

NEWS MAGAZINE



SS Lane Victory



SS John W. Brown



SS Red Oak



SS Jeremiah O'Brien



SS American Liberty

THESE GRAND LADIES NEED YOUR HELP NOW!

*These five heritage World War II ships served us well.
Now they need your help and donations to preserve their
history and yours. See their story on page 28.*

IN PEACE AND WAR



1775

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WINTER 2009/2010
\$4.00

Wreaths Across America™

The Wreaths Across America™ program began in 1992, when the Worcester Wreath Company, in Maine, donated leftover wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery for placement on the headstones of fallen veterans. The event caught on and has grown larger every year. Many, many AMMV Chapter members from across the country participated on December 12, 2009 in the ceremony that is based on the principle "remember, honor and teach."

At the Roseburg National Cemetery in Oregon, Nelson Cauble was asked to place a wreath in honor of the fallen Merchant Mariners. The speaker was Joe Laurence, Douglas County Commissioner, who said:

"The United States of America was founded on the ideals of Freedom, Justice and Equality. Our nation stands as a shining beacon of liberty and freedom to the world. We thank those who gave their lives to keep us free and we shall not forget you.

We shall remember.

"Today we show a united front of national unity all across the United States of America as we Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve and Teach our children the value of freedom."





**American Merchant Marine Veterans
Official Publication
NEWS MAGAZINE**

Published quarterly for the benefit of our members.

Foreign postage additional.

*Subscription included in membership fee
for AMMV members.*

Non-members: \$4.00 per copy.

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

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How we will win our battle for Just Compensation

Our weapons:

- ☆ Press coverage to change a senator's attitude of the WWII U.S. Merchant Marine Veteran;
- ☆ New volunteers from outside AMMV;
- ☆ *Gerry Starnes'* continued efforts working with lobbyists and senate staff members;
- ☆ *Perry Adams'* reaching out to the senators directly and through the AMMV members;
- ☆ Distribution of *Ian Allison's* booklet to teach the public about the U.S. Merchant Marine;
- ☆ Continued efforts of NAUS to assist in legislative procedures;
- ☆ Direct involvement by all members of the Just Compensation Committee;
- ☆ Gallant members calling news media and giving them a war story they never heard before;
- ☆ With published stories, we will use tools of the internet with a blog and Twitter to develop more supporters.

Volunteers and fellow members have already proven that media stories about mariners seeking Just Compensation have helped Senators understand the reasons to co-sponsor S-663. More than 70 articles about the WWII Merchant Marine have been in the newspapers around the country and that has helped tremendously in generating curiosity and interest in the "Fighting Merchant Marine".

However, many younger people under 70 now use the internet for news and not the newspaper. Using Twitter recently, a suggestion was signaled to check out a story about the Merchant Marine. Sixty people logged on to the Washington story from a blogger on the internet. That was a chance effort that opened up great possibilities. We now can feed Twitter with information on recent newspaper articles about WWII Merchant Marine veterans and how they have been neglected.

Many Senators and their staffs use this method of communication now. Senate staff members can check the count from the internet and learn how many people were interested in our story. It will show them a new group of voters they may have offended by ignoring to co-sponsor S.663.

News articles may point out those Senators who are willing to cheat old veterans out of earned compensation from WWII just to cover the pork and high living they have developed for themselves. This will help speed up the education of the public and younger veterans of today. The Senators who fail veterans and their families will surely lose

their support in the next election. No citizen or veteran should allow the remaining WWII Merchant Marine Veterans to lose compensation just for the Senator's barrel of pork.

Education of the public about the U.S. Merchant Marine is keynote to our efforts. *Ian Allison* Co-Chairman of Just Compensation had 40,000 copies printed of Admiral Land's detailed report to the United States President on how successfully the Merchant Marine performed in WWII with limited armaments and with an enemy who knew his most important target was not a Navy ship but a merchant supply vessel. This colorful reproduction has generated interest and attention from new quarters throughout the country. It has given us a variety of new volunteers who are not mariners. They are men and women across the nation and members of the Armed Forces.

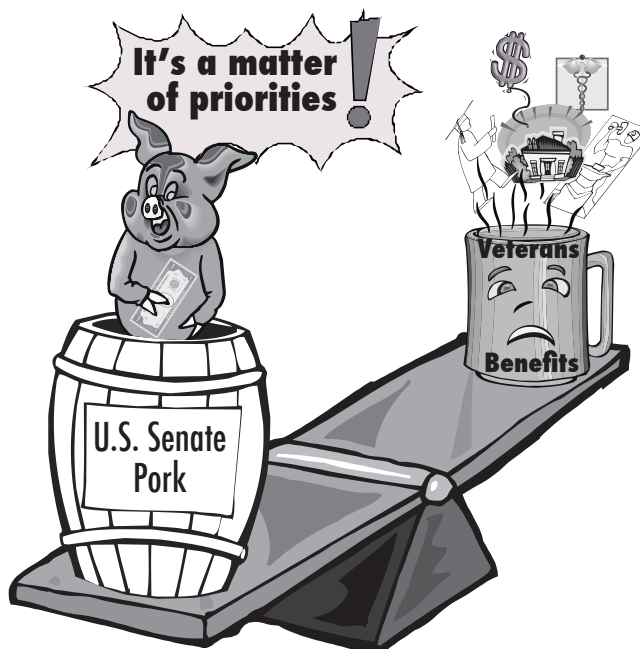
We will be stepping up the tempo in the media now that we are getting calls soliciting our help in the next elections. Publicity asking why a Senator is not co-sponsoring S.663 will encourage them to become a sponsor. One reason for that is there are approximately three-million descendants who have been anguished by the maltreatment their WWII father, grandfather, brother, uncle or great grandfather. Our descendants represent a sizable voting block and we have the approximate number for your state.

You, as a Merchant Mariner, and your family have been sending faxes, letters and making calls seemingly forever.

You can be assured these efforts have registered with Senators. Their staff keeps track of all contacts. They are also cognizant of publicity developed in the media. This gives added weight and importance to your efforts. We know newspapers and public broadcasting system have been interested in our remarkable history and we could use more help getting coverage as it is a great weapon. I encourage you to talk to some of our veterans around the country who have called newspapers on "how to" get WWII

stories published. If you would like copies of articles for further publication, please contact *Sindy Raymond* at (800) 545-4173 or email her saaren@frontiernet.net and she'll be glad to send you some.

A.J. Wichita
National President
American Merchant Marine Veterans





NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS **American Merchant Marine Veterans**

Serving America in Peace and War

From the National Secretary

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all. Well it is now time to buckle down and see what we can make of this new year. It is still bright and shiny and ready for us to put our mark on it, whatever that might be. I look forward to the challenge.

We were in Branson, MO, in November to attend the Regional convention. What a good time we had there, lots of good people that we don't see nearly often enough. Our thanks to the committee for all the work that goes into putting on one of these events. There are Regional conventions all across the country and you are missing a great time with good people if you don't attend one close to you, (or a couple of thousand miles from you). Shirley and I will be back to Branson again next year if possible ... and if they let us come back after winning five of the raffle prizes! But hey! Somebody had to win!

While there in Branson, we took some time and drove up to Walnut Grove, where I was born. It's about 30 or so miles north of Branson. We looked over the little town, and the old house where I was born. We visited some cemeteries where some Cauble family are buried, including a little sister we lost.

While driving around, we drove by the little old, long-ago-abandoned store building and I recalled the day I was trying to learn how to chop wood, and drew the ax back over my head, and... hit brother Bob on the head right between his eyes! The trip to the doctor took care of it, and he got an ice cream cone at the store to shut him up ... but I didn't get one!

A few days ago I was told I had changed when we were at the dedication of the memorial for the ship SS Emidio in Crescent City, CA. My shipmate Burt Bessellieu and I met there for the first time since we sailed on our first trip on the SS John Steele a whole lot of years ago. We are proud of the new memorial. The Emidio was the first ship torpedoed on the West Coast by the Japanese. It didn't sink but drifted to Crescent City. Part of the hull is now the memorial. Our MM flag is now flying there with the US flag.

I send my thanks and appreciation to those brave men in Butler County, PA for the valiant fight they have put up for somewhere around eight years to be recognized. They have surely given it their best and no one could have tried harder than this fine group of men. They didn't get exactly what they should have, but sure came as close as they possibly could have under the circumstances.

So now, get up and let's get started on this new year. We have new chapters in operation and I congratulate them. I hear now we will have a new one in Hemet, California. We are working on helping them get some things they need. I hope to hear from all of them through this year with their progress as we move forward into 2010. (Do you find that 2010 is hard to write, and harder yet to think possible that it's where we are! In2010!)

Please keep our ailing members in your thoughts and prayers; as I write this, we wish our Rogue Valley Chapter's President Gene Jernigan a speedy recovery. He is currently down and when we visited him recently he was mad as a bull that he can't get up yet. Phone call a few days ago he says he is a little better. Hang in there, Gene!

So, keep fighting for our Bill in Congress, pray for wisdom and courage for our leaders in Congress and lets get together somewhere, sometime soon. I'll be looking for you.

Remember TOGETHER WE CAN...AND TOGETHER WE HAVE...MADE A DIFFERENCE!

Sincerely,

Nelson Cauble
National Secretary



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS **American Merchant Marine Veterans**

Serving America in Peace and War

From the Editor

It's a New Year and I wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2010. I think this is going to be "our year" legislatively. It has started off with a bit of rocking and rolling, for me, at least. The American Merchant Marine Veterans' National Office got a little shook up on Saturday, January 9th when a big earthquake hit Ferndale. This old house lost the front bay window panes, a bathroom sink was sheared off the drain pipe by about 4 inches, bureaus and bookcases were knocked over. But it's amazing how many things bounced and can just be put back into place. No physical damage and it was all over in about 30 seconds.

One of the things that I've found, since then, is this picture. It looks like I've always enjoyed "more mature" men. Of course, now that I'm catching up with them, the age difference isn't so bad. Working with the Just Compensation Committee and the Merchant Mariners all these years, I've come to wonder if there are any young people left in the world. But, lately, I'm learning that there are. We have a 22-year old, Jamie Burnell, and another young lady, Lisa Wilkens, working hard on our historical and legislative behalf, and probably others that I can't remember or don't know about.

Let's get more young folks involved because they have the energy and stamina to carry on the future of the AMMV. Younger people will be needed, especially, to allow us to achieve the purpose specified in the Constitution of the American Merchant Marine Veterans organization which reads in "The Purpose" section: "To publicize the services of the American Merchant Marine Seamen in World War II, and gain recognition for the services and sacrifices of Korean, Vietnam and Middle-East Wars as recognized by the Veterans Administration."

Who's going to do this, once the Just Compensation legislation is passed? Who's going to fight the battle for recognition for the service of later merchant seamen? Younger people are! So dust off those old Sea stories and get the younger folks interested. The Merchant Mariner heritage is worth it.

Now, did you notice the new look on the front and back cover? President Wichita suggested that we might want to update the covers and with major help from Carole Gutierrez, Communications and Webmaster, we have done that. Thank you, Carole. If you have further suggestions or ideas, please let me know. But, remember, what we don't receive, we can't print. As usual the door is always open. Call (800) 545-4173 X1, fax (707) 786-4557, write P.O. Box 186, Ferndale, CA 95536-0186 or email saaren@frontiernet.net anytime. I look forward to hearing from you.



Sindy Raymond
National Office Manager
AMMV NEWS Magazine Editor
Just Compensation Committee

Communications Director & Webmaster

And so it grows ...

The American Merchant Marine web site – **www.ammv.info** – is coming along quite nicely.

The site design has been finalized. It's format allows for more pages to be added as may become necessary. Currently, there are pages for new members, news articles about the organization, memorials and a listing of Chapters. The front page (home page) is reserved for news about S-663, AMMV national news and anything that might be important or "cool" for you to see or hear. And more is coming.

During the next few weeks and number of new things will be added to the site. Links will be added on the Chapters page that will take you to the web sites or e-mail address of those with an online presence. An area will be created for Chapter News. We're also adding a "chat room" so members to communicate directly with one other.

Members are making suggestions and providing contributions. We've even heard from a fellow merchant mariner veteran from Australia by way of England. He served in the Merchant Navy in the North Atlantic and has provided a link to an interview he has posted on "You Tube." He talks of the struggle to get recognition for those who served in the Merchant Navy during World War II. Sound familiar?

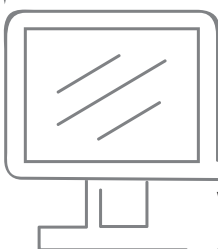
A link, also from "You Tube," was passed around before the holidays featuring a Canadian group singing a wonderful ditty about the Merchant Marine. I've posted the video on our site for all to enjoy.

As always, I welcome your suggestions, comments and contributions. Keep them coming so together we can build an informative site for all to use and enjoy.

The 24th National Convention is just around the corner. This year we're heading for Las Vegas. Hosted by the High Rollers Chapter, a great time is planned for all. Roy Mahan, CEO of the High Rollers, is doing an outstanding job organizing and planning the event. He has provided a wealth of information about the hotel and things to do in Las Vegas. A special page will be appearing on the web site all about the Convention. If you don't want to cut up this issue of the magazine, you can download the registration form, see the hotel and rooms, get maps and much, much more.

Key to success of the convention is the Commemorative Book. This year, we are hoping to garner more support from individual members. Historically, ads have come from Chapters, affiliated organizations and businesses, but we understand there is a great deal of interest in learning about individual members and their families. So why not place an ad in the book to show

them off? You can download the order form from the web site or contact Roy at (702) 558-0643 or meicoroy@aol.com. Even if you can't make the convention, you can do your part to make it a success.



www.ammv.info

Carole Gutierrez



Welcome Aboard to these New Members of the AMMV

REX ALLENDER	ALBUQUERQUE	NM	NEWMOON N. JUNG, SR.	KANNAPOLIS	NC	EMERY POSTENREIDER	ALBUQUERQUE	NM
JOSEPH ANELLO	ST. JAMES	NY	FRED J. KALYAN	FAIRFAX	VA	RICHARD QUARLES	NOVATO	CA
MARTY ARMSTRONG	BAY CITY	TX	HERBERT KLAY	NORTHPORT	NY	KENNETH E. QUICK	FT. LAUDERDALE	FL
ANGELO AVENA	FORT WORTH	TX	ROBERT KREBS	PORT CHARLOTTE	FL	WILLIAM B. RAYMER, JR.	MOORESVILLE	NC
CHRISTINE BADKE	FORT MILL	SC	THOMAS M. LAHIFF	CHATHAM	NJ	DAVID REANEY	HERCULES	CA
MARVIN F. BEANS	NEW PHILADELPHIA	OH	JAMES LAMPSON	ST. LOUIS	MO	WILLIAM P. SANDELL	FT. MYERS	FL
ALBERT BELONZI	MEDFORD	NY	DONALD P. LE GERE	PEMBROKE	MA	WILLIAM SATKOSKE, SR.	TURTLE CREEK	PA
VASSILIS BOBOTIS	RIO RANCHO	NM	EDMUND B. LOHR, JR.	DOWNEY	CA	JOHN SCALZO	DANBURY	CT
DALE E. BROTHERTON	NEW BOSTON	IL	JOHN LUDWICK	STERLING	KS	JOHN B. SCALZO	RIFLE	CO
GEORGE F. BRYANT	HAMILTON	OH	JOHN A. MANSER	PORTLAND	OR	GEORGE SCHLINK	YOUNTVILLE	CA
GEORGE J. BURKHARDT, SR.	MILLVILLE	NJ	LEO MANUS	DRAIN	OR	LEE SHAFER	CAMBY	IN
K. L. BYRD	LAS CRUCES	NM	CINDY MARCIANA-GERMAN	WEST BABYLON	NY	JOSEPH W. SINIARD	LOS LUNAS	NM
ANDREW J. CAPLIS	MOORESVILLE	NC	CAPT. ED MARCUS	CHERRY HILL	NJ	DONALD W. STEWART	NASHUA	NH
PETER CASTINE	AJO	AZ	H. WOODSON MC CLURE	APOKA	FL	WESLEY J. STEWART	FORT WORTH	TX
RONALD G. CAUBLE	KENNEWICK	WA	JOHN P. MC KAY	MARTINSVILLE	IN	ARTHUR E. STOKES	SHREWSBURY	NJ
HAROLD CLARK	PUNTA GORDA	FL	LEONARD B. MELLEY, SR.	RIDGEWOOD	NJ	PAT SWEENEY	SAUSALITO	CA
ALEXANDER CONTI	WARREN	WI	JOHN F. MEUSE	PORT CHARLOTTE	FL	DUWAYNE V. SWENSON	DAWSON	MN
ALFRED COX	SHERWOOD	OR	MORRIS MIKKELSON	CROSS LAKE	MN	ERNEST TAYLOR, JR.	DALLAS	TX
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HARRY R. DELIZ	MESQUITE	TX	JOHN J. NESTOR	MOORESVILLE	NC	THOMAS TOBIN	CAPE CANAVERAL	FL
JOSEPH G. DOWD	GRAND ISLAND	NY	JOHN NISTAD	HAWLEY	PA	GUY TOWERS	CRESCENT CITY	CA
EDWARD DUFF	NAPLES	FL	CARROLL C. O'CONNOR	PRINEVILLE	OR	JAMES J. VONDERHAAR	CINCINNATI	OH
RALPH DYKES	GRAND ISLAND	FL	BETTY G. OLIVERI	ALAMEDA	CA	LYNNE M. WATTS	VALDESE	NC
BERT ENESTVEDT	SACRED HEART	MN	FRANK OLIVETTI	YOUNTVILLE	CA	GLORIA WELLS	DRAIN	OR
ERWIN F. ERNST	HICKORY HILLS	IL	RICHARD S. PARKER	LOS OSOS	CA	KENNETH WILEY	ALBUQUERQUE	NM
ROBERT ERNST	TINLEY PARK	IL	ROBERT H. PHILLIPS	KINGS BEACH	CA	ROBERT E. WILLIAMS	INDIANAPOLIS	IN
NANCY J. EVANS	TULSA	OK	JOHN PITTS	LAKEWOOD	CA	JOHN L. ZUBLER	SEBRING	FL
CORNELIUS FARLEY	SAN RAFAEL	CA						
ALFRED D. FEHR	BEAVER	PA						
JAMES L. FITCH	ANDERSON	IN						
BOB FURBUSH	NOVATO	CA						
GINA GEORGE	NOVATO	CA						
ANTHONY GERCHMAN	SUSQUEHANNA	PA						
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ROBERT JACKSON	HOUSTON	TX						
LORRAINE JAEGER	MASSAPEQUA	NY						
EDWARD JENSEN	LINDENHURST	NY						



General Matz of NAUS and A. J. Wichita, National President AMMV and NAUS advisory board member, in Washington, DC at the NAUS annual meeting in November, 2009. General Matz, his legislative advisor, Rick Jones, and the staff continue to work very hard for our Just Compensation legislation.

The WWII Liberty Ship S.S. JOHN W. BROWN



Helps celebrate SSHSA's 75th Anniversary

The S.S. JOHN W. BROWN is a maritime museum and a memorial to the shipyard workers who built, merchant mariners who sailed, and the U.S. Navy Armed Guard crews who defended the Liberty ships during World War II.

Come walk the decks of this historic ship

- **Where:** Providence, Rhode Island (check our website for the exact location)
- **Tour times:** (tour times subject to change)

Thursday, September 23	-	10 AM to 4PM
Friday, September 24	-	10 AM to 4 PM
Saturday, September 25	-	Day Cruise, No visitors
Sunday, September 26	-	10 AM to 4 PM
Monday, September 27	-	10 AM to 4 PM

- **Cost:** \$5 donation is requested from adults; children under 12 are free
- **What will I see & do:** tour museum spaces, crew quarters, bridge, messrooms, troop berthing and much more. View the magnificent 140-ton **triple-expansion steam engine**, walk the decks, and stand on the bridge from that historic time.

The JOHN W. BROWN is a National Historic Ship and is fully restored and maintained as close as possible to her World War II configuration and lacks modern conveniences. Visitors must be able to walk up the gangway.



Sail aboard the SS JOHN W BROWN 2010 Living History Cruises

May 8 & October 16 Baltimore, MD and September 25 Providence, RI
Tickets are \$140 each Group rates available

This exciting day cruise features: continental breakfast, lunch buffet, music of the 40's, and flybys (conditions permitting) of wartime aircraft. The ship is open for tours including the engine room, museums, crew quarters, bridge and much more.

For more information on the Rhode Island Trip call: 410-558-0646
Ticket order forms available on our website at: www.liberty-ship.com

To order Cruise tickets call: 410-558-0164

Last day to order tickets is 14 days before the cruise.

Conditions and penalties apply to cancellations

Project Liberty Ship is a Baltimore based, all volunteer, nonprofit organization.

NO! You are **NOT** a veteran, you **ARE** a civilian!

Everyone wants to know why **Senator Akaka** (Hawaii) will not support the United States Merchant Marine Veterans of WWII compensation bill S.663, the "*Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of WWII Act of 2009*". He fought so hard for the Filipino scouts' post-war compensation, we were sure he would honor the American Merchant Marine Veterans as they, too, were forgotten. **But, he isn't.**

Akaka is the Veteran's Affairs Committee Chairman and he always demurs when asked directly why he opposes giving full benefits to WWII U.S. Merchant Mariners. **Major General Bill Matz**, President, National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS), and its Legislative Director Rick Jones, asked for a meeting to find out why. The Veteran's Committee's Majority Staff Director, **Bill Brew** met with them to discuss the matter.

Mr. Brew does not consider Merchant Mariners of WWII to be veterans. He **ridiculed** the Merchant Mariners for calling themselves "*combat veterans*." This strikes us as a very odd opinion for a former Navy officer to espouse, especially, since the U.S. Merchant Marine has been lauded by many WWII Admirals, Generals and leaders of several countries for repeatedly risking their lives delivering much needed supplies.

General Matz is a Vietnam Veteran and holder of this country's second highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross as well as the Silver Star, a Combat Infantryman's Badge and a Purple Heart. He and Director Rick Jones, a Vietnam era veteran, were dismayed to hear Mr. Brew, a six-year naval officer, cast such aspersions on a group of men who had volunteered for very dangerous duty in World War II and had a higher death rate than any of the armed services. *Mr. Brew's attitude is shameful.* Commander-in-Chiefs, from George Washington to Abraham Lincoln to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, admonished our Legislature "after the battles are over, take care of the men you sent to war."

As WWII got under way, Congress had to find manpower to operate the ships when every able-bodied man was needed in the Armed Services. The War Shipping Administration was created. They recruited manpower with lurid advertisements

to entice old men and young boys to join the U.S. Maritime Service. Arrangements were made with shipping companies, trade unions and the Maritime Commission, and these recruits became **Civilian Warriors**. They were trained to man the

ships, trained in gunnery and were given support assignments with the Navy Armed Guard. These **Civilian Warriors** were commissioned to deliver arms to our troops through submarine infested waters.

Congress let these men board lightly armored ships and sent them on dangerous missions. President Roosevelt and Great Britain's Prime Minister knew how dangerous these missions were. They felt only half the ships and their crews could get through. At the end of this Great War, Congress took care of legions of Veterans, half of whom never left the United States, with the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the G.I. Bill of Rights.

But it overlooked this small band of Mariners who were sent to the four corners of the earth with much needed food, supplies and arms. After a 44-year struggle, U.S. Merchant Mariners were recognized as Veterans. They were easy to ignore after WWII. Now, 65-years later, our numbers have declined dramatically but we're still being ignored. Why should Congress ponder whether old veterans are worth their time or do they matter at all? We are now with affiliated and supported by thousands of veterans of the National Association for Uniformed Services. Those Senators who have not made an effort to correct this injustice are listed here.

In every state, thousands of the Mariner's descendants are waiting for their Senator to honor their fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers. **Senators may choose to deny and forget the last of these**

WWII Civilian Warriors but more than three million voting descendants of U.S. Merchant Mariners will not forget their failure to remember.

A.J. Wichita, LT USN (Vet)
USCG Lic.Ch.Eng.
National President
American Merchant Marine Veterans



Senators that Don't!

Daniel Akaka – HI

Lamar Alexander – TN	Johnny Isaakson – GA
John Barasso – WY	Tim Johnson – SD
Robert Bennett – UT	Edward – Kaufman – DE
Jim Bunning – KY	Paul Kirk – MA
Roland Buriss – IL	Herb Kohl – WI
Richard Burr – NC	Jon Kyl – AZ
Robert Byrd – WV	George Le Mieux – FL
Thomas Carper – DE	Carl Levin – MI
Saxby Chambliss – GA	Richard Lugar – IN
Tom Coburn – OK	John McCain – AZ
Bob Corker – TN	Claire McCaskill – MO
John Cornyn – TX	Mitch McConnell – KY
Michael Crapo – ID	Jeff Merkley – OR
Jim DeMint – SC	Bill Nelson – FL
Byron Dorgan – ND	Harry Reid – NV
John Ensign – NV	Jim Risch – ID
Michael Enzi – WY	John Rockefeller – WV
Russell Feingold – WI	Jeff Sessions – AL
Dianne Feinstein – CA	Jeannie Shaheen – NH
Al Franken – MN	Richard Shelby – AL
Lindsey Graham – SC	John Thune – SD
Judd Gregg – NH	George Voinovich – OH
Kay R. Hagan – NC	Mark Warner – VA
Orrin Hatch – UT	Jim Webb – VA
Daniel Inouye – HI	Roger Wicker – MS



OFFICIAL MINUTES

Thursday, May 14, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

Board of Directors meeting. Meeting called to order by Morris Harvey. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Judge Advocate Larry Brooks invited to preside. The ground rules were given for the meeting and named the following as qualified to take part in the proceedings: National Officers, Regional Vice Presidents, Past National presidents, CEO's of all chapters, and member of chapters not having CEO's present who has had a letter submitted designating them as a chapter delegate. Items to be considered are Budget and Amendments to the Constitution.

Ruling made by Judge Advocate that the Amendment submitted by Dr. Larry Kerkow and printed in magazine was not presented in proper order and will not be considered. Amendment submitted by Joe Bracken as printed, will be considered. RVP Bill Marker spoke regarding procedure followed due to death of National Treasurer Jack Behrens. President A.J. Wichita explained that Cal Berry is still the National Treasurer and will be voted on at election. Motion made, 2nd, and carried. Cal Berry presented Budget. Some discussion followed, motion made to accept, 2nd and carried.

National Office move. President A.J. gave detailed accounting of the sudden resignation of Office Administrator Barbara Reher and the process required for the immediate transition of the National AMMV office. President A.J. states that three of the National Officers, he, as President, Nelson Cauble, and Cal Berry met in the Office in Cape Coral, FL to meet with office Administrator Barbara Reher. She had informed A.J. a few days prior that she was leaving the position. A.J. accepted her resignation and said she would receive two weeks severance pay. She agreed to those terms. Barbara presented each of the three National Officers with papers she had prepared in advance of their meeting, that required

them to sign off regarding the documents she would give them. Documents that included the keys to the mail box and the office, and also (as recalled by Nelson Cauble.) a list of the items in the office that were her personal property. She further stated that she would no longer pick up the mail or do Cal Berry's bidding. She acknowledged that all officers had signed off and said at that point she was through. Thus it now became an urgent situation that required immediate action. The following two days were spent making the necessary preparations and arrangements to close the office, involving landlord and lease, monthly services, mail, and all details that had to be handled before the opening of the convention, so that we

had a workable solution to our problem in place to present to the Board of Directors at their meeting. Discussion followed. Motion made to accept the report, 2nd and carried. *(Transcribing note: This portion of the disc that includes the Board of Directors meeting is clear, complete and easily understood. There should be no confusion at this point as to what is being said and recorded, and what was heard in the report by those attending the Board of Directors meeting.)*

Larry Brooks presented Joe Bracken's proposed amendment. Discussion followed. Motion made to accept, 2nd and carried. Report given by Cindy Raymond regarding Just Compensation; no action needed.

Question raised by RVP Bill Marker of any possible 2010 AMMV Convention site. Pres. A.J. responded that Las Vegas has agreed and preliminary plans are in progress awaiting vote of convention.

Cal Berry, National Treasurer, explained the reason for lack of financial pages in magazine and also requested all chapters to report any errors or corrections to financial page in future magazines. Other items brought before the meeting included Merchant Marine flags in National Cemeteries, various monuments, and AMMV Florida charter. Some discussion followed. No action needed or taken.

Friday, May 15, 9:00 a.m.

Business meeting. Morris Harvey welcomed all and opened the

AMMV 23rd Annual Convention

May 14-18, 2009

Tampa, Florida

DoubleTree Hotel, Tampa Westshore



Above: Nelson Cauble, National Secretary; Joe Colon, National Vice President; Morris Harvey, Convention Chairman; A.J. Wichita, National President.

Left: Resting aboard the SS American Victory on the cruise.

meeting with the Coast Guard Honor Guard presenting the colors. Flag salute given followed by invocation and prayer. "Heave Ho" was sung. A video was presented with Florida Governor Crist welcoming all to Tampa. A proclamation given for Maritime Day. Morris Harvey introduced the head table which included National President A.J. Wichita; Joe Colon, National VP; and Nelson Cauble, National Secretary. Joe Colon invited all to take part in the Merchant Marine Maritime Day in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. A.J. was invited to speak. Chapters were introduced. Announced that Thomas Carroll (MARAD) historian would be recording the history of any of the members present.

12:00, Ladies lunch with Ann Parish speaker

Afternoon session. Captain Tim Brown, President of Masters, Mates and Pilots was speaker. Instructions regarding voting procedures and credentials were given by Burt Young. Business presented by Larry Brooks who stated that the proposed change in By-Laws would not be considered as it had not been properly presented. Joe Bracken presented resolution that wives and widows be included as members. Motion by Bill Marker that the word *Ancestors* be changed to *Descendants*, 2nd by Hank Kaminski, motion carried. Joe Bracken agreed to word change, motion made to adopt resolution, 2nd and carried. Motion by Bill Marker that we urge the ruling be granted that MM flags be flown at National cemeteries. Seconded, discussion followed and motion carried. Resolution presented by Golden Gate chapter that wives be included as qualified for membership. Motion made and seconded but no need to vote due to same matter included in Joe Bracken's proposal already carried.

5:30 p.m.

President's Welcome Dinner and entertainment. Speakers were Chief Engineer Michael Perry, Second mate Ken Quinn and Third Mate Colin Wright, crew members of the *Maersk Alabama*. Distinguished Achievement awards given to Barbara Reher, Gerry Starnes and Nelson and Shirley Cauble.

Saturday May 16, American Victory Cruise.

Sunday May 17, 9:00 a.m.

Morning session called to order by Morris Harvey. Invocation and flag salute. Bill Cantua told of the sinking of the SS Jean Nicolet. Mitzi Tacey, representing High Rollers Chapter AMMV, Las Vegas, presented offer to hold 2010



Burt Young, Credentials Chairman, and John McSpadden, Nominating Chairman

Convention in Las Vegas. Motion by Hank Kaminski to accept, seconded and carried.

Voting Candidates presented for National Offices as follows:

National President	A.J. Wichita
	Joe Colon
National Vice President.....	Don Trimboth
	Hank Cap
National Secretary	Nelson Cauble
National Treasurer	Cal Berry

Voting results are:

President	A.J. Wichita, 1278
	Joe Colon, 785
Vice President.	Don Trimboth, 1106
	Hank Cap, 912

Secretary unopposed

Treasurer unopposed

Regional Vice Presidents, as follows:

Central Region - Burt Young
 Dixie Region - Jules Burg
 Midwest Region - none
 Gulf Region - Jack Gothe
 Northeast Region - Hank Cap
 Northwest Region - Bill Marker
 Southeast Region - Morris Harvey
 Southwest Region - Rex Farley
 Valley Forge Region - George Bathie
 West Region - Bill Cantua
 Mid-Atlantic Region - George Goldman

Meeting adjourned.

5:30 p.m.

Banquet. Keynote speaker General Wm Matz , USO-type entertainment. Raffle

These minutes have been transcribed from an MP-3 disc covering approximately seven hours. The disc includes huge gaps of dead air with no recorded data. The failure of speakers not using the floor microphone has resulted in not being able to identify them or record their questions or discussion. Portions of the convention proceedings are transcribed from hand written notes taken by Shirley Cauble. Every attempt has been made to be as accurate and complete as possible and this transcription has been reviewed by National Secretary Nelson Cauble, Judge Advocate Hank Kaminski, and National Magazine Editor Sindy Raymond. Any errors or omissions are unintentional and from the quality of the content of disc, unavoidable.

Respectfully submitted,

National Secretary Nelson Cauble



General meeting

AMMV

Profit & Loss

July 2009 through December 2009

Income

401 · AD NEWSLETTER	425.50
402 · CONTRIBUTIONS	10.00
410 · CHAPTER DUES	
AKG · ALASKA GREATLANDS	40.00
BEE · BEEHIVE MARINERS	280.00
BMC · BUCKEYE MARINERS	420.00
CAC · CACTUS MARINERS	420.00
CAS · CASCADE MARINERS	500.00
CEC · CENTRAL CALIFORNIA	900.00
CHC · CHINA COASTERS	1,020.00
CIC · CENTRAL INDIANA	500.00
DAR · DENNIS ROLAND	4,800.00
DES · DESERT MARINERS	1,040.00
DNE · DOWNEAST	360.00
DVC · DELAWARE VALLEY	400.00
EMS · EMERALD SEAS	440.00
EOH · EDWIN O'HARA	1,120.00
EOM · EASTERN OKLAHOMA MARINERS	420.00
GLD · GOLDEN GATE	2,280.00
GUL · GULFSTREAM	2,160.00
HIR · HIGH ROLLERS	580.00
HOA · HEART OF AMERICA	280.00
HSE · HIGH SEA ERA	293.00
HSM · HIGH SEAS MARINERS	560.00
HUD · HUDSON VALLEY	1,320.00
HUM · HUMBOLDT BAY	360.00
JOB · JEREMIAH O'BRIEN	600.00
KEY · KEYSTONE MARINERS	340.00
KPC · KINGS POINT	660.00
LOC · LOWER COLUMBIA	220.00
LON · LONE STAR	400.00
MAC · R. J. MCALVANAH	500.00
MAL · MEMBERS AT LARGE	6,259.00
MAM · MID AMER. ANCIENT MARINERS	840.00
MCO · MID-COLUMBIA	1,140.00
MGC · MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST	280.00
MON · MON VALLEY	1,100.00
MOV · MISSOURI VALLEY	1,280.00
MPA · MARINERS OF PENNSYLVANIA	440.00
NBM · NORTH BAY MARINERS	1,100.00
NEN · NEW ENGLAND	1,620.00
NOA · NORTH ATLANTIC	740.00
OCA · OCALA CHAPTER	820.00
OHV · OHIO VALLEY	540.00
OJE · OTTO J. ERNST	100.00
OKM · OKLAHOMA MARINERS	460.00
ORE · OREGON	840.00
ORS · OREGON SOUTHERN	840.00
ORV · OSWEGO RIVER VALLEY	140.00
PEC · PECONIC BAY	640.00
PUG · PUGET SOUND	1,030.00
RKO · RUDY KOZAK	500.00
ROG · ROGUE VALLEY	620.00
ROR · ROAD RUNNER	160.00
SAC · SACRAMENTO VALLEY	1,340.00
SAJ · SAN JUAN	600.00
SAR · SARASOTA-MANATEE	1,020.00
SDE · SAN DIEGO SILVERGATE	660.00
SJR · ST. JOHNS RIVER	980.00
SSM · SMALL SHIP MARINERS	540.00
SSP · SS SAMUEL PARKER	1,000.00
STH · SS STEPHEN HOPKINS	1,340.00
STI · STATEN ISLAND	280.00
SUQ · SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY	720.00
SVM · SILICON VALLEY MARINERS	580.00
SWF · SOUTHWEST FLORIDA	460.00

Jul - Dec 09

SWP · SOUTHWESTERN PA	200.00
THR · THREE RIVERS	1,500.00
TRC · TREASURE COAST	320.00
TRI · TRI STATE	460.00
VIK · VIKING MARINERS	1,200.00
VUL · VULCAN CHAPTER	500.00
Total 410 · CHAPTER DUES	58,402.00
Total Income	58,837.50
Expense	
500 · FIXED EXPENSE	
507 · TELEPHONE	1,107.00
Total 500 · FIXED EXPENSE	1,107.00
530 · NEWS LETTER	
533 · POSTAGE	3,527.44
536 · PRINTING	12,098.79
Total 530 · NEWS LETTER	15,626.23
550 · PERSONNEL	
551 · ADMINISTRATOR	7,800.00
553 · NATIONAL SECRETARY	500.00
555 · NATIONAL V.P.	298.00
556 · REG. V.P.	765.00
Total 550 · PERSONNEL	9,363.00
560 · OPERATING EXPENSES	
564 · OFFICE SUPPLIES	102.00
565 · POSTAGE	1,301.50
566 · PRINTING	356.00
TRA · TRANSPORTATION	32.56
Total 560 · OPERATING EXPENSES	1,792.06
Total Expense	27,888.29
Net Income	30,949.21

Fellow Mariners:

The first half of our fiscal year has passed, and the results speak for themselves. Moving the office has apparently been a good thing for the AMMV. The workload on the Treasurer's office has not suffered with no evidence of a forfeiture of quality of product. To the CEO's and Treasurers, I ask you to verify the amount that you sent to National and the amounts shown as dues received by National. To all of you I wish you a very happy and prosperous new year.

Calvin G. Berry, National Treasurer

AMMV SE REGIONAL CONVENTION

Kissimmee, FL - October 29th thru 31st, 2009

SUMMARY REPORT

The Kissimmee convention opened at 0930, October 30, 2009, by Morris Harvey, VP SE Region. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the invocation was given. "Heave Ho My Lads - Heave Ho" was sung and The Merchant Marine song by Celtae was played. RVP Harvey read The Creed to the Merchant Marine Flag (composed by Jim Willis of Oregon). Chapters and special attendees were recognized.

Twelve WWII Mariners present were awarded Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition issued by Florida Senator Bill Nelson's office - reading "In Honor of your Service and Sacrifice During Periods of War as a Member of the United States Merchant Marines." RVP Harvey announced that there is a similar Certificate authorized by the 106th Congress (2000), House of Representatives, Resolution 327 - available by contacting individual Congressional Representatives. RVP Harvey stated that he will support and work with each Chapter that chooses to obtain these Certificates for their members.

Anne Marsh, Representing the FSU WWII historical Preservation Program - She is the Archivist and provides Computer Support for the Institute. Ms. Marsh delivered an informative program promoting the Programs interest in the bigger picture, the human experience side of WWII that you will not find in textbooks. The Program collects artifacts,

correspondence and letters about the every day life of the men and women who served their country and about the home front experience. WWII Merchant Mariner contributions and sacrifices and promoting research by students and other interested persons is a major initiative of the Program.

Captain David Fraine, United Space Alliance, who served aboard NASA's two recovery ships for the past 24 years, including as Captain of the Freedom Star since 1992. Captain Fraine offered an interesting and informative presentation covering the NASA booster recovery activities.

Tom Suneson, District No. 1-PCD, MEBA Branch Agent, delivered a pep talk and pledged his continuing support to obtain approval of our Just Compensation initiative. He and other MEBA members have given direct support to the St. Johns Chapter to circulate petitions and help with Veteran's Day parade activities. A plaque of appreciation from the SE Region was presented.

Just Compensation: Gerry Starnes reported on status and led a discussion of actions that the SE Region members can do to support the National effort. Locally, we must continue to call, write letters, and sign petitions to our Florida Senators and obtain their co-sponsorship of S-663. A group petition addressed to each of our Senators was signed by all present. In addition, each person received sets of individual petitions, designed for one person to sign and mail to the Senators. Booklets

"The United States Merchant Marine at War" were made available to all present and were encouraged to send a donation to Just Compensation to cover expenses. Attendees were advised to present the Booklet to elected officials, and others, to educate them about the MM WWII contribution and how the Government



U.S. Senator Bill Nelson delivered Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition, which were presented during the SE Region Conference in Kissimmee, FL, October 30, 2009. The Certificates read: "In Honor of Your Service and Sacrifice During Periods of War as a Member of the Merchant Marine." Received by (standing L to R) Herbert Furman, St. Johns Chapter; Robert Wahlig, Just Compensation; Jim Waters, Sarasota-Manatee Chapter; Gerry Starnes, at-large; Richard McCamy, Rudy Kozak Chapter; John Barkus, Ocala Chapter; Joe Colon, Gulfstream Chapter; (seated L to R) James Lee, Just Compensation; Morris Harvey, Ocala Chapter; Eugene Olsen, Just Compensation; and Percy MacDonald, Gulfstream Chapter.

choose to operate the MM as a civilian force, rather than including them in the armed forces.

General Session Comments, Remarks and Issues:

1) Life Memberships - Most present indicated that they would be receptive to paying \$100.00 to obtain a life membership. The current \$200.00 level is too high for members who are over 80 years old. Each 100 members who choose Life Membership would constitute \$10,000.00 to draw from in support of the News Magazine and other expenses into the future. It was agreed that the SE Region would work toward a presentation for acceptance at our next National Convention and the VP would develop a proposal to be presented to the National BOD.

2) SE Region Mini-Convention: After discussion it was agreed that we would have a 2010 Mini-Convention. The minimum would be to have a Hospitality room and Meeting room - no banquet, entertainment, etc. We would try to make more sandwich and finger food available in the Hospitality room to reduce meal costs.

3) American Victory: Jim Waters reported that the AmVic is required to go into dry dock twice every five years to permit them to make cruises - they are now overdue, consequently, they have mothballed the engine room. The Coast Guard is considering a change which would require one dry dock and one underwater inspection every five years. Jim reported that the last time it was in dry dock 86,600 pounds of barnacles, paint and rust were removed from the hull. Gulf Marine has offered free docking space, however, materials and labor expenses will be required. Jim reported that the current Lane Victory dry dock project was up to \$750,000.00 and not completed. He estimated that the AmVic would run between \$400 and \$500 thousand. There are no subsidies on the horizon, therefore, the AmVic must look to private donations and membership fees. Everyone was encouraged to join as members and to consider a provision in their will. The volunteer crew totals about 85 with only three that had MM WWII experience - in addition, there is a Naval Sea Cadet squadron headquartered aboard.

4) Wreaths Across America: Jim Waters, Sarasota location Coordinator, briefed us on the program history and encouraged everyone to participate on December 12th in the National Cemetery program - agenda and schedule info for Sarasota and Bushnell was discussed.



Irene Harvey ready for new registrations. The pumpkin containers included sign-up information and some Halloween treats.

There are 360 Cemeteries participating this year. A general discussion was included to review some of the National Cemetery burial requirements including WWII MM Vets.

5) Specific remarks and questions on National Issues: A) It would be better if the National voting process provided individual balloting. At least, make sure the process is transparent and allows for all votes to be counted. B) The National magazine still has not printed the detailed results of the 2009 vote. The National

Magazine has not published the detailed minutes of our 2009 convention. Our Regional VP should represent us and make sure rules are followed and that we are told the truth. C) Who authorized full membership for Cindy Raymond? D) National office has been moved without Board approval. E) By-Law revision committee members still not

released to the membership. F) St. John Chapter vote tallies were sent to the Hotel addressed to Barbara Reher and were never received by her. The vote package was returned, by the Hotel, to the sender several days after the convention.

Consequently, their votes were not counted.

6) SE Region 2010 goals: A) Continue to support the JCC initiative with donations, petitions, email, letters, faxes and phone calls. Obtain Florida Senators co-sponsorship of S-663. B) Propose life time membership of \$100.00 for members 80 years old and over, with conditions to restrict withdrawal over time. C) Promote presentation of Congressional Certificates of appreciation to all SE Region MM WWII vets. D) Plan and produce a mini-convention in 2010.

Compiled from video recording and personal recollection by Morris Harvey, VP, SE Region; November 27, 2009



Tom Suneson receives a special award from VP Morris Harvey. The plaque emblem included the words "In Appreciation," then the inscription reads "For your continuing support and dedication to American Merchant Marine Veterans - SE Region, 2009."

Gulf, Central and Great Lakes Regional Convention

BRANSON, MISSOURI

November 19-22, 2009

General Meeting 11/20/09

Meeting was called to order by Chairman John McSpadden, SS Stephens Hopkins Chapter, at 9:00 a.m. A color guard presented the American flag. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Karl Kinney, Eastern Oklahoma Mariners, gave the invocation and Helen Kinney sang "Heave Ho, My Lads, Heave Ho."

After introductions, National President A.J. Wichita told the attendees of a meeting that he, Burt Young and Sindy Raymond had with General Williamson, aide to Senator Ben Nelson, the sponsor of the Just Compensation legislation. President Wichita also urged increased membership in the AMMV by the inclusion of wives and families.

Burt Young, Missouri Valley Chapter, and our liaison with Senator Nelson's office, reported that Gen. Williamson had told us that the Senator would be tied up during December with the Health Care Initiative before Congress, but after the first of the year, would be actively working on successful passage of our bill.

Nelson Cauble, Southern Oregon Chapter and National Vice President, told of a ceremony in Crescent City, CA to raise the Merchant Marine flag over the monument to the SS Emidio, the first ship sunk by torpedoes off the U.S. coast after WWII was declared. He spoke of the importance of memorials and monuments to further recognition of the U. S. Merchant Marine Veterans for their efforts in World War II. He also related that his brother, Robert Cauble and wife, Janell of the Mid-Columbia Chapter had spoken to Washington's Senator Patty Murray and she told them that she thinks we are going to be successful soon in our legislative efforts.

Don Ellwood, CEO of the new Central Indiana Chapter, told us about starting a new chapter and about the efforts of Veterans Advocate Lisa Wilken to help us politically.



*Don Ellwood, CEO
Central Indiana
Chapter*

Then, Sindy Raymond, Humboldt Bay Chapter, gave a short report on further Just Compensation items.

Jack Grothe, S.S. Samuel Parker Chapter and Gulf Region Vice President, offered a resolution that U.S. Merchant Mariners adopt a dress code as part of the presentation package when they are at public group functions. And John McSpadden strongly suggested that we pull together harder, politically and said, "When the going gets tough, the tough get tougher!"



*A.J. Wichita, Senate aide Dan Rauch, Jack Grothe,
Gulf Region RVP*

President Wichita complimented Ian Allison of the Just Compensation

Committee as a visionary and praised him for printing the booklet, "The United States Merchant Marine at War," which was sent to all JCC members. A.J. told of getting the general public's attention to our legislative efforts through submission of newspaper articles to let the public know, first hand, how important our mission is.

Al D'Agostino, S.S. Stephen Hopkins Chapter, reported that you can file for Veterans Benefits through the Disabled American Veterans and suggested the distribution to libraries and schools of the book "Maritime Tales of the Sea." Lucy Hay, CEO of the Oklahoma Mariners Chapter, told us that the rules have changed and now Vietnam Merchant Mariners whose ships were tied up at the docks in Vietnam and show the effects of Agent Orange poisoning can apply to the VA for help.



*John McSpadden, Chairman, Helen and Karl Kinney, Eastern
Oklahoma Chapter, singing "their" song.*

Clarence Newcomer, Susquehanna Chapter, followed up with Jack Grothe and more information about the proposed dress code. Burt Young proposed a resolution that the election of AMMV officers be held yearly but withdrew his proposal.

Our keynote speaker was David Rauch, aide to Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill. He discussed the Just Compensation legislation with us but stated that he was not a policy-advisor to the Senator and therefore, could not take up our cause with her. He did say that, although she co-sponsored our bill previously, this Congressional session she is very worried about the budget. Mr. Rauch welcomed everyone to Branson and was presented with an AMMV NEWS Magazine.

Then the entertainment began. We were serenaded by the Hughes Brothers and John Tweed, accompanied by his daughter, Sarah, who brought a spark of interest from the audience. The banquet was enjoyable and the songfest, afterwards, brought back memories of old, cherished songs.



Singers Sarah and John Tweed, National President A.J. Wichita



American Legion Color Guard

A Guide to Burial at Arlington National Cemetery

Interment (Ground Burial): Upon the demise of the veteran or veteran's spouse, the surviving spouse or personal representative should contact a local funeral home to arrange for any desired services in the home town. While the surviving spouse or personal representative is at the funeral home, the funeral director should telephone the Interment Office at Arlington National Cemetery (703) 607-8585 to arrange for the interment service. Before scheduling the service, the cemetery staff will need to determine the eligibility of the deceased. Upon verification of eligibility, the cemetery staff will schedule the interment. Any documents requested by the cemetery staff to confirm eligibility can be faxed to the cemetery on telephone number 703-607-8583.

Arranging an Inurnment in the Columbarium: Arranging for an inurnment service is the same as for arranging for an interment (ground burial) service except that the surviving spouse or personal representative may telephone the Interment Office to arrange for the service. The urn containing the cremated remains must be tightly sealed and hand carried by the family on the day of the service

or delivered by a local funeral home up to three working days prior to the service. The cemetery will not accept cremated remains sent via US Postal Services or common carrier.

Gravesites/niches are assigned the afternoon on the day before the interment service. Where a previous interment/inurnment has occurred, the next available grave or niche is assigned for the interment or inurnment. Assignment of graves and niches are without regard to military rank, race, color, creed, or gender of the qualifying service member. At the time of demise, family may request a burial location close to other family members interned or inurned within the cemetery, however limited space may prevent the cemetery from accommodating such requests.

Arlington mailing address is Arlington National Cemetery, Fort Myers, Arlington, VA 22211 and more info can be obtained on line at url's http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org/funeral_information/guide.atneed.html and http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org/funeral_information/guide.interment.html.

VALLEY FORGE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Bedford, PA

October 13th thru 15th, 2009

The following Chapters were represented at the conference: KEYSTONE MARINERS, MARINERS OF PENNSYLVANIA, MON VALLEY CHAPTER, SUSQUEHANNA MARINERS, DENNIS ROLAND CHAPTER. NEW JERSEY was represented by AMMV Judge Advocate and Chapter CEO, HANK KAMINSKI. Recognition to all the representatives of each attending chapter was offered.

There were approximately 15 members from various chapters who could not attend for debilitation reasons. Their absence affected the input of talking points to the business discussions.

It was decided at the beginning of the conference, that no attempt would be made to establish any resolutions that would be passed on to the National Convention Committee on Constitution and By-Laws for vote consideration. Previous resolutions offered by the Valley Forge Region to improve the operation of the AMMV have simply fallen on deaf ears for vote consideration. There has been little or no support by members of the Valley Forge Region to attend a National Convention and offer floor support to our introduced resolutions.

Therefore, it is hoped that discussions of talking points mentioned in this Regional Report will catch the interest of those attending the National Convention of 2010, and perhaps even catch the interest of our National Officers and bring up from the floor, at the convention, motions that will be considered for a vote.

DISCUSSION ON PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION FOR S-663:

Many comments and remarks were forthcoming from the attending membership displaying angst and frustration about this legislation that is still “fetched up” and presents no positive near future hope for passage in 2009. It was felt that everything possible has been done by the AMMV WWII Seamen Veterans to get co-sponsors ... sending faxes, writing letters, making phone calls, talking directly to the legislators, etc.

Concerned questions as to why our lobbyists – our politico supporters, et.al. – cannot bring pressure to bear on SIU President Mike Sacco and other Maritime Union leaders, to have them put pressure on POTUS Obama to have our legislation gain passage through

the Senate. After all, the Maritime Unions were big financial supporters to Obama, and Sacco always maintains that he is in support of our S-663 legislation. *HEAR OUR CRY FOR HELP AMMV PRESIDENT WICHITA!!!*

DISCUSSION ON AMMV DEACTIVATION:

The breakdown and the final fate of the AMMV, as caused by chapter member drop-outs, lack of chapter involvement to become replacement officers, from its members, was a critical point of discussion.

Questions were asked such as “If an AMMV chapter comes to the point of folding, what should they do?”

Offerings from the attending members suggested joining a nearby chapter with an active membership. If neighboring chapter is too far to travel to, simply join and do not attend meetings but pay your dues. Or become a MAL (Member At Large), paying dues to National. Or declare your chapter as a Non Meeting Chapter – don’t hold meetings but keep the membership involved by monthly newsletters. The chapter will then not have to surrender its charter and can maintain its name on the National Roster as an active chapter.

This is the arrangement that the SOUTH WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER declared when their membership became unable to carry on meetings because of debilitating circumstances.

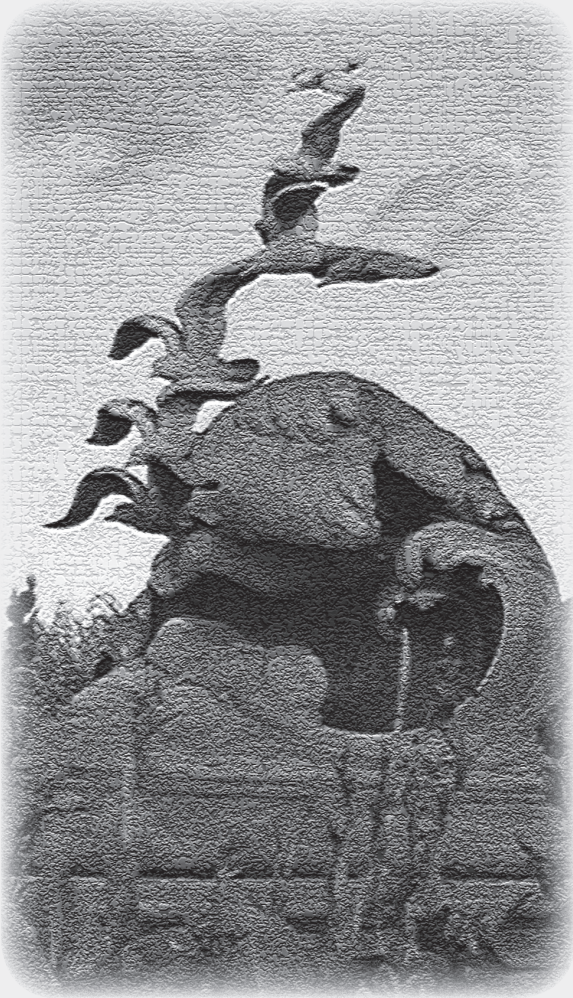
You might consider making visits to nearby chapters to inquire if there are any problems they encounter, that you might help them with.

Other methods applied to attract new members are to bring in Resource Speakers from surrounding businesses, speakers from the local VAMC, tax consultants, travel agents, auto dealers, local bus transportation companies, the list goes on ... anybody who can “zing up” interest to a meeting.

In the past two years, it has been difficult to uncover prospective members to come aboard as chapter members. However, it is reported that five new chapters are developing; it will be of interest to see how many of these new chapters increase our membership numbers.

*GEORGE K. BATHIE
CEO, KEYSTONE MARINERS CHAPTER
VALLEY FORGE REGION RVP*

In memory of those who have Crossed the Final Bar



There are no roses on a sailor's grave,
No lilies on an ocean wave;
The only tribute is the seagull's sweeps
And the teardrops that a sweetheart weeps.

ROBERT L. ALLEN

FRANK A. BAHMANN

ANTHONY BAVERO

STANLEY BECKER

PAUL L. BESIG

CAPT. LEONARD

BLANCHART

FRANK BLECHTA

EARL BRADSHAW

ALBERT BRATLIEN

DONALD R. BROGLA

JOSEPH L. BRUNEAU

HENRY "HANK" CAP

BARBARA J. CARDIN

ALBERT P. CARRION

AUGUST W. CORDES, JR.

RAYMOND W. COX

JAMES E. CROUSE

LOUIS DERIGGI

ROBERT W. DOWNEY

ROBERT H. DRAKE

ROBERT P. DUTKE

WILLIAM ELFRINK

RALPH FAGGE

ROGER S. GALLUP

ENNIS A. GRADY

WESLEY W. HAENCHEN, SR.

THOMAS J. HAUGHTON, JR.

GILBERT HILL

JACK JOHNS

PAULINE JOHNSON

JOHN B. KLIMA

MICHAEL LIPNICKY

HAROLD "LOU" LOTTO

JOSEPH C. MANGA

CLEVE MATEER

JOHN T. MCMEEKIN

CAPT. JOHN MERS

HARRY D. MILLS

JOSEPH MOSCHETTI

EDWARD O'CONNELL

ANDREW F. PAULIK

JOHN F. PIROG

WILLIE W. PIXLER

TONY POELKING

DONALD R. PURCELL

WILLIAM 'BILL' J. REYNOLDS

DON ROLUND

CAPT. HARALD RONHAVE

ROBERT L. ROSS

BILL C. SILVA

BERNARD A. SLAUGENHAUP, JR.

WILLIAM L. SOUTH

DANIEL TARRANT

ALFRED C. TAYLOR

LARRY TROTTER

GEORGE E. WARD

RICHARD S. WARREN

ALEXANDER WILKINS

MRS. BETTY JEAN WILLIAMS

KENNETH W. YEARSLEY

GLENN YOUNG

To honor a loved one, memorial donations may be made to the American Merchant Marine Veterans organization on the loved one's behalf. This is a tribute to their memory and the dedicated service they gave to their country and to mankind. Thank you for your thoughtful gesture. Donations may be sent to: AMMV, P. O. Box 186, Ferndale, CA 95536-0186.

IN MEMORIAM

Henry "Hank" Cap



Henry "Hank" Cap, proud member of the North Atlantic Chapter, crossed the Final Bar on December 17, 2009. He was a former National President of the American Merchant Marine Veterans as well as former National Vice President and a former AMMV NEWS Magazine Editor. He was currently the Regional Vice President for the Northeast Region. He worked tirelessly for the AMMV until the very end, sending emails from his hospital bed a month earlier.

A "gentle giant" of a man, Hank was gregarious, generous, and hard-working. He loved his beer, and always had a smile for everyone and a joke to tell them. Anyone who knew him has their own little story to tell about their association with Hank. He was born in Brooklyn, New York to very poor parents and joined the Maritime Service at 16 to earn money for his family. He was very proud to be a U.S. Merchant Marine Veteran and had worked hard on achieving Veterans status. Although active in the Masons, AmVets and the American Legion, the AMMV was paramount to him.

Many, many members of the AMMV, nationally, will remember Hank for a long time. We will be talking about him for as long as we gather and meet and remind each other of the kind things he did. In 2007 while cruising on the SS John W. Brown in Chesapeake Bay, he was sitting on a chair in the forward deck when a weary person needing to rest came by and he immediately offered his chair. Doesn't sound like much but chairs were at a premium. He will be remembered for the rope work he was known for in creating his unique hanging baskets, something he donated to every convention. He remembered his brother and always celebrated his life with a page he bought in each convention magazine. He was also quietly willing to help you remember a courtesy to another you may have forgotten. The quiet and gentle side to this robust man endeared him to all that knew him. He will be sorely missed.

We Were There

*We were there before the beginning,
Young and old men from sea to shining sea
We sailed the ships on the oceans of the world
Supplying our troops on the battlefields
Of Europe and the islands of the Pacific.
We served our country honorably,
Bravely and with our whole being.
The night of war is forever with us.
For it was in the darkness of the raging waters
That we came to be.*

*We are a brotherhood of the sea.
Woven together in a fabric of love
Of country, courage, and determination
That helped us destroy our enemies.
No battle was fought with us.
Yes, we were there.*

*And we left many there.
Our brothers died in the seas of the world.
From the freezing Baltic Sea,
And dark Atlantic, around the world to
The shark-filled waters of the Pacific.
No crosses mark their watery graves.
No trumpets sounded for them.
The tears of loved ones would come later.
Those left only with memories and pictures
Of their loved ones who gave their
Lives in the service of our country.*

*And we the living remember them.
Their memorial is not a statue.
Nor is it ribbons and medals.
No! It is much more than that!
We who sailed with them
Carry their memory with us,
Etched not in stone but in our hearts.
We are the brotherhood
of the Merchant Marine.
The few who supplied the many.
We were there.*

*Author Anonymous
Contributed by Arthur J. Roberts
Small Ship Mariners Chapter
Hornsby, NSW, Australia*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"TORPEDOED"

From Jackson Swindle, Chesapeake, VA

Dear Editor:

Thought this may be of interest to your readers. *The Virginian-Pilot* newspaper ran this notice on December 4, 2009.

"To order reprints of 'Torpedoed', our eight-part series about the German attacks on the Virginia and North Carolina coasts in 1942, please send a check or money order to: *The Virginian-Pilot*, Attn: Niki Giacchina, 150 W. Brambleton Ave., Norfolk, VA 23510. Reprints are \$7.00 each, or \$5.00 a piece for bulk or educational orders. To order using a credit card, please go to HamptonRoads.com/uboats."

MEDALS AWARDED SMALL SHIPS MARINERS

*From Ern Flint, Coomba Park,
NSW, Australia, Small Ships Chapter*

Dear Editor:

Regarding the story about the Australian Small Ships, well done, Sindy. Everyone liked your expertise. We were notified in early November that we will finally, after a 10-year battle, be recognized for service, as reported in this report.

DEFENCE HONOURS & AWARDS TRIBUNAL REPORT

Inquiry Into Recognition For Service with The United States Army Small Ships Section

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Mike Kelly AM, MP, today announced that the Government has accepted the recommendation of the independent Defence Honours & Awards Tribunal Inquiry into Recognition for Service with the United States Army Small Ships Section.

The Report Recommended that:

1. Australian Civilian personnel who served in ships operated by the United States Army Small Ships Section between 1942 – 45 be recognised as eligible for Australian or Imperial recognition for that service on the same basis as members of the Merchant Navy; and
2. There should be no requirement for those personnel to relinquish any US awards that they may have received in respect of their service in the United States Army Small Ships prior to receiving Australian recognition for that service.

Former Australian members of the United States Army Small Ships Section, & families of deceased former members who believe they may now be entitled to medallic recognition, are invited to make application to the Directorate Honours & Awards. Application forms

can be obtained from www.defence.gov.au/medals/ or by calling the Directorate of Honours & Awards, toll free 1800 111 321.

NORMANDY D-DAY MONUMENT PHASE II – UTAH BEACH

From Gerald Krueger,

St. John's River Chapter, Jacksonville, FL

Dear Editor:

The Naval Order of the United States forwarded me some information concerning their monument on Utah Beach. It was dedicated on Sept. 21, 2008. They are now getting ready to do the second phase which consists of five granite pedestals surrounding the main monument. The base of the monument is five sided and at each corner a pedestal (lighted) will be erected and the Merchant Marine seal will be on the top. At a later date, if we so desire, a bronze relief depicting our actions will be added.

The price for this pedestal is \$10,000. This monument is at the highest point on Utah Beach and also overlooks Omaha Beach. This is a high visibility location. Some days the tour busses are bumper to bumper.

I am very appreciative of the offer extended to us. I know that everyone was not directly involved in this endeavor, but it was the turning point of WWII and also of world history. We need to blow our own horn. I'm sure most everyone else is not aware of our contribution to the entire war effort.

MAD AS HELL!

From Ken Blue, Sacramento Valley Chapter

Dear Editor:

To quote the line from the movie, "*I am mad as hell and I don't care who knows it!*" There, I put it in print. But to be a bit rational about it, I've been mad for years. I, of course, am referring to the recent quote from Senator Akaka, who seems to be holding up our Senate Bill S.663.

I feel I have the right to be angry. I went to sea in the Merchant Marine at age 16 (to help my parents). Later, during the war years, I stuck with the Merchant Marine. I always felt like I was contributing to the war effort. I also knew I was putting myself in jeopardy. The same kind of peril I would have faced had I been in one of the Armed Services.

When I hear slurs against our wartime service it makes me *mad as hell*. From the very beginning, even before Pearl Harbor, American ships were attacked in

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the Atlantic. Few people know that the first gun fire on December 7, 1941 was against the merchant ship Cynthia Olsen one thousand miles from Hawaii by a Japanese submarine. This happened in the hours before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Incidentally, all hands were lost on the Cynthia Olsen as well as two U.S. Army passengers.

Merchant ships were attacked along both coasts, even within sight of land. We were bombed, torpedoed and strafed with gun fire on every ocean. We were attacked in overseas ports while delivering supplies. The attack on Bari, Italy, may have been the worst. One of our bravest supply operations was the support of the bridgehead at Anzio, Italy. Merchant ships knowingly sailed within range of German artillery.

Near the war's end, Merchant ships alongside Navy vessels were the targets for the Kamikaze raids in the far Western Pacific.

NOW, WHAT IS THIS ABOUT US NOT BEING EQUAL TO THE ARMED SERVICES? I thought this was decided back in 1988 when we were given DD214s for our "SERVICE."

Yes I am *MAD AS HELL AND I DON'T CARE WHO KNOWS IT!*

MEDALS & RIBBONS CONTACT INFORMATION

*From: Don Ellwood,
Chapter CEO, Central Indiana Chapter*
Dear Editor:

About two weeks ago, I wrote a letter to the Medals & Decorations Dept of the U. S. Maritime Administration in Washington, D.C. about obtaining a duplicate set of my medals & ribbons. Yesterday in a large brown envelope, from her, I received the following:

- (1) Atlantic War zone medal & ribbon
- (2) Pacific War Zone medal & ribbon
- (3) Victory medal & ribbon
- (4) A Merchant Marine lapel discharge button
- (5) A 1" size merchant marine button that pins to your shirt or coat
- (6) President Truman's certificate thanking us for our service

So if you would like to get "new" medals, ribbons, & such, then send her your request & include the documents I did, with your "Z" number for identification purposes. Be sure to send a COPY of your DD-214 certificate, plus copies of any other discharges from ships if you DO NOT HAVE A DD-214 already.

Ms. Patricia Thomas
Medals & Decorations
U.S. Maritime Administration
Room #7302
Dept. of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20590

It will take a couple of weeks; just in case, please keep this address for future use. I did not see a phone number for Ms. Thomas on any of the cover letters she sent. Her address information is also available on the website www.usmm.org.

TO ALL MY FRIENDS IN THE AMMV WHO HAVE NOT HEARD FROM ME LATELY.

From A.J. Wichita, President, AMMV

I've been traveling. In October, I responded to an invitation to the Western Regional Convention in Reno. One of the highlights was an opportunity to be part of a delegation to visit Senator Harry Reid's office. On October 11th I joined the Midwest Chapter in Chicago for their annual celebration.

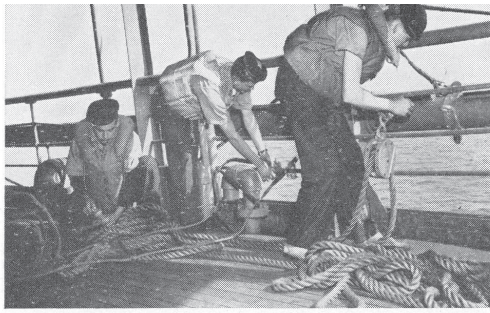
The AMMV is an affiliate member with the National Association for Uniformed Services and, as a member of the Advisory Board, I went to Washington DC on November 5th for their annual meeting. On November 17th Burt Young, Sindy Raymond and I met in Lincoln, Nebraska, with Gen. Dayle Williamson, advisor to Senator Ben Nelson, about our Just Compensation Bill S.663. In Branson, Missouri on November 21st, a meeting was arranged with David Rauch, District Director for Senator Claire McCaskill. Mr. Rauch addressed the Gulf Regional mini-convention about our legislation.

Upon returning to Texas, some of my time has been devoted to business and my clients. The rest of the time is usually making contact regarding some part of our drive to secure WWII compensation for the American Merchant Marine Veterans.

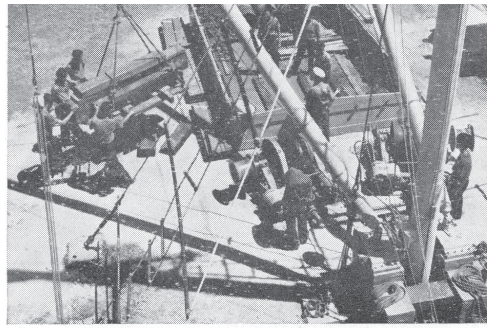
Thank all of you who have worked and continue to work for passage of S-663. It is this faith that attracts new blood to help our cause move forward and convinces me we will win.

On the recent tour of Regional gatherings, I found many fellow veterans using four wheel walkers and wheel chairs, as I do. Participation in events is not just for the ambulatory. I hope to meet my "wheel chair brigade" in Las Vegas.

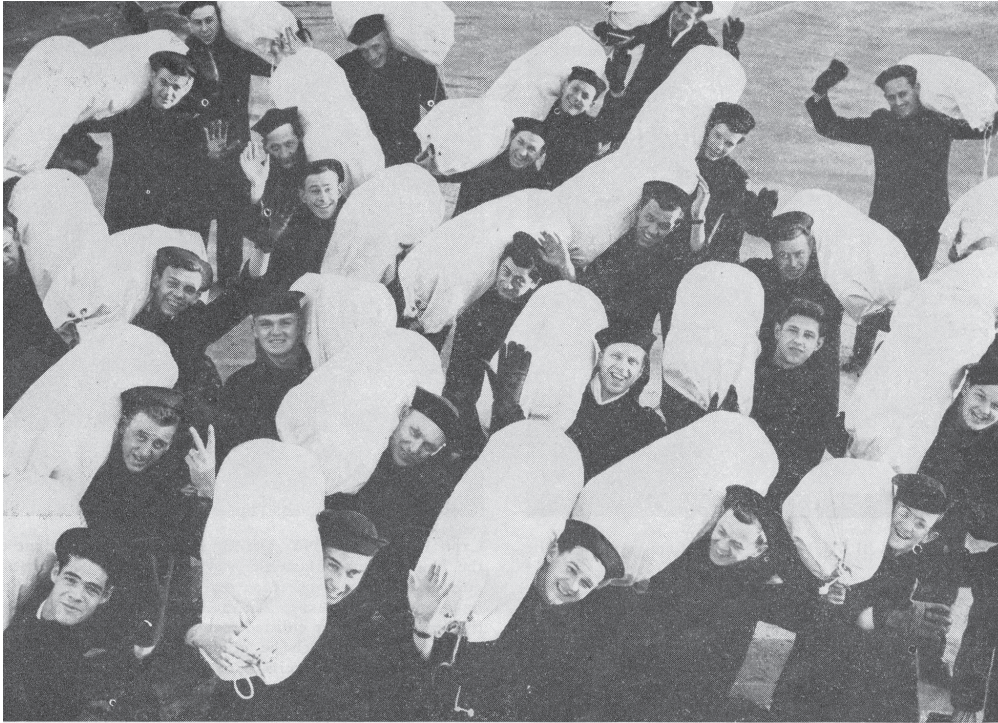
For those I have been slow to respond to, please forgive me.



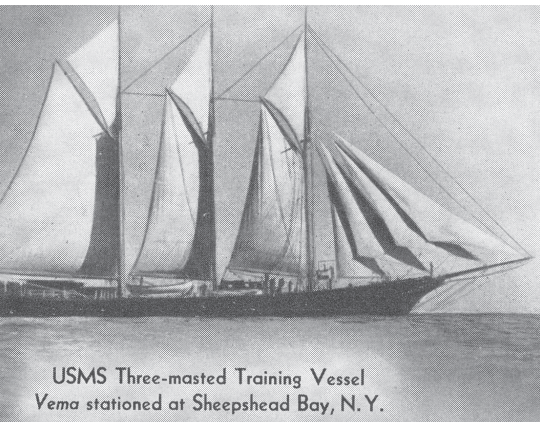
Advanced deck trainees rigging a boat boom. In a short time these lads will perform same duties aboard merchant ships



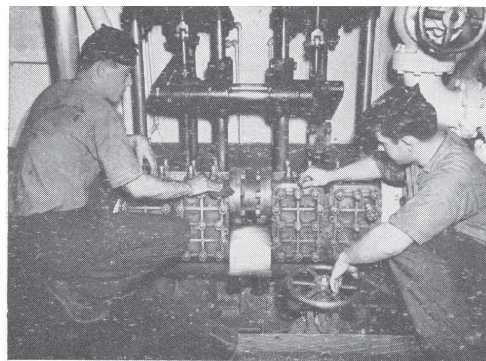
Dry land cargo hatch, booms, and winches are used to give practical experience to trainees qualifying for the deck department



United States Maritime Service trainees with fully packed sea bags ready to ship



USMS Three-masted Training Vessel Vema stationed at Sheepshead Bay, N.Y.



Trainees cleaning and polishing a fire and ballast pump aboard ship. Constant care insures constant operation



Aerial view of the United States Maritime Service Training Station, Sheepshead Bay, N. Y.

REMEMBER SHEEPSHEAD USMS TRAINING

In the opening months of World War II, Brooklyn, New York, was transformed into an armed camp because of its strategic location on the waterfront. When Joseph Day sold his oceanfront property to the U. S. Government, he neglected to inform them of improvements made during his tenure with the Manhattan Beach Baths – which affected future plans. The Coast Guard moved onto the land in 1942, setting aside the current public beach area as a training base for Coast Guard personnel. The balance of the land was reserved for the Merchant Marines. The United States Maritime Service Training Station was dedicated with impressive ceremonies on December 12, 1942.

As World War II progressed, new cargo ships or “Liberty ships” became the lifeline between American production and English supply lines overseas. With the entrance of America into the war, the Maritime Service base at Sheepshead Bay, on Manhattan Beach, became the source for these required personnel. Located on the eastern end of Coney Island, the location was convenient to transportation into New York City.

For this task, the Manhattan Beach Baths were quickly transformed into a nautical base with barracks, a mammoth auditorium and gymnasium, a chapel, a brig and a full-sized training model of a cargo ship constructed on the sands. The largest enclosed swimming pool in the world was retained to

ER WHEN? HEAD BAY ING STATION

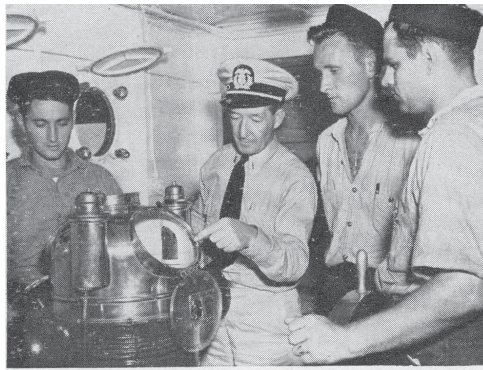
teach swimming and Oriental Point acquired davits for lifeboat training.

The U. S. Maritime Service processed over 115,000 seamen here, one-half of the nation's volunteer sailors. The base was capable of housing, feeding and training 10,000 men at a time.

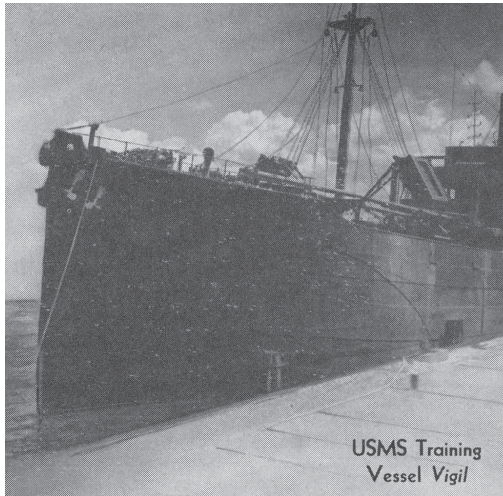
When the Coast Guard base and the U. S. Maritime Service closed in 1945, Robert Moses, then Parks Commissioner for New York City and State, requested the federal land for a state park. He received only the current beach as a city park because of a legal dispute between the federal and state government that surfaced in 1943. When Joseph Day finished adding the riprap on the shores of the Manhattan Beach Baths he had built in the waters of Jamaica Bay, owned by the state. Then he sold the entire property to the federal government, causing a conflict in jurisdiction. Since the courts couldn't decide ownership, the property remained in limbo until 1964, when it was sold to the city for \$1.00 for the right to build Kingsborough Community College.

The only remnants of the former military life are a gun next to the historic flagpole on the campus and, mounted outside the main entrance of the U building, a bronze plaque honoring the Merchant Marine dead who had graduated from the base.

Editor's note: Pictures shown here are from an information booklet issued by the War Shipping Administration describing their training organization – circa 1944, on loan from Humboldt Bay Chapter member.



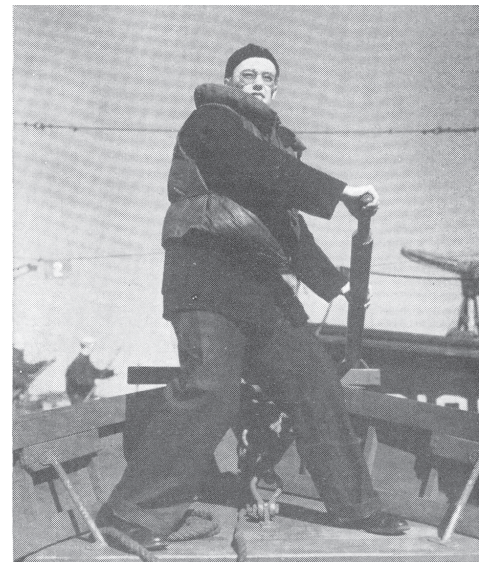
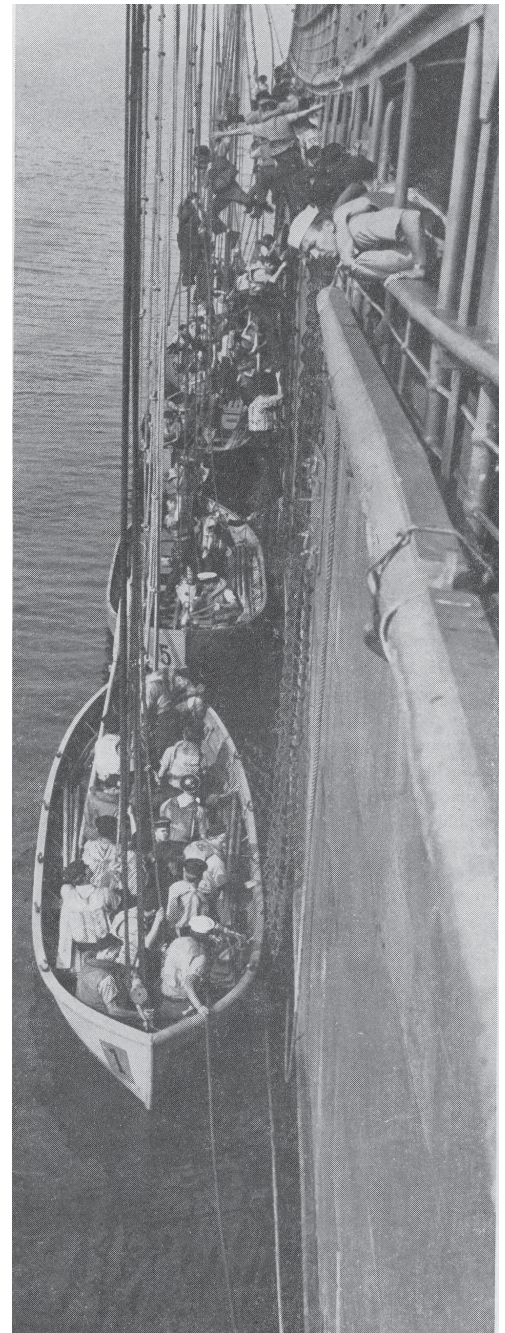
Compass class aboard USMSTS *Vigil*



USMS Training Vessel *Vigil*



Trainees in cooks and bakers course receiving instruction on proper methods of boning and preparing various cuts of meat



Steering oarsman. Lifeboat drills are held daily at all of the USMS training stations and give trainees plenty of experience for their work at sea

A Youthful Supporter

Miss Jamie Burnell

My name is Jamie Burnell and I have never been in any branch of the military but I have been sending e-mails to over two thousand veterans from all wars, and in between. Lately, I have been sending emails about a book "U.S. Merchant Marine at War" so that other veterans can learn about the Merchant Mariners of World War II and perhaps help in fighting for recognition and Senate bill S.663.

In 1996 I was a 9-year-old foster kid. A World War II Merchant Marine/Korean War Army veteran, Ed Bicknell ("Eepa" to all his family and friends) was doing volunteer driving for the State. He was assigned to take me from my foster home way out in the country to various places such as doctors, counselors, etc. The rides were an hour and a half each way twice a week. He started using the "drive time" to verbally help me



with my school work.

I hadn't attended school very much. My mother was an alcoholic and my father was a workaholic who spent all his waking hours at the job. The State Department of Human Services

took us kids (I have a younger brother and sister) and put us in separate foster homes. School was almost totally foreign to me, so the help "Eepa" gave me was my salvation in class.

When I was 11 years old the State gave the three of us back to my father. He didn't really have the temperament to interact with us kids and he encouraged "Eepa" to continue helping with my education. In fact he signed over his parental rights to "Eepa" as far as the school was concerned. When I was 11, "Eepa" tried to adopt me but the court decided that he was too old, at 72, to be the father of an 11-year-old.

When I was 12 years old the 424th, his Korean War unit, had their annual reunion in Maine and he took me. The vets and their families took to me and I to them. The whole unit adopted me and I fell in love with all veterans (symbolically speaking).

"Eepa" bought me a computer and taught me graphics. I began making address labels for "my" unit, the 424th, and that expanded to other units. There were other World War II veterans in the 424th and they spread the word about me to their WWII friends. I started selling mailing labels and that inspired me to go further so I could buy clothes and stuff. It was the first time in my life I had any money at all. Over the years I also started making military-style business cards and note pads, as well as mailing labels. Recently I have received orders from Merchant Marine Veterans and am having a really great time learning about that branch of the service, especially with "Eepa" in my life.

My real job is as a tele-recruiter for the Maine

CUSTOM *FULL COLOR* ADDRESS LABELS *Just for you!*



Label size 1 inch x 2 5/8 inches

150 labels \$11.00 300 Labels \$18.50

You choose YOUR ribbons



All Merchant Marine Ribbons available although not shown.

Send your Name, Address and choice of ribbons to:

Jamie L. Burnell
19 Myrtle Avenue
South Portland, ME 04106

Personal Checks and Money Orders accepted
NO CREDIT CARDS

Send \$1.00 to cover postage for FREE color sample.

Blood Center recruiting blood and platelet donors. I go to college three nights a week, with medical school plans sometime in the very distant future. I don't want to be a doctor but I could really get into nursing or pharmacy.

"Eepa" has taught me everything I know about the military, the computer, graphics and for that matter the English language. In fact, if it were not for him, I would definitely be a street urchin. But he hasn't talked too much about his Merchant Marine experiences until lately. And because I love to learn military history, I am enjoying doing what I can to teach veterans about the U.S. Merchant Marine and their battle for equal treatment.

I am emailing my 2,300 veterans a message like this and look at a recent, slightly edited, response I got from a highly decorated DUSTOFF medic in the Vietnam War. He has the reputation of being crazy on the battlefield taking extreme risks to save fellow soldiers. He was crazy but they all loved him.

As he was leaving Vietnam to come home after his tour a call for medics came in to his unit's headquarters. There were no medics available. This guy jumped off his return home flight and took a helicopter to the battle site. He volunteered to stay in Vietnam for another four months!!!!

A RESPONSE FROM ONE OF JAMIE'S VETERANS:

Hi Jamie , I got up to pee at 2:15 this AM and decided to get up and finish the Merchant Marine book as there is too much confusion at this house to read anything longer than microwave instructions on frozen food boxes. That done and book read I will start to draft a short but strong letter to my Senators as well. McConnell is the minority leader so he can be of help on occasion, and Bunning will vote the same way as McConnell. I hope this Bill is not over-looked but our Senators spend too much time talking and fighting over BS issues and politics they just can't function, I've seen so much of this infighting on CSPAN, it really makes me wish for term limits. I know the letter may never reach the hands of a Senator but the letter will go out and just maybe be read by an aide and be counted. On the floor of the Senate, VA Affairs goes like a boy scouts meeting. This will be a tough one and many MMs will be dead by the time anything is done, but my letter will be sent. Also I will mail "Gun" the book so he can read it too. "Gun" lives in Michigan and writes letters concerning GI Bills all the time. I will ask him to send the book on to another vet after he reads it and so on, and try to get it in as many hands as possible.

DOC

EMAIL BEING SENT TO JAMIE'S LIST OF 2,300 VETERANS:

In 2009 I became aware of the enormous contribution the United States Merchant Marine made during World War II.

My adopted grandfather, Eepa, was a member of the Merchant Marine from the summer of 1942 until early 1946. He served in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea but he never told me about it until I started getting label and business card orders from other men who served in all war zones. He taught me about their ships, the medals and ribbons, and where to find out about the different war zones.

The Merchant Marine suffered almost twice the number of men killed on our Atlantic coast during the first three months of the war than all the casualties at Pearl Harbor. Throughout the war the percentage of Merchant Marine men killed in action was equal, and often greater, than the number of Marine casualties.

But the War Department kept it a secret because they didn't want the Germans and Japanese to know of the near total destruction of the life-line to our Allies and our troops serving abroad.

When secrecy was no longer vital toward the end of the war, President Roosevelt wanted Congress to declare the Merchant Marine a branch of our Armed Forces. Unfortunately President Roosevelt died before Congress acted on this and the tumult of his death with President Truman assuming the Presidency and the dropping of the two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Congressional action didn't take place until 1988.

My grandfather, Eepa, was 16 years old when he joined the Merchant Marine and served for about 3-1/2 years, including being part of the Normandy invasion in June 1944.

He and the roughly 250,000 other Merchant Marine men did not get the GI Bill for education, nor did they have access to the VA or help buying a home.

Recently their association published a booklet, "The United States Merchant Marine At War." It is only 80 pages. I bought 25 of the books at \$6.00 each and want to give one, free, to any of "MY" veterans who will indicate that they are interested and will read it.

There are no strings or hidden anything. I want to do this but I don't want to send a book to anyone who is not interested. I will mail a book to anyone who says they will read it.

The United States Congress has already passed the Just Compensation Bill, House Bill (HR 23). The Senate Bill (S. 663) is still pending. If you agree this is a worthy cause you can call, write or e-mail your Senator asking them to support it. This is not a condition for receiving the book. I hope you will but won't hold you to it.

I, along with the help of many, many friends have gotten my Maine Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins to co-sponsor S. 663.

Just let me know if you are interested and I will send you this book. If you are not interested just delete this message. A response is necessary ONLY IF YOU WANT THE BOOK.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

For years now, a dedicated core of mostly WWII veterans has kept our five heritage World War II vessels from being scrapped. The Liberty Ships SS John W. Brown (Baltimore, MD) and SS Jeremiah O'Brien (San Francisco, CA) and the Victory Ships SS Lane Victory (Long Beach, CA), SS American Victory (Tampa, FL) and the SS Red Oak Victory (Richmond, CA) are living examples of how the U.S. Merchant Marine contributed to final victory in World War II.

Today these ships are operated and supported by large volunteer groups. As Mike Schneider, Chairman of the Board, Project Liberty Ship (SS John W. Brown) puts it: "Volunteers gather aboard on Wednesdays and Saturdays to perform the variety of tasks needed to keep a 67-year old ship operating. The work hours are flexible. New volunteers are always needed and are always welcome. Regardless of talent or past experience, there is work to fit your interests and that you will find rewarding. Our volunteers range in age from teenagers to those in their 80s and they enjoy a unique camaraderie working together."

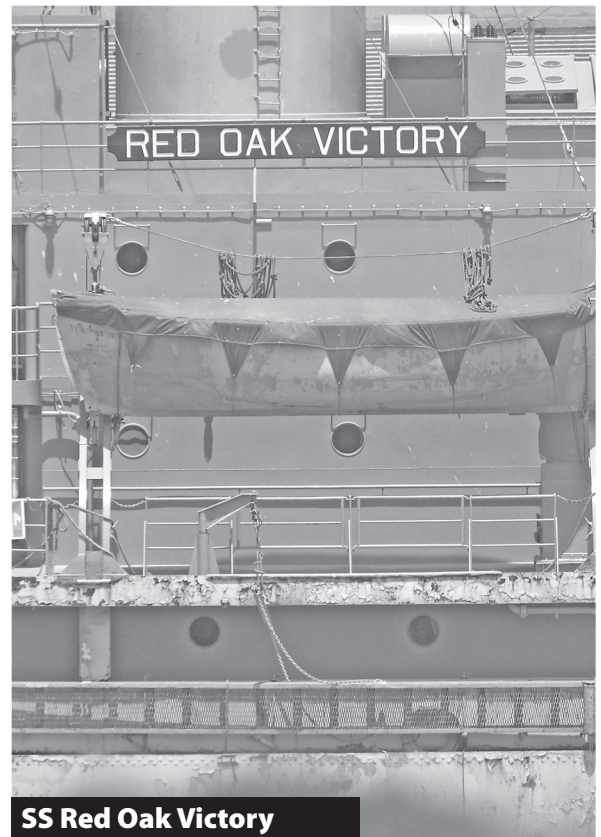
The original WWII veterans serve in mainly an advisory capacity while younger persons have stepped forward to supply administration, maintenance and operating experience. Selling tickets, chipping and painting, taking on stores are done by more able hands.

Why would you want to volunteer? Would you:

1. Like to continue learning about the U.S. Maritime Service in WWII, or the Merchant Marine in Korea, Vietnam and in peacetime commerce?
2. Like to improve recognition and benefits for Merchant Marine Veterans and aid them in obtaining up-to-date information?
3. Like to promote a stronger American merchant marine industry?
4. Like to advise, promote, volunteer and raise funds to preserve these maritime heritages?
5. Or just like to chip and paint or take on stores or sell tickets?

Then, VOLUNTEER today to help as a tribute to the gallant wartime Merchant Mariners and Naval Armed Guard. Take your children and grandchildren with you and educate them about what you experienced in your fight for U.S. freedom and serving your country in World War II.

More information can be found on the Internet or call Sindy at (800) 545-4173 extension 1 for location.



SS Red Oak Victory



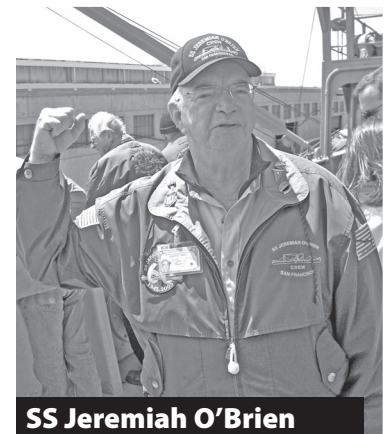
SS Jeremiah O'Brien



SS American Victory



SS American Victory



SS Jeremiah O'Brien



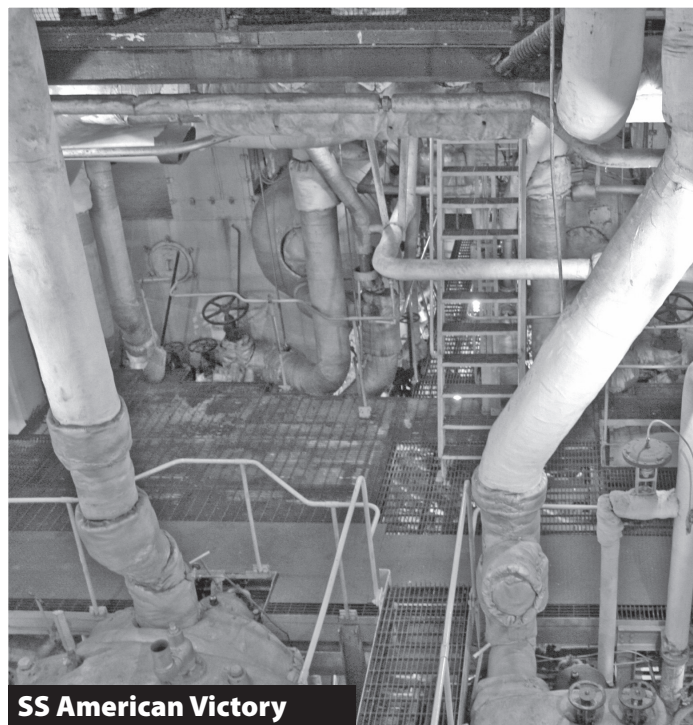
SS Jeremiah O'Brien



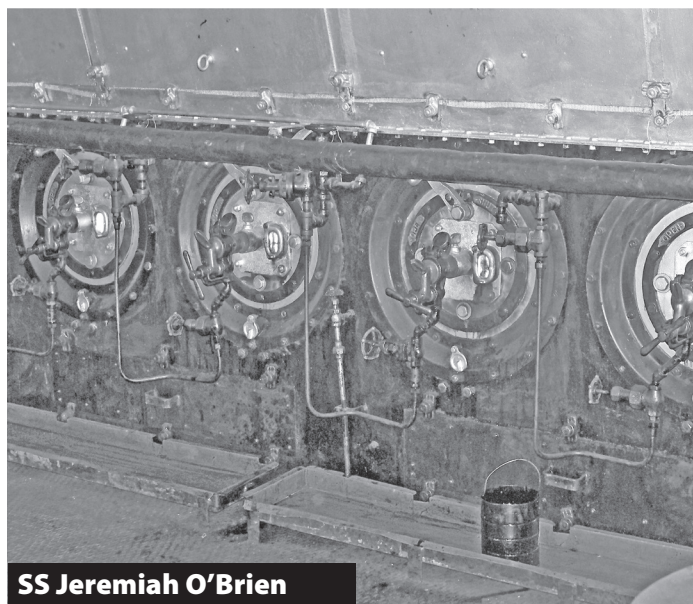
SS American Victory



SS American Victory



SS American Victory



SS Jeremiah O'Brien



SS Jeremiah O'Brien



SS American Victory



CHAPTER NEWS

Central Indiana Chapter

The Indiana State Veterans Affairs met to vote on Amendment #1111 that would include WWII Merchant Marine veterans for any and all Indiana veteran benefits that were previously excluded. Rep. John Barnes spoke of why this amendment is necessary and Gene Thompson and his wife and I were able to testify about what we did as volunteers to be trained as Merchant seamen, what we did for our country, and what we were denied for 43 long years of the G.I. Bill benefits. After my presentation, the panel of 13 members applauded the three of us, then took a vote and everyone voted Yes for the Bill. When we left the Committee Room, Scott Reske was waiting for us to tell us that he submitted his Resolution supporting our Senate Bill S663. So hopefully, Senator Lugar will change his position. I did make a statement that Lugar said he wanted to "study" the Bill even though it was in the Senate for several years. I gave Rep. Barnes a Merchant Marine flag for his effort on our behalf. So now we WWII MM veterans can apply for any of the Indiana's veterans benefits that we were excluded from before.

Don Ellwood



A photograph taken by Ryan of Indiana State Representatives Scott Reske, John Barnes, and Don Ellwood, Chapter President of the Central Indiana AMMV Chapter and member Gene Taylor upon conclusion of the Veterans Affairs approving an amendment to the State

laws to include WWII Merchant Marine veterans for veterans benefits, and Scott Reske submitting a resolution to support the Senate Bill in U.S. Congress.

CORRECTION

In the Chapter News section of the Fall 2009 issue of the NEWS Magazine, George J. Bruno Jr., Golden Gate Chapter CEO, was misidentified in a photo with Harold Wagner and Frank Mendez. We apologize for the error.

Dennis A. Roland Chapter

On October 31, 2009, at the request of Captain Vladimir V. Belyaev, Russian Federation to the United Nations, 30 members of the New Jersey Dennis A. Roland Chapter, American Merchant Marine Veterans, were invited to the Naval Museum in Hackensack, NJ. Captain V. Belyaev presented a speech thanking the Merchant Marines for their bravery while delivering vital goods for their efforts in WWII. Coordination of an upcoming event to honor Merchant Seamen, especially those who sailed the Murmansk Run, was discussed. The final date and location is yet to be determined.



L to R: Sam Bassini, Captain Vladimir Belyaev, Hank Kaminski, CEO of the Dennis A. Roland Chapter, H. W. Marshall

Edwin J. O'Hara Chapter

UP FROM THE ASHES: The USS NEW YORK, a U.S. Navy attach transport vessel, with a crew of Navy and Marines, arrived in New York for commissioning on November 2, 2009, and was berthed near the carrier Intrepid. Up from the ashes of the World Trade Center, following the cruel, merciless terrorist attack on 9/11/01, the USS New York was built with 7½ tons of steel in her bow from the World Trade Center. "Never Forget" is emblazoned on her bridgedeck.

Edwin J. O'Hara Chapter members Gabe Frank, Chris Kutch and Mike Purcell attended the commissioning ceremony. Dignitaries present were Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Governor Patterson, Mayor Bloomberg, former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, The Commandant of the Marine Corps., the Commander of the 7th Fleet U.S. Navy, Secretary of the Navy, Admirals and high ranking Marine officers.



CHAPTER NEWS

Eastern Oklahoma Chapter



Karl Kinney, CEO, presented the book "Maritime Tales of the Sea" and a Merchant Marine flag to Col. Robert Powell, the curator and founder, of the Tulsa Museum of Military History. He gave a talk at one of our Chapter meetings and we were very impressed by the collections he has displayed.

Gulfstream Chapter

On Saturday, December 5th 2009, the Gulfstream Chapter held their annual Toys for Tots Christmas Luncheon at the Deerfield Country Club in Boca Raton, Florida. Everyone was very generous with the Toys that were going to the 24 Regiment (Army) stationed in Hollywood, Florida. These brave men and women will be deploying to Iraq after the first of the year. Two members of this outfit were on hand to have lunch with us and to fill up their van with all the toys. Additional toys will be given to them since the AMO school has so generously agreed to again have the toys they collect given to us for this outfit. Thank you all at the AMO school. We must also thank Mr. & Mrs. P. (Mac) MacDonald and Mr. & Mrs. Louis Feher for their generous participation in this affair. We also thank Ted Miller, our singer and Master of Ceremony at the luncheon, for his donation of time and talent. Gulfstream Chapter wishes all the members of the AMMV a very happy and healthy New Year and may this year be the year our Bill passes in Washington.

High Rollers Chapter



High Rollers participated in the Las Vegas Veterans' Day Parade.

Humboldt Bay Chapter

On December 5th, at the invitation of Guy Towers of the St. George Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society, Humboldt Bay Chapter members joined National Secretary Nelson Cauble, his wife Shirley and other members of the Southern Oregon Chapter in Crescent City, CA. to dedicate and raise a Merchant Marine flag at the site of the SS Emidio monument. The Emidio was the first ship sunk on the West Coast after WWII was declared.



L to R: Nelson Cauble, Guy Towers, Shirley Cauble, Bill Hiscox, Humboldt Bay member and Larry Wallin, CEO Southern Oregon Chapter.



CHAPTER NEWS

Mariners of Pennsylvania Chapter

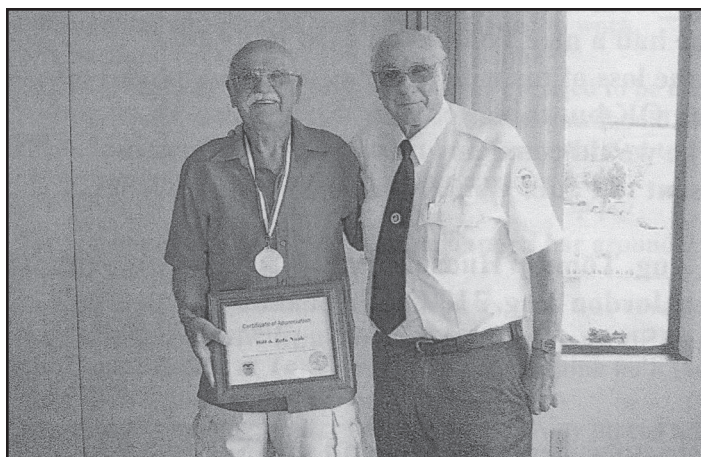
The Butler County commissioners deserve a thumbs-up for not allowing anything – or anyone – to get in the way of approving a site for the proposed Merchant Marines Memorial in Diamond Park, now that the mariners have agreed to a separate memorial.

A dispute had been ongoing for years over whether there should be recognition for the mariners on the front of the existing World War II Memorial, rather than what currently exists on a plaque on the back of the memorial.

The Mariners were unsuccessful in their attempt to get recognition on the memorial's front, but the site now approved for the mariners memorial – the grassy area to the left of the existing memorial facing Main Street – will provide the honor that the mariners deserve.

The size of the mariners memorial has not yet been determined but, whatever the size, it should complement the main World War II Memorial.

Member Dr. Hart has donated an anchor for the memorial. It is great, and very nautical. We hope to incorporate it into the memorial. Donations are being accepted for the MERCHANT MARINE MEMORIAL OF WORLD WAR II.



Mid-Columbia Chapter member Bill Noah is awarded a plaque and medal for his donations to Just Compensation by Robert Cauble.

**"Ships! Ships! All we need is ships!
What a headache!"**

Dwight D. Eisenhower, Chief of Army Plans (early 1942)

Mid-Columbia Chapter

Eight Navy Armed Guard veterans of World War II, and members of our Chapter, were honored on Friday, December 11th, with special Congressional appreciation awards, during a luncheon, by Tim Kovis, of the U. S. Rep. Doc Hastings' office.



L to R: Members Wesley Door, Jae Barnhart, Robert Baker, Dexter Lien, Wallace Lien, Harold Skinner. Back row l to r: Iman Wintz, John Hemphill, and Tim Kovis, aide to Rep. Doc Hastings

Missouri Valley Chapter

Beech Dale and other members participated in the Veterans Day ceremonies held at the Veterans Memorial Garden. Beech and a group of entertainers sang "Heave Ho" to the audience.





CHAPTER NEWS

Ocala Chapter

2009 Veterans Appreciation Week Participation

November 8th—Citrus County Massing of the Colors. Morris Harvey carried our MM flag in procession with more than 25 other organizations and groups at St. Scholastic Catholic Church.

November 9th—Marion/Ocala Veterans Park Memorial Service with special tribute to Merchant Mariners by the U.S. Navy SE Band playing of our MM anthem as a closing tribute – CEO Al Wider led our delegation including Joe Bracken, Larry Duncan, Bob and Betty Stone and Morris Harvey.

November 11th—Inverness at Citrus County Veterans Parade – Joe Bracken, Morris Harvey and Larry Duncan presented our newly reconditioned/repainted parade float. This was a good turnout in spite of the threatening weather and the crowd responded enthusiastically to Larry's coaching.

Oregon Chapter

Annual Albany Veterans' Day Parade

Bill Marker, John White and myself (Earl Giggers) drove down to the Albany, Oregon's annual Veterans Day Parade. Arriving at about 10:30 AM, Bill checked us in at the registration table and as we sat in the car waiting for the parade to start, we wondered about the spectators and the response we would receive from them.

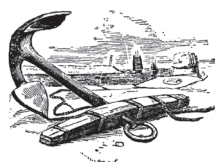
What we soon found out. As we wound through the streets, John said "I have never heard so much applause and so many thank yous for your service in my life". This was not only coming from adults, but from young children and teenagers.

Then as we passed the reviewing stand, we heard the announcer saying over the loud speakers "Here are the United States Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II". What a proud and humbling experience, knowing what a beautiful reception we had received.

Now if this isn't enough to make tingles run up and down your spine and maybe even shed a tear or two (it did me) – then I would say without a doubt in my mind "you have already crossed the bar!"

Written with tons of pride.

Earl Giggers, member



WELCOME TO THE OTTO J. ERNST CHAPTER

It is my pleasure to welcome the OTTO J. ERNST CHAPTER to our American Merchant Marine Family of Veterans. The Chapter is named after a mariner from the Chicago area and a former member of the Midwest Chapter. The Otto J. Ernst Chapter started because a mariner's son in Mooresville, N.C. wanted to know more about his Dad's service in the Maritime and asked another merchant seaman, Elmer J. Morse, "Why can't we start a chapter in Mooresville?" His name is Joe Ernst and he's now secretary of this new and growing chapter. CONGRATULATIONS!

A.J. Wichita, President



Front row from left to right: Bob Harris, John Novak (President), Herbert Lyles (Hub), Newmoon Jung, Sr., Elmer Morse (Vice President)

Back row from left to right: Vic Di Vittorio (Treasurer), Bill Raymer, Frank Hunt (Bud), Glen Miller, Andy Caplis, Joe Ernst (Secretary)



From left to right: Lynne Watts, Barbara Miller, Dawn Morse, Ceil Di Vittorio and Dottie Hunt



CHAPTER NEWS

Puget Sound Chapter

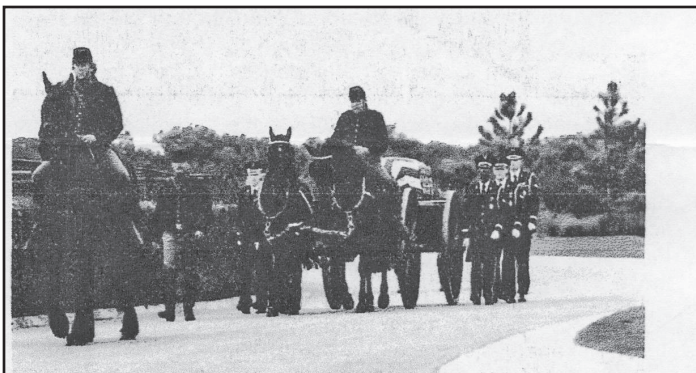


Bob Barbee, CEO, posted the Merchant Marine colors at the U. S. Coast Guard base in Port Angeles, WA at a ceremony on Veterans Day. A barbecue followed at Veterans' Center with over 500 people attending.

Sarasota-Manatee Chapter

The Sarasota National Cemetery joins an exclusive rank as being capable of providing Caisson funerals. Caisson funerals have been available at Arlington National Cemetery and the cemetery at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Sarasota National became the third cemetery to offer Caisson funerals when Hawk's Flight Service, LLC offered to have a caisson built in exact detail to that being used in the other two cemeteries. Of course, the big problem was in getting the wooden wheels made. They were finally made by an eastern Amish concern and were available for the first Caisson funeral on November 10, 2009.

Any person authorized to be buried in a National Cemetery is eligible for the Caisson burial. Arrangements must be made through a funeral home, not the cemetery.



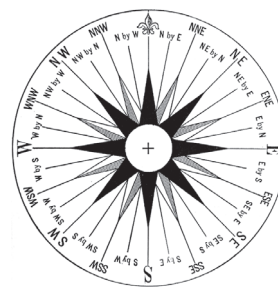
St. Johns River Chapter



Ed Trester presented the Merchant Marine Service flag at Flagler College's Veterans Day program in St. Augustine, FL, along with the other services. He and Gerry Starnes set up the Merchant Marine display booth and handed out 100 copies of "The United States Merchant Marine at War" book in the hopes of educating the public on the U. S. Merchant Mariners' role in World War II. Over 200 people attended the event. Each service was honored with their service song, including "Heave Ho, My Lads" which was sung by a choral group with great gusto. All in all, it was a great day to recognize all the services.

Three Rivers Chapter

A vote of thanks is given to those members, of our Chapter, who participated in the Veterans Day parade. They stopped the entire parade momentarily at the reviewing stand to sing "Heave Ho". A comment heard from the reviewing stand "They can't carry a tune! But they can carry the cargo!"





CHAPTER NEWS

Tri-State Chapter

George Adkison and Dr. David Stevens representing the Tri-State Chapter AMMV carried the colors at the Veterans Day ceremonies in Chattanooga, TN. The Chapter was also invited by the American Legion Post in Trenton, GA to participate in an early Veterans Day parade. We had two cars and two trucks of Mariners.



Susquehanna Chapter WWII Merchant Marine Vets being honored by Northampton Community College, Bethlehem, PA.

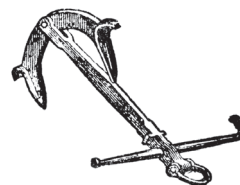
MERCHANT MARINERS ARE FOCUS OF OFFICIAL VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION

Submitted by the Gene deLong Hudson Valley Chapter

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and other government officials specifically singled out the heroic achievements of merchant mariners during this year's official Veterans Day Ceremony and the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. "Today—before their voices fade into history—we especially want to recall the bravery, skill, and camaraderie of the generation who fought in the Second World War, and of those, I would like to pay special tribute to the United States Merchant Marine." LaHood said., "Throughout our history, our armed forces could not fight a war overseas without the merchant marine and the commercial ships they commanded." "More that 85 percent of the supplies and equipment needed in the context of today's conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are carried aboard ships crewed by civilian mariners." LaHood said.

"On behalf of everyone at the United States Department of Transportation and the Maritime Administration, I want to thank the U. S. Merchant Marine, and all our veterans, for their selfless devotion to our country," LaHood said, as he laid a wreath in honor of merchant mariners at the memorial site.

Senator Daniel Akaka was the keynote speaker at the service, which was also attended by representatives of the White House. The World War II memorial was one of the first major war memorials to include official recognition of the essential role played by the merchant marine in our nation's security and defense.



Proposal: Implement An Updated Life Membership Fee Structure

Presented by Morris Harvey, VP-SE Region

This proposal is to implement new and expanded Life Membership fees in the AMMV as provided under Constitution Article VII and By-Law Article 1 - Membership, Par. C included below.

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

ARTICLE 1 - MEMBERSHIP

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

RESOLUTION: To implement an updated Life-membership fee structure.

A) Members could obtain life-membership status by submitting a one-time fee as established in the life expectancy table included as table A. The current \$200.00 Life Membership category would be eliminated.

B) The National Treasurer would establish an escrow fund at the most appropriate interest return on investment available to accumulate the Life Membership dues payments. The National office would provide a durable and unique life membership card (business card size) for each life member, imprinted with the signature of the National treasurer. This Life Membership schedule would be implemented for the Fiscal Year 2010/2011.

C) Annual withdrawals: The National Treasurer would be authorized to calculate a recommended transfer of assets from this escrow account into the general fund to supplement annual National budget expenses. This recommended annual transfer amount would be presented to the BOD with the annual budget proposal for their approval. Whatever sum is approved by the BOD would be transferred and applied to the general budget. This annual transfer would not exceed the National individual dues (established for that fiscal year) times the number of Life-memberships represented in the account.

TABLE A

<i>Age Range</i>	<i>U.S. All Citizens Life Expectancy (2004)</i>	<i>Life Membership Fee</i>
AGE 50 & BELOW	77.8 TO 30.9	\$600.00
AGE 51 THRU 60	30.9 TO 22.5	\$440.00
AGE 61 THRU 70	22.5 TO 15.1	\$300.00
AGE 71 THRU 80	15.1 TO 9.1	\$180.00
AGE 81 & ABOVE	9.1 TO ???	\$100.00

RATIONAL: This proposal is offered to help alleviate the natural decrease in our membership dues as WWII vets age and cross the bar. Most members who choose this option have a statistical advantage of making a profit and some members who choose this option will be donating some of their fee because they will cross the bar before their statistical average life expectancy. From table A, each member can evaluate their own financial risk when becoming a life-member. Keep in mind that a donation would be greatly appreciated by your surviving shipmates, who would continue to receive AMMV services, with the National Magazine as the top priority. This action would help to extend the financial health of our organization.

Proposal for AMMV Dress Code

*Presented by Jack G. Grothe
VP, Gulf Region, AMMV
S/S Samuel Parker Chapter*

Over the years I have talked with members about a uniform dress code. As the VP for the AMMV Gulf Region, I put the idea before the Gulf, Central & Great Lakes Regional Convention held last November in Branson, Missouri. The idea met with general interest among those present with a majority voting to have the idea brought before the National Board of Directors at the National Convention in Las Vegas next May.

The AMMV is a new veterans' organization relative to the age of the VFW, American Legion, AmVets etc. with their dress codes. The Korean and Vietnam War Veterans have had an increase in membership and interest in their organizational goals by having a dress code. And we can benefit from some of their ideas.

It needs to be kept in mind that the AMMV will be facing a major membership change in the next five to ten years. Ideas that appeal to WWII Merchant Marine Veterans as well as AMMV members, who have not served in the Merchant Marine but wish to preserve Merchant Marine history, must be considered. Future members will be younger and need to be well organized. A uniform dress code would help them.

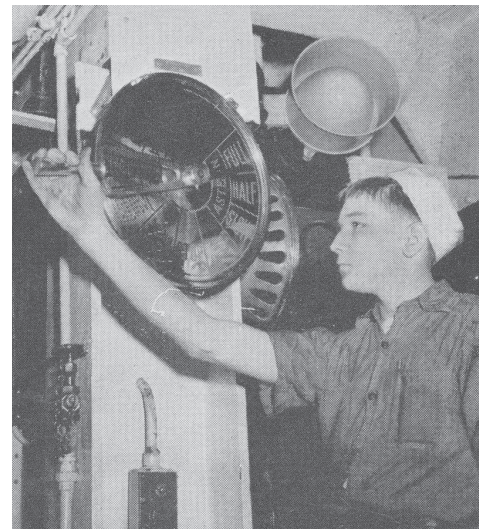
The details of a dress code could be worked out by a committee if approved. Some suggestions are:

1. Very formal - Tux or dark suit with proper medals.
2. Semiformal - Navy blue blazer with Merchant Marine blazer emblem and khaki or gray trousers.
3. Daytime - Navy blue slacks with light blue shirt with Merchant Marine ribbons or logo.
4. Other items, jacket, cap, vest etc..

The dress code would not be mandatory but would be helpful, at public functions, to aid recognition from the public and other veterans' organizations for American Merchant Mariners.

ANSWERING THE BELLS

How familiar the Engine Order Telegraph is to us, that very important instrument that relayed engine commands from the bridge to the engine room. While maneuvering, a Mate would be close by to pass on the speed and engine direction from the Master or Pilot to the Engineer on watch below. With each bell there would be a flurry of activity at the



throttle and reversing gear as the Engineer answered the order with a matching bell. Each "bell" was meticulously recorded in the bridge and engine room logs. Steam powered ships needed a well rehearsed and competent engine watch from the Engineer down to the Wiper. The Engine Order Telegraph was critical in making this operation smooth, accurate and reliable. Even a casual observer recognized that the big brass thing with a moveable handle was something that had to do with ships. Many of us spent hours polishing that stately instrument till it gleamed.

Time has brought many changes to the mariner's world. Today the engine room telegraph is an anachronism. Steam power has almost entirely been given over to the diesel engine. A joy stick now directly controls the diesel power plant from the bridge. Gone is the distinctive steam whistle, replaced by a blaring air horn. Ships have grown three or more times in size, while once a crew of 45 has been reduced to 15.

The AMMV is also experiencing the passage of time and what that brings. To continue as a functioning viable organization we need to keep pace with those changes. Who will "Answer the Bells" in the future? Today's mariner, of necessity, has evolved into a highly trained and qualified person. He must be ever more self sufficient and be able to meet the requirements of our rapidly expanding and sophisticated technology. Everyone on board must be able to multitask.

The American Merchant Marine Veterans National Constitution and By-laws makes provisions for us to recruit these working mariners of today. To qualify for membership he must "Submit proof of service in the America Merchant Marine at any time" by showing Certificates of Discharge from ocean or inland waters. These mariners can be our future, replenish our ranks, and continue superior leadership. We must create interest for them. Make them welcome. Let the pride and tradition continue.

*Hank Kaminski
Dennis A. Roland Chapter (NJ)
AMMV Constitution and By-Laws Chairman*



JUST COMPENSATION

NEWS * NEWS * NEWS!

2 SENATORS, JON TESTER (MT) AND CHRISTOPHER BOND (MO) SIGNED ON AS CO-SPONSORS OF SENATE BILL S.663 IN DECEMBER. And David Vitter (LA) signed on as a Co-sponsor the day Congress reconvened in January. WE STILL NEED 11, SO PLEASE KEEP TRYING.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FROM JCC CO-CHAIRMAN GERRY STARNES

To the naysayers among the American Merchant Marine Veterans organization's members, I would like to respond to an email message received by me:

I regret that you must be reminded that your dissertations on passage of legislation Senate Bill S.663 shows a total lack of understanding of our situation with the Senate VA Committee and how a bill gets passed in that legislative body. We have the support of the SIU, I spoke with their representative while in Washington after my testimony before the House VA Committee. I had years sailing with them as my engine room crew. We also have the support of MEBA & MM&P.

The White House is polite to our various appeals for support, the staff is, as expected, nonchalant and noncommittal. However we believe the President will sign the bill into law if it is passed in the Senate and comes to his desk. The President heads up the executive branch of the government. A senator has to get a bill to the floor by getting it on Majority Leader Reid's Legislative Calendar or offer the bill as an amendment to an Omnibus bill that must pass, such as the previously passed Defense bills.

The JACKAL portion of your message is a disrespectful sarcasm relating to Senator Ben Nelson, the only Senator among 100 who had the political intestinal fortitude to sponsor our Merchant Mariners bill. It will be a serious negative for our seven years of effort and make it much more difficult for those of us who work with his staff. His complex legislative position is more to be understood than defiled. The President and the Majority Leader of his party were excessively pressuring him to be the 60th senator to support their Medical Care bill against a filibuster. His constituents back in NE were screaming against the passage of the 2,000-page unread document at every town hall meeting and in the media all over the state.

From our Washington Lobbyists we hear: There

never was and never will be a chance to get our, or any other insignificant bill by comparison, to the Senate floor until the Medical Care legislation is resolved.

The average time it takes for a bill like ours to pass in the U.S. Congress is 10.5 years. The Filipino WWII Veterans did it in 18 years via a lump sum payment from the Stimulus Package with the help of Senators Inouye and Akaka (D-HI). We do not have 18 years, so we have to work harder.

We all are frustrated by the time and endless obstacles we have to face in our efforts to advance S663. Our lobbyists say that patience is a virtue in lobbying while looking for a possible opportunity. The Senate will be back in session Jan. 20th.

The entire AMMV membership should be aware that the President, the two JCC Co-chairmen, Membership Officer and the News Magazine Editor are carrying the prime responsibility in trying every possible means to advance S663. They often work seven day weeks on behalf of their old fellow Merchant Mariners and spend enumerable hours and their own money in performance of their part of the overall effort. The AMMV President and the appointed officers have the expert assistance of NAUS veterans' lobbyists organization, President Maj. Gen. Bill Matz and his Legislative Director Mr. Rick Jones, from across the Potomac River in Virginia.

Herman Gerald (Gerry) Starnes

Co-Chairman & Legislative Liaison, JCC

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SUPPORT LETTER FROM SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION (SIU)

In a letter dated January 6, 2010 to Dr. Robert Simpson, AMMV member in Antioch, Tennessee, Communications Director Jordan Biscardo wrote:

"I write in response to your recent letter seeking the union's support for the Belated Thank You bill. Please be assured that the SIU has been on board with this legislation from the start. We don't necessarily publicize all of our efforts. But I know firsthand that our political director extensively met with Ian Allison to help the cause. We have publicized the bill and asked for support. We have donated printing. We successfully introduced resolutions to the AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department, thereby putting the weight of 5 million union members behind this fight.

"Of course, neither our efforts nor those of our



JUST COMPENSATION

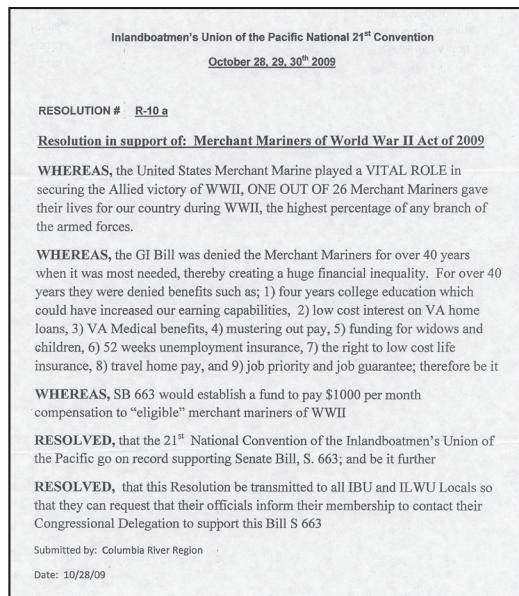
fellow supporters have achieved the ultimate goal. While I wish that weren't the case, I'm certain we are helping to maintain the fight.

"I deeply appreciate the sacrifices of our World War II mariners and I wish you nothing but the best.

Respectfully,
Jordan Biscardo"

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RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT BY INLANDBOATMEN'S UNION OF THE PACIFIC (IBU)



Bob Forrester of Port Angeles, Washington forwarded this resolution as passed at the Columbia River Region Convention by a 100% vote. This support is particularly important as the ILWU represents many, many, many workers, in all trades, in Hawaii.

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MEETING WITH SENATOR BEN NELSON'S AIDE DAYLE WILLIAMSON

AMMV President A. J. Wichita, Credentials Chair Burt Young and NEWS Editor Sindy Raymond had lunch with (Gen.) Dayle Williamson, aide to Senator Ben Nelson, in Lincoln, Nebraska in late November. Williamson stated that Senator Nelson would be tied up with the Health Care Initiative during December but after the holiday recess, they would do all they could to push our legislation S.663 forward. One alternative

to passing it through the Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee, where it has been stalled for quite some time, Williamson suggested, was to attach it to another Veterans' bill and have it pass that way. This might result in a lump sum payment rather than a monthly one, but the recognition of U.S. Merchant Mariners as full Veterans and being treated as justly as the other services would be successful. He promised they would do everything in their power to get some action on S.663.



Burt Young, Mo Valley Chapter; Gen. Dayle Williamson, legislative aide to Senator Ben Nelson; and A.J. Wichita, AMMV President.

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JUST REMEMBER THE OLD ADAGE: WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHY, WHEN AND HOW!

The Just Compensation Committee printed 40,000 copies of the book "U.S. Merchant Marine at War." We have distributed 30,000 of them and hope the remainder will be requested very soon. But, as time draws short, we need to cover as much ground as possible. We need you to continue to write, call or fax your Senator if they have not signed on as a Co-sponsor of Senate bill S.663. Now, please don't groan at this request. We are getting tired, too, but it is really important! We do have another year in this Congressional session to achieve our goal. And recognition of the U.S. Merchant Marine and their history is paramount to our success. *WE ARE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP THE SHIP.*

Do you like to talk about your experiences? Contact a newspaper and write a story for them or have a reporter talk to you – they are anxious for something different to write about. When preparing your story, of course work in the legislation information, remember, WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHY, WHEN and HOW! If you get printed, we would love to see a copy.

*Ian T. Allison
Just Compensation Committee*



American Merchant Marine Veterans

24th National Convention

Las Vegas, Nevada – May 10 - May 14, 2010

Hotel Registration

Please register for your hotel rooms directly with the hotel.

The room rate is \$49.00 plus all applicable taxes. You must register **prior to April 10, 2010** to guarantee the convention rate. Be sure to tell them that you are with the Merchant Marine attending the May 10-14 Convention.

Riviera Hotel and Casino
2901 Las Vegas Blvd
Las Vegas NV 89109
1-800-634-6753

Extend your stay. We've arranged for you to have three days before and/or three days after the convention, subject to availability, at the same great rate. Check with the hotel for specifics. Why not make it a vacation?

Check out the four great shows at the hotel. ***We get them at half price!***

Proposed Schedule of Events

Monday, May 10

Check-in and Convention Registration
Exhibit/Hospitality Room to be announced
Self guided tour of the "Strip" and downtown

Tuesday, May 11

	Registration, as needed
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Board of Directors Meeting
Noon to 1:30 PM	Ladies Luncheon and Entertainment
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Opening Ceremonies. General Session
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	President's Reception Dinner – Speakers. Raffle drawing after dinner ... Dancing 'til ?

Wednesday, May 12

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM	Bus Tour of Hoover Dam. Military Cemetery and Ethyl M's Chocolate Factory with a buffet lunch at a casino. Space is limited, please reserve early.
All day	Self-guided tour of the "Strip" and downtown

Thursday, May 13

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	General Session Meeting
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM	General Session Meeting
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	President's Farewell Banquet – Keynote Speaker; Raffle drawing after dinner; Dancing 'til...

Friday, May 14

For those leaving today, this has been the greatest. For those staying on a bit .. enjoy!
May God see you all safely home.

The Crew

**Your hosts, the "High Rollers" Chapter, Las Vegas NV
Vaya con dios**

LAS VEGAS

24th National Convention
Playing May 10 ~ 14, 2010



Just \$49 a night!



With this deal,
why not share the fun?
Bring your family
or bring friends!



Imagine the possibilities!

American Merchant Marine Veterans

24th National Convention

Las Vegas, Nevada – May 10 - May 14, 2010



Convention Registration Form

Name _____ Affiliation/Chapter _____

Spouse/Other _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Planned Date of Arrival _____

Convention Fees: (AMMV members & affiliates only, **no registration fee for spouse/companion**)

Register early and save money

Early Birds Special until **March 15, 2010** \$ 75.00 x _____ = \$ _____

March 16 - April 15, 2010 \$ 85.00 x _____ = \$ _____

April 16 - May 10, 2010 \$ 95.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Ladies Luncheon (Tuesday noon)

☐ _____ Chicken Caesar Salad ☐ _____ London Broil \$ 33.00 x _____ = \$ _____

President's Reception Dinner (Tuesday evening)

☐ _____ Roasted Pork Loin ☐ _____ Chicken Parmesan \$47.00 x _____ = \$ _____
(Chicken Breast topped with
Marinara and Mozzarella Cheese)

President's Banquet (Thursday evening)

☐ _____ Rib-eye Steak ☐ _____ Chicken Italiano \$47.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Wednesday Morning Bus Tour to Boulder Dam, Southern Nevada

Military Cemetery, Ethyl M's Chocolate Factory

PLUS a Noon Buffet at the Hacienda Hotel. \$39.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Total due for convention fee, meals and event \$ _____

The fine print: Special medical or physical concerns, please detail needs with hotel check-in personnel at registration time.

Cancellation notice: Refunds only by special exception after May 1, 2010. AMMV will charge \$25 for returned checks.

Send completed form with check to:

AMMV: c/o Roy Mahan
82 Scorpios Island St.
Henderson, NV 89012-5698

Checks must be received before May 10, 2010

For general information contact Roy Mahan (702) 558-0643; email- meicoroy@aol.com or
Mitzi Tacey (702) 458-5580; Fax (702) 4586701

American Merchant Marine Veterans

24th National Convention

Las Vegas, Nevada – May 10 - May 14, 2010



COMMEMORATIVE 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 and all other supporting groups.

MEMORY BOOK RATES

Deadline for submittals is APRIL 1, 2010

_____ Full Page (8 in x 10.5 in) @ \$ 125.00 _____ Half Page (8 in x 5.25 in) @ \$ 75.00

_____ 1/4 Page (4 in x 5.25 in) @ \$ 50.00 _____ Business Card @ \$ 30.00

_____ Biographical Story* @ 30% off _____ Patriotic Contribution
of standard pricing above

- ★ Full page submittals can be printed in color for an additional \$175.00 per page
- ★ Two full-page submittals may be placed side by side for \$70.00 extra
- ★ Premium location: (Color only) Back cover, inside front cover, inside back cover, or inside center fold. 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: _____

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 please), completed form and your submission to:

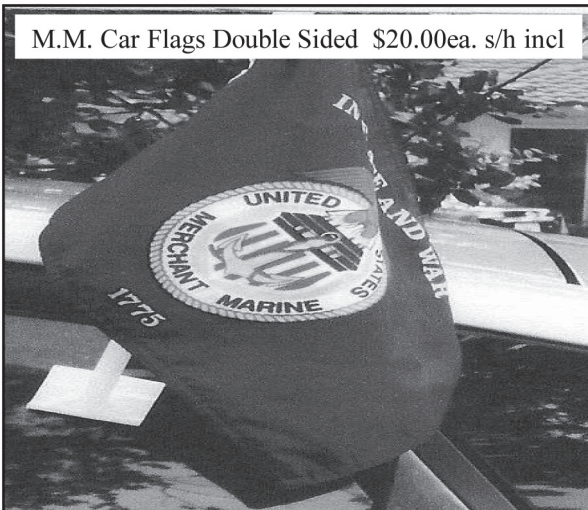
Roy Mahan
82 Scorpis Island St.
Henderson, NV 89012
E-mail digital files to Carole Gutierrez at photos@clear.net

* The AMMV Convention Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any essay for publication and to edit and/or limit the word length. Biographer will receive one free copy of the Memory Book.

FOR GENERAL INFO: Roy Mahan (702) 558-0643 or meicoroy@aol.com

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS: Carole Gutierrez (503) 252-8250 or photos@clear.net

M.M. Car Flags Double Sided \$20.00ea. s/h incl



ALL FLAGS ARE MADE IN THE USA

2 Flag Desk Set
American Flag and
Merchant Marine Flag
\$10.00 per.set +\$ 2.60s/h



\$25.00
ea.
s/h incl

3' x 4' Outdoor Flag

License Tag
Made of Polytuff
NO METAL NO RUST
\$5.00 each + \$1.60s/h



Battling Pete Emblem
\$4.00 ea. s/h incl



ON SALE!

Due to requests for our shirts, Gulfstream will again have this item available for sale. The new **SALE PRICE** is \$20 for short-sleeve shirt, plus shipping and handling charge of \$5.00 per shirt. As before, 12 or more items ordered and mailed to one address we will pay shipping. For information call 954-478-1522 or 954-720-1613.

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U.S. MERCHANT MARINE MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

U.S.M.M. 3'x 4'Flag	\$25.00 (S/H included)	___ Qty. \$
U.S.M.M. Car Flag	\$20.00 (S/H \$5.00) (includes car flag mast)	___ Qty. \$
U.S.M.M. Polytuff Tag	\$ 5.00 (S/H 1st Tag \$1.60 add. tags .50 each.)	___ Qty. \$
Battling Pete Emblem	\$ 4.00 (S/H included)	___ Qty. \$
2 Flag Desk Set	\$10.00 (S/H \$2.60 ea.)	___ Qty. \$
Shirt, short sleeve color <input type="checkbox"/> size <input type="checkbox"/> qty <input type="checkbox"/> color <input type="checkbox"/> size <input type="checkbox"/> qty <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____		

COLORS: Black, White, Red, **RB**Royal blue, Navy, **LB**light blue. **SIZE:** M, L, XL Total \$ _____

Ship To:
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

Check Payable to:
Gulfstream Chapter A.M.M.V.
c/o S.I.U. 1221 South Andrews Ave.
Ft.Lauderdale, FL. 33316
Phone Office: 954-759-9985



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 and overseas. 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 _____

Please check the appropriate box(es):

- ☐ WW II ☐ KOREA ☐ VIET NAM ☐ DESERT STORM ☐ MIDDLE EAST ☐ PEACETIME ☐ NAVY ARMED GUARD
☐ ARE YOU AN ACTIVE U.S. MERCHANT SEAMAN ☐ ACTIVE OR RETIRED MEMBER OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES
☐ WIFE OF MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING ☐ WIDOW OF MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING
☐ MARITIME ACADEMY CADET ☐ ASSOCIATE MEMBER

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, present and future. 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 purview 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 AND DUES TO:

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS

P.O. BOX 186

FERNDALE, CA 95525-0186

800-545-4173 • Fax 707-785-4557 • ammv@frontiernet.net

UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE JACKETS

Shell - 100% Nylon
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ALL LETTERING AND LOGO EMBROIDERED

\$44.00 each

plus shipping & handling of \$8.00 Priority Mail
(shipping discount if ordered in quantity)

Sizes: SM - MED - LG - XLG - 2X - 3X - 4X - 5X

Mail order with size and ship-to address to:

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MANHEIM, PA 17545
(717) 475-0796**

EMAIL: tiger2one@dejazzd.com





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.

AMMV09

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 (age 70+)	\$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**

American Merchant Marine Veterans
POST OFFICE BOX 186
FERNDALE, CA 95536

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TX
PERMIT #4043

American Merchant Marine Veterans 24th National Convention May 10-14, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada



Come join the fun!

Photos courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau