

U.S.S. LOWNDES - APA 154 REUNION GROUP

JANUARY 1997 News Letter

Wm. "Bud" Kautz - 34782 Hiawatha Trail - McHenry, IL 60050  
(815)344-6326

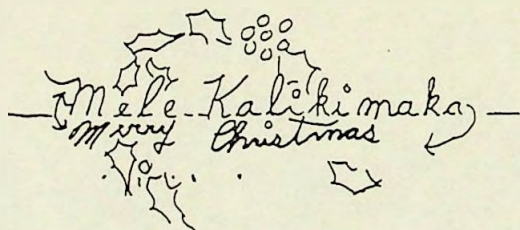
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\*Addition to Ship's History Book

\*\*Any changes or additions, please notify Bud Kautz

Had planned to mail this News Letter in December, but with the Holidays it just wasn't in the cards.



M E N U

Christmas Dinner

25 December 1944

United States Ship LOWNDES (APA 154)

Turkey Broth with Rice

Crackers  
\*\*\*

Hearts of Celery - Pickles - Ripe Olives - Green Olives  
\*\*\*

Roast Young Turkey with Cranberry Sauce  
Giblet Gravy  
Sage Dressing  
\*\*\*

Buttered Asparagus - Mashed Potatoes

Sliced Tomatoes with Mayonaise  
\*\*\*

Parker House Rolls, Bread, Butter  
\*\*\*

Fruit Cake - Ice Cream - Mincemeat Pie  
\*\*\*

Candy  
\*\*\*

Cigars and Cigarettes

UNITED STATES SHIP

L O W N D E S

APA 154

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Christmas Dinner

25 December 1945

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Acting Pay Clerk E. G. McKellar, U. S. Navy  
Commsary Officer

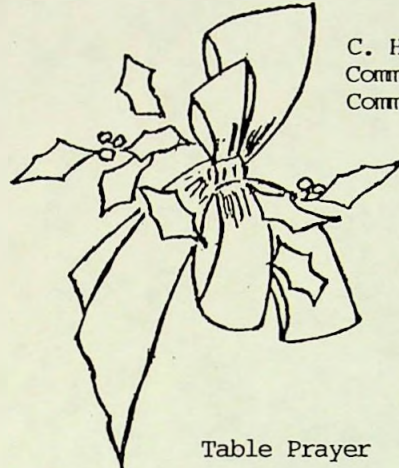
F. MASSEY O. H. WALKER  
Chief Commisary Steward, U.S. Navy

M E N U

Celery	Pickles	Olives
Turkey Soup - Crackers		
Candied Sweet Potatoes - Mashed Irish Potatoes		
Roast Tom Turkey		
Giblet Gravy		
Buttered English Peas	Sage Dressing	
Lettuce And Tomato Salad With Mayonnaise		
Hot Parker House Rolls -- Butter		
Pumpkin Pie	Ice Cream	Fruit Cake
Coffee	Milk	
Hard Candies	Mixed Nuts	
oooo00000oooo		

"Christmas Greetings from the Captain"

I am glad to send each of you the Season's Greetings. Although we are away from home and in a world engaged in a struggle for survival, we can still pause to celebrate Christmas. In so doing, let us enjoy the celebration, but not forget the significance of the occasion.



C. H. Perdue  
Commander, USNR  
Commanding Officer

Table Prayer

We thank Thee Heavenly Father for the gift of love bestowed upon us that first Christmas Day. We thank Thee on this Christmas Day for Thy guiding and protecting hand over us. We ask Thy blessing upon these gifts which Thou hast so abundantly spread before us.....Amen.

C. O. MARTIN  
Leut. SG; U.S.N.  
Supply Office

E. G. McKellar  
Acting Pay Clerk, U.S.N.  
Commissary Officer

J. W. MASSEY  
Chief Commissary Steward, U.S.N.



October 17, 1996

Fred Brinkman part of group

## USS Lowndes has Reunion

The 1996 reunion of crew members from the USS Lowndes APA 154 of World War II is being held in the home state of a distinguished South Carolina Statesman, former Congressman William Lowndes, for whom the ship was named.

Sixty veterans of the USS Lowndes and their wives and guests from 17 states will be in Myrtle Beach for the reunion on October 16-20 at the Martinique Resort Hotel. Myrtle Beach was chosen for the reunion to celebrate the ship's ties to South Carolina and Congressman Lowndes.

Two direct descendants of the congressman will join the reunion group at a reception on October 18 at 9:45 a.m. in the Hall of Fame Atrium of the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. They are William Lowndes, III, great great grandson of the Congressman, and his son William Lowndes, IV, both of Spartanburg, SC.

A highlight of the reception will be presentation of a concurrent resolution adopted by the South Carolina Legislature commending the USS Lowndes and memorializing the late William Lowndes. State Representative Mark Kelley will present the resolution.

Living South Carolinians from the USS Lowndes crew include Fred Brinkman of Columbia, host for the 1996 reunion, Vic Bardenhagen of Varnville, and Harold Castine of Columbia.

Congressman Lowndes compiled an incredible record of accomplishments as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives and the United States House of Representatives in the early 1800s. He chaired many important committees in Congress.

The Lowndes was an 11,800-ton ship with a crew of 56 officers and 480 enlisted men and carried as many as 1,500 troops and equipment to and from staging areas in the Pacific.

The 1996 USS Lowndes gathering at Myrtle Beach is the ship's eighth annual reunion.

THE  
SUN  
NEWS

October 16, 1996

## Reunion planned for veterans

Sixty veterans of the USS Lowndes APA 154 and their wives and guests will attend a reunion at the Martinique Hotel in Myrtle Beach Thursday through Sunday.

The USS Lowndes served in the World War II as an assault personnel attack ship. It was decommissioned following the war.

Reunion organizers chose South Carolina because it is the home state of the ship's namesake, U.S. Rep. William Lowndes of Charleston, who lived from 1782 to 1822.

The reunion will include a reception at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center with two direct descendants of Lowndes, his great-great-grandson William Lowndes III and his son William Lowndes IV, both of Spartanburg.

Also at the reception, state Rep. Mark Kelley of Myrtle Beach will present a resolution adopted by the S.C. General Assembly that commends the USS Lowndes and memorializes the congressman. The rest of the weekend will be informal, said Fred Brinkman of Columbia, who was a pharmacist on the USS Lowndes.

## Alternatives

THE GRAND STRAND'S NEWSMAGAZINE

October 24, 1996 - November 7, 1996

Reunion of Navy Ship  
Named for South  
Carolina Statesman

The 1996 reunion of crew members from the USS Lowndes APA 154 of World War II was held in the home state of a distinguished South Carolina Statesman, former Congressman William Lowndes, for whom the ship was named.

Sixty veterans of the USS Lowndes and their wives and guests from 17 states were in Myrtle Beach for the reunion on October 16-20 at the Martinique Resort Hotel.

Two direct descendants of the Congressman joined the reunion group: William Lowndes, III, great great grandson of the Congressman, and his son William Lowndes, IV, both of Spartanburg, South Carolina.

A highlight of the reception was a presentation of a concurrent resolution adopted by the South Carolina Legislature commending the USS Lowndes and memorializing the late William Lowndes. State Representative Mark Kelley will present the resolution.

Living South Carolinians from the USS Lowndes crew include Fred Brinkman of Columbia, host for the 1996 reunion, Vic Bardenhagen of Varnville, and Harold Castine of Columbia.

Congressman Lowndes compiled an incredible record of accomplishments as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives and the United States House of Representatives in the early 1800s. He chaired many important committees in Congress, including Ways and Means and Military and Navy Affairs. The South Carolina Legislature nominated Lowndes as a candidate for President of the United States.

The Lowndes was an 11,800-ton ship with a crew of 56 officers and 480 enlisted men and carried as many as 1,500 troops and equipment to and from staging areas in the Pacific. Amphibious training was taken in the Hawaiian Islands in

preparation for the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

In February, 1945, the U.S.S. Lowndes participated for eight days in the massive assault on Iwo Jima.

The Lowndes received and treated 365 wounded from Iwo Jima. The ship's beach party had 16 casualties on Iwo Jima, including two killed, 13 wounded and one missing. Eight landing boats from the Lowndes were lost during the Iwo campaign.

In April, 1945, the Lowndes was engaged in the invasion of Okinawa. The Lowndes received two World War II battle stars.

Following D-Day and victory in World War II, the ship carried troops and cargo to Japan, the Philippines and other areas for occupation duty and returned homeward bound veterans to the United States.

## Articles

citing the

U.S.S. Lowndes

Reunion

in Myrtle Beach, SC

1/97-4

STROM THURMOND  
SOUTH CAROLINA

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE  
UNITED STATES SENATE

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4001

October 17, 1996

Mr. Fred P. Brinkman  
1140 Green Valley Lane  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Dear Mr. Brinkman:

*I would greatly appreciate it if you would have the following message read at an appropriate time during this weekend's event:*

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to welcome you to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and the 1996 reunion of the crew of the USS Lowndes.

When Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, we faced the daunting task of engaging and destroying an enemy that was not only thousands of miles away, but had fortified many strategic islands throughout the Pacific. To General Douglas MacArthur, the only way to defeat Japan was to engage in a campaign of "island hopping", gradually chipping away at the chain of island fortresses that were intended to insulate and protect the "Land of the Rising Sun".

As crewmembers aboard the USS Lowndes, each of you played an important role in our successful efforts to march on, and defeat, Japan. In particular, the service that each of you rendered during the Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns were truly beneficial in the capture of those two very important islands. Through transporting troops and equipment to the area of operations, as well as providing medical care to casualties, the Lowndes made a significant contribution in two very brutal, but successful, military operations.

Though the Lowndes entered service late in the War, there is no question that she and her crew rendered the Navy and the United States a great service. I commend each of you for your selfless efforts, to defeat an enemy to our Nation and to freedom loving people throughout the world. You are a tribute to the memory of Congressman William Lowndes, who was an enthusiastic advocate for a strong defense. I am certain that he would be proud that the ship bearing his name performed so well in the defense of the Nation.

I am confident that you will enjoy having the opportunity to reunite old friendships and to remember those who are not with you this year. I am also certain that you will enjoy your stay in South Carolina, and I hope that you will take the opportunity to enjoy some of the many recreational opportunities that the Myrtle Beach area offers visitors.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,

Strom Thurmond

ST/jd



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

DAVID M. BEASLEY  
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 11369  
COLUMBIA 29211

GREETINGS

On behalf of the State of South Carolina, I am pleased to welcome you to Myrtle Beach for the 1996 reunion of the crew of the USS Lowndes APA 154 and your special guests.

We are honored that you have chosen the Palmetto State for this reunion of your Navy shipmates. I commend all of you for your contributions to our country's freedom through your service on the USS Lowndes in World War II. Men who are willing to endure hardship and danger in defense of our way of life represent a rare breed.

You all have established a tradition for all who seek to serve our country through the military. As you celebrate this tradition of excellence born under often hostile conditions, we must pay special tribute to those veterans who made the supreme sacrifice in defense of our freedom. Of greatest importance is the reaffirmation that we have not forgotten and will not forget.

I would like to invite those of you who will be visiting with us for the first time to explore the many historical, cultural and recreational opportunities the Grand Strand area has to offer. Once you've experienced our distinctively Southern approach to living, I know you will want to take advantage of my standing invitation to visit us again and often.

I offer my warmest wishes for an enjoyable and memorable reunion, and I hope you will always feel free to call on me if ever the need arises.

David M. Beasley

JOHN DRUMMOND  
SENATOR GREENWOOD AND ABBEVILLE COUNTIES  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 10  
HOME ADDRESS  
P O BOX 107  
MURFREESBORO TN 37056  
BUSINESS ADDRESS  
P O BOX 748  
GREENWICH SC 29646  
SENATE ADDRESS  
COLUMBIA SENATE OFFICE BLDG  
COLUMBIA, SC 29211  
1001 21 8248



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
THE SENATE

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE  
COMMITTEES  
FINANCE CHAIRMAN  
INTERSTATE COOPERATION FINANCE  
FISH GAME & FORESTRY  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
LABOR COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
RULES  
SENATE OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT  
STATE REDEMPTION COMMISSION  
CHAIRMAN  
JOINT APPROPRIATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
JOINT BOND REVIEW COMMITTEE

August 27, 1996

Crew Members of the USS Lowndes  
c/o Fred Brinkman  
1140 Green Valley Lane  
Columbia, S. C. 29210

Dear Fellow Comrades of World War II:

As President Pro Tempore of the South Carolina State Senate, it is my honor to welcome you and your families to the Palmetto State upon the occasion of your 1996 Reunion. The USS Lowndes honored the great South Carolinian, William Lowndes, by its meritorious service in the Pacific and it is very fitting that you have chosen to meet in his home state. You will find that South Carolinians still honor and remember the sacrifices that you made as young men to answer the call of our country. Those of your shipmates who will not be present as they have gone on to their reward still occupy a special place in our hearts and in the history of our country. They will not be forgotten.

As a P-47 fighter pilot with the 405th fighter group in Europe, it was my honor to fly cover for our troops on D-Day. I will never forget my feelings as I flew over our naval forces crossing the English Channel in the first step to restore freedom to those peoples who had suffered under the heel of tyrants. We were all younger men then, but the flame of patriotism still burns bright in our hearts. Enjoy your reunion secure in the knowledge that our generation answered the call to arms and did its best to make a better future for our children and grand children. With warmest regards,

Sincerely,

*Your friend,*

John Drummond

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## U.S.S. LOWNDES (APA 154)

## PLAN OF THE DAY FOR MONDAY, 25 DECEMBER 1944

Duty Commander:	Leut. Hinton.	Duty PhM: Bowman, PhM2c
Duty Medical Officer:	Lt (jg) Wright.	Duty SK: Griffiths, SK3c
Duty Yeoman:	Chilcote, Y2c.	Duty MAA: Born, BM2c

0550 Call PPO's and BM's.  
 0600 Reveille. Call all hands except mid-watch standers. Trice up bunks.  
 0619 Clean sweep down fore and aft except weather decks.  
 0620 Mess gear.  
 0630 Call mid-watch standers. Breakfast.  
 0745 Quarters for muster.  
 Personnel of all divisions, except the Engineering Divisions, muster with complete helmet, gas mask, life belt. and 2 dog tags.  
 0755 Stand by for colors.  
 Department heads report to the Executive Officer on the Bridge.  
 0800 Colors.  
 0805 Secure from colors.  
 Rig for church.  
 0810 Turn to ship's work.  
 0815 Sick call.  
 0830 Christmas services with communion, in the mess hall.  
 0900 Liberty  
 0930 Christmas services with communion, in the mess hall.  
 1125 Clean sweep down fore and aft.  
 1145 Mess gear.  
 1200 Christmas dinner.  
 1330 turn to ship's work.  
 1615 Mess gear.  
 1630 Supper.  
 1800 Liberty expires on the dock for non-rated men.  
 1830 Liberty expires on the dock for rated men.  
 1900 Liberty expires for chief petty officers.  
 Evening sick call.  
 Sunset Evening colors.  
 1930 Eight o'clock reports to the Executive Officer.  
 2125 Tattoo.  
 2130 Taps.

## Memorandum:

1. Liberty parties are again warned that the Shore Patrol will pick up any man from this ship for not wearing their hats squared, for jay walking, or for failing to salute. Men whose names are turned in by the Shore Patrol for any of the above will be subjected to disciplinary action.

HARRISON GARDNER,  
 Executive Officer.

Jean and I were among the early arrivals on Wednesday, October 16th. With Fred and Roberta along with other early birds we enjoyed a fine dinner at the Sea Captain's House. Then on to Fantasy Harbor where we saw a terrific show - "Snoopy's Magic on Ice." Back to the hotel to rest up for the many activities Fred has planned for the Lowndes eighth Reunion starting on Thursday October 17th. Registration took place in the hospitality room where refreshments were available and Acquaintances were renewed along with the start of many sea stories to follow in the next three days. As Leo O'Brien once said after listening to the tales being related, "I wonder if we were all in the same Navy and on the same ship?" Never the less the recollections were very interesting to hear and probably brought back memories to a lot of us. Thursday evening we were departed for the Alabama Theater at Barefoot Landing American Pride Show, an Opryland production of the History of Music with Song and Dance. The Lowndes was well represented in the stage production - Dick Jones was on stage and did a superb job of impersonating Elvis - clothes and all. Next! John Vernale sure showed that he had not lost his touch of the 1940's - jitterbugging with the best of them especially with that cute little number they paired him up with. (I'll probably catch the next time John meets up with me. Friday morning we departed for Myrtle Beach are arriving at the Convention Center where a coffee reception was held in the South Carolina Hall of Fame Atrium. There a resolution to Have William Lowndes inducted into the Hall of Fame was presented to the U.S.S. Lowndes crew. Then a visit to tour Brookgreen Gardens. In the evening we were bussed to the Dixie Stampede with a full dinner consisting of soup, chicken, ribs and dessert was served W I T H O U T fightin' gear. Expert horsemanship was the theme of the show with a few other offerings presented. Yours truly was selected to enter the arena to compete with the Northerners (we were the Southerners). The competition consisted of pitching horseshoes. Much to my dismay, the shoes were toilet seats. Regardless, I managed to almost get a couple of leaners and walked away the winner. Saturday morning was free time, at Cane Patch golf Jean and I hit a bucket of balls on the practice range and John Vernale and Art Rauseo played a round of golf compliments of owner Doug Hart. At Apache Ocean Pier, Leo O'Brien had his catch of the day. Then a trolley bus to Broadway at the Beach for shopping and lunch. William Lowndes III was presented with the resolution to induct William Lowndes into the South Carolina Hall of Fame. He also gave an interesting talk to the crew. At 5:30 PM the Lowndes Uglies and Lovelies gathered for group photos. 8x10 copies are being sent to all attendees. They are compliments of A & B Photography in Chicago. For 23 years before I retired I was the "B" of This studio until "A" in 1987 bought me out. He has suggested that any and all proceeds derived from these photos be turned over to the Lowndes Reunion Group. Evening arrived and a fine Surf and Turf dinner was enjoyed at the banquet. The results of the Lowndes Lovelies annual raffle are related on another page of this News Letter. It was a complete surprise when yours truly was called to the podium and presented with a key to the city of Myrtle Beach by Mayor Bob Grissom saying "It won't open a damn thing." A repeat performance of "Schnitzelbank" by Cliff Schaffer and Bill Taylor was very enjoyable. Sunday morning a U.S.S. Lowndes SOS buffet breakfast was on tap and fond farewells were in order until next year's Reunion in Florida. Information regarding has been noted elsewhere in this issue.

Final analysis: This Reunion is one to be remembered. Fred and Roberta did a fantastic job. Thank you.



ALONZO H. HODGSON, JR. - Redwater, TX - Sorry we didn't make the Reunion this year. Oniece had total knee replacement and we just could not make that long trip.

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BUELL BINNEY - Trenton, MO - We are pretty good now. I'm still caning it but go about any place now. Hope we can attend another Reunion in the future.

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The following Lowndes crewman and their mates attended the Eighth Reunion in Myrtle Beach,

Vic Bardenhagan *	Stan & Mona Dunn	Warren & Albena Proctor
Agnes Bencie	John & Lebbly Dyer	Roland & Becky Moore
Bill Bencie	Joe & Loreta Freitas	Arthur & Marjorie Rauseo
Fred & Roberta Brinkman **	Jack & Evelyn Hovey	Earl & Frances Robertson
Dave & Modesta Brinkman	Richard & Roseanna Jones	Ruth Ann Trostel
Terri Stevens	Bud & Jean Kautz	James & Ina Ross
Harold Brunner	David & Joanne Long	Charles & Iris Ross
James & Carol Bussard	Don & Shirley Lorenzi	Clifford & Mary Schaffer
Sally Cary	Don & Joan Macpherson	Dallas & Lorene Stratton
Emily Cary	Clark Martin	Bill & Amelia Taylor
Howard & Lois Chappell	Dotty Flood	Walt & Jackie Umbarger
James Chilcote	Mike & Jerry Michalski	John Vernale
Margaret McGrody	Eileen Murray	Frank & Alice Wanits
Walter L. Clarke *	Leo & Margaret O'Brien	Dorothy Weaver

\* Shipmates attending Reunion for 1st time. \*\* Reunion host & Hostess.

William Lowndes, III - Myrtle Beach Mayor Bob Grissom - State Representative Mark Kelley - Chamber of Commerce President Ashby Ward and several other local officials participated in one or more functions of the Reunion. South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond paid Fred Brinkman a visit on Sunday morning, October 20th.

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At the business meeting, sites of future Lowndes Reunions was discussed:

John & Lebbly Dyer offered to host the Reunion in Palm Springs, Florida in late October 1997. John has already started to make arrangements for the event, as details become available they will be passed on in future News Letters.

Stan Dunn suggested Hawaii as the site of the 1998 Reunion. A show of hands indicated enough interest to warrant Stan checking into the points of interest plus hotel accommodations available. For 1999 Jack Hovey has indicated, (tentatively) that Las Vegas, Nevada could be a possibility.

Bear in mind - The years 1998 and 1999 are pretty much in the future. If there are any shipmates out there in never, never land that have other suggestions, please pass them on to me (Bud). I, for one look forward to the Reunions, regardless of where they may be held.

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Late bulletin: John writes that he is working on the Florida Reunion. Has Confirmation with the Palm Beach Airport Hilton for \$55.00 for Oct. 23 thru 26. Plus rates available 3 days before and after. He is to meet after the first of the year to make final arrangements for the banquet and tours. Talked to 8 hotels and finally got the Hilton down to a price that was affordable. It has a resort atmosphere on a lake and lots of acreage. Also 24 hour airport shuttle is available. Will forward items to be included in a later News Letter.

After the banquet on Saturday - 19, October 1996 the **Lowndes Lovelies** raffle was announced by **Warren Proctor** using a Bos'un's pipe. He did a fine job after all these years that have gone by since he last piped anyone aboard. The **Lowndes Lovelies** also are to be complimented on another outstanding job they did in conducting this raffle. There were many contributors to this annual event.

Winners of the prizes are as follows:

<b>Bill Robinson</b>	1st prize	<b>Sally Cary's afghan</b>
<b>John Vernale</b>	2nd prize	\$150.00
<b>Lyman Nedeau</b>	3rd prize	\$ 75.00
<b>Eileen Murray</b>	\$50.00 cash - Donated by the <b>Hoveys</b>	
<b>Stan Dunn</b>	<b>Frances Miller's Afghan</b>	
<b>Jim Bussard</b>	* Vacation in <b>Myrtle Beach</b> returned to raffle & won by <b>Howard Chappell</b> .	
<b>Cliff Schaffer</b>		
* Fishing @ Apache Pier - Dinner for 2 @ <b>Martinique Resort</b> .		

**Walt Umbarger** Sweat shirt donated by **Jack Hovey**

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The following won packages of walnuts donated by the **Freitas'**

<b>Jack Hovey</b>	<b>Eileen Murray</b>	<b>Ina Ross</b>	<b>Bill Taylor</b>	<b>Frank Wanits</b>
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Miscellaneous prizes donated by **Stan Dunn**:

<b>Emily Cary</b>	<b>Iris Ross</b>	<b>Clark Martin</b>
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6 additional raffle tickets were drawn and recipients received various \* refreshments that were left over from the hospitality room.

Please note items marked with an asterisk - these came about through the efforts of **Fred Brinkman**.

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**Fred Brinkman** also presented awards as follows:

**Walt & Jackie Umbarger** for 54 years of wedded bliss (the most of any 1996 Reunion attendees).

**Dallas Stratton** 1996 **U.S.S. Lowndes** athlete of the year.

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Last but not least - **Leo O'Brien** - a dead fish for his catch of the day at **Apache Pier**.

**John Vernale** - A bag of old golf balls for his remarkable 67 at **Cane Patch Par 3** golf course. **Art Rauseo** also shot a terrific 67.

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Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to the many contributors and participants in making this endeavor a success.



WALTER & JACKIE UMBARGER - Naples, FL - Dear Fred & Roberta, We got into Naples about eight o'clock Sunday evening. a 12 hour drive, but we really enjoyed the scenery. Thanks for your good directions. We truly enjoyed the 1996 Reunion, we were most impressed with Myrtle Beach. You two did a super job. Next year, it will be mighty difficult to follow. Take care. Fondly. "Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others can't keep it from themselves. Thanks for everything. W & J.

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SALLY CARY - Dalton, PA - Dear Fred & Roberta, thought I'd drop you a line to let you that Em and I had a fabulous time at the Reunion. The shows were fantastic and the other tours were great. Even though at times we didn't have much time, we really enjoyed. We stayed at Em's aunt and uncle until Tuesday. We went shopping at a few of the other shopping centers. We also went to 2 other Christmas shops. Em's aunt and uncle live in Socastee, SC. The hotel was beautiful and the weather was great, even when it got cooler. It was nice meeting William Lowndes III and learning more about the man whom our ship was named. I can't express how good it was to see everyone again. You and Roberta did an excellent job for us this year. Hope to see everyone next year in Florida.

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LEO & MARGARET O'BRIEN - Malden, MA - Fred & Roberta: We enjoyed every minute of the Lowndes Reunion in Myrtle Beach. You both should feel a great sense of satisfaction in planning and executing such a wonderful affair. Thank you for all your efforts. Wednesday night's dinner and the Magic on Ice show were greatly enjoyed. Our hotel room was perfect. It's hard to recall which of the events were most enjoyable, but the banquet was at the top of the list. Sincerely.

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ARTHUR & MARJORIE RAUSEO - Georgetown, MA - Fred & Roberta, "You're so kind and thoughtful. So this card is meant to bring a sincere and very grateful word of thanks for everything." We had a wonderful time at the Myrtle Beach Reunion. Thanks again for everything.

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CLARK MARTIN & DOTTY FLOOD - Richmond, VA - Fred, Roberta & Family: You are all great hosts! We can only say again, thank you for the time and hard work put forth by you to make this U.S.S. Lowndes Reunion the best yet. We truly enjoyed every activity except, of course, the 4:00 AM fire alarm wake up call. Do understand though that it wasn't on your agenda. The Sea Captain's House dinner was a special treat - thank you for inviting us. Whenever you're in Richmond, to visit Dorothy or otherwise, please call. I don't know how we can compensate the Brinkmans for what must have been considerable out-of-pocket costs to them (not to mention the priceless effort they put forth). Bud has mentioned the difficulty in getting Fred to accept some reimbursement. Perhaps a contribution to the Reunion treasury will, in a small degree, indicate that their effort is appreciated.

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JIM & CAROL BUSSARD - Columbus, OH - Fred & Roberta: We had a very nice trip to Myrtle Beach. You did a wonderful job making the arrangements. The hotel was great with the balconies. The food was excellent and the service was A No. 1. We enjoyed renewing the friendships and are looking forward to next year. Sincerely.

MIKE & JERRY MICHALSKI - Austin, TX - Fred & Roberta: We had a wonderful time at the Reunion. Everything was so organized and fun. From the time we arrived at the airport and had our own Personal Shuttle to the hotel, until we said our good byes Sunday morning - the 8th Lowndes Reunion was SPECIAL!! All of this was due to all your hard work and planning. Was impressed with the caliber of the coffee reception at the Convention Center -- pretty table, gourmet cookies and coffee served in CHINA CUPS. So many dignitaries giving us such a warm welcome and letting us know that Fred Brinkman was responsible for Myrtle Beach's beginning in the Tourism business. How proud we are of you Fred. We know how the Wednesday evening dinner and Ice Show must have snow-balled - so many attending. We know the cost of this evening was not included in the registration fees. I'm sure most did not that this was your treat. It was a great evening and we thank you. Having your Mayor (Bob Grison) at the banquet and meeting your Senator was special - speaking of the banquet, it had to be the best meal ever at a banquet. We really enjoyed your son, daughter and daughter-in-law. I know they were a big help. All the shows were great. Thanks for a great Reunion. All your efforts and planning were evident in each days activities.

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JAMES C. CHILCOTE - Pocatello, ID - Fred, it is likely that you have received many words of appreciation for the well planned Reunion of the Lowndes at Myrtle Beach. I believe that I made an expression of those feelings to you personally at the time. However I do wish to commend you and your family for the dedication involved in the planning and implementing of the many activities. Margaret McGrody, too, enjoyed the opportunity to "Join the crew." Margaret is my sister-in-law. Her husband died two months after my wife's death. We had the opportunity to visit her sister in Western South Carolina after the Reunion. I am back home in Idaho, but not looking forward to winter, although so far it has been mild. Margaret tells me that she would like to go south again--she lives in the Lake Erie snow belt. It was great to see all in Myrtle Beach. I trust that all is well with everybody. Enclosed to help allay the expense of operations of the Lowndes fund.

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JAMES ROSS - Sherman, TX - We enjoyed the Reunion very much and appreciate all the work that Fred did getting it all together. It was a super time. Look forward to the next one. Our son will retire from the U.S.A.F. in December but will still receive his mail in Germany. We welcome the News Letters.

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EARL & FRANCES ROBERTSON - St. Louis, MO - Sorry we didn't get to say good bye at Myrtle Beach. We wanted to get an early start back to St. Louis. We had the car loaded, as soon as we could get breakfast, we ate and shoved off. Fifteen hours later we were home. We drove straight through. On December 3rd. I had the right knee replaced so am still hobbling around the house. Until next time. Enclosed to help defray expenses of Lowndes Reunion Group. (Too bad, Frances, we had white soda for you in the hospitality room.)

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JOHN VERNALE - Farmington, CT - Had a wonderful time, I wish Sally was with me. Thanks for the transportation to and from the airport. Our best wishes to you and Roberta.



FRANCIS & FRANCES MILLER - Kearns, UT Just a line to let you know We are sorry we couldn't make the Reunion this year due to Frances' operation. She is just now on the upswing, thank God. Thinking of all my old shipmates and that Frances and I sure wish we could have been with you for the reunion this year, hoping for '97 as we have sure enjoyed the ones in the past few years. Frances is recovering from an operation and cannot travel yet, I have to be the nurse. This past year has been a very busy one for me as I am on the Honor Guard (Firing Squad) of our VFW post. So many vets are passing away here, average 3 a week, that they keep us busy. Next year the VFW will hold their national convention here in August. Maybe some of our shipmates may make it here then. Frances made an afghan for the reunion, by now it should be in the hands of a raffle ticket holder. We wanted to be a part of the reunion in a small way with this donation. God willing, we'll see you next year.

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JOEL RODRIQUEZ - Hildalgo, TX - Due to personal circumstances Mary and I were not able to attend the reunion this year. Our spirit was there, this we guarantee. We missed seeing you guys and your lovely wives, you all do such a tremendous job for the U.S.S. Lowndes. We appreciate all that is being done and pray the good work continues. God bless all and hope the reunion was a good one.

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Received a newspaper clipping with a photograph of John Morrissey fishing from the boat dock at Mackay Reservoir in Idaho. Said "Fishing was pretty good caught three fair sized fish in a short time."

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JACK & EVELYN HOVEY - Pasadena, CA - Received the photos. We had a 3 day vacation with the best people we know. I have some photos and will see that they arrive soon.

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CARMEL FESI - Houma, LA - We are sorry we missed the Reunion, but Evelyn was in poor health, but she is doing better now. Sorry I didn't write sooner about having a Reunion in New Orleans. We couldn't handle that and Evelyn's health wouldn't allow her to lend a hand. The crime problem is terrible there, it's open season on tourists.

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HENRY McNAMEE - Lake Suzy, FL - I am slowly recovering from most of my ailments after my knee replacement surgery. (Editor's note: The Lowndes contingent sure are having a rash of knee and hip replacements lately.)

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JOE FREITAS - Gustine, CA - There was an empty space at our Christmas dinner my mother passed away on the 22nd of November, she will be missed by all the family. As for Reta and me, we're keeping warm by the fire. Will keep in touch and let you know when we do sell the ranch.

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DALLAS & LORENE STRATTON - Belleview, FL - Nice to see everyone at Myrtle Beach. We had a hurried trip to Iowa to be there with Lorene's sister when her son died of a heart attack. Trust we'll see you in Florida next reunion.

WALTER KARSON - Elk River, MN - A few weeks ago , had a surprise phone call. The caller was Jack Laird our shipmate from the U.S.S. Lowndes. Said that he saw in one of our News Letters that I was looking for any photos that some one might have taken from our ship somewhere in the Pacific. After a nice chat, he said he had a few that he would send me but didn't know where they were taken. He said the film was developed in the Xray department. As you well know, cameras were not allowed during our times in the action. Didn't know who had the camera. Some of the photos were of his buddies from the PhM's. In a following letter he said he spent most of his time at Iwo Jima in sick bay. A very busy time, as he puts it. Training as a surgical technician.

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JOE & BETTY ERLANDSON - Rush City, MN - Sorry we were unable to make the Reunion this year. I am sure everyone had a good time. We lost our daughter-in-law in July and things just didn't seem the same. Hope we can see everyone next year.

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DALLAS STRATTON - Belleview, FL - Nice to see everyone at Myrtle Beach. We enjoyed meeting your son and his wife. She is so sweet. Dallas will do some deer hunting again. Trust we'll see you in Florida next year. We had a hurried trip to Iowa to be there with Lorene's sister when her son died of a heart attack.

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FRANKLIN JUDNITSCH - Park Rapids, MN - Hope this finds you both OK. We are so-so and hanging in there. I had cataract surgery on December 5th came out real well. Will have the other eye done later. Hope the Reunion went well. We are at the point where we are unable to travel too far, we must be getting old. Have had a pretty good winter here so far - in the 20° above range, not too much snow, just enough to keep me busy clearing it away. Enjoy the News Letters. Take care.

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MARGARET FRIEDEN, Silver Lake, IN - Hoping to get to the Reunion in Florida next year, but late October is in question. Jim may be busy with grain at that time. BUD - Maybe we can get together the next time you visit your son in Fort Wayne.

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GLENDIA TUPPAN - LaHabra Heights, CA - George is having a rough time with the staph infection from his March surgery. George really missed being at the Reunion because of Fred and Roberta's effort to put that Reunion together and the special tribute to the U.S.S. Lowndes. Say a prayer for George, he can use it.

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DOUG HART - Cane Patch Golf - Myrtle Beach, SC - We enjoyed helping you out for your Reunion Fred, there weren't that many who used the Cane Patch facility, so accept our offer of making it complimentary. Looking forward to seeing you at the Governor's Conference next year.



DEACON BILL TAYLOR - Elizabethtown, PA - Seasons Greetings and a belated thank you to Fred and Roberta. We enjoyed the Reunion very much. The hotel accommodations were great, as well as the shows, tours and other activities. Amelia and I enjoyed the hospitality extended to our group by Mr. Lacy Hucks at the fishing pier and the lunch at the campground. A nice treat at the **Sea Captain's House Restaurant** was to be seated across the table from your friends the **Thomas' and Lacy and Jeanine Hucks**. Meeting and talking to friends and families of our Reunion group members is always enjoyable. We have been busy since returning home. We usually spend 1 or 2 days a week with Amelia's dad. We have 4 grandchildren that live about 25 miles from us. so we are called upon to do baby sitting now and then. Spent a few days in **Fredricksburg, VA** visiting our daughter and grand daughter. January 21st thru February 4th we will be visiting our daughter in **Berlin, Germany**. Having 3 daughters that elected to live all over the world keeps us on the move. It's great.

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HOWARD & LOIS CHAPPELL - Plant City, FL & Wampum, PA - Fred: We want to thank you again for the wonderful Reunion in Myrtle Beach. It was so well planned down to the final detail. There was so much for everyone to enjoy. We especially want to thank you for the extra day with dinner and the wonderful show. We had such a great time. Thank you again.

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CLIFFFORD & MARY SCHAFFER - Limeport, PA - Just a few lines to let you, Fred and Roberta, know what a wonderful time we had at Myrtle Beach. We stayed a few extra days and went to the pottery for some shopping and do the **Gatlin Brothers** show. We also took a trip to **Charleston** and saw some beautiful Southern mansions, the **U.S.S. Yorktown** and the **Boone Hall Plantation**, what a nice day we had. Also want to thank you for the dinner and ice show. It was very kind of you and we sure enjoyed the whole evening. Also, thank you for the great time we had at the Reunion, you both did a great job, we had a wonderful time.

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JOHN & LEBBY DYER - Jupiter, FL - We both want to thank you, Fred and Roberta for a real good time. We enjoyed everything. John called the Convention Center and they will help with next year's Reunion. Hope this finds you in good health and rested from the Reunion. The dinner and Ice Show was such a nice thing to do. Can't thank you enough.

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WARREN & ALBENA PROCTOR - Jarrell, TX - We want Fred and Roberta to know that we had a really great time at the Reunion. They did a really good job heading it up and keeping everything going. I know they spent a lot of time and did a lot of work, we appreciate it. We traveled on up to **North Carolina** and saw the leaves turning and the beautiful mountains and a lot of things, really enjoyed our trip. Maybe we can all be together next year.

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DON & JOAN MACPHERSON - Marino Del Rio, CA - You did a splendid job, Fred and Roberta. We had a wonderful time with you, Dave and Modesta. We loved every minute, sorry we have taken so long to say - Thank you! Enclosed is part of our bill.

## MEMORIES

WALTER L. CLARKE - Collinsville, OK - As I was getting ready to go to church in Honolulu someone came running down the 3rd deck yelling "The Japs are attacking us!" We thought he had lost his mind - there were others that had gone berserk and had been sent back to the States. About that same time we heard planes - one dropped a bomb outside the skin of the ship and tore holes in the side. It seems I heard a voice say, "Move from where you are sitting!" I got up and went to the front end of the ship, which contained welding, boilermaker and sheet metal shops. I placed my body inside a big H beam, and that's where the bomb went off. I didn't even get a scratch. We picked up the injured and carried them topside to be taken to the hospital. Some officers put me to work welding up the holes in the side of the ship. We were up all night. There were reports that the Japs were coming back -- but they didn't. Our ship, the U.S.S Regal would have been destroyed if they had come back, because there was not one gun mounted and some ships that had guns mounted had no ammo. Over the years I have realized, that was God that spoke to me in that voice.

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HARLEY HUGHES - Bakersfield, CA - Stopped in at Camp San Luis Obispo where we trained with the Army. They have torn down all but one of the huts which was still standing, even with the oil stove in it, and that was 52 years ago. My grandson, my daughter and I walked the beach where the Beach Party spent time practicing landings from the LCVP's.

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JACK HOVEY - Pasadena, CA - We had many runs to the beach at Iwo Jima trying to unload 10 barrels of high octane fuel for the airplanes, no one would unload us. On one of the runs we hit some kind of an explosive charge and it damaged our ramp very badly. With the water running in at will the crew had to bail water constantly. As you know, we finally unloaded on a barge that was destroyed just minutes after we left. Well, we were hauled aboard the next day for repairs. They put Fesi on Pothast's boat for smoke detail. I think Leo O'Brien stayed with the boat and worked on the engine. I was assigned to my good friend's (George Kindle's) boat to search out damage or trash in the water to see if we had company under it. Today I sweat in the palms of my hands just thinking about it. Of course (I wasn't killed because I'm writing this war story.) I was very happy to get my boat back the next day and hit the beach with K rations and ammunition for those real heroes on the beach

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MIKE MICHALSKI - Austin, TX - "Chow at it's Best" During our first voyage at sea, on the way to Pearl Harbor, we were aware that the chow aboard ship wasn't the greatest and we also realized that when we would get troops aboard it would not improve. So when we had our 2 liberties - 4 hours each in Honolulu I bought all the groceries I could carry each trip. When we got back to the pier on the second trip - the ship had been moved out into the harbor and anchored. When one of our boats took us out to it they had hoisted the ladder that we used leaving the ship and put a net over the side. That was a great fun challenge, climbing straight up the side of the ship on the net with a big bag of canned goods in each hand. However, the word got around and it created an immediate relationship between the me and the bakers and butchers. Trade offs took place. Breads and meats for canned goods. One of the gang purchased a used electric grill for .50¢ that would work on AC an DC. It need repairs, but that was readily taken care of. Joe Zinkgraf and George Miller stood watches in the evaporator room. That's where the cooking was done. The officers as a rule never bothered to go down that far. The hatch was on the deck, and it had to be opened exposing a ladder to climb to the bottom of the ship. So, at times a few of us had a pretty good meal.



NOW HEAR THIS! - INFORMATION NEWS SHEET - We need news from our Members and/or from their mates, and from our ladies. Please give us some scuttlebutt. We need it for the NEWS LETTER! Help!

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At the business meeting in Myrtle Beach a motion was made and passed that a recap of expenses incurred in producing the U.S.S. Lowndes News Letters be made and evaluated to set a figure for annual dues. With the increase in the cost of printing, postage and supplies rising - \$15.00 from the 137 crew members is in order. This will enable quarterly issues to be mailed to all on the roster list.

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ANNUAL DUES - 1996 U.S.S. LOWNDES APA 154 REUNION GROUP

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED MY DUES FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO BUD KAUTZ

## USS LOWNDES - APA 154 DECEASED PERSONNEL

Donald William BOWMAN (Iwo Jima Campaign)  
 Norman Robert RICHARDS (Iwo Jima Campaign)

Benn. L.	BAILEY	Arnold M.	MATZEN
Edward	BENSIE	Stanley Ambrose	MATZ
Joseph	BOTTI	Thurman Elmer	McFARLAND
Oscar Tyson	BRACEY	Harvey A.	McGOWAN
James E.	BRISCOE	Claude W.	MEADOWS, Jr.
Elmer Carrell	BROWN	Carl Conrad	MILLER
Domer Slater	BURK	George Bernard	MILLER
Sam	CAROTHERS	Leon	MONDAY
John F.	CARY	Richard LeBarron	MOORE
Wendell H.	CHILDREY	Charles Francis	MURRAY
Slater Frank	CHRISTIAN	N. W.	NAGEL
Wendell W.	COFFEY	Curtis Garland	NERISON
Owen Cavanaugh	COLLINS	Howard L.	NIELSEN
Roy D.	COLLINS	Erle	NIEMI
Arthur Benjamin	CORBETT	Alex R.	O'NEAL
George Maynard	DAHMS	Charles H.	PERDUE (Capt.)
Glenn	DENNIS	C. H.	PASCHAL
Lee Peter	DERUGA	C. L.	PERKS
Floyd Joseph	DETIVEAU	Billy H.	PIERCY
Arthur	DEVERAUX	Stuyvesant A.	PINNELL
George L.	DRENNAN	William H.	POLLOCK
George	DUDASH	Leo A.	POTHAST
Robert Earl	DUNN	Hubert Wesley	RAVENS CRAFT
Roy E.	ECHOLS	Albert P.	RESETAR
Eugene H.	ENGLE	Martin Joseph	REZZA
Bertil	ERLING	John Milton	RICE
Andy	ESCAMILLI	David T.	RICHARDSON
Wesley E.	FOLLETT	Bernard	ROGERS
David E.	FREDERICK	George S.	ROTH
Jerome Robert	FRIEDER	Harley O. "Red"	SARTEN
Raymond Henry	GOLEMBOWSKI	Ernest O.	SCOTT
Fred Irwin	GUNNELL	Haywood S.	SMITH
Fred E.	GROH	George A.	SKELLY
Raymond Louis	GUIMONT	Joseph McKinzie	SONNIER
Marvin Robert	GUNDERSON	Harvey Glenn	STEVENSON
James W.	HALL	Robert H.	STONER
Merrill W.	HART	Frederick G.	TIMMS
Fred Wayne	HATTEN	Norman Wesley	TREANOR
Albert Franklin	HERRINGTON	Wesley	VLCEK
Edgar L.	HINTON	Steve Thomas	VALASK
Clement M.	HOFFMAN	Walter B	VROBLE
Gordon Russell	HOLLEY	Elwin	WAHLBERGE
John R.	JOHNSON	Harold F.	WARD
Leonard A.	JOHNSON	L. V.	WEBB
George L. D.	KINDLE	Lawrence Clinton	WELCOME
Robert Elvin	KIEME	Harold C.	WIDDOWS
Lee Cruse	KING	Leo. J.	WINTER
Samuel J.	KRAUSE	Joseph G.	YOUNG
Roland Edward	KRUEL	Joseph Fred	ZINKGRAF
Joseph A.	KUBINA	Lawrence	ZWIEG
Russell	LaPONUKE		
William B.	LAWRENCE		
B.	LHIELE		
Edward John	LIPCZYNSKI		