniformed Services (NAUS), I attended their Annual meeting in Washington DC. At the May, 2008 AMMV Convention, members voted to be affiliated with NAUS, an organization with 170,000 members. The NAUS meeting was for their Board of Directors and Advisors, which is similar in purpose as our yearly business Convention. It is interesting to note that our organizational set up is identical to theirs. NAUS just celebrated their 40th Anniversary and we celebrated our 20th Anniversary.

The operating structure of NAUS includes Chapters, Chapter Presidents, Regional Vice Presidents and Members at Large. My first impression of the NAUS Board of Directors and Advisors was how familiar all were with "Just Compensation." NAUS legislative staff has made strenuous efforts representing our cause and giving testimony to the Veterans Affairs Committee. NAUS has invested time, money and political influence in assisting our goal for true "Recognition." This is a priority for them that they plan to continue in 2009.

NAUS currently reports 567 Merchant Mariners are members of their organization. Many of their members, including their leadership, are members of the AMMV. NAUS, as well as the AMMV, would like Members-at-Large to belong to Chapters and participate in the monthly meetings. For many, that may not be a viable option, so we are making an effort to reach all AMMV MAL's who are connected to the Internet. We want to send frequent briefings on progress of S-961 and to advise on assistance available to them. They will also be apprised of where chapters are operating throughout the country. We will help the homebound members of our chapters through the Internet. I encourage every member with an email address to register with National Director of Communications, Dr. Lawrence W. Kerkow (Kerkow@att.net) to obtain electronic messages.

The most important project the AMMV has taken on in the past 20 years is "Just Compensation." It has been the stimulus that again made us a fighting force. It has kept us functioning long after many felt we should have left the field. Though we had a majority of the Senate signed on as Co-sponsors last year, the bill did not get out of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. We have a new Congress and a new opportunity to pass our bill. The country's economic downturn has little impact on the passage of this veteran's bill but more to do with politics. With the help you gave last year we will get more than a promise this year, we will have success!

Suggestions for modification to our constitution have been around for more than a year. The last National Convention and three Regional Conventions have contributed proposals and wording you may wish to review in this issue. Eleven members across the nation have worked on the wording of these basic proposals. Further consideration and discussion will be given at the 23rd Annual AMMV Convention in Tampa, Florida.

Another priority project we have in front of us is for the membership to face their future. A committee will convene in February to discuss potential goals. They will discuss a time for an appropriate dissolution of the AMMV because our mortality is catching up with us. Alternative proposals will also be advanced to find a way to maintain our WWII legacy as a viable asset in today's Maritime industry. The contribution of the Merchant Marine in WWII is unusual and as daring as any since merchant mariners, your predecessors, first signed on with General George Washington, June 12, 1775. More than 12,600 mariners perished in the Revolution for freedom. Our country has since survived these past 233 years because you and other citizen volunteers willingly answered the call to protect our freedom and that of our neighbor.

Respectfully submitted,

A.J. Wichita, National President



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS

Serving America in Peace and War

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Mariner,

On November 19 thru 22nd I attended the Mini Convention at Branson, Mo. While there I was able to speak to the members about the proposed changes to the constitution which will be discussed and voted upon at the May Convention in Tampa, Florida.

The biggest change that's been proposed is to allow any person who wishes to join our organization, regardless of whether he is a veteran or not. I discussed this with the members present, not one of them agreed to this change. I have received phone calls, e-mails and letters and to a man not one of them will agree to this change. In voting for this change we will then have gone from a strictly veterans organization to a fraternal organization, which will put us in danger of losing some of the veteran benefits we enjoy today.

I was not consulted nor informed of this change. I will not vote on any change that in any way will jeopardize our Veterans status. I received an email with the following quote "A veteran is someone who at one point in his life wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America' for an amount of up to and including my life." That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it. If you agree with me I would like to hear from you.

For God and Country,

Joe Colon, National Vice President



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS

Serving America in Peace and War

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dear Mariners and Friends,

2009? How'd that happen? Well it did happen! ... Happy New Year to you all, and I wish for each of you, a good year ahead.

Our AMMV will continue to be busy in this new year of 2009 as we have been in the year just ended, and we are so proud of all of you and your chapters who have continued to work hard and to help make progress for recognition of our Merchant Marine veterans. Your efforts have paid off all across the country.

We now face another very busy and important year. The 23rd AMMV convention in Tampa, Florida in May will ask us to make decisions that will chart our course for the future of our organization. This will include the election of officers for the next two years. I am sure that you now join me in giving special thanks and a salute to our President A.J. Wichita. He has given you every ounce of his strength and energy and the total commitment of his time in the years of his term of office and has truly moved our AMMV forward.

It has been my privilege to be your National Secretary and I have given you the very best that I knew how to give. I have tried to serve you in the manner that you expected from me when you asked me to be your National Secretary. I have now sent in my letter of intent that I will be a candidate for re-election. But now, here's the deal ... if you think you would like my job, and are willing to prove to me that you will devote more hours, days and months to the job than I have, and spend more of your own money than I have spent doing this job, and if you will plan to work harder for AMMV in the next two years than I do, then by gosh, I might just vote for you. Otherwise, I will be honored to continue working for you as National Secretary.

Our "operation outreach" has brought us many new members, and there are more to come I'm sure, as we are now included in the NAUS magazine. I still get calls and e-mails every week from across the country requesting applications and all are answered promptly, even, in fact, the day this letter was written, an application was sent to a mariner in Australia. I will watch for his name to appear as a new member.

This year we will be working hard again for our bill in the Congress and will now wait for our marching orders from those in charge. Don't give up! Let's just work harder.

So, as we start the brand new year of 2009 let's all make a commitment that we will work together as a team, work to improve our AMMV, let's stress the positive and eliminate the negative and let's get together at every possible opportunity. Maybe 12 months from now, when 2009 comes to an end we can look back and say that this was one of the best years we can remember.

Together we can, and together we will make a difference!

Sincerely,

Nelson Cauble, National Secretary



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS

Serving America in Peace and War

FROM THE EDITOR

It's hard to believe another quarter year has gone by since the last issue of this NEWS Magazine. Amazing, how time flies when you're having fun. Anyway, this issue is an important one because it includes, as stated in the By-Laws of the AMMV, the proposals for changes and amendments to the American Merchant Marine Veterans Constitution and By-Laws have to be submitted by January 15th and printed in the NEWS at least 60 days before the National Convention where they're going to be considered and voted on. The National Convention will be held in Tampa, Florida in May, 2009. Please read them carefully so that you are able to make your vote count at the Convention, through your Chapter. We will try to return to "regular programming" in the next issue, but this one contains some serious information that will affect the future of the AMMV.

Another feature of this issue is up-dated membership information. Every Chapter of the AMMV is aware of the need for new membership and there are some recruiting hints enclosed. And we welcome new members. As a matter of fact, thanks to the good folks at the Western Regional Convention in Reno, I, personally, am a proud new member of the AMMV. I guess I didn't qualify as President Wichita says my adoption papers haven't come through yet and Ian Allison hasn't found anyone to marry me off to yet, so..... Thank You Convention attendees. I am extremely honored to be included in the approximately 2.5% non-Veteran members of the AMMV. I shall try to carry on the traditions of this fine organization and hopefully, continue to do all I can to educate the public about the U.S. Merchant Mariners and their proud but virtually unknown history.



A.J. Wichita, Burt Young and Sindy Raymond

The last couple of issues of this magazine have had some mail delivery problems. These magazines are sent out at a special rate by the U. S. Postal Service. They will not be forwarded if you have moved or returned to sender, just destroyed if the address is not valid. So if you move, it is vitally important to notify AMMV National Headquarters of your new address, so they can update the mailing list.

On a final note, I am really enjoying the stories and information that is being sent to me as Editor of the NEWS, so please continue to keep me supplied:

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See you at TAMPA,


Sindy Raymond
Editor: AMMV NEWS Magazine

Director of Communications/Webmaster



GREETINGS: This was e-mailed to all addresses listed in "Just Compensation" and personal AMMV group files (970). My intent is to locate and communicate with Members At Large who wish to receive beneficial AMMV News and Updates. I welcome any additional ideas or comments. —Dr. Kerkow

Dear AMMV Members At Large:

Greetings and Happy Holidays from American Merchant Marine Veterans President A.J. Wichita and Director of Communications/Webmaster Dr. Lawrence W. Kerkow.

Welcome to the new AMMV "Consolidated Aligned Members At Large (CAMAL) Electronic Communication System.

This new CAMAL system will bring current "Members At Large" (MAL) into the AMMV communication loop and help recruit new members.

CAMAL was designed to provide MAL the same current AMMV messages, information and benefits enjoyed by chapter members.

You are invited to participate in our new program as new AMMV members or current MAL members in good standing (dues paid to June 09).

This service is unique in that it provides a two way avenue of communication for those not receiving chapter logs and depend totally on the AMMV Quarterly News Magazine for their information.

A base station for communication has been set up at Kerkow@att.net for those with inquiries, comments and suggestions. A membership application for family members and new AMMV applicants is included in the Quarterly News Magazine, or you may download one from our Web Site: <http://www.bhirdo.net/americanmerchantmarineveteransoffwwii.html>

This invitation is intended for Members At Large. Kindly alert any MAL of this endeavor and pardon this intrusion if you are fortunate enough to belong to an AMMV chapter.

Please let us know your thoughts on CAMAL. Call and leave a message at 210-863-2103.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kerkow



American Merchant Marine Veterans CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL OFFICE

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>CANDIDATES</u>
<i>President</i>	A.J. Wichita Joe Colon
<i>Vice President</i>	Don Trimbath
<i>Secretary</i>	Nelson Cauble
<i>Treasurer</i>	(no candidate yet)

Election to be held at the 23rd Annual Convention, Tampa, Florida, May 14-18, 2009

Important News From The NAUS Weekly Email Update 1-9-09

The VA has announced plans to re-open enrollment in its health care system by July 2009 to veterans whose incomes exceed current limits.

The change affects veterans whose incomes exceed the current VA means test and geographic means test income thresholds by 10% or less. Congress provided funds in VA's fiscal year 2009 budget to support the new enrollment.

In 1996, Congress established a priority-based enrollment system for VA and a uniform package of medical benefits for all enrollees. The legislation opened enrollment in VA's health care system to all eligible veterans and required that each year the Secretary of Veterans Affairs assess veterans' demand for services and determine if the necessary resources are available to provide timely, quality care to all enrollees. Enrollment for the lowest priority of the eight groups—veterans who are not being compensated for a military-related disability and who have incomes above a set threshold—was suspended on January 18, 2003, although veterans in that priority group who were already enrolled for care were permitted to remain enrolled.

VA originally suspended enrollment for Priority 8 veterans because it was unable to provide all enrolled veterans with timely access to its health care due to a tremendous growth in the number of veterans then seeking enrollment. VA is now plans to reopen enrollment for a portion of these veterans without compromising the Department's ability to provide high quality health care services to all enrolled veterans who are eligible for care.

VA's computer systems are being modified to accommodate the changes, and the Department is preparing communication and education materials to ensure that Congress, veterans service organizations, and the public are aware of the coming changes which should be complete when the rule takes effect by June 30, 2009.

Note: You will need to have an Honorable Discharge from the U. S. Coast Guard (Form DD-214) issued in 1988 or later, to qualify for these benefits AND for the Just Compensation benefits when that passes. If you do not have one, contact Sindy Raymond, Editor or go on the website www.usmm.org and download the form (DD-2168) and the instructions, fill them out and send them in.

GULF, CENTRAL & GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT

November 19-23, 2008 – Branson, Missouri

Contributed by Sindy Raymond, AMMV NEWS Magazine Editor; not the recording of official minutes.

Meeting was opened by an American Legion color guard led by Walter Kowalowich. Pledge of Allegiance was said and an invocation was led by Karl Kinney. "God Bless America" was sung led by Helen Kinney.

The meeting was called to order by John McSpadden. He announced the appointment of Jack Grothe, from the S.S. Samuel Parker Chapter, to Regional Vice President of the Gulf Region., as had been decided earlier by Board of Directors members present.

AMMV National Vice President Joe Colon was next on the agenda. He spoke of the efforts of his Chapter with their annual Toys for Tots drive. He stated the Just Compensation must pass and the AMMV must go on, but not at the expense of losing our rights as Veterans. He said that he had one agenda, to see that we, as a Veterans Organization, maintain the respect and honor we earned since we were granted the right to be called Veterans.

He spoke of the proposed amendments that "will be presented at the National Convention in Tampa

in May, 2009, which change who can join our organization. This could do us more harm than good. If this bill is passed, we would have gone from a Veterans Organization to that of a Fraternal Organization such as the Elks and Moose." And Mr. Colon announced his candidacy for AMMV president at the upcoming elections in Tampa in May.

National President A. J. Wichita spoke next stating the importance of winning the fight for Just Compensation which will give us clout we've never had before. It will be the way Merchant Mariners will spearhead other legislation and get it passed and help us get our flag flown with all other services as well as our seal recognized and placed with all other services. Just Compensation has been the glue that held the AMMV together long after many felt we should have left the field.

President Wichita referred to his much-published Christmas Wish List and noted that New England Chapter members Roger Hardy and Jack Peterson are working on an 11-part public television series on the U. S.

Merchant Marine for publicity purposes with several hundred stations scheduled to show it. Another subject was a possible AMMV Scholarship program to aid Maritime Cadets with their training. He said a review of several methods for funding is in the works. And more news about this subject will be forthcoming.

Karl Kinney spoke next about the need

to "showboat" the Merchant Marine flag. Jack Grothe then accepted his nomination for RVP stating the recognition of the U. S. Merchant Mariners is "a day late, a dollar short – 40 years late". He spoke of AMMV members-at-large possibly becoming a Chapter or auxiliary and the need for associate members and other Veterans membership.

Burt Young announced that Ian Allison of the Just Compensation Committee had just called him and reported that there was a major chance that Senator Akaka, Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, might be moving on to Chairman of the Homeland Securities Committee, thereby freeing up the Chairmanship for Senator Patty Murray of Washington state, an ardent supporter of our Just Compensation legislation. Burt reported that, if true, this would be excellent news for our cause.

Sindy Raymond followed with more Just Compensation information and answered a few questions. She was followed by Jack Grothe speaking of the need to continue have the AMMV

(continued on page 12)



AMMV National Vice President Joe Colon (left) and President A.J. Wichita



AMMV News Magazine Editor Sindy Raymond addresses the gathering



General Matz of NAUS and A.J. Wichita at the NAUS Board of Directors meeting November 13, 2008

Branson Vets parade next Veterans Day. A.J. told about meeting with the NAUS Board of Directors and stated that he felt that our two organizations are very similar. Joe Colon reminded us of the June 12, 1775 birthday of the U. S. Merchant Marine. That night at the President's banquet, President A. J. Wichita honored Karl Kinney, Helen Kinney and Richard



Branson entertainer John Tweed and AMMV's Helen Kinney



Joe Colon looking on as Richard Wiggins receives the Distinguished Service Award from A.J. Wichita

Wiggins by presenting them with the AMMV Distinguished Service Award for service above and beyond the call of duty.

A special thank you to Karl and Helen Kinney for lining up Branson entertainers for our benefit throughout the Convention, including singer and lounge entertainer from the Andy Williams Show Bob Anderson, the Platters, the Hughes Brothers, comedian Jim Owen and singer John Tweed. The only complaint was submitted by A. J. who missed the young female singers and dancers. These acts were delightful and gave us all a feeling of what Branson, MO. is all about.

flag flown in State cemeteries. Burt Young spoke of the efforts on this project by Bill Marker and others. Joe Colon urged everyone to make their reservations soon for the AMMV National Convention in Tampa next May. John McSpadden suggested that all Chapters donate "Maritime Tales of the Sea" to public libraries and other institutions for the purpose of educating the general public about the U. S. Merchant Mariners and their history in WWII.

The following day included a report of the Veterans' Honor flight by Jack Grothe. Burt Young agreed that this project was very worthwhile. Jack urged us all to come back for the



Enjoying the camaraderie in Branson

VALLEY FORGE REGIONAL MEETING AT BEDFORD, PA

As summarized by Regional Vice President George Bathie Meeting was held on 7-8-9 October 2008. Main meeting held on Wednesday 8 October. Some of the more important business discussions per attached:

- Getting chapter annual dues collected from membership and payment of National dues
- Recruiting of new members into Chapters to preserve the longevity of AMMV.
- Attendance of current membership to chapter meetings, and making other adjustments so as to preserve the Chapter name.
- Attempting to provide resource speakers so as to be informative to the membership on other worthwhile events of interest.
- Participating in "Wreaths Across America" if the event is within your area of influence.
- Update provided by Mariners of Pennsylvania CEO Walt Luikart on the ongoing challenge by that Chapter to get the Merchant Marine logo placed on a local Veterans memorial.
- Certain revisions to AMMV Constitution and By-Laws presented for discussion by Don Trim bath of Sacramento Valley Chapter and member of revision committee.
- Status of S-961
- Posting of Merchant Marine flag at National Cemeteries.
- Placing of AMMV logo on Chapter newsletters.

IN MEMORIAM



Bruce Lester Felknor, 87, of Evanston, Illinois, passed away peacefully on September 27, 2008. He was born in Oak Park, IL. After attending the University of Wisconsin at Madison, he moved to New York City in 1941, where he worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad. During WWII, he served as a radio officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine, deployed both in the Atlantic and Pacific.

After the war, he married his wife Edith and moved to Armonk, NY, where he raised his three children. He was an Elder of the Presbyterian Church, and served on several church boards and commissions.

In 1967, he was named Executive Assistant to William Benton, owner and publisher of Encyclopaedia Britannica; He remained at Britannica until his retirement in 1985.

His final book, "The U.S. Merchant Marine at War 1775-1945", was published in 1998. In later years, he devoted a great deal of effort to the Merchant Marines. He worked assiduously for Merchant Marine recognition and benefits, and testified before the U.S. Congress in support of H.R. 23 (110th Congress) which passed the House on July 30, 2007.

With his wife Edith, he moved to the Presbyterian Homes' Westminster Place in Evanston, IL in 1999. Warmly regarded for his wit, his incisive and focused intelligence, his broad and deep knowledge, his genial and caring personality and his unique and thoughtful speaking style, Mr. Felknor won the abiding love, friendship and respect of many.

William V. Bentley, loving husband and father, passed away peacefully at 11:30 p.m. on Nov. 16, 2008. Bill was born June 24, 1922 in Cockrell Hill. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Betty Jane Emmons, and their three children, Mike Bentley and Sally Hamilton of Austin and Margaret Murray of Weatherford, four grand children and three great grand children.

Bill was proud of his service in World War II as a Merchant Marine, and later served as president of the SS Stephen Hopkins Chapter, and Regional Vice President of the American Merchant Marine Veterans. He served the community as the chairman of the San Marcos Senior Advisory Council. Among his many volunteer activities he read to San Marcos school children. Bill will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



The Wheelchair Brigade from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex honored Bill Bentley.



Glenn Johnson passed away Friday evening January 9, 2009. He will be eulogized Tuesday January 13 at the San Juan Chapter regular meeting. Glenn was the current President of the San Juan Chapter of the American Merchant Marine Veterans. He had in the past served as Regional Vice President of the Northwest for the Merchant Marine Veterans. Glenn was a Kings Point graduate, class of 1944. He was a recipient of several combat awards. At the last National Convention he received the "Anchor Award" for achievement. Among the many efforts on behalf of the AMMV he and another mariner produced an exact duplicate of a WWII Liberty ship on a scale of 1:20 maneuverable as a waterborne craft. It was used for promoting the American Merchant Marine in many parades over the years. We will all miss his engaging smile and his "can do" attitude. Glenn, We wish you fair winds and following seas.

DID YOUR PATRIOTIC SERVICE MATTER?

DOES THE INCOMPARABLE HISTORY OF THE MERCHANT MARINE MATTER?

AMMV members have been effectively bringing U. S. Merchant Marine history to the public. We have been participating in the patriotic activities that are vital in keeping the valuable and valiant history of the WWII Mariners alive. The people, whose freedom we helped keep, need to be reminded on all patriotic occasions that Merchant Mariners have fought in every war since the Revolution. They need to know the Merchant Marine suffered twice the casualties in the Revolution than did George Washington's Armies. They need to know that in WWII our service suffered the highest casualty rate of all services and the outcome of all America's wars depend on the Merchant Marine for their success.

However, if the AMMV dies 3 or 4 years from now, and it may if it does not grow, our sacrifices will be faded footsteps in history. Do we really want that to happen?

Let's ask ourselves:

- How will Americans know our service in WWII really mattered?
- Will Americans know the U. S. Maritime was an all volunteer service made up of men and boys, some as young as 14?
- Will Americans know most of these recruits volunteered after approximately 360 ships were sunk by torpedoes and cannon fire on our eastern coastline soon after Pearl Harbor?
- Will Americans know that we were the only non-segregated service in WWII?
- Who will remind citizens of Congress' insult and inequity to the Merchant Mariners of WWII?

We were trained by the Coast Guard and sworn to uphold the Constitution as all service personnel were. Then we were denied Veterans' status and the benefits of the GI Bill of Rights despite the fact our casualty rate was higher than any other service.

We have all heard the alarm about losing the Veterans organization status of the AMMV, something we worked so very hard to get. Unfortunately, the AMMV is in jeopardy as an organization because we are all on God's short list. So why not let some non-veterans carry the mantle when we're gone? When I am gone, I hope and pray that my children and grandchildren are among the members continuing to ask the above questions of the American public.

64 years ago Congress denied us the benefits of the GI Bill of Rights. We never wore uniforms but our ships were being sunk as they came out the harbors of New York, New Orleans, Houston, Hampton Roads, Charleston and many other ports. Every merchant seaman was in a combat zone. We have spent years fighting the Government for "Just Compensation". In the last 6 years we have generated more recognition for the Merchant Mariner than this country has seen since WWII. All the years of work you and the other thousands of mariners have put in gaining recognition for the U. S. Merchant Marine and Just Compensation will be wasted if we let our mortality dissolve the AMMV. We really need other people to carry our flag and our valiant history into the future. You and I, by God's grace, have just a little more time to encourage younger people, veterans or not, to help keep what we have gained. We have clout with Congress we've never had before, despite the fact they have not yet passed our Compensation bill. That they will do!

We, who still have the guts and strength to press on for the next few years, will have our flag and our insignia in every public place equally with other services. We earned that in WWII but, historically, it was ours when the Merchant Marine fought in the Revolutionary War as the first service.

With high regards for the past and present service to our country.

A.J. Wichita, National President

OPPORTUNITY

Our organization can look back on many accomplishments. Most notable was recognition as legitimate WWII veterans. By our persistence we have educated many of the role a vibrant strong merchant marine plays in our national defense and economy. The monuments we have, in many cases, struggled to erect are a testimony and reminder to all of the valiant mariners that served and continue to serve their country. Much more is yet to be done. There are portions of our Mission Statement that have not been fully addressed.

The AMMV was born of WWII by a small and dedicated group that was able to muster the will and determination to influence Congress to grant veterans status. Mariner veterans of our fight for independence or those from the War of 1812 or WWI were never afforded this honor.

Seamen that served in Korea, Vietnam and the current conflicts haven't been considered. We now must direct our attention forward to the future AMMV.

The current membership has been diminished by age and

attrition. Who will continue the legacy? There are no more WWII mariner veterans to recruit. Will the AMMV die with the last surviving member? How can we continue and expand our Mission? Will there be anyone to tell our story in the year 2020? There can be if we act decisively now.

The approaching convention in Tampa will bring together our national, regional and chapter leaders. Hopefully they will arrive already primed with a plan to bring the organization beyond the next few years. The time for arguing and bickering on the convention floor is past.

To go into the future with a positive direction new blood is vitally needed. People with a vested interest in the maritime industry are key. Leaders with a national voice and influence will make the difference. Alliances with national groups like The Navy League, NAUS and The Propeller Club are important. There is a wealth of talented young mariners working ashore in industry and government capacities. Some still at sea might

find time to contribute. Academy and School Ship alumni have many people with a voice in Washington and the industry. Our recruiting should be focused in these areas. We must make the AMMV appealing to them. They must have a reason to join.

The contribution of those men in the AMMV can only be continued with a new rejuvenated leadership. Memories quickly fade when there is no one to keep them alive. There is an OPPORTUNITY to instill new vigor in the Organization and re-energize its mission and continue to honor the memory of all our veteran mariners. The future AMMV can be a force not only in the recognition of the accomplishments, service and sacrifice of our merchant mariners but in our national maritime policies. Keeping a strong American merchant marine guarantees our legacy into the future. Let us not only pass something on but let us make it better. We can do it.

Heave – Ho!

Hank Kaminski

Dennis A. Roland Chapter

WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO AMMV IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

I am sure there are many Veterans of all the last wars still sailing or sitting at home that would join with a Chapter if they only knew there was one close by. Wearing of the caps or jackets are some of the best advertising we have. Asking them to join is doing a good deed for them. I am sure they would like to be active with something to do rather than sit at home all the time.

I personally have picked up two new members for the Desert Mainers of Arizona by just wearing my Merchant Marine Veterans Cap in the last month. Going into stores, gas stations, places to eat and others will expose us to them.

This is what we need and it is up to each one of us to do our part to keep our AMMV going into the future.

Most of us have family members that would join to help our Chapters keep going if we would only ask them, or maybe just pay their dues to start with and get them to go along to a meeting or two. Many of our own family do not know just what we did in our World War II days. Most of us have never told our own story to our families, or just what we did aboard ship.

Let's all remain PROUD of what we did for our COUNTRY.

John A. Forsberg

LET'S GET PRACTICAL ABOUT WAYS TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS INTO THE AMMV

It is a commonly known fact that there needs to be a continuing new membership drive for the AMMV chapters as well as for Members-at-Large. I have always wondered about the disparity between the numbers of AMMV members (3,500 +/-) and the JCC members (11,000). Now I can understand part of it. There are a great many more people interested in \$1,000 per month than in belonging to the AMMV. BUT, the AMMV organization will keep the history of U. S. Merchant Marine Veterans alive when the legislation has been passed and is in the records.

Several years ago, the JCC gained several thousand members from an article in the American Legion Magazine. This is called publicity or advertising and I think that is what the key to new membership recruitment in the AMMV is all about. Several weeks ago, I queried everyone I could as to how to solicit new members and came up with some wonderful and wide-ranging suggestions. I will present some, now, in no particular order. Please think about them seriously and then let's get off our "senior apathy" and do something about getting new members.

Local public television or radio: Bob Lewis of the Humboldt Bay chapter suggested at a meeting that the local public television station may allot a minute or two for advertising our plight. How about local radio stations? Suggest your Chapter membership chairman contact them and ask; it won't hurt. That's how Larry Hardy got started. You do have a Chapter membership chairman, don't you? Well, appoint one if necessary. A strong-willed person with imagination is all that's needed and you had to be one of those to be a Merchant Mariner in WWII.

Letter writing: National Membership Chairman Perry Adams of the Silicon Valley Chapter responded that his chapter has been successful with a letter campaign to potential recruits. And he volunteered to send Chapters JCC membership address lists sorted by zip code. He can be contacted at padams49@

sbcglobal.net.

Letters to Editor: Dr. Lawrence W. Kerkow, Member at Large, suggested that your Membership chairman (or Committee) compose a quarterly news release or short historical piece to present to your local paper. This can be in the form of a Letter to the Editor or a (minimally) priced advertisement. Be sure to include a pitch for members and a return contact.

If your chapter is located coast-side, your Chapter could contact local maritime institutions, museums and ships. Mel Tublin suggested that Chapters near the larger of the American Flag companies, vessel organizations and maritime unions that support the American Merchant Marine and its Veterans be contacted and appealed to for recruitment purposes. AMMV National Vice President Joe Colon posted a simple computer-generated advertisement on the bulletin board at the American Maritime Officers school and had significant results.

And speaking of bulletin boards, posted notices, even on large index cards, in meeting halls i.e.: American Legion, VFW, Navy League, Druids, Kiwanis, Lions et. al., can be very effective. Don't forget the bulletin boards at your local grocery store, library, hospital, church, senior citizen mobile home parks, or Ian Allison's favorite, barber shops. Use the KISS method for these postings. Keep them simple but be sure to include the basic facts along with a contact name and telephone number.

Contact local high schools, libraries, historical societies and fraternal organizations and volunteer to line up a speaker for them. You can do it! We have heard lately about a lecture given at a school regarding MM history by a 14-year old, Christopher Walker. Eddie Trester of St. Augustine, FL and Byron Ayres of the China Coasters Chapter have both told their stories to groups lately. Eddie gives them a pitch about AMMV and Maritime history but suggests leaving the audience on a light note, maybe something like: "Many of our soldiers fell in love while stationed in Europe, so the ugly duckling

LibertyShip which delivered the goods of war, from bullets to bombs, now became the Love Boat with a cargo of brides and babies."

Sign your children and grandchildren up. Young folks can be more than helpful assisting us with new ideas, enthusiasm and the physical ability to carry on where we leave off. And our Constitution provides the opportunity for them to be members.

And wear those caps, jackets or shirts. Spread the word; talk about your experiences to family, friends and strangers. Have someone in your Chapter print out "recruitment" business cards and distribute several to each member to carry in their wallets to give to people they've queried about membership and they provide a telephone number for a response. Again, this may fall on that poor, old Membership chairman. But, it works.

Finally, when you have a likely suspect lined up, do as Connie Heffern of the St. John's River Chapter does – give them the old B.A.R.N. presentation:

B – Bring someone to a meeting; offer to pick them up and buy them lunch, if necessary.

A – After the meeting, nod your head, smile and ask "Now that you have attended our meeting, would you like to be a part of our Chapter?" If the answer is yes, give them an application to fill out and get their check. Shake their hand and welcome them to the Chapter.

R – If the answer is no, not right now, than say "We understand, maybe another time," and then ask for a referral. Use these words, "We certainly understand but let me ask you, is there anyone else that you can think of that would be interested in joining our Chapter?"

N – If the answer to both of the above questions is No, then go on and use the B.A.R.N. approach on the next person you line up.

Hopefully, these ideas will be an inspiration to you. If you can think of any other methods for recruiting new members, please let me know and I'll be glad to publicize them.

Sindy Raymond
Editor, AMMV News Magazine

Welcome Aboard to these New Members of the AMMV

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT TO THE AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS ORGANIZATION.
WE WANT AMERICA TO KNOW THE PRICE MERCHANT SEAMEN PAID FOR THEIR FREEDOM.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING AMMV.

DON ADAMS	LAS VEGAS	NV	JOHN HAFNER	CORAL SPRINGS	FL	L. B. MORTENSON	FT. LAUDERDALE	FL
DEBBIE AILLY	SUN CITY WEST	AZ	RICHARD HARRIMAN	KING CITY	OR	GILBERT N. NELSON	NEW MILFORD	CT
BERNARD AXELROD	MILFORD	PA	MAUREEN HARRISON	ROCKVILLE CENTER	NY	LLOYD NORMAN	APACHE JUNCTION	AZ
DAVID M. BAKER	PEORIA	AZ	MRS. FRANCIS HAYDEL	METAIRIE	LA	CAPT. JOHN S. NOWAK	MCMURRAY	PA
ALAN G. BALLARD	VERO BEACH	FL	STEVE HEIN	SPRINGFIELD	VA	WILLIAM T. O'DONNELL	BAYSIDE	CA
MRS. GEORGE BAUR	ALLISON PARK	PA	JAMES HOLWOOD	LEVITTOWN	PA	GLINDA F. ORRAND	NASHVILLE	TN
MRS. T. BEBOUT	BETHEL PARK	PA	TONI HORODYSKI	EUGENE	OR	ROY OTTO	CINCINNATI	OH
GEORGE BERTHOLD	BAREFOOT BAY	FL	JOHN J. HOWARD	GLENSHAW	PA	HENRY PETERSON	LITTLE ROCK	AR
JOSEPH C. BOLTON	JACKSONVILLE	FL	JONATHAN JACKSON	BROOKLYN	NY	JAMES E. PRUIETT	EVANSVILLE	IN
TAYLOR BRPWM	NASHVILLE	TN	RICK JONES	SPRINGFIELD	VA	MICHAEL PSARELLI	HOUSTON	TX
MICHAEL R. BURNS JR.	PLYMOUTH	MA	FREDERICK KENDALL	VALPARISO	IN	FRANK PUGLIESE	DINGMANS	PA
EDWARD CAMPEN	BILLINGS	MT	FREDERICK KOEHLER	LAUDERDALE LAKES	FL	SINDY RAYMOND	FERNDALE	CA
LEONARD E. CAQUETTE	BLAINE	MN	HARRY H. LA POINTE	REEDSVILLE	WV	ALEXANDER REIS	KENNEWICK	WA
GEORGE CAPLEY	BROOKWOOD	AL	MARION LOGAN	EUGENE	OR	WILLARD RISDON	TOLEDO	OH
MRS. NAOMI COLLIER	PITTSBURGH	PA	DICK LOW	PAYSON	AZ	JOHN G. ROBERTS	LANCASTER	CA
MRS. JOSEPH COOK	LEESBURG	FL	ALICE E. LOZIER	NEWBURGH	NY	MRS. ANITA ROBERTS	SLOVAN	PA
DAVID COST	ALABASTER	AL	JOSEPH P. MACHADO	RIO VISTA	CA	BILL ROWLANDS	SAN JOSE	CA
GEORGE COURVILLE	SUN LAKES	AZ	LOUIS MALOY	WOODBURN	OR	JAMES RUSH	BALA CYNWLD	PA
TODD M. CURRY	ALTON	IL	STANLEY MATABLE	SARASOTA	FL	STEPHEN L. SAYKO	JACKSONVILLE	NC
JAMES W. DAROUSE, JR.	ALBANY	LA	JOHN T. MATTHEWS	TUCSON	AZ	JOHN E. SCHMIDT, JR.	TALLAHASSEE	FL
NICHOLAS G. DISSO	SHARON	MA	WILLIAM MATZ, JR.	SPRINGFIELD	VA	JAMES SHEPPERD	PATTERSON	CA
ROBERT A. DOLPH	HILLSBORO	OH	DAVID M. MC CREA	WESTERVILLE	OH	DONALD L. SHNYDER	N. EDWARDS	CA
DONALD DOMIKE	PENN VALLEY	CA	MRS. LOYCE MC GINLEY	CHULA VISTA	CA	JAMES R. SMITH	CALEDONIA	MO
LOUIS H. EBERT	SLIDELL	LA	JOSEPH H. MCCARTHY	PLAINVIEW	TX	VERNON SORENSON	BURLINGTON	WA
ROBERT O. ELLIS	SHELTON	CT	ART MCMAHON	CATAWISSA	PA	CHARLES STERINGER	MEDFORD	OR
FLOYD E. FELTS	EVANS	GA	LUPE MENDEZ	CONCORD	CA	ROCHELLE STORLIE	SANDY	OR
RICK FERNANDEZ	PLACERVILLE	CA	BOB A. MILBY	SANTA ROSA	CA	TIM STORLIE	SANDY	OR
SANTOS FLORES	PEARLAND	TX	CASEY MILLER	AGUA DULCE	CA	EDWARD TESAR	BRANCH	AR
RUSSELL R. GARLAND	OLYMPIA	WA	KATHLEEN MILLER	AGUA DULCE	CA	MICHAEL J. THOMAS	DANIA BEACH	FL
RODOLFO GERONIMO	STATEN ISLAND	NY	MICHAEL MILLER	AGUA DULCE	CA	DAVID L. THOMSON	UNIVERSAL CITY	TX
DAVID GEYER	VERO BEACH	FL	TOREY MILLER	AGUA DULCE	CA	HOWARD WEBER	FARMINGTON	MI
EUGENE GIBLIN	HOUSTON	TX	E. J. MILLIN	PASADENA	TX	NICK WEBSTER	JUNO BEACH	FL
ROBERT GLOE	LEBANON	OR	PETER MISURACA	SOUTHAMPTON	NY	JOHN WOJCIK	WEBSTER	MA
JOSEPH GREMELSBACKER	DANIA BEACH	FL	VIRGINIA MONTALVO	FORT LAUDERDALE	FL	DAVID ZARNOWSKI	DELRAY BEACH	FL



REGION REPORTS

Southeast Region

Members of the Southeast Region have voiced questions regarding the AMMV retaining our Veterans Service Organization status in light of the significant By-law changes that are being proposed. I must say that I am also concerned and I realized that my basic knowledge of the matter was limited. Consequently, I went to the Veterans Affairs website to see if I could gather some insight – I found that the VA had listed many Veterans Service Organizations – divided into chartered and non-chartered. The chartered were those which were established by an act of Congress, however, there was no explanation of the non-chartered – how they are chosen, etc. The site did designate that chartered VSO's were authorized to legally represent veterans in claims against the government. On the same website I found the "contact us" link and found that I could submit a question and they would answer within five days – wow, I thought, five days for a government organization. Well, I submitted the following question and received an answer in three days: "What are the requirements for becoming and then retaining a non-chartered Veterans Service Organization status?" The answer is as follows:

Subject: VSO Question

There is no fine definition as to becoming or maintaining a non-chartered veterans organization status, however, because many have requested that I add their organizations to our directory I have come up with the following with OGC [Office of General Council] reserved approval:

"For an organization to be listed they must be a non-profit that are national in scope, of good reputation, in existence and involved with Veterans for a minimum of three years, dedicated to a wide range of veterans' issues, with a membership of at least 1,000 or be Congressionally recognized."

Kevin Secor

Veterans Service Organizations Liaison
Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC
202-273-4836

In summary, my breakdown of requirements is as follows:

- 1) Be non-profit
- 2) Operate nationally
- 3) Have a good reputation
- 4) Minimum of three years in existence

- 5) Minimum of three years involvement with Veterans
- 6) Have at least 1,000 members
- 7) Be dedicated to a wide range of veterans' issues
- 8) OGC reserved approval
- 9) Or be Congressionally recognized (Chartered)

You should note that there is no requirement for veterans to be members of the organization. As long as the organization meets the requirements above, they would be designated as Veterans Service Organization and accepted by the Veterans Administration.

Morris Harvey, Southeast Region Vice President

An explanation of the IRS Veteran's organization rulings from Steve Hein at National Uniformed Armed Services (NAUS) sent to President Wichita on 1/15/09:

To be a veterans organization, a 501-C-19 organization, the organization must have at least 75% of its members that are veterans, and a substantial portion of the other 25% must be spouses, survivors or direct descendants of veterans. "Substantial" has been interpreted to mean only 2.5% of a veterans organization's membership can NOT be veterans, or spouses/survivors/family members.

TOP TEN REASONS A SHIP IS CALLED "SHE" ...

- #10. There is always a great deal of bustle around her.
- #9. There is usually a gang of men about.
- #8. She has a waist and stays.
- #7. It takes a lot of paint to keep her good looking.
- #6. She shows her topsides and hides her bottom.
- #5. She can be all decked out.
- #4. It takes an experienced man to handle her correctly.
- #3. And without a man at the helm, she is absolutely uncontrollable.
- #2. When coming into port, she always heads for the buoys.
- #1. It's not the initial expense that breaks you, it's the upkeep!!!



JUST COMPENSATION

The first President of the United States, George Washington said "The willingness of which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of early wars were treated and appreciated by our nation".

As World War II Merchant Mariners we feel that the U. S. Merchant Marine Combat Veterans have NOT been appreciated by our nation or treated honorably by the fact that the 1944 GI Bill of Rights is still being denied these veterans who suffered the highest percentage of losses in WWII.

The Final Battle is Near: 11,000 Merchant Marine Veterans of WWII mean business in the 111th Congressional Session. Congressman Bob Filner reintroduced our legislation HR23 "A Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009" to the House of Representatives on January 6th, opening day of this Congressional Session. This is the first step, this session, towards our long coming Just reward goal. Now we are going to be sending out postcards asking our Just Compensation Committee members to go to work.

We feel it is time our legislators listened to George Washington, Father of our Country, and give thought to the mind set of tens of thousands of new soldiers, sailors and marines who now witness the mistreatment of the WWII men of the U. S. Merchant Marine.

We need everyone to contact their Congress persons and Senators, when the companion bill is introduced into the Senate by Senator Ben Nelson, and tell them that a prompt and positive vote by our political representatives for passage of our Bills will restore confidence in the new generation of our armed forces.

The message to our legislators may be as simple as: "After 42 years of abandonment, in 1988 the Merchant Marine Veterans of WWII were finally recognized as bonafide American Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. Our legislation before Congress is asking for the reinstatement of equal benefits that 11 million other WWII Veterans received from 1944 on. WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW." Please be adamant about your requests as our ranks are getting thinner and time is of the essence.

The Just Compensation Committee staff has gone to work, already, contacting all of the 244 House of Representative



Congressman Bob Filner, Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, Just Compensation Committee Chairman Ian Allison, and Sindy Raymond, NEWS Editor

members, or their replacements, who signed on as Co-sponsors of HR23 in the 110th Congress. We're asking them to please Co-sponsor again and will get to work contacting the others soon. We'll be forwarding contact information to you soon.

God bless America,
IAN T. ALLISON

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ode to a Liberty Ship

Dear Editor:

In the Fall, 2008 NEWS Magazine, I noticed that "The Liberty Ship" poem printed was missing the last verse. This was originally called "Ode to a Liberty Ship" written by Captain Betto and was published in a booklet published in August, 1944 by the Seafarers International Union called "The SIU at War."

The last verse should be:

But Hark! That's the stand bell
The Pilot's boarded, all is well
Another trip comes to an end,
We say farewell, to you, my friend

I wondered if anyone else noticed.

Walter Holm
Star Prairie, WI

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Become a Part of Maritime History

Dear Editor:

I have had the privilege to be a part of AMMV history by writing and compiling 6 books including the following: Patriots and Heroes: True Stories of the U. S. Merchant Marine in World War II, Vols. 1 & 2, Death's Railway: A Merchant Mariner POW on the River Kwai and No Surrender: True Stories of the U. S. Navy Armed Guard in World War II.

Lester Ellison is a very good friend of mine. His WWII tugboat experiences aboard an Army Transport tug were briefly told in my Patriots and Heroes series. Les' maritime career led to his desire to inform the American public about the role of the American Merchant Marine in WWII.

After reviewing his life and work, I have decided to write a book concerning the American Merchant Marine and its involvement with tugboats in WWII. Therefore, I am looking for stories from mariners who served aboard any WWII related tugboats. These stories may involve all the theaters, training, first/last voyage, D-day, humor, battle, death, life at sea and in port, etc.

I look forward to compiling and writing this volume on our WWII tugboats. I can be contacted at 83 Barberry Drive, Huntington, NY 11743, telephone (631) 421-3242 or email reminig@sunysuffolk.edu.

Sincerely,

Gerald Reminick

Snug Harbor News

Dear Editor:

I am writing to personally thank you for the short article you included in the Fall 2008 Edition of the AMMV newsletter. I was concerned, however, when I realized the most important part of the message was not published: hundreds of those who have served in the Merchant Marine are eligible for terrific retirement benefits that many do not seem to be aware of. The Trust that has benefitted thousands of sailors since 1801 is still in existence. Sailors pay 40% of their income to retire to Snug Harbor, covering their room, board, electricity, water and sewer, linens, all meals, housekeeping, furnishings (if desired), and so much more. Assets are not a part of the payment, so no one is asked to sell off their property or go broke in order to receive benefits. Snug Harbor offers independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing, so sailors no longer have to be "aged, decrepit, and worn out" (as stated in Capt. Randall's will) to live here, but simply

retired. Many of our fellows come here driving their own cars and carrying on with their lives as usual, but now have all of their meals cooked and rooms cleaned and laundry done at just a fraction of the price they now pay to just to rent a one-room apartment with none of the amenities!

We are anxious to get this message out, along with contact information that was not included in the article. Our website, www.snugharborhome.com or <http://www.snugharborhome.com/>, contains some of the info, but all answers can be obtained by calling me at 252-225-4411 ext. 241 or emailing harborinfo@bizec.rr.com.

Janet Grainge

Sea Level, NC

Members-at-Large

Dear Editor:

In response to an earlier E-mail sent by Consolidated Aligned Members At Large (CAMAL) to addresses across the nation, here are a few comments from the many received from Members At Large:

Robert E: "Hello, I am a WWII Merchant Marine and US Army Veteran. I am blind and able to use the Guide System of PC to communicate and receive AMMV activities via the Internet. Thank You."

Dean & Carol: "We got your mail. This is the first time we heard of this group. Thanks for your E-mail --- please let us know more about CAMAL and activities." Their mail also contained numerous outstanding activities they initiated while honoring veterans.

Mike: In upstate NY: "I and five other merchant mariners join with 17 US Armed Guard in regular meetings in Rochester. We are exploring the probability of linking with CAMAL."

Carl: "I was one of the radiotelegraphers aboard ships in WWII. I look forward to communicating with you."

Robert: "I am a Member At Large, please add me to your CAMAL list."

There are many more seeking enlightenment of AMMV activities and wish to link on.

Be advised, that we also delete, without hesitation, considerable spam and junk mail being sent to the dedicated and published CAMAL mailing address: Kerkow@att.net

Thank you for publishing this article of some human interest.

Lawrence W. Kerkow, Ph.D.

Director of Communications

Universal City, TX



CHAPTER NEWS

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

President Harry S. Truman, April 16, 1945

Many, many AMMV chapters—too many to list—participated in Veterans' Day Parades on November 11, 2008 and the Wreaths Across America ceremonies on December 13, 2008. Both of these events are truly Veteran projects and U.S. Merchant Mariners should be proud of their participation in these events. Unfortunately, lack of space in this issue precludes most individual Chapter inclusion, but you know who you are and what you did helped in the efforts for public recognition of our organization and the U.S. Merchant Marine of WWII.

Dennis A. Roland Chapter



Dennis A. Roland Chapter members attending the memorial dedication are (l to r) 1st Vice President George Murphy, New Jersey State Merchant Marine Veterans President Hank Kaminski (back), Past President George Goldman, Waterman Steamship Line Captain Steven Worth, Master-at-Arms Dan Kowalyk, and Ray Cox.

Members of the N.J. American Merchant Marine Veterans participated in the New Jersey World War II Memorial Dedication Ceremony on November 11, 2008 in Trenton, New Jersey.

The following maritime-related personnel transfers are noted:

The Bush Administration has given notice that it is nominating Maritime Administrator SEAN CONNAUGHTON for a 5-year term to the Federal Maritime Commission. The White House further noted that it intends to designate him Chairman of the 5-member Commission following Connaughton's expected Senate confirmation. The FMC is an independent regulatory agency responsible for the regulation of ocean home transportation in the foreign commerce of the U.S. The Commission has operated with a Chairman for two years and with only three Commissioners for the last few months. Since taking over MARAD in August, 2006, Connaughton, who graduated from Kings Point in 1983, has been aggressive in his promotion of short sea shipping and has helped pave the way for the return of U.S. mariners aboard

LNG vessels around the world, among other things.

VADM. JOSEPH D. STEWART was honored at a September 24th retirement dinner at King's Point Maritime Academy. Having spent the last ten years as Superintendent of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and, before that, having retired as a Major General in the U.S. Marine Corps, he has truly spent a lifetime in service to his country, unbroken since his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy. In his years as Superintendent at King's Point, he has been able to guide the enhancement of its scholastic standards to very high levels now recognized by college ratings services, and keep the Academy updated with the latest facilities, techniques and staff. May you always have fair winds and following seas, Admiral.

RADM ALLEN R. WORLEY has been named by the U.S. Maritime Administration as Superintendent of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Adm. Worley's career has spanned more than 30 years of public service as a U.S. Navy officer and educator. He, most recently, served as Superintendent of the Texas Maritime Academy in Galveston.



Leslie Blackburn III, Acting Master U.S.T.S. TEXAS CLIPPER, RADM Allen B. Worley, A.J. Wichita, National President AMMV, and Karen Bigley, Director of Media Relations and Communications at Texas A&M, taken at Texas Maritime Academy, Galveston, right before Hurricane Ike.



CHAPTER NEWS

Gulf Stream Chapter



Terry Lake (left), Director of Facility Operation for American Maritime Officers School presents toys donated by the staff and students of the A.M.O. school to NVP Joe Colon and Gulf Stream Chapter member Fred Calicchio.

December 6th was our annual Toys for Tots luncheon. This year we were assisted by the American Maritime Officers School, Dania, FL. The students and staff of the AMO graciously donated the toys of our Toys for Tots program. At the Christmas luncheon, the toys were turned over to Petty Officers Brandon Bove and Harry Vazquez of the U.S. Coast Guard. The toys were airlifted to the Coast Guard Station in

the Galveston-Houston, TX area for the children of the Coast Guard crew who lost everything they owned, except what they had on their backs, when they evacuated. Extras will be donated to local charities for other children who are still feeling the effects of Hurricane Ike. Joe Colon and Fred Calicchio also attended the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the National Veterans Cemetery, Lake Worth, FL on December 13th.

Juan De Fuca Chapter

Vice President Karl R. Baumwell reports: On November 3, 2008, members of our Chapter voted to disband as dwindling membership made continuing functioning extremely difficult. The effective date of disbandment is December 15, 2008. Many of our crew will affiliate with the Puget Sound Chapter, whose President, Bob Barbee, has graciously offered to share his van for rides to the Seattle meeting location.

We have donated our monetary assets to the National Liberty Ship Memorial in memory of our first President Harold "Bud" Schmidt, Sr. Our members would like to thank all of the Chapters who have sent us copies of their newsletters.

Fair winds and a following sea to all.



USS New York Honors Memory of September 11

The USS New York is one of several ships in the San Antonio class of amphibious transport dock ships. They are designed to transport and land troops, supplies, and equipment such as amphibious vehicles and helicopters. It is one of three similar ships that are being built and being given names that are associated with The Attack on America. In addition to the USS New York, the USS Arlington will be named because of the location of the Pentagon, which was hit by American Airlines flight 77. The USS Somerset will be named after the county in Pennsylvania in which United flight 93 crashed after being taken over by hijackers.

The ship is being built in New Orleans. Twenty-four tons of steel from the World Trade Center have been recycled for the project. About seven tons were melted down and poured into a cast to make the bow section of the ship's hull. The steel has been treated with reverence by the shipbuilders and several workers have postponed retirements for the honor of working on the USS New York.

This new ship got the name USS New York when New York Governor George Pataki wrote to Secretary of the Navy Gordon England and requested that the Navy approve of the name in honor of the victims of September 11.

The ship's motto: "Never Forget."



CHAPTER NEWS

New England Chapter

TELEVISION SERIES ON THE HISTORY OF THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE

In August, Larry Brooks, CEO of the New England Chapter reported to A.J. Wichita, National AMMV President that members Jack Peterson and Roger Hardy are working on a recruitment program for AMMV members. Jack works in public television and they are working together to tell the history of the Merchant Marine from the 1700s to present. When finished, it will take the form of a DVD which will be shown on public television, followed by a recruitment bit for AMMV membership.

At the October 5th meeting, Jack Peterson reported on the progress of the 11 episode "Story Behind the Story of the Merchant Marine". He has taped an interview with Larry Brooks and has a copy of this. He is asking for stories and interviews from all AMMV chapter members. He can be connected at: Jack Peterson, 88R South Street, Medfield, MA 02052. Telephones: business (508) 359-7521, residence (508) 359-7972, fax (508) 359-8888. Jack is an Executive Producer at MCA Corp. Cable TV Channel 8.

St. John's River Chapter

ALL VETERANS CAN NOW SALUTE THE U.S. FLAG WITHOUT BEING IN UNIFORM

At their meetings, other veterans' organizations are citing this new law and encouraging their members to render the right hand salute to the flag when not in uniform. Per H.R. 4986 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 signed by the President 1/28/08, to become Public Law No. 110-181.

Sec. 594. CONDUCT BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS OUT OF UNIFORM DURING HOISTING, LOWERING OR PASSING OF UNITED STATES FLAG.

Section 9 of title 4, United States Code, is amended by striking 'all persons present' and all that follows through the end of the section and inserting the follow: 'all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over their heart, or if applicable, remove their head and address with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present

should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.'



On November 11, 2008 we again were represented by a great many of our Chapter members in our WWII lifeboat.

After the Parade was over we all were pleased and honored to meet and celebrate with Sindy Raymond, Editor of the AMMV News Magazine and Assistant to Ian Allison of the Just Compensation Committee, from California.



Those in the picture are from left to right, front row, Gerald Krueger, President; Connie Heffern, Vice-President; Merlin Jones; John Lockhart, Director and Past President; Sindy Raymond. Those on the back row from left to right are Paul Washburn; Gene Yarbrough; Sharon Lockhart, Treasurer; Tom Suneson, MEBA, District 1; and Dave Swan.

Editor's note: I would like to extend my utmost thanks to the members of the St. John's River Chapter who treated me royally when I visited them on Veterans Day, 2008. The only regret I have about the entire trip is not being able to ride in their lifeboat in the Jacksonville parade with these proud members as I was 14 hours late getting to Jacksonville by plane. Thank you greatly for your hospitality.



CHAPTER NEWS

Susquehanna Valley Chapter

Wreaths Across America ceremonies took place in more than 200 national and state veterans' cemeteries across the United States on December 13, 2008. The majority of the wreaths come from private donations. The Worcester Wreath Company in Maine donates 5,000 wreaths each year to be placed at the National Cemetery in Arlington, VA. This year, it is reported that Walmart donated \$85,000 for wreaths. The program was designed to remember, honor and teach about the service and sacrifices of this nation's

veterans and fallen heroes. We at the Susquehanna Valley Chapter took part in the ceremony at the Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery here at Annapolis, PA. We have heard reports of participation by Chapters in California, Oregon, Florida and other areas as well. This is a very worthwhile effort. We may never have known the heroes laid to rest in front of us but you can't help but pause, read the name on the marker and pay your respects with a moment of silence for each one.



Ray Rife, Brad Culbertson, William Balabanow and Edward Gannon, all members of the Susquehanna Valley Mariners, South Eastern Penna, attended the Wreaths Across America ceremony.



**COURIER-POST
CAMDEN N.J.
SEPTEMBER 29, 1942**

NAMES OF 2301 ANNOUNCED AS WAR'S VICTIMS

**One Merchant Marine
Worker From This Area
Known to Be Dead**

**OTHERS ARE BELIEVED
TO BE AXIS PRISONERS**

The U. S. Merchant Marine today released its first official casualty list, reporting 2301 seaman, including 18 from South Jersey, dead or missing since the outbreak of the war.

Only one of those from this area is known to be dead. The others are reported as missing. Naval authorities report as missing all men who cannot be accounted for. It was explained that some may be prisoners and some may have landed at remote places and have been unable to communicate with American authorities.

The list covered the period Sept. 27, 1941, to Aug. 1, 1942. It was compiled by the Coast Guard. Relatives of some of the missing men were notified as long ago as February, but today's list is the first official compilation.

The South Jersey casualties:

Dead
Frank H. Mooney, formerly of 225 Hudson street, Gloucester.
Missing
Harry H. Bradway, 709 Lawrence street.
Nicholas Hetz, 690 Ferry avenue.
Neil Jensen, 1430 Haddon avenue.
Francis Barbers, 11 East Woodlawn avenue, Maple Shade.
Hamilton L. Venetta, 207 East Mill road, Maple Shade.
Emil H. Englebrecht, Jefferson avenue, Williamstown.
William L. Miller, 19 Walnut street, Woodbury.
George Zink, 432 Horace avenue, Palmyra.
Theodore Florek, 216 West Pearl street, Burlington.
Ralph H. Chase, Clarksboro road, Paulsboro.
Clarence E. Corbin, 43 York street, Salem.
Clifford Lawrence, Indian Mills.
Charles A. Richardson, Hightstown.
Joseph L. Gorman, 516 Grammercy road, Atlantic City.
Joseph Hagerty, 446 Trenton avenue, Atlantic City.
William M. Kalima, Steel Pier, Atlantic City.
Lewis E. Byrne, Old Main road, Waretown.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE AMMV NATIONAL CONVENTION, MAY, 2009 IN TAMPA, FL

*Passed by those attending the Valley Forge Regional meeting held at Bedford, PA., October 7 – 9, 2008. This resolution is to be considered as an addition to the AMMV Constitution and to be referred to ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS....
PARAGRAPH C.*

RESOLUTION:

That the four (4) elected National Officers and the twelve (12) elected Regional Vice Presidents shall meet at least three (3) months prior to the National Convention via a Video Phone, Conference Call, or In Person methods of communicating, for the purpose of viewing strategic plans to be offered for the continued operations of the AMMV

RATIONALE:

It is thought that the conducting of strategic business at the AMMV National Convention, as a once a year schedule, is not timely enough to thoroughly discuss necessary business.

Therefore, it is believed that prior planning of business matters, then to be presented for discussion, shall be made in advance so as to be presented on the Convention Agenda.

Passed by those attending the Western Regional meeting held in Reno, NV and submitted by Bill Marker, NWRVP – Oregon Chapter, 09-29-08. It is requested that upon passage at the 2009 Convention, the Resolution should be sent at once to Mr. Steve Muro, Director, Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemeteries Administration, Washington, DC 20420.

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, current policy does not allow the official Merchant Marine Flag to be posted on a daily basis as is done for the Departments of Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, and whereas, policy is not law, and whereas, commitment of DD214 documented veterans is provided as a means of honoring their person service and sacrifice, we believe all such veterans should be treated on a totally fair and equitable basis. Therefore, be resolved, that the 2009 Convention of the American Merchant Marine Veterans hereby urgently requests the National Cemeteries Administration to take immediate action to change policy to allow daily posting of the U. S. Merchant Marine Flag.

Passed by those attending the Western Regional meeting held in Reno, NV submitted by the Golden Gate Chapter. This resolution is to be considered as an addition to the AMMV Constitution and to be referred to ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP - ELIGIBILITY

RESOLUTION:

Addition: Paragraph G – Wives of members in good standing.

RATIONALE:

It has become apparent in recent years that there are fewer people who are able or willing to run for local Chapter offices. Witness the number of Chapters who have had to close in the last year. It is also apparent in reading the Newsletters of various Chapters that the wives of members of some Chapters are elected to the offices of Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Editors of their Chapters' Newsletter because there are not enough members volunteering, or able, to fill these positions. It is time to allow wives who wish to become Regular members into our organization. We do not believe that the number of wives who wish to become Regular members will have any effect on maintain the Veterans status of the AMMV. It is past time we recognize what the members' wives have contributed, and continue to contribute, to the AMMV.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE AMMV CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

This is a comparative reporting of the current AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS Preamble, Constitution and By-Laws (as approved at the 20th National AMMV Convention in May, 2006) and suggested changes presented to those attending the **Western Regional meeting** held in Reno, Nevada by Dr. Lawrence W. Kerkow. These will be submitted by Dr. Kerkow, who worked with an 11-person Committee, for approval at the AMMV National Convention in Tampa, Florida in May, 2009. These proposed changes were ratified at Reno by a 3-person panel who suggested a few word changes. **Presented here are the current AMMV Constitution and By-Laws with suggested changes, as proposed by Dr. Kerkow and the Committee, immediately following, in italics.**

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS

PREAMBLE

The American Merchant Marine Veterans is a not for profit pro-American organization. To gain recognition for what the men of the AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINES have accomplished for our country in war and peace. To educate the American public as to the importance of having a strong American flag Merchant Marine at all times. To use all our ability to help the cause of AMERICAN SEAPOWER and the AMERICAN SEAMEN.

The American Merchant Marine Veterans, a not-for-profit corporation specifically formed to gain recognition for what the men and women, past and present, of the AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE have accomplished for their country in both war and peace. Our purpose is to educate the American public as to the importance of having a strong American Flag Merchant Marine at all times. To use all our ability to help the cause of AMERICAN SEAPOWER and the AMERICAN SEAMEN.

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS

CONSTITUTION

Article I : Name of the organization

The name of this corporation is the "AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS".

No proposed change

Article II: Enabling Law

The corporation is organized pursuant to the State of Florida "Not for Profit" Corporation Act.

No proposed change

Article III: Our purpose is:

- A. To preserve the spirit of Comradeship among the American Merchant Marine Veterans, and our fellow seamen who served in the Merchant Marine Fleets of

the nations allied with the United States.

To preserve the spirit of Comradeship among past and current American Merchant Marine Veterans, and fellow seamen who served in Merchant Marine Fleets of the nations allied with the United States.

- B. To perpetuate the memory of our dead, assist their widows, and help worthy comrades.

To perpetuate the memory of those deceased, to assist their widows and help worthy comrades regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex or disability by allowing their spouse, descendents and ancestral membership to extend their historical accuracy.

- C. To maintain and extend the institution of American freedom and encourage loyalty to our country's laws and constitution.

To maintain and extend the cause of American freedom and encourage loyalty to our country's laws and Constitution.

- D. To publicize the services of the American Merchant Marine Seamen in World War II, and gain recognition for the services and sacrifices of Korean and Vietnam War veterans.

To publicize the services of the American Merchant Marine Seamen in war and peace since 1775.

Proposed addition: (E) To establish a Maritime Cadet scholarship

- E. To have our nation always maintain a modern and strong Merchant Marine as it is a national and economic necessity, but more importantly a potent arm of defense and offense as it has already proven to be. We desire a well-trained and efficient manpower to crew this fleet.

(F) To promote and maintain a modern and strong Merchant Marine fleet and the infrastructure to maintain it.

- F. To conduct and carry on its activities for nonprofit

purposes, in any state or territory of the United States, or in any foreign country, in conformity with the laws of such state, and that no part of net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any Member, Director or Officer.

(G) To conduct and carry on its activities for nonprofit purposes, in any state or territory of the United States or any foreign country, in conformity with the laws of such state or country, and that no part of net earnings shall specifically or singularly benefit any Group, Member, Director or Officer.

- G. There shall be no discrimination by any Officer, Director, or Member against anyone because of race, creed or national origin.

(H) There shall be no discrimination of any sort by any Officer, Director or Member against anyone because of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, Chapter or Region.

Article IV: Membership

Eligibility: The following persons are eligible for membership in the corporation:

The following persons are eligible for membership in the American Merchant Marine Veterans Corporation.

- A. Applicants must submit proof of service in the American Merchant Marine at any time, or on allied countries ships carrying American cargo in war time.
- Certificate of Discharge from ocean voyages (Foreign or Coastal) or inland waters.
 - Members of the U. S. Maritime Service (Active or Inactive including Academy Cadets.)
 - Members of U. S. Public Health Service who were engaged in the treatment of U. S. Seamen.
 - Armed Guards serving on U. S. Merchant Marine vessels.
 - Members of any uniformed United States Armed Service with a DD Form 214.
Any and all civilian, active and/or retired uniformed services persons who have the desire and interest to support the purpose of the American Merchant Marine industry.
 - Widows and descendants, children, grandchildren, etc. of members in good standing.
(B): Widows, spouses, descendants, children and grand-children of members in good standing at the annual dues rate.
- B. Honorary membership may be offered to any individual who through the arts and sciences and or through his or her efforts has furthered the cause of the Merchant Marine. Approval of the Board of Directors is required. Such persons shall pay no dues and will not have a vote.

(C) : Honorary membership may be offered to any individual who through the Arts and Sciences and/ or through his or her efforts has furthered the cause of the American Merchant Marine. Such membership must be approved by the Board of Directors. Honorary members pay no dues nor have a vote in membership elections or other matters.

- C. Each member shall pay annual dues as prescribed by the Bylaws.

(D): Each regular member shall pay National dues as prescribed in the By-Laws.

Article V – Organization

The governing body of this organization shall be a Board of Directors to be constituted as the by-laws prescribe.

The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of this organization as prescribed in the By-Laws.

Article VI – Meetings

- A. The organization will meet once a year to elect officers and conduct such other business as may be properly come before the membership. This meeting shall be called the National Convention.

The National Officers shall call for a National Convention in May each year to present business or suggested organizational changes to the membership. There shall be a biennial election of officers on odd-numbered years.

- B. The Board of Directors shall convene at the National Convention or at any other time that may be determined necessary by a majority of the Board.

The Board of Directors shall convene a business meeting at the National Convention or at any other time deemed necessary by the President or a majority of Board of Directors.

Article VII – Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

Amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors and presented at the National Convention.

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by resolution, adopted by the Board of Directors and presented to the membership for approval at the National Convention.

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1 – MEMBERSHIP

- A. All paid up members shall be considered as active members and entitled to privileges of voting and active participation in all activities of the organization.

All Chapter members and Members-at-Large, wives, widows, descendants, children, grandchildren and ancestors current in their dues shall be considered active members in good standing and entitled to full voting privileges and participation in all activities of the organization.

- B. Application for membership shall be accompanied by national dues. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements as described in the Constitution.

Application for membership will include National dues payment.

- C. At some future date, life membership may be available upon payment of life membership dues as established by the National Board of Directors.

Life memberships may be available upon payment of Life Membership dues in the amount established by the National Board of Directors (For future consideration.)

- D. A member belonging to more than one Chapter has voting rights in his home Chapter that pays his national dues.

A member may belong to more than one Chapter, but will only have voting rights in the home Chapter that pays his National Dues.

- E. Membership in this organization shall be suspended for non-payment of dues 90 days after they become due. Names of suspended members shall be removed from the mailing list of the National publication.

Membership in this organization will be suspended for non-payment of dues after a 90-day grace period following the June 30 due date. Names of suspended members shall be removed from the magazine mailing list.

- F. The National membership list of names and addresses shall not be released to anyone, public or private concerns. If any individual Chapter wishes to exchange their membership list with another Chapter, that would be at their discretion.

The contents of the National Membership List are protected under the Privacy Act. The National Office Administrator, as custodian of these names and addresses, shall maintain these records accordingly and only release this list in strictest confidence to the national publication printer when necessary for mailing the quarterly AMMV News Magazine. National elected officers may periodically review the list.

ARTICLE II – NATIONAL OFFICERS

SECTION 201 – ELECTED OFFICERS AND VACANCIES

- A. The officers of the national organization shall consist of:

1. President

No change

2. Executive Vice President and a minimum of 7 Regional Vice Presidents.

Vice President and a minimum of seven Regional Vice Presidents

3. Secretary

No change

4. Treasurer

No change

5. National Directors (all duly elected officers, Past Presidents, Regional Vice Presidents and Executive Officers of each Chapter shall be a National Director.)

National Board of Directors, including all duly elected officers, Past Presidents, Regional Vice Presidents and Executive Officers of each Chapter.

6. All AMMV past presidents shall serve as an ex-officio director of the Board.

eliminated

- B. An elected officer may resign at any time. Such resignation shall be made in writing to the Board of Directors.

An elected officer may resign at any time by submitting a letter of resignation to the President of the Board of Directors.

- C. Any officer, elected or appointed, may be removed for just cause by the Board of Directors by a majority vote whenever the best interests of the organization will be served thereby.

Any officer, elected or appointed, may be removed from office for just cause as determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Just cause must serve the best interest of the organization.

- D. Any vacancy occurring in any office, except that of President, shall be filled by a person receiving a majority of votes of the Board of Directors at a special meeting or by mail poll after proper notification. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Executive Vice President.

Except with the office of the President, vacancies occurring in any office shall be filled by the nominee receiving the majority of votes by the Board of Directors. Where a vacancy in the Presidency occurs, the Vice President shall fill that office until an election can be held at the next National Convention.

SECTION 202 – ELIGIBILITY, NOMINATIONS, ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE.

- A. To be eligible for any National office, the candidate

must be a member in good standing. A member may hold one elective and one appointive office.

To be eligible for any National Office, the candidate must be a dues paying member in good standing. A member may hold on elected and one non-conflicting appointed office.

- B. National elective officers shall be nominated and elected at the annual meeting to be known as the National Convention. Nomination for all offices shall be made by the nominating committee. Additional nominations will be permitted from the floor. No person absent shall be considered for any elective office unless such person has previously notified the Nominating Committee Chairman in writing before the first business meeting of the National Convention that the person is willing to serve in the office concerned. All elected National Officers shall hold their office for a term of two (2) years commencing at the start of the fiscal year, as stated in Section 209 of the By-Laws, and shall hold office for a term of two (2) years or until installation of their successor, if after the end of their fiscal elected year. Installation shall be before the end of the annual convention at which the officer is elected. In the absence of any duly elected officer, he or she may be installed when represented by any member selected for that purpose. No president can serve over four (4) consecutive one (1) year terms two (2) year terms. However, if the president is elected after absence from office for at least one (1) term, then he or she shall be eligible for four (4) two (2) consecutive one (1) year two (2) year terms.

National elected officers shall be nominated and elected at the annual meeting known as the National Convention. Nominations for all offices shall be submitted to and by the Nominating Committee. Additional nominations from the floor are permitted. If a nominee cannot attend the National Convention, he cannot be considered for any elective office unless such nominee has indicated their willingness to serve in writing to the Nominating Committee Chairman before the first National Convention business meeting.

(C): All National Officers are elected for two year terms or until installation of their successor. Oath of Office and Installation of newly elected National Officers shall be conducted at a scheduled ceremony during the National Convention banquet. A newly elected officer who cannot attend the ceremony may be sworn into office by proxy when represented by a stand-in member. No President may serve more than two consecutive regular two-year terms. However, a past President may be nominated for the Presidency once again after an absence of one (1) term and thereafter serve two regular terms.

- C. The Regional Vice Presidents shall be elected by the delegates to the National Convention from the Chapters in their region.

(D) Regional Vice Presidents shall be elected by Convention delegates of each Chapter of that respective region. Results of the Regional Vice President election shall be reported to National Headquarters promptly.

SECTION 203 – NATIONAL CONVENTION

- A. The National Convention shall be held at least one week prior to, or one week after National Maritime Day, May 22nd, and no later than June 15th.

The National Convention shall generally be held within one week of National Maritime Day, May 22nd, but no later than June 15th.

- B. The National Secretary shall notify all Chapters of the National Convention, not less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual convention.

The National Secretary shall notify all Chapters and the Editor of the quarterly AMMV News Magazine of the date and location, not less than sixty (60) days prior to the National Convention. The Secretary may delegate this task to National Headquarters.

- C. The National Convention site shall be voted on at the current National Convention for the following two years and will be rotated sectionally.

Future National Convention sites shall be selected and approved by general membership vote prior to close of business of the current National Convention.

- D. The National Convention host chapter will furnish the National Secretary necessary assistance and/or equipment for taking the minutes of the convention. The expense will be borne by the National organization. The minutes will be published in the next regularly scheduled issue of the official publication.

The National Convention Host Chapter will be responsible for providing the National Secretary with necessary equipment for recording minutes of convention business. Any expense associated with this service will be borne by the National Organization. The convention minutes will be published in the next scheduled edition of the official national publication.

- E. The purpose of this convention shall be to conduct business necessary for the efficient operation of the organization.

The purpose of the National Convention is to conduct necessary general business, enlighten the general membership of proposed activities, and to renew acquaintances.

- F. Convention business shall be held on consecutive days.

Side tours, etc. will be before or after the convention business days.

The National Convention objective is to conduct business as its priority. Side tours and entertainment activities shall not conflict with scheduled business meetings.

SECTION 204 – ELECTED NATIONAL OFFICERS – POWERS & DUTIES.

A. PRESIDENT

1. The National President shall preside over all meetings of the Board of Directors and the National Convention. The National President shall work to the best of his ability to further the aims and policies of the organization. The National President shall coordinate and supervise the activities of all National Officers.

The National President shall: preside over all meetings of the Board of Directors and National Convention; further the aims and policies of the organization; and coordinate and oversee all National Officer activities.

2. The President shall be able to receive Expense allowance, to cover the cost of performing his duties in office, not to exceed \$2,000.00 annually.

The President is authorized \$2,000 annually to cover expenses associated with official duties.

B. EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

1. The National Executive Vice President shall assist the President and in his/her absence, shall discharge the duties of the National President and shall assume the duties of the President for the remainder of term if the President is absent for any reason, including resignation or inability to serve for any reason.

The National Vice President shall perform duties assigned by the President and oversees Regional Vice Presidential activities. In the event the President becomes incapacitated and unable to continue in office, the Vice President assumes the tasks and duties of President.

2. The Executive Vice President shall be able to receive expense allowance, to cover the cost of performing his duties in office not to exceed \$1,000.00 annually.

The Vice President is authorized \$1,000 annually to cover expenses associated with official duties.

C. REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT

1. The National Regional Vice President shall assist the President and the Chapter Executive Officers and Board of Directors in the operations of their respective districts when needed.

Each of the Regional Vice Presidents is assigned the responsibility of assisting the President and Vice President in coordinating Chapter activities and operations in their respective regions.

2. They shall be available to each Chapter to arbitrate any Constitution and By-Laws violations.

They shall make themselves available when called upon as arbitrators for any Constitutional or By-Law violations within their regions.

3. They shall check and screen all Regional District applications for Charter to National. They must adhere to the Constitution and reject any infractions.

They shall check and screen all new Regional Charter applications for Constitution and By-Law compliance before sending approved requests to National Secretary.

4. They shall notify all local Chapters within a Region and the Executive Officer and Board of Directors of a pending formation of same.

They are responsible for notifying all local Chapters within the Region, National Elected Officers and Board of Directors of any pending new Chapter activity.

5. They shall carry out all assignments as directed by the National President and direct all correspondence to the National Office and a copy of all Chapters in their district.

They shall carry out all assignments as directed by the National Officers to include providing copies of Regional business correspondence to National Headquarters.

6. The Regional Vice President shall be able to receive expenses to cover the cost of traveling to Chapters in his region. Also for the postage and phone expenses while performing the duties of his office. This amount not to exceed \$500.00 annual expense allowance, and is to cover the cost of performing his duties in office not to exceed \$500.00 annually.

Each Regional Vice President is authorized \$500 annually to cover expenses associated with official duties.

D. SECRETARY

1. The National Secretary shall attend all business meetings of the National Convention and meetings of the Board of Directors and shall be responsible for the minutes of the meetings. The National Secretary shall provide the Editor of the official publication with the edited and typed proceedings of the business sessions of the National Convention within thirty (30) days after the last business session of the National Convention.

The National Secretary shall notify the Board of Directors of all meetings and attend all business meetings of the National Convention and Board of Directors. The Secretary may delegate this notification task to National Headquarters. The National Secretary is responsible for recording the minutes of these meetings. The National Secretary shall perform such other duties as the National President may assign. A copy of edited and typed minutes of the National Meeting shall be forwarded to the Official Magazine Editor within thirty (30) days after the last National Convention business meeting.

2. The National Secretary shall receive all dues and transmit said monies to the National Treasurer and shall notify the Editor of all members who paid their dues. The National Secretary shall perform such duties as the National President may from time to time prescribe. The National Secretary shall make a quarterly report of his/her activities to the National President with a copy to the National Executive Vice President. The National Secretary may receive compensation as specified by the Board of Directors.

The National Secretary shall compose and file a quarterly activities report with the President, Vice President, Treasurer and National Headquarters. He may share his reports with the quarterly AMMV News Magazine Editor.

3. The National Secretary shall notify the Board of Directors of all meetings.

Eliminated

4. The National Secretary shall be able to receive expense allowance, to cover the cost of performing his duties in office not to exceed \$500.00 annually.

The National Secretary is authorized \$500 annually to cover expenses associated with official duties.

E. TREASURER

1. The National Treasurer shall attend all business meetings of the National Convention, and all meetings of the Board of Directors. The National Treasurer shall have custody of all monies, bonds and item of value; and shall compile and maintain a complete set of records to divulge the true financial records (status) of the organization suitable to be audited by a Certified Public Accountant.

The National Treasurer shall attend all Board of Directors and National Convention business meetings as national custodian of all monies, bonds and items of value. The Treasurer shall receive all monies, and compile and maintain a complete set of financial records reflecting

an accurate financial condition of the AMMV. These financial records are subject to audit by a Certified Public Accountant.

2. The National Treasurer shall pay out monies in payment of obligations only on authority given by the National President. All checks shall be signed by the National Treasurer and countersigned by the National President or any Board Member (when necessary). The National Treasurer shall insure valid signatures specimens are on record at all institutions of deposit.

The National Treasurer shall pay out monies in payment of obligations authorized by the National President. All checks shall be signed by the National Treasurer and where necessary, countersigned by the National President. The National Treasurer shall ensure that valid signature specimens are on file at all institutions of deposit.

3. The National Treasurer shall purchase, at the expense of the organization, a fidelity bond covering all officers authorized to sign or countersign checks and any national officers handling monies or securities of the organization. The National Treasurer shall prepare a financial statement for the fiscal year ending June 30th. This fiscal statement shall be published in the August issue of the official publication. The National Treasurer shall prepare for the Board of Directors a quarterly financial report of the 15th day following the end of the quarter.

The National Treasurer shall purchase a fidelity bond covering all officers authorized to sign or countersign checks and/or handle monies or securities of the organization. The National Treasurer shall prepare a fiscal year financial statement ending June 30th, to be published in the next available issue of the quarterly AMMV News Magazine.

4. The National Treasurer shall be able to receive expense allowance, to cover the cost of performing his duties in office not to exceed \$500.00 annually.

The National Treasurer is authorized \$500 annually to cover expenses associated with official duties.

SECTION 205 – NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

- A. The property and business of the organization shall be managed by a Board of Directors as per Constitution Article V. and as constituted per Article II Section 201,5 and 6 of the By-Laws. A National Board of Directors member, unable to attend a meeting, may appoint a member in good standing to fulfill his duties. A letter to this effect shall be submitted to the National

President before said meeting by the Board of Directors member unable to attend.

The property and business of the organization shall be managed by a Board of Directors as per Constitution Article V and Article II Section 201.5 of the By-Laws. A National Board of Directors member who is unable to attend a meeting may appoint a member in good standing to fulfill their duties by submitting notice to the National President before said meeting.

- B. As entrusted by the Board, the National President, as Chairman of the Board, will designate an Executive Committee of the Board, to consist of the National Officers, immediate Past President and the Regional Vice Presidents, which will be empowered to act in all capacities of the Board when it is not in session, except for the authority to remove any elected National or Regional officer, or the authority to expend funds beyond an amount that is 10 percent of the approved Annual Budget. All actions of the Committee shall be decided by a majority vote. The Committee shall maintain a written record of all of its Proceedings and votes taken, and render a report in writing to the Board not later than 10 days prior to the call to order of the National Convention. Eleven (11) members of the Committee, including the National President, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Business.

As entrusted by the Board of Directors, the National President, as Chairman of the Board, will designate an Executive Committee of the Board, consisting of the National Officers, immediate Past President, and the Region Vice Presidents. This committee is empowered to act in all capacities of the Board when it is not in session, with the exception of the authority to remove any elected National or Regional Officer, or the authority to expend funds beyond an amount that is 10 percent above the approved Annual Budget item. All actions of the Committee shall be decided by majority vote. The Committee shall maintain a written record of all of its proceedings and votes taken, and render a written report to the entire Board no later than ten (10) days prior to the call to order of the National Convention.

- C. The National President shall call a meeting of the Board of Directors not later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the call to order of the National Convention. Additional meetings or polling by mail or telephone of the Board, may be called by the National President, or by a majority of the Board whenever the Executive Committee of the Board is unable to act on an issue or is viewed as having exceeded its authority.

The National President shall conduct a meeting of the Board of Directors no later than twelve (12) hours prior to the call to order of the National Convention. Additional meetings or polling by mail, e-mail or

telephone of the entire Board may be authorized by the National President or by a majority of the Board whenever the Executive Committee of the Board is unable to act on an issue or is viewed as having exceeded its authority.

- D. A legal quorum shall consist of a majority of the Board of Directors, one of whom shall be either the National President or National Executive Vice President.

A legal quorum shall consist of a majority of the Board of Directors, one of whom shall be either the National President or National Vice President. Six (6) of the eleven (11) member Committee, including the National President, shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business.

SECTION 206- VOTING PROCEDURES

A. SELECTION OF NATIONAL DELEGATES

1. Each local Chapter, at a regular meeting shall select a delegate or delegates to the National Convention to represent the local Chapter members. The delegate or delegates selected will represent their Chapter's number of votes.

Each Chapter shall, at a regular meeting, select a delegate as its representative at the National Convention. The delegate selected will cast their Chapter's number of votes at the Convention.

2. The local Chapter Executive Officer shall certify the delegates to represent the district or local Chapter members and the respective secretaries will authenticate the delegates' credentials letter.

The Chapter Executive Officer shall certify the delegates to represent the Region or Chapter members and the respective secretaries will authenticate the delegates' credentials letter.

3. Each delegate will present the credentials letter to the Chairman of the Credentials Committee prior to the first business meeting of the National Convention. The Chairman of the Credentials Committee, in conjunction with the National Secretary will verify the credentials letters and the list of names to determine that they are bonafide members.

Each delegate will present the credentials letter to the Chairman of the Credentials Committee prior to the first National Convention business meeting. The Chairman of the Credentials Committee, in conjunction with the National Secretary will verify the Credential Letters.

4. National delegates who have not presented their credentials to the Chairman of the Credentials Committee before the Convention has been called to order will not be permitted to vote.

National Delegates who have not presented their credentials to the Credentials Committee Chairman before the National Convention has been called to order will not be permitted to vote.

5. A Chapter unable to send a delegate to the Convention may give their voting proxy to another AMMV Chapter.

A Chapter unable to send a delegate to the National Convention may give their voting proxy to a delegate from another Chapter who is attending.

6. A delegate not qualifying under Section 206.A.4 and subject to Section 206.A.5 may be allowed to vote upon approval of a majority of delegates to the Convention.

A delegate not qualifying under Section 206.A.4 and Section 206.A.5 maybe be allowed to vote upon appeal and approval of a majority of Convention delegates.

(7): Additional proposed. Members at Large in good standing not near an existing Chapter may vote according to Article 1. A Member at Large unable to attend the National Convention may give their written voting proxy to a Member at Large delegate who is attending.

7. The National Secretary shall advise each Chapter of the number of members for whom the Chapter has remitted dues for the purpose of determining the number of votes that each Chapter has at the Convention. This information shall be forwarded to each Chapter on or before May 1.

(8) The National Secretary shall advise each Chapter of the number of members for whom the Chapter has remitted dues for the purpose of determining the number of votes that each Chapter has at the Convention. The National Secretary may delegate this task to National Headquarters to be forwarded to each Chapter on or before May 1.

B. VOTING BY INDIVIDUALS

National members attending the National Convention who are not represented by a National Delegate may cast an individual vote, if they are certified by the Credentials Committee prior to the call to order of the National Convention.

National members attending the National Convention who are not represented by a National Delegate may cast an individual vote and a list of proxy votes, if they are certified by the Credentials Committee prior to the call to order of the National Convention.

C. COUNTING AND RECORDING THE BALLOTS BY COMMITTEE

The presiding officer shall appoint several AMMV members to count ballots. Members should be appointed because of their accuracy and dependability, not because they have something to gain from the outcome of the vote. They should have the confidence of the assembly. If the issue is a controversial one, the committee should include members from each side of the issue and a neutral person to count the ballots. The committee should be appointed before the meeting and should be trained in the correct procedure for counting ballots.

At all National Conventions, balloting and counting of ballots shall be conducted on the same day and full results shall be announced to the delegates assembled.

(1) The National Secretary, Chairman and members of the Credential Committee shall record the votes as they are announced in open session.

(2) At all National Conventions, balloting and counting of ballots shall be conducted publicly in open session on the same day and immediately thereafter, the full results shall be announced to the assembled delegates.

(3) However, where a dispute occurs, the Presiding Officer may appoint several members to tally or recount ballots. Members should be appointed because of their accuracy and dependability, not because they have something to gain from the vote outcome. They must have the confidence of those in attendance. If the vote becomes controversial, the appointed members should be from both sides of the issue and a neutral person.

D. OBSERVING COUNTS

All candidates shall have a representative present at the counting of the ballots. That representative shall be a member of the National AMMV who they feel is trustworthy and fair. All future elections of National Officers shall be by roll call vote, with all members attending the convention to have a tally sheet.

All future elections of National Officers shall be in open sessions, with a roll call of Chapters by the Credentials Chairman or his designate. Each delegate shall be furnished a tally sheet listing Chapters, Members at Large, and indicating the total number of respective votes.

SECTION 207 – APPOINTED OFFICERS

A. APPOINTED OFFICERS

The President shall, by resolution, appoint the following officers, and said appointments shall be announced by the National President and published in the first issue of the official publication following the National Convention.

No proposed change

1. JUDGE ADVOCATE – who shall be prepared at all times to give such legal counsel and advice as the National President or National Convention may require. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the authority of all questions of parliamentary law and procedure, unless otherwise specifically provided in this Constitution and By-Laws.

Judge Advocate shall be prepared at all times to give such legal counsel and advice as the National President or National Officers may require. Roberts Rules of Order shall be the authority for Parliamentary law and procedure questions, unless otherwise specifically provided in the Constitution and By-Laws.

2. CHAPLAIN – the Chaplain may, when possible, be an ordained clergyman and perform such duties as required by the Board of Directors.

No proposed change

3. EDITOR – (Official Publication)

- i. The official publication shall be known as American Merchant Marine Veterans News. This publication shall be issued at least once each quarter. Any orders, official notices, and the financial reports published in the official publication shall be deemed sufficient and lawful notice to all members for all purposes whatsoever.

Official publication is the American Merchant Marine Veterans News Magazine, This publication shall be issued at least once each quarter. Any orders, official notices, financial reports and appointments published in the News Magazine shall be deemed sufficient and lawful notice to all members for all purposes whatsoever.

- ii. The editor shall be responsible for the publication and distribution of the official publication in accordance with instructions from the Board of Directors and approval of the President.

The Editor shall be responsible for the publication and distribution of the official publication in accordance with instructions from the National President and the Board of Directors. Any material to be published in the Official Publication shall be submitted to the Editor in a timely manner.

4. HISTORIAN – the Historian shall compile and maintain a brief history of the activities of this organization during his or her term of office, to be kept as a permanent record of this organization, and shall perform such other duties as his or her

office may require or the Board of Directors may direct.

Historian shall compile and maintain a brief history of the activities of this organization. The Historian may be requested to perform other duties as directed by the Board of Directors.

5. PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER – the Public Relations Officer shall coordinate any and all publicity of the organization.

Public Relations Officer will be called upon to coordinate publicity for the organization.

Addition (6). DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & WEBMASTER shall be responsible to the President for composing and presenting significant proposals for initial or alternative means of communicating with the membership. Operates and maintains official AMMV website.

SECTION 208 – STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. The President shall, by resolution, appoint the following Standing Committees which shall include at least one member of the Board of Directors. Said appointments shall be announced by the National President and published in the official publication.

The President shall, by resolution, appoint the following Standing Committees which shall include at least one Board of Directors members. Said appointments shall be announced by the National President and published in the quarterly AMMV News Magazine.

1. VETERANS COMMITTEE – To compile information that will benefit Veterans, form policies beneficial to Veterans. Establish relations with other Service Veterans organizations.

Veterans Committee will compile information that will benefit Veterans, form policies beneficial to Veterans, and establish relations with Veterans Service Organizations.

2. EDITORIAL COMMITTEE – To assist the Editor of the official publication whenever necessary and submit any policy changes to the Board of Directors.

Editorial Committee will assist the Editor of the quarterly AMMV News Magazine whenever necessary and submit any policy changes to the Board of Directors.

3. CONVENTION COMMITTEE – Assists in the selection of Convention sites for annual National Conventions whenever necessary. Checks all credentials at National Convention. Verify qualifications and consents to acceptance of all National officers and candidates at the National Convention.

Convention Committee will assist with the selection of National Convention sites, and assist the Host Regional Chapters in organizing, planning, manning, greeting and registering National Convention attendees.

4. GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS – This committee shall report on situations which could be detrimental to the well-being of the organization as well as Federal and State legislation pertaining to Merchant Marine Veterans. Also, legislation promoting the growth of the American Flag Merchant Marine.

Government Affairs Committee shall monitor Federal and State Legislation for situations which could be detrimental to Merchant Marine Veterans. Legislation which promotes the growth of the American Flag Merchant Marine shall be supported and publicized.

5. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

No proposed change

6. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

No proposed change

7. AUDIT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

No proposed change

8. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

No proposed change

- B. The appointed officers and chairpersons of Standing Committees will prepare, in writing, a quarterly report of their activities to the National President. At the National Convention, an annual report will be rendered by each appointed officer and chairperson of the Standing Committees.

The appointed officers and chairpersons of Standing Committee may prepare a written quarterly report of their activities to the National President. An annual report will be rendered at the National Convention by each appointed officer and Standing Committee Chairperson.

SECTION 209 – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the organization shall be July 1st through June 30th of the next calendar year.

The Fiscal Year of the organization shall be July 1 through June 30 of the following calendar year.

SECTION 210 – NATIONAL DUES

- A. The National dues shall be established by the Board of Directors, voted on by the membership at the National Convention and published in the official publication. The dues shall include a subscription to the official publication.

The National Dues shall be established by the Board of Directors, approved by the membership at the National Convention and published in the quarterly AMMV News Magazine. Paid membership includes a subscription to the quarterly AMMV News Magazine.

- B. Dues are payable by July 1 of the current fiscal year. Members dues not paid by September 30 of the current fiscal year are removed from the mailing list.
- C. Annual dues are payable by June 30 of each fiscal year. Members who have not paid dues by September 30 and/or are non-responsive to National's inquiry, will be declared delinquent and will have their names removed from the mailing list.

SECTION 211 – BUDGET

The Board of Directors shall recommend and the membership shall approve a budget for the National organization at the annual convention.

The Board of Directors shall present the next National Organization's fiscal year budget to the membership for consideration and approval at the National Convention.

ARTICLE III – CHAPTERS AND REGIONS

SECTION 301 – FORMATION – CHARTERING

- A. A local Chapter may be formed by the authority of the Board of Directors on the application of not less than ten (10) persons, members of the American Merchant Marine Veterans, Inc., or who have applied for membership. Membership in the National organization is a mandatory prerequisite for valid membership in any Chapter.

A local Chapter may be formed by the authority of the Board of Directors on the application of not less than ten (10) Members at Large or new members applying for membership. Membership in the National Organization is a mandatory prerequisite for valid membership in any Chapter.

- B. The application for a chapter shall be signed by all elected officers pro-tem, and shall list the names of all charter members of the Chapter. The application shall be forwarded by the National Secretary for approval of the Board of Directors. The Chapter shall comply with the National Constitution and By-Laws.

The application for a charter shall be signed by all officers pro-tempore, and shall list the names of all charter members of the chapter. The application shall be reviewed by the Regional Vice President for sufficiency prior to forwarding to the National Secretary for approval by the Board of Directors. The Chapter shall comply with the National Constitution, By-Laws and policies of the National Organization.

- C. Each Chapter must be self-supporting. Each Chapter shall be responsible for their own assets, property and

liabilities. Each Chapter is also permitted to establish their own welfare fund.

Each Chapter must be self-supporting, responsible for their own assets, property, liabilities and timely remittance of National dues. Each Chapter is permitted to establish their own welfare fund. All Chapters shall display the National logo on all Chapter stationery.

- D. The National A.M.M.V. shall establish districts within the fifty (50) states. There shall be at least seven (7) districts as per Article II – NATIONAL OFFICERS, Section 201.A.2 of the By-Laws.

The National Organization shall establish Regions within the fifty (50) states. There shall be at least seven (7) Regions as per Article II National Officers, section 201.A.2 of the By-Laws. Each state of the Union not represented by a chapter may name a "go-to" representative to promote National Affairs.

- E. These district boundaries may be changed, depending on the total membership in a said district. The National Board of Directors shall set district boundaries at the National Convention based upon the total chapters and the per capita tax for the given year. All Chapters shall receive a true copy of such districts and boundaries.

Regional boundaries may be changed, depending on the total membership in said region. The National Board of Directors shall set Regional boundaries at the National Convention based upon the total chapters and the per capita dues for the given year. All Chapters shall receive a true copy of such Regions and boundaries.

- F. All Chapters shall display the National logo on all chapter stationery.

May be deleted as included elsewhere.

SECTION 302- SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF CHARTER

The charter of a Chapter may be suspended for a period of sixty (60) days for violation of the laws and usage of the National organization. If no appeal is made within the period of sixty (60) days, the Charter of the Chapter may be canceled by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by the Board of Directors provided that thirty (30) days before the charter is suspended, the CEO of the Chapter in question shall have been notified in writing, by certified mail, by the National Secretary of the charges against it.

The Charter of a Chapter may be suspended for a period of sixty (60) days for violation of the laws in place of the National Organization. If no appeal is made within the period of sixty (60) days, the Charter of the Chapter may be revoked by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by the Board of Directors, provided that thirty (30) days before the Charter is suspended, the CEO of the Chapter in

question shall have been notified in writing, by certified mail, by the National Secretary, of the charges against it.

SECTION 303 – CHAPTER DUES

Each Chapter shall set its own dues.

Each Chapter shall set its own dues over and above National dues.

SECTION 304 – ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE

National membership shall be a requisite for holding office.

No proposed change

SECTION 305 – VOTING PROCEDURE

Only National members who are members of a Chapter are eligible to vote.

All paid up members are eligible to vote according to Article 1.A.

ARTICLE IV – WELFARE FUND

SECTION 401 – PURPOSE

- A. The fund shall be used for the benefit and welfare of the members and their next of kin as a group. Monies accrued from donation, drives, sales of memorabilia, and shall be dispensed by action of the Board of Directors through the National Treasurer.

The National Fund shall be used for the benefit and welfare of the members and their next of kin as a group. Monies accrued from donations, drives, sales of memorabilia shall be dispensed by action of the Board of Directors through the National Treasurer.

SECTION 402 – ACCOUNTING

Each outgoing National President shall request an accounting from the National Treasurer of the donations received and funds expended. He or she will then report to National Convention on the reasonableness and propriety of expenditures.

Each outgoing National President shall request an accounting from the National Treasurer of the donations received and funds expended. The President will report to National Convention on the reasonableness and propriety of expenditures.

ARTICLE V – AMENDMENTS

SECTION 501 – AMENDMENTS

- A. This Constitution and By-Laws shall be amended by an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) of the members voting at the National Convention in accordance with the voting procedures.

This Constitution and By-Laws shall be amended by an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) of the members voting at the National Convention in accordance with regular voting procedures.

- B. Proposed amendments with supporting statements

shall be submitted to the Board of Directors no later than January 15th. The Board of Directors will compile, review and assign an amendment number prior to the submission of said amendments and supporting statements to the editor of the official publication. This material shall be printed in the next regular issue or a special Convention issue, but not later than sixty (60) days in advance of the convening of the National Convention.

Proposed amendments with supporting statements shall be submitted to the Board of Directors no later than January 15th. The Board of Directors will compile, review and assign an amendment number prior to the submission of said amendments and supporting statements to the editor of the quarterly AMMV News Magazine. This material shall be printed in the next regular issue or a special Convention issue, but not later than sixty (60) days in advance of the convening of the National Convention.

- C. Amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws, approved at the National Convention shall not go into effect until the start of the next fiscal year, as stated in Section 209 of the By-Laws.

Amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws, approved at the National Convention shall not go into effect until the start of the next fiscal year, July 1, as affirmed in Section 209 of the By-Laws.

- D. Voting on the amendments will be at the National Convention in accordance with the voting procedure.

Voting on the Amendments will be held at the National Convention in accordance with regular voting procedures.

ARTICLE VI – DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION

SECTION 601 – DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION

- A. The corporation shall or may be dissolved and its affairs wound up by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the corporation's voting members.

The Corporation shall or may be dissolved and its affairs suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Corporation's voting members attending the National Convention.

- B. In the event of dissolution, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board

of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by

- C. A court of competent jurisdiction in the country in which the principle office of the corporation is then located; exclusively for such purposes as to such organization as such Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

A court of competent jurisdiction in the country in which the principle office of the corporation is then located; exclusively for such purposes as to such organization as such Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes.

- D. Upon a vote to dissolve the AMMV Corporation, the original records of the history of the organization, the records of the Historian, copies of the AMMV News, photographs, audio tapes, video tapes and any other appropriate historical records shall be turned over to a Maritime museum willing to accept the same, such as the Merchant Marine Academy Museum, Museum Ships, Maritime Museum or a college/university library/archives.

Upon a majority vote to dissolve this Corporation, the original records of the history of the organization, the records of the Historian, copies of the quarterly AMMV News Magazine, photographs, audio tapes, video tapes and any other appropriate historical records, or residue of such, shall be turned over to a Maritime museum willing to accept the same, such as the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy Museum, Museum Ships, Maritime Museum or any college, university, library or archives.

- E. All remaining assets shall be distributed equally between the four (4) Merchant Marine Memorial ships:
1. SS Jeremiah O'Brien
 2. SS Lane Victory
 3. SS American Victory
 4. SS John Brown

All remaining assets shall be distributed equally between the five (5) Merchant Marine Memorial Ships:

1. SS American Victory
2. SS Jeremiah O'Brien
3. SS John W. Brown
4. SS Lane Victory
5. SS Red Oak Victory

ARTICLE VII – GRIEVANCES AND LITIGATION

SECTION 1 – PROCEDURE FOR RESOLVING MEMBERSHIP GRIEVANCES

- A. Every member or officer or chapter or region must follow the following procedure to resolve a grievance:

Every Member, Officer, Chapter or Region must follow

these procedures to resolve a grievance:

1. Every member agrees to follow this procedure for resolving grievances as a pre-condition of membership in the American Merchant Marine Veterans Association.

Every member agrees to follow this procedure for resolving grievances as a pre-condition of Membership in the American Merchant Marine Veterans.

2. The grievance shall be a written statement setting forth the facts, the identity of the people involved, a detailed account of the grievance, and a statement of how the grievant wants the grievance to be resolved.

No proposed change

3. The grievance must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the date of the occurrence by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the National President at National Headquarters.

No proposed change

4. The written statement must be sworn to in an affidavit form before a Notary Public.

No proposed change

5. Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the grievance, the National President is to reply in writing to the grievant by certified mail, return receipt requested, stating the solution or resolution to the grievance. The National President may also request additional information.

Within thirty (30) days of postmark date of receipt on the grievance envelope, the National President is to reply in writing to the grievant by Certified Mail, return receipt requested, stating the solution or resolution to the grievance. The National President may request additional information.

6. If the grievant is not satisfied with this solution or resolution the grievant is to notify the National President within ten (10) days by CERTIFIED MAIL, return receipt requested, stating the reasons and requesting that the grievance be referred to the National Board of Directors by way of appeal. The National President will submit within Ten (10) days the record of the grievance to the National Board of Directors for a vote by this body and notification to the grievant with thirty (30) days.

If the grievant is not satisfied with this solution or resolution the grievant is to notify the National President within ten (10) days by Certified Mail, return receipt requested, stating the reasons and requesting that the grievance be referred to the National Board of Directors by way of appeal.

The National President will submit within Ten (10) days the record of the grievance to the National Board of Directors for a review decision and vote. The grievant will be notified of the appellant decision within thirty (30) days.

7. By becoming a member of the AMMV, a member or officer or chapter or region accepts that the AMMV is a not for profit Florida Corporation subject only to the laws and jurisdiction of the state of Florida and its courts.

By becoming a member of this Organization, a member, officer, Chapter or Region accepts that this Organization is a not for profit Corporation subject only to the laws and jurisdiction of the state in which it is registered.

8. Under no circumstances is the grievant to resort to any court until the aforesaid procedure has been completed. Therefore, if resort is made to a civil court it must be a Florida court located in Lee County. If the grievant resorts to a Florida court before following the procedure set forth herein said grievant will automatically forfeit membership in AMMV. If the grievant does not obtain a judgment against the AMMV or its officers in the Florida civil court, the grievant agrees to reimburse the AMMV for its legal expenses, attorney fees, and court costs incurred in defending this suit.

Under no circumstances is the grievant to resort to any court until the aforesaid procedure has been completed. Therefore, if resort is made to a civil court, it must be a Florida court located in Lee County. If the grievant resorts to a Florida court before following the procedure set forth herein said grievant will automatically forfeit membership in AMMV. If the grievant does not obtain a favorable judgment against the Organization or its officers in the Florida Civil Court, the grievant agrees to reimburse the Organization for its legal expenses, attorney fees, and Civil Court costs incurred in defending this suit.

9. If the grievant resorts to a court in any jurisdiction other than the state of Florida, said grievant will automatically forfeit membership in AMMV.

If the grievant resorts to a court in any jurisdiction other than the State of Florida, said grievant will automatically forfeit membership in this Organization.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Join the American Merchant Marine Veterans, a growing organization of active and retired seamen. Help us gain recognition for what we, the men of the Merchant Marine, have done for our Country in war and peace.

We stand for a strong American Merchant Marine and will help launch and support legislation along these lines. We intend to help the cause of American seamen and American seapower.

The American Merchant Marine Veterans is a national organization with Chapters throughout the United States. National membership dues are \$20.00 per year, collected by Headquarters or through its Chapters. Chapter dues are determined by the membership of each Chapter.

DATE _____

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

AGE _____ POSITION ABOARD SHIP _____

Were you sailing aboard American Flag Merchant Ships during:

- ☐ WW I ☐ WW II ☐ KOREA ☐ VIET NAM ☐ DESERT STORM ☐ PEACETIME ☐ NAVY ARMED GUARD
☐ ARE YOU AN ACTIVE U.S. MERCHANT SEAMAN ☐ ACTIVE OR RETIRED MEMBER OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES
☐ WIDOW OF A DD 214 RECIPIENT ☐ MARITIME ACADEMY CADET ☐ OTHER _____

If you qualify in one or more of the above categories, you are eligible to join the American Merchant Marine Veterans, Incorporated. Sign on with the American Merchant Marine Veterans and help us with our efforts to improve the quality of life for all Merchant Mariners, past and present. Enjoy the activities of our organization while rendering a service to our COUNTRY, your FELLOW SEAMEN, and the AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE.

We are a not for profit organization, Charter No. 4837 in the state of Florida. The Chapters operate within the preview of our National Constitution and By-Laws. Active members receive the National News Magazine quarterly. If you live in an area where no Chapter is available, you can request help from our National Office to organize one.

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

**AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS
P.O. BOX 151205
CAPE CORAL, FL 33915-1205**



THE AMMV AND THE AMERICAN VICTORY WELCOME MERCHANT MARINE AND ARMED GUARD VETERANS TO TAMPA, FLORIDA FOR THE **AMMV 23RD ANNUAL CONVENTION**

We want to welcome you, your family, and friends to join us in FLORIDA. Tampa Bay provides access to Florida Aquarium; Ybor City; Beaches; Bush Gardens; Hard Rock Casino; International Plaza shopping and more. Plan your Florida vacation now to include the 23rd Annual American Merchant Marine Veterans Convention from May 14 to May 18, 2009. The historic SS American Victory cruise is on Saturday May 16. Our convention committee has negotiated the same special hotel rate from May 10 thru 22nd and the hotel is centrally located just north of downtown Tampa.

We are actively soliciting USN Armed Guard to attend our convention this year. Cal Lloyd has published our registration information in their "Pointer" News Letter. The convention committee is working to make this a memorable event for all.

Registration has become a two page process with tour offered on Page 2. Please complete both forms. Please note the preliminary convention schedule. It includes our National Executive Board of Directors meeting on May 14; three business sessions (two on Friday, May 14 and one on Sunday, May 17).

There is a special pre-convention meeting for the South East region, which will have a program designed with local interests in mind; however, it is an open luncheon and meeting. For the Ladies Luncheon we have scheduled an inspirational speaker, the wife of one of our SE members; after a pleasing Welcome Dinner on Friday night you will be entertained with music and songs from the Frank Sinatra era; the main Banquet entertainment will star a dance and singing troop performing a USO style tribute. Please note, in addition to the American Victory Historic Cruise, local tours are being planned for before, during, and after the convention. So, you are invited to start planning your vacation in FLORIDA today. Make your reservations NOW.

If you are worried about uncertainty in your medical or other conditions please note that we have a liberal cancellation policy—24 hours before arrival on the hotel rooms and May 1 for in-house Convention events. April 1 is our deadline for tours because of contracting commitments. We will also consider special circumstances.

Sincerely,

Morris Harvey, SE-RVP
American Merchant Marine Veterans
23rd National Convention Committee Chairman
352-397-1540
E-mail: morris@xtalwind.net



PROPOSED SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, May 13

TOUR: Tarpon Springs – requires advanced registration before April 15th
 1:00 pm tillRegistration (Cottonwood & Redwood Rooms)

THURSDAY, May 14

8:30 am – 11:30 am + pm as needed .Registration (Cottonwood & Redwood Rooms)
 9:00 am – 11:30 am.Board of Directors
 12:00 – 3:00 pmSouth East Region Luncheon Meeting
 TBD.Voting Credentials Check-in; Burt Young
 TBD.Hospitality Room (2nd Floor)
 FAIR/EXHIBITS: (Timberwood Room) Historic Bio recording booth and more
 TOUR: Hard Rock Casino – requires advanced registration before April 15th
 OUTING: International Plaza + Westshore Mall: Food & Shopping (Self Guided; ask Hotel Shuttle)

FRIDAY, May 15

As neededRegistration (Cottonwood & Redwood Rooms)
 9:00 am – 11:30 am.Business Meeting (Opening ceremony with invocation; speakers)
 TBD.Voting Credentials Check-in: Burt Young
 TBD.Hospitality Room (2nd Floor)
 12:00 – 1:30 pmLadies Luncheon with speaker
 1:30 pm – 4:30 pmBusiness Meeting (By-Law and other issues requiring vote of members)
 5:30 – 7:00 pmPresident's Welcome Dinner: Open Cash Bar
 7:00 - tillDinner & Entertainment (Frank Sinatra era song and music)
 TBD.Hospitality Room (2nd Floor)
 FAIR/EXHIBITS: (Timberwood Room) Historic Bio recording booth and more
 OUTING: International Plaza + Westshore Mall: Food & Shopping (Self Guided; ask Hotel Shuttle)

SATURDAY, May 16

7:30 am – 4:00 pmAmerican Victory Cruise (requires advanced AMMV registration
 for bus xport + direct phone registration to ship for cruise)
 TBD.Hospitality Room (2nd Floor)
 TOUR: Florida Aquarium or Tampa Historic Museum – requires advanced registration before April 15th
 OUTING: International Plaza + Westshore mall: Food & Shopping (Self Guided; ask Hotel Shuttle)
 TOUR: Hard Rock Casino – requires prior registration before April 15th

SUNDAY, May 17

9:00 am – 11:30 am.Business Meeting (AMMV Election Process)
 5:30 pm – 7:00 pmBanquet: Open Cash Bar
 7:00 pm – tillDinner & entertainment (USO style singing/dancing tribute)
 TBD.Hospitality Room (2nd Floor)
 TOUR: Tampa City Tour – requires advanced registration before April 15th
 TOUR: Hard Rock Casino – requires advanced registration before April 15th
 OUTING: International Plaza + Westshore Mall: Food & Shopping (Self Guided; ask Hotel Shuttle)

MONDAY, May 18

TOUR: Tarpon Springs - requires advanced registration before April 15th
 DEPARTURE: Have a safe and pleasant journey.

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HOTEL & HISTORIC CRUISE INFORMATION



DOUBLETREE HOTEL TAMPA WESTSHORE

Make reservations directly with Doubletree Hotel

4500 W. Cypress Street; Tampa, Florida 33607

Phone: 813-879-4800 or 800-222-8733

or on-line at personal group page

BE SURE TO SPECIFY AMMV BLOCK RESERVATIONS

REGISTER EARLY-EARLY-EARLY

ROOM AVAILABILITY IS LIMITED

Cancellation policy: full refund if cancelled at least 24 hours before arrival.

Individuals: Hotel requires valid credit card or \$50.00 deposit to cover incidental expense.

SPECIAL ROOM RATE: \$99.00 plus 12% tax per night - Single/Double/Triple/Quad

(\$5.00 rebate included for the Convention Committee— used to offset expenses)

One King or 2 queen bed layouts available; 15 ADA (9 with roll-in shower)

Free parking; 15% discount in Hotel Cyprus Cafe if charged to room; heated pool;
free shuttle to/from airport and within two miles (50 restaurants and two malls); Players Lounge Sports Bar

FOR MORE FUN IN THE SUN - \$99 RATE EXTENDS FROM May 10th thru May 22nd

.....

AMERICAN VICTORY MARINERS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM SHIP AMERICAN VICTORY HISTORIC CRUISE – MAY 16, 2009

Our discounted rate for convention attendees will be \$89.00 (RETAIL RATE (\$125.00))

You must call to get this rate. Cruise reservations will be made directly to the ship by each individual.

Call Tuesday thru Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Sunday 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm.

813-228-8766

705 Channelside Drive, Tampa, FL 33602

<http://www.americanvictory.org/>

Cruise down the Hillsborough River, across Tampa bay to the Gulf of Mexico;
Continental Breakfast; Lunch and snack; ship tours; entertainment; Fly-over and more

SORRY! No handicap access at this time – passengers must be able to navigate stairs.

(PLEASE NOTE: The \$18.00 charge for transportation to and from the ship must be made
as part of your convention registration—reference the Registration Form)

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CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM — PAGE 1 of 2

Name: _____

Spouse/Other: _____ Affiliation/Chapter: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

PLANNED DATE OF ARRIVAL: _____

See separate sheet for Hotel and Victory Cruise reservation information.

<u>CONVENTION FEE:</u> (AMMV only - no charge for spouse/companion)		TOTALS
EARLY BIRD to February 15th:	\$60.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
February 16 to March 31:	\$75.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
April 1 to May 14:	\$95.00 x _____ =	\$ _____

SE REGION PRE-CONVENTION:

(Thursday May 14th at 12:00 with lunch; program for SE Region but is open session)

Buffet: Soup, choice of Salads, Rolls, Dessert, tea & coffee

LADIES LUNCHEON: (Friday Noon May 15)

Choose (# of each): 1) Caesar Salad (chicken) _____; 2) Cobb Salad (Turkey, Ham, cheese) _____

3) Hot Dish: Pasta W/Chicken _____; All come with Rolls, Beverages & Dessert: NY Cheesecake

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME DINNER: (Friday Evening May 15)

Choose (# of each): Medallions of Beef _____; Chicken Marsala _____; Pan Seared Salmon _____

BANQUET: (Sunday Evening May 17)

Choose (# of each): Roast Prime Rib _____; Boursin Chicken _____; Grouper W/crab stuffing _____

BUS for AMERICAN VICTORY CRUISE:

(Bus Transportation only – round trip- All day Saturday May 16th / Call 813-228-8766 to make Cruise reservation)

TOTAL DUE (For this Page 1 of 2):\$ _____

SPECIAL MEDICAL OR PHYSICAL CONCERNS—please detail needs request on separate sheet.

CANCELLATION NOTICE: REFUNDS ONLY by Special Exception AFTER MAY 1, 2009

SEND COMPLETED FORM WITH CHECK TO:
(Page 1 and 2 may be combined on one check)
AMMV; c/o John Reher
Box 151205
Cape Coral, FL 33915-1205

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION CALL: Morris Harvey, 352-564-0267 or e-mail morris@xtalwind.net

v081215NLrt2

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM — PAGE 2 of 2

Tours and Other Activities

Our registration has become a two-page process this year – this is page 2.
Please be sure you have completed page 1 on the reverse of this page. One check is ok.

Name: _____

Spouse/Other: _____ Affiliation/Chapter: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Local shopping at International Plaza & Westshore Mall – accessible by FREE hotel shuttle.

ALTERNATE TOURS: SATURDAY MAY 16th (For those who do not take the Victory Cruise)

Visit the TAMPA HISTORY MUSEUM or the FLORIDA AQUARIUM (approx. 10:00 am to 3:00 pm)

NOTES: Price includes guide & admissions. Lunch is on your own – both sites have food and beverage facilities.

Minimum required: if we do not get 35 by April 15, that tour will be cancelled.

Tampa History Museum:

Florida Aquarium:

\$32.50 per person x ____ = \$ _____ OR \$38.00 per person x ____ = \$ _____ SUB-TOTAL = \$ _____

TAMPA CITY TOUR: Sunday May 17 th (Approx. 10:30 am to 3:30 pm)

Includes: Bayshore Boulevard; Hyde Park; H.B. Plant Museum; Ybor City and Ybor City State Museum.

NOTES: Price includes guide & admissions. Lunch is on your own – tour allows for time to eat at local unique restaurants.

Minimum required: if we do not get 40 by April 15, the tour will be cancelled.

COST: \$38.00 per person: x ____ = \$ _____ SUB-TOTAL = \$ _____

HARD ROCK CASINO:

NOTES: Fee is for transportation only. Food and beverage is on your own.

Minimum required: 30 on each day – if we do not get 30 by April 15, that day trip will be cancelled.

Check preference of date: Thur. PM May 15th ____ Sat. eve, May 16th: ____ Sun. midday May 17th: ____

COST: \$25.00 per person: x ____ = \$ _____ SUB-TOTAL = \$ _____

TARPON SPRINGS: Wednesday (Pre-convention) and/or Monday (Post-convention)

Includes: Guide and admissions; St. Nicholas boat tour with Sponge diving exhibition; Greek Cultural Center.

NOTES: Lunch is on your own – tour allows for time to eat at local unique restaurants. Minimum required:

35 on each day – if we do not get 35 by April 15 that day tour will be cancelled. (approx. 10:00 am to 3:00 pm)

Check your preference of date: Wednesday May 13th: ____ Monday May 18th: ____

COST: \$48.00 per person: x ____ = \$ _____ SUB-TOTAL = \$ _____

TOTAL DUE (For this Page 2 of 2):\$ _____

SPECIAL MEDICAL OR PHYSICAL CONCERNS—please detail needs request on separate sheet.

CANCELLATION NOTICE: REFUNDS ONLY by Special Exception AFTER MAY 1, 2009

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(Page 1 and 2 may be combined on one check)

AMMV; c/o John Reher
Box 151205
Cape Coral, FL 33915-1205

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION CALL: Morris Harvey, 352-564-0267 or e-mail morris@xtalwind.net

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MEMORY BOOK — SALES INFORMATION REFERENCE

We have decided to keep the same layout and binding design that was used in the 2008 Portland Memory Book. The Portland book had a total of 72 pages – the binding design allows us to include more pages without increasing the binding cost – providing more pages to be sold. They only had the cover in color but we are expanding the option of having the Book pages in color for an additional cost. We are offering Premium locations (special pricing below).

Benefits:

- Memory Book supporters will have exposure in some 500 households and businesses.
- All Memory Book supporters will receive a copy of the Book.
- Memory Book supporters will be recognized on a special sign to be placed in a prominent location at our 2009 convention.
- The Memory Book will include an alphabetized list of supporters for easy reference.

Sales Promotions:

Chapters:

- 1) 20% of their outside ad sales to be credited toward their own placement – to be refunded after the Book financial closeout. Refund would not exceed the value of their Chapter Memory Book placement.
- 2) Two Convention raffle tickets would be awarded for each \$20 of sales, including their own Chapter Memory Book placement.

Individuals:

- 1) 10% off family or personal Memory Book placement.
- 2) 50% off personal biographical submittals. The AMMV Convention Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any essay for publication and to edit and/or limit the word length. Bio's which have not been published in a book or other national publication preferred. Biographer will receive one free copy of the Memory Book.

Premium Locations:

- 1) Inside two-page center fold in color – \$1,000
- 2) Outside back cover in color – \$750
- 3) Inside front cover in color – \$500
- 4) Inside back cover in color – \$500

LET'S MAKE THIS A BANNER YEAR FOR MEMORY BOOK SUPPORTERS

MEMORY BOOK SPACE — ORDER FORM

This is an invitation to offer recognition of Merchant Marine and Navy Armed Guard veterans of WWII. We offer this publication as a way for businesses, organizations and individuals to express recognition, support AMMV, give a message, or document their own involvement in WWII and the Maritime Industry.

MEMORY BOOK RATES

Deadline for submittals is APRIL 1, 2009

_____ Full Page (8 in x 10.5 in) @ \$ 100.00 _____ Half Page (8 in x 5 1/4 in) @ \$ 70.00

_____ 1/4 Page (4 in x 5 1/4 in) @ \$ 40.00 _____ Business Card @ \$ 20.00

_____ Biographical Story* @ 50% off of standard pricing above

- Full page submittals can be printed in color for an additional \$150.00 per page
- Two full-page submittals may be placed side by side for \$50.00 extra
- Premium location: (Color only) Back cover, inside front cover, inside back cover, or inside centerfold. Available on a first come, first serve basis. Contact us for additional information.

All Submittals must be camera ready.

No Bleeds except back and inside cover.

Original Art – No Photo Copies please.

Digital Copies accepted – MS Word or PDF format, e-mailed or on disc.

Do not scar the artwork with paper clips or other clamp devices.

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Chapter Name: _____ Check one: Chapter Placement ____; For Sales Credit ____

Memory Book will be made available to the following addressee:

Paid by: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Space: \$ _____ + Color \$ _____ + Premium Position \$ _____ = Total \$ _____

Mail check (no cash) and CAMERA READY submittal to:

Richard Parrish
4175 Quail Nest lane
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168

*The AMMV Convention Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any essay for publication and to edit and/or limit the word length. Bio's which have not been published in a book or other national publication preferred. Biographer will receive one free copy of the Memory Book.

FOR GENERAL INFO: Phone: 352-397-1540 or e-mail morris@xtalwind.net

2008-11-17C



JOINING FORCES ON CAPITOL HILL



The National Association for Uniformed Services® (NAUS) is pleased to welcome the American Merchant Marine Veterans as an affiliated organization. NAUS is proud to be the only other veterans organization to strongly support the Belated Thank You legislation on Capitol Hill, and will work hard with you and your leadership at AMMV to enhance the status of our nation's Merchant Marine veterans.

As part of our affiliation agreement, AMMV Members may join the National Association for Uniformed Services® at the steeply reduced dues rate below, and enjoy the benefits belonging to a larger organization can offer. Benefits including a free subscription to the NAUS bimonthly magazine, which will keep you up-to-date on important legislative issues and include special coverage of merchant marine issues in every edition; low group rate health, life, auto and homeowners insurance; travel discounts; a no-fee NAUS Visa card and more.

**Joining NAUS will ensure a stronger voice on Capitol Hill,
and help carry on the proud legacy of the U.S. Merchant Marine.**

NAUS Application for Membership

☐ YES! I'm an eligible American Merchant Marine Veteran
Please enroll me in NAUS today.

AMMV08

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ (mm/dd/yy)

Email: _____

If you served in any other Branch of the military, please enter it here: _____

Rank/grade: _____

Special NAUS Dues for AMMV Members

One Year	\$12 *Special Rate!
Three Years	\$33 *Special Rate!
Life Membership	\$55 *Special Rate!

Note: Special dues rate only for members of American Merchant Marine Veterans

*Regular Dues are \$15 for one year, \$37 for three years and \$130 for Life (age 70+)

Membership Term: _____ year(s)

Dues: \$ _____

DUES PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ Check or Money Order enclosed (make payable to NAUS) *PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH*

☐ Please charge my credit card

Check card used

☐ Visa

☐ Master Card

☐ Discover Card

☐ American Express

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

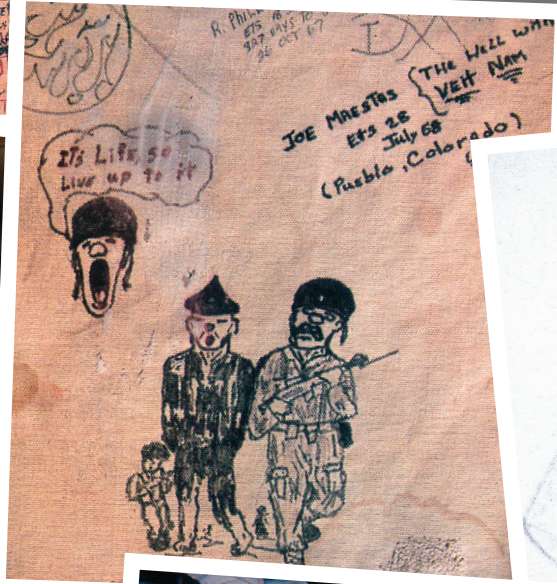
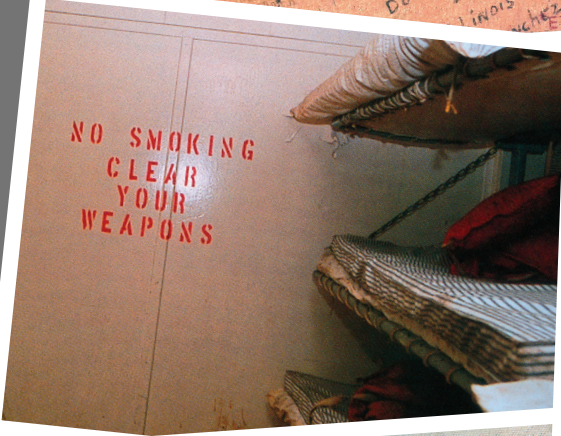
Name: _____
(as shown on card – please print)

Signature: _____
(Required if using credit card)

Please mail application and payment to:
NAUS • 5535 Hempstead Way • Springfield, VA 22151

[illegible]

USED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE AUTHOR.



YOU'RE THE ONE WHO
MUST DECIDE WHO'S
TO LIVE AND WHO'S TO DIE
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GIVES HIS
BODY AS A WEAPON OF THE
WAR - AND WITHOUT YOU ALL
THIS KILLING CAN'T GO ON



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