

U.S.S. LOWNDES - APA 154

March 2006 Newsletter Wm. "Bud" Kautz-CCBW, 34782 Hiawatha Trail, McHenry, IL, 60051, (815)344-6326
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 MARCH 2006 NEWSLETTER

Our Eighteenth Annual Reunion will take place at the Holiday Inn Select in
 Seattle/Renton, Washington Aug. 17 - 20, 2006.

Room rate is \$89.00 - 3 days before & after reunion.

See enclosed brochure for phone numbers to make reservations and be sure to mention USS
 LOWNDES to receive special rates. Return the SASE, asap indicating your intentions,
 Jan and the reunion coordinator need an estimate of attendees.

The temperature range in Seattle during the month of August is high 74° Low 56°
 The hotel is located less than five miles from the Sea-Tac International Airport, 15 miles from
 Downtown Seattle and provides 24 hour airport shuttle service.

In the last newsletter several trivia facts were duly noted, but just to bring everyone up to date. There
 are two important sites not mentioned. Approximately 50 miles south of our hotel near Mt. Ranier is
 the Kautz Glacier and the Kautz Creek. Please take note of these important locations. Your editor did.

Dear Sally:

In making known your secretive planning, or fitting together your shallow emotions and friendly, learned or mental observations, beware of commonplace, heavy dull speaking conversation possess a clear brevity, a compact inclusion, uniting consistency, and a linked and urgency. Shun and avoid all mixtures of gaseous chatter, barren ranting and inane attempts.

Let your composure commenting and non planning roaming have understood and truly wordiness lively, without bragging or boasting unimportantly. Diligently avoid all triple, deep, showy sloping, imitation vacuum, projected wordy, and vainly flat and dull. Ignore meanings, itching, joking, and noxious, dirty, hidden or appearing.

In other words, talk plainly, briefly, naturally, sensibly, truthfully, purely. Keep from slang; don't put on airs; say what you mean; mean what you say.

And DON'T USE BIG WORDS

Bud

Seattle, like Rome was built on seven hills.

Jack Laird

We are staying "Close to home" these days due to various health problems. Marilyn was in the hospital six days – lung problem on two different occasions and I spent twelve days in the hospital with pneumonia. We are hoping for a better year in 2006. Please note that my area code has been changed from (260) to (219)477-4419.

Clark Martin

I sold my house and moved into an Assisted Living facility. The three meals a day is attractive but I recommend that you hold onto your home as long as possible. I'm reserving judgement on the move. I regret having to miss the last two reunions but my traveling days are almost over. The years are catching up and I can claim most of the health problems that age entitles me. I still hold onto hopes that I can make a reunion in the future. Regards to all our shipmates. I hope all is well with you and your family. Don't let the golden years get rusty. My new address is:

1800 Gaskins Road, Apt. 301
Richmond, VA 23238-4312

Phone and e mail are still the same as listed on the roster sheet.

We wish the best of luck to Jack and Clark and hope to see them sometime in the future. Talked to Clark and he sounded pretty chipper.

Jack Lotsey

Hello Bud; I can't believe there were 18 reunions and I did not hear of them. Below is my name and address. Any information you can give me will be appreciated. I was a PhM3c and in extra complement on the Lowndes and not in ship's company. They let us know this, All 18 of us. I was the old man of the group 28 years old. Don Bowman took my place on the Beach Party. Yes I remember that handle bar mustache. My grand daughter's husband, a chief got all the information at my surprise 90th birthday plus a 3rd class coin too.

Jack M. Lotsey, 4585 W. Middleton Park Circle, Jacksonville, FL, 32224, (904)992-9512.

Welcome aboard Jack. Our next reunion is in the Seattle, WA area. Will have more details as they become available.

Keith Richards

Please keep our Grand son, Joey Richards in your prayers. He left Feb. 28th to Jackson, South Carolina to start boot training for the National Guards. Pray that God grants him strength and courage to complete his training.

Maybe Marty Umbarger can give him a few tips to make his guard duty a great experience to be remembered.

John & Lebbly Dyer

Enjoyed reading about the Chicago reunion. Sorry to have missed it. Both of us are doing much better, hope to make the Seattle reunion. As ever.

Bill Ramsey

I have been reading Stuart Hyde's narrative history of the Lowndes. It makes fascinating reading and brings back a lot of memories. What a remarkable piece of work.

"BYOB"

After checking with other ship reunion organizers the following suggestion will make it much easier for Jan Trober and Angie Turin to host the Seattle reunion.

Bring your own bottle will make it less difficult to please the attendees because then they will have their own preference. In the past it has been a problem to anticipate the wants and there was always much to dispose after all is said and done.

We will provide the beer, wine, set ups and snacks. This has proven successful and well accepted by other Navy personnel.

Just in case "BYOB" is an unfamiliar term, it means bring your own preference of the hard stuff. We look forward to your cooperation and a great time out West. And besides! **OK?**

Jim Vaughan

Received the January newsletter a short time ago, and always, enjoy the news about your crew of old shipmates. As with us "Vintage" service men from WWII, there seems to be fewer each year, leaving more widows and offsprings to carry on – but that is natural. Enclosed my dues for this year's membership and only wish it could be more. I am so glad you have allowed me to join your fine group and will continue to belong in memory of a fine, dear sailor, now long gone, CMM Joseph Botti, who was with the Lowndes at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Take care.

Joe Freitas

Was glad to get the newsletter. Enclosed dues for 2006. We plan on making the trip to the Seattle reunion this year, if nothing happens and will be glad to see everyone.

Ed. Mckeller

Enjoyed the newsletter and now am approaching 92. A little bump in the road of life took a little detour. Discovered some bumps on my chin and had a six hour operation, then found out that I have Hodgkins lymphonia, localized. Just finished three treatments and feel fine. Leaving January 27th on the QE2 with three blonde companions, Margaret, her daughter Georgia and a friend who has a house on the way to Sidney. We will stop at Noumea, New Calidonia where the Lowndes helped fill up the Pac. Aloha from the happy Hawaiian.

Donald Furth

An ETM is an Electronic Technician's Mate. It is a rating that was invented just before I left the Navy. I went to school, trained and served as a Radio Technician, the rating was redefined as an ETM. Radio Technician was a relatively long haul. I went to something called Pre-radio School for a month in Michigan City, Indiana. Next was three months of Primary School in Tacoma Park, Maryland to learn the

basics of electricity and radio. Finally, I spent six months on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay at Secondary school where we learned more of radio and radar and were introduced to specific equipment. I serviced, maintained, and on occasion installed radio and radar equipment in the ship. I was on call any time but my reward for that was the absence of standing watches. So there's more than you wanted to know about a rating that can't possibly exist any more. It's good to go through the roster and read names I remember so well.

Ed. Note: I had inserted the ETM rate on the roster list, but never knew what it stood for. Now I know.

Leo O'Brien

Bud, after our last conversation on the phone I have been wracking my brain to try and bring back memories if Iwo Jima. I did receive and read though the book (manuscript) of Stuart Hyde's compilation of facts on the U.S.S Lowndes. It is a good history. I thought Merrill Hart was in our boat when we landed on Iwo Jima but according to Mr. Hyde, Merrill was assigned to him to report to an LST. They were used in an LCVP as a guide boat to direct the wave of LVT's, tracked landing craft. Carmel Fesi corrected me a few years back and said it was Harry Contreras who was the replacement for Merrill on boat #15. Incidentally Harry was the artist that drew so many scenes of boats being loaded and unloaded on and off the ship and troops coming down the cargo nets. I thought Pam did a neat trick like "007" when she contacted Jenny via cell phone and voila lunch for 40 people was arranged. Thanks girls. We lucked out with our bus driver. I think he missed every street light and telephone pole in the whole city. And Jan and Angela did a superb job, and never lost their cool. Fine job all around. Looking forward to seeing some of our old shipmates from the West and Northwest in Seattle, WA.

Ed. Note: By the way, on the tour of Chicago we passed the building on Clark Street where the St. Valentine's day massacre took place.

Mar. 2006-4

Leo O'Brien (cont'd)

There was one time, I think we were on our way back to Saipan when we had a burial at sea. All available hands were ordered to stand at attention in undress blues on the starboard side at the after hold. There were two bodies wrapped in canvas as the two previous were, but these two were weighted down and on two planks and covered with the American flag, some prayers were said and then one end of the planks were lifted and they slid off into the sea. I have often wondered if their names were listed in the ship's log.

Ed. Note: Arthur Rauseo does the above incident answer the question you posed a while back?

Stuart Hyde

Bud, thank you so much for your comments about the Iwo Jima narrative. I really appreciate your acceptance of my little effort to write something to memorialize the men of the Lowndes-and, to make available to their spouses and children the stories they most likely never really shared with them. Families have all been shaped in some ways by the experiences of the Lowndes men because of their devotion to their fellow men. The story wouldn't be nearly as effective as it is if it weren't for your dogged devotion to the Newsletter and, through that, the soliciting and publishing of the comments of so many of our shipmates. And, the written record wouldn't even exist if David Brinkman hadn't created and maintained the Website. So I'm a Johnny Come Lately, who just happened to have some experience in researching and writing, and I guess you could say that the three of us have fed one another to achieve some good results. I always look forward to your newsletters, and I don't think anyone will fail to understand that you sometimes have other priorities in your life. Read in the newspaper that Clint Eastwood and Steven Spielberg reportedly are joining forces to bring the World War II battle of Iwo Jima to the big screen. According to TV Guide, Eastwood will direct an adaptation of the book "Flags of our Fathers: Herpes of Iwo Jima" for

Spielberg's company, DreamWorks. Thanks, Bud, for the great laugh – I try always to avoid camel fleas! I already have sent out nearly 60 books. I am planning to make the Seattle reunion – the first one I could actually make, because the one in Branson (?) was just too difficult a trip, with so many short flights,, layovers, etc. The only thing that could keep me away would be a health problem, which I don't anticipate happening.

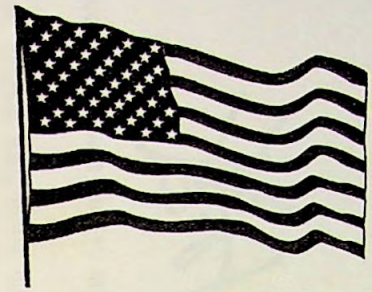
Ed. Note: Thank you, Stuart, you give me far too much credit, it was David who did all the foot work and deserved full credit for his perseverence in garnering so much information made available to all of the Lowndes crew members. I strongly recommend this book, it is well worth the \$17.00. To receive one contact Stuart. I'm sure your former shipmates will be

Looking forward to finally meeting the individual who has spent numerous hours doing research for the book

Rank O. Dawson, Jr.

As you know from the March 2005-6 Taps from my Mother, Annabelle Dawson, our Father Rank O. Dawson, MD, Comm., USNR passed away 12/18/2004. I wrote to you to request that our mother remain on the mailing list as she enjoys reading about dad's shipmates. Also, is there any way to find out about the other ships upon which he served? We thought he served on only one ship but one of his sisters said he told their family of four ships which he served on. We would also like to learn more about the campaigns in which he served. We think he may have served at Guadalcanal. Any assistance in this matter would be most appreciated.

Ed. Note: We never received the biographical data sheet from Rank so have nothing in our files regarding his service in the Navy. Rank, you may be interested in the book Stuart Hyde has produced Perhaps there are a few of his former shipmates that may remember him sharing his experiences with them. Please contact Rank, Jr. at 2859 Boudinot Ave. – Cincinnati, OH – 45238, 513-662-3500.



Edna Trafton

Just a note to let you know that my husband Ralph Pollard passed away on December 5, 2005. We had been married for 53-1/2 years. We had 3 daughters and 3 sons, 12 grand children and 8 great grand children. We will miss him very greatly.

Alan Dahms

My Mother, Gladys Dahms passed away June 20, 2005 at the age of 94 years. She was the wife of George Maynard Dahms, Lt. jg on the Lowndes. I have never seen my Father's name mentioned in the newsletters.

Ed. Note: Probably because no information has been forthcoming.

Benn Liwellyn Bailey

Was born September 19, 1923 in Ontonagon, MI and passed away July of 1967 at the age of 42. He resided in Milwaukee, WI just before joining the Navy. He was trained as a Motor Machinist's Mate and boarded the Lowndes on September 15, 1944. A week later he along with about 20 other guys was a day late returning from leave. While the Lowndes was performing exercises at Maui he was injured. He left the Lowndes and completed his service on January 31, 1946 at Great Lakes Training Station in Illinois.

Steven Thomas Vlasak

He was very well known and liked among the Lowndes crewmen. He was born in Slovakland in 1910. He and his family came to America the next year. Steve volunteered for the Navy in WWII even though he was over 30 and had a wife and children. He boarded the Lowndes on September 15, 1944. He was a Motor Machinist's Mate in the boat crew and was aboard Ed. King's LCVP during the invasion of Okinawa. Steve helped put out That "famous" fog machine fire on King's boat on April 12, 1945. He left the ship on January 31, 1946.

Ed. Note: The above information regarding Benn, and Steve was provided by David Brinkman.

James Bussard

Born April 3, 1925 in Plumwood, Ohio and passed away on March 23, 2006 after an extended illness. Enlisted in the Navy at Columbus, Ohio August 1943 and boarded the Lowndes September 16, 1944 at Astoria, Oregon as a RM3c. His watch and general quarters station was in the radio shack. He was also a member of the Lowndes Beach Party that hit the beach at Iwo Jima on February 20, 1945 where he was wounded and missing in action, but was finally returned to the Lowndes. Last active duty was aboard the USS PCE 895, weather ship at Farragut, Idaho and Pier 90 in Seattle, Washington. In civilian life he was employed by Columbus Coated Fabrics, Co., August 1946 until June 1987. Jim had a stroke and later was on dialysis. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Carol; brother, Roy; daughters, Jerri, Jane, grand children Nicole, Jason, Robyn, Traci and Laurie; several great-grand children. Before Jim's illness, he enjoyed extensive travel, visiting 6 foreign countries and 35 states. His interests were his cats and watching sports, current events and military history. Jim enjoyed an occasional shot of Jack Daniels and loved a good home-cooked meal. A full military funeral was performed.



Mar. 2006-6



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

September 15, 2005

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

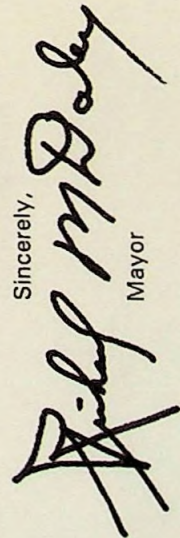
GREETINGS

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I offer my warmest greeting to all those attending the 2005 USS Lowndes APA-154 Naval Ship Reunion.

Serving valiantly in the Pacific Fleet during World War II, the crewmembers of the USS Lowndes APA-154 helped to make the world a safer place. This reunion allows you to come together and share a lifetime of memories, experiences and accomplishments. I commend your faithful service to the United States Armed Forces and thank you for fighting bravely to preserve the freedom we hold most dear.

While you are in Chicago, I hope you will take time to discover all that makes our city a great place to live and visit. I know you will like what you find. From our great architecture and beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline to our vibrant neighborhoods, world-renowned cultural institutions and Millennium Park, Chicago offers something for everyone.

May each of you have an enjoyable and memorable reunion.

Sincerely,

Mayor



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JRTC, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 16
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR

September 15, 2005

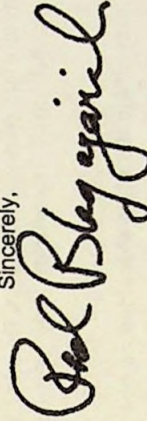
GREETINGS

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the USS Lowndes APA-154 Naval Ship Reunion.

The courage and commitment that you all exemplified in the United States Navy was instrumental in ensuring that our country's liberty and democracy was upheld. As a few of the millions of dedicated Americans who bravely served in World War II, you have earned the admiration and respect of an entire nation. During this year's reunion, it is fitting that we pay tribute to a crew so devoted to upholding the freedoms that are enjoyed by all citizens of this great land. Please know that your service to this country will never be forgotten or unnoticed.

On behalf of the citizens of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Sincerely,



Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor