

July 2009-1

U.S.S. LOWNDES – APA 154

July 2009 NEWSLETTER

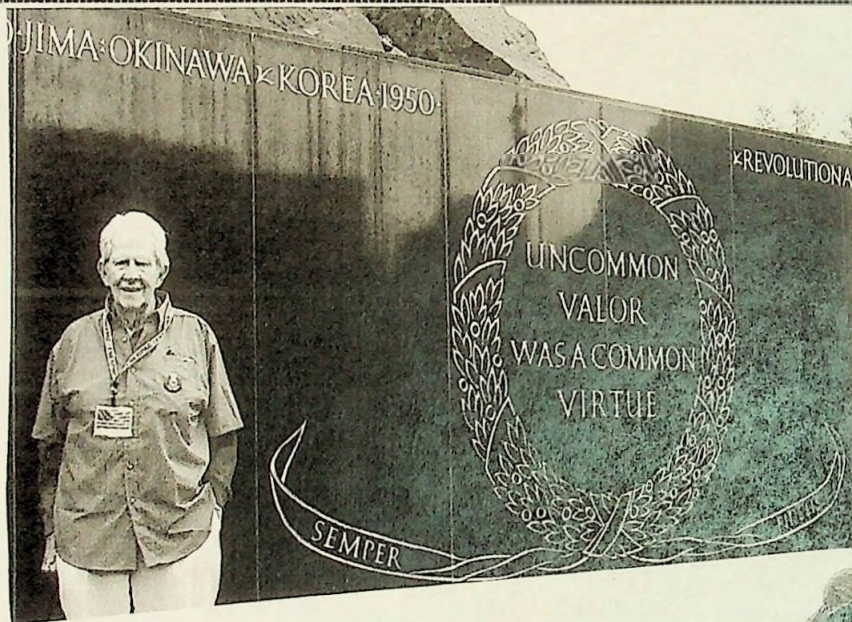
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The 2009 Reunion will be in Waukesha, WI area.
Sept. 24th thru Sept. 27th based at the Milwaukee Marriott West Hotel.
The General Mitchell International Airport services the Milwaukee area.
To date I have not received many addressed and stamped post cards stating the intentions of our shipmates regarding attending our reunion. Please return same.

Responses from our shipmates and their first mates have dwindled down to a trickle and it has been difficult to get enough information for the news letters. We have to face the fact that we're all running out of time and hope that our younger generation can take over.

The photos below are courtesy of David Long during his journey to Washington, DC via the Honor Flight described by him on page 2 of this news letter.



I find it difficult to pick out David in the group photo, but rest assured he is definitely in it.

Amazing how many of the WW II veterans depend on wheelchairs To get around.



David Long

Something very interesting happened to me. I was at a cocktail party about a year ago and met a man who asked me if I was a WWII veteran. He then explained "Honor Flight" to me. He was vice president of the Rochester chapter and asked me to fill out an application, which I did. I completely forgot about it until a week ago, when I received a call from a gentleman from Rochester who asked me if I could make a flight to Washington the next day as there was a cancellation for sickness. I had no plans and said I would. The next day I went to Rochester with two buddies from Geneseo. We were met at the airport at 5:30 AM, given orange colored shirts so we could be recognized and then given breakfast. There were 50 of us and 50 guardians. About 40 were in wheelchairs. We 3 were ambulatory, but they still had one guardian with us. There were about 150 people with "Thank you" signs cheering and welcoming us to the flight. Took quite a while to load, with all the wheelchairs. About 7:00 AM we loaded and off to Baltimore-Washington Airport, then bussed to the WWII Memorial. There were about 150 people at the entrance cheering and welcoming us. There was another group from Alabama and they sent about 80 or 90 school kids, by bus to greet and thank the Vets. So far it was all pretty impressive and when we saw the Memorial it was really awesome. I know all have heard about it, but it is something to see. An added treat was that Senator Bob Dole was there and we did get to visit with him and have pictures taken. He is there many days from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM just visiting with people and answering any questions. We had lunch in a big tent, donated by Arby's. Then toured the Vietnam, Korean, Lincoln Memorials, Arlington Cemetery and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Our last stop was the Marine Memorial and the two Jima statue. Group photos were taken and a high school choral group sang a couple of songs for us. They were very impressed seeing WW II vets, very moving. Then on to the Hilton for a dinner banquet. We were not allowed to spend any money, we were given chits. Arriving back in Rochester there were 300

people to greet us. We gathered in a large room at the airport with a Marine color guard. A Rochester native, Medal of Honor recipient gave a speech. Again it was a very moving experience. Nationally, 4,000 vets were invited last year intend to take 10,000 this year and 25,000 the following year. The guardians are really dedicated and have to pay \$300.00 apiece to cover their expenses. That's dedication.

"Thank you David for sharing your experience with us. As of May 2009 estimated living U.S. veterans by war:

World war I 1

World War II 2.31 million

Korean War 2.31 million

Vietnam War 7.13 million

Desert Shield/Storm

2.27 million

Honoring a fallen Warrior

Major General R. Martin Umbarger spoke at a memorial service for Pfc. Julian Harold Rogers, who had been missing in action since 1944. His remains were discovered in Germany last year, and he was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

"General Umbarger is the son of Walter and Jackie Umbarger and had hosted our reunion in Indianapolis in 2002."

Dotty Flood

It is with deep sadness that I inform you that my "sweetheart", and your shipmate, Clark Martin died on Saturday, May 23, 2009, early evening. Advanced years (93) and Parkinson's disease took their toll and he finally gave up.

"Please see page 3 and 4 for more information regarding our esteemed shipmate."

Leo & Margaret O'Brien

Thanks for the newsletter, it is always a joy to receive it. We were both sorry to hear of Frank DuBois and Ed. McKellar. Frank's name was cause for some humor between Arthur Rauseo and George Tuppan at the San Diego reunion. One thought it was DuBua and the other thought it was DuBoys. I don't think they ever came to an agreement. Ed. McKellar was very gracious at our time in Hawaii. He hosted a great luncheon at the serviceman's rest area on the beach. I did not recognize it until I was reminded we did practice landings there. We are sorry we will not be going to Milwaukee for the Lowndes reunion. We are having a family reunion in the middle of August. Between the expense of it and our health, (just getting over pneumonia) and troublesome knees it is wise to skip the reunion. We members of the Lowndes crew and our wives are proud to have been members of, "The Greatest Generation." We are so sorry to hear of Clark Martin's death. He was always a gentleman. It was nice that Dotty Flood let us know. So many good people have left us. We visited Arthur Rauseo a short time ago. He knew us, especially Leo who wears his Lowndes cap all the time. He loved seeing Leo with his cap. His son, Jimmy, told us that Arthur's cap was lost recently at the residence and everyone was looking for it. He quickly had a few more made up to save the day. Arthur's speech is very garbled now. He seems happy there and is in a safe place and getting good care. His son visits him every day.

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"General Umbarger is the son of Walter and Jackie Umbarger and with the assistance of his wife, Rowana hosted our reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana in 2002."

Don & LaVonne Morton

Thank you for the newsletters about the Reunions of the U.S.S. Lowndes. And thank you for your time served in the military. May God bless you all. I am the brother of Ellis Robert Morton, who served on the Lowndes.

Lorene Stratton

Once again it looks like we'll miss the reunion. We are very sorry not to see old friends. Our oldest grandson came to Florida and drove us to South Carolina to see five of our great grandchildren. We enjoyed our time there. I tried to call David and Odess Brinkman but only got the answering machine. Our daughter-in-law drove is home. I guess we'll never be able to come to the reunions unless they are closer to home.



"Bud Kautz, Clark Martin & Leo O'Brien Placing wreath at the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC during the 1999 reunion."

CLARK O. MARTIN



WASHINGTON, DC - 1958

Born November 14, 1915 in Chicago, Illinois. Passed into a new life on May 23, 2009. He graduated from the University of Virginia in 1938 with a degree in Economics and later an MBA from George Washington Univ. Enlisted in the Navy in November 1940 at Norfolk, Virginia as a Lt. SC USN. Clark was serving on the USS Pennsylvania during the Pearl Harbor attack. Boarded the Lowndes at the commissioning at Astoria, Oregon September 14, 1944. making him a Plank Owner. His watch station was as the supply officer and G. Q. station in the coding room. Had the distinction as being the last crew member to leave the Lowndes at decommissioning in Norfolk, Virginia. As a Lt. Comm. Later duty assignments included Naval Aviation Supply Depot, Philadelphia, PA, USS Palau (CVE 122), Bureau of supplies and accounts in Navy department, Naval Supply Depot, NSD Yokosuka, Japan, USS Pennsylvania. Last active duty May 1961 at Naval Station in Washington as a Commander, SC, USN. Pre-Navy in banking and accounting. After retirement from the Navy. For the next 20 years He worked in finance and administration at the University of Virginia and Medical college of Virginia; Budget Officer and director of Finance, Henrico County, Virginia. At the age of 73 he decided he was too old to solo crew his sailboat and instead took up open-water scuba diving. Clark continued his life of service as an officer in the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and

returned numerous times to Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7 with his fellow survivors to commemorate the attack. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 43 years, Eve. He leaves to cherish his memory a son and his wife, Craig and Joan Martin, daughter-in-law Helen Martin, 5 grandchildren and best friend Dotty Flood.

"At the 1999 Lowndes reunion in Washington, DC Leo O'Brien and your editor had the privilege to assist Clark in placing a wreath at the Navy Memorial in honor of our late shipmates. See Page 3.

TAPS

William J. Bornhorst



Born Feb. 26, 1928 at Covington, Kentucky and entered Davy Jones' locker April 24, 2009. at Elizabeth Medical Center in Edgebrook, KY. He enlisted in the Navy December 1944 at Cincinnati, Ohio and he boarded the Lowndes January 9, 1945 at Pearl Harbor as a Seaman 1/c. He stood watch on the gun control on the fantail. 20 MM on the port side amid ship was his General quarters station. Left the Lowndes October 31, 1945 in San Francisco, California. Later duty assignments o USS Hobson - DMS, USS Gentry DMS. Last active duty was May 20, 1946. In civilian life he was Supervisor with Cincinnati Bell for 35 years. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, 2 sons, James and William, 1 daughter Florence and 6 grandchildren. For various reasons Bill was unable to attend any of our reunions.

"After several years of researching the furnished biographical data sheets it was determined that Bill was the youngest Lowndes crew member barely Beating out Ed. King and Joel Rodriguez."

July 2009-5



USS LOWNDES ~ 2009 REUNION

Milwaukee, WI ~ September 24th - 27th, 2009

Welcome to Milwaukee

Milwaukee is the 22nd largest city in the United States, bordering the western shore of Lake Michigan. Metropolitan Milwaukee offers urban, suburban, ethnic neighborhoods, waterfront, industrial and rural settings within minutes of each other. Milwaukee's big-city advantages are enhanced by a friendly small-town spirit and Old World charm. The city's neighborhoods weave a patchwork of diversity, as characteristics of the German heritage blend with influences of many other cultures. In the face of all the progress, the traditions and values that make Milwaukee remain constant. Your reunion tour program will include some of Milwaukee's most popular attractions. Begin at the *Pabst Mansion*, followed by a visit to the *Lakefront Brewery*, which will give you a look and a taste of the beer industry which thrives in Milwaukee and is an important part of the city's history. The tour concludes with an all-you-can-eat fish fry dinner, a wonderful chance to relax with your friends and family. This reunion will offer an unforgettable visit to one of America's best loved cities, and give you memorable experiences to share with family and friends.

Hotel Information

The reunion officially begins on Thursday, September 24th and ends on Sunday, September 27th. You will be staying at the full service *Milwaukee Marriott West* which is located at West 231 North 1600 Corporate Court, Waukesha, WI 53186. The Milwaukee Marriott West is in close proximity to many of the area's top attractions.

Reservation Information

The room rate is \$90.00 plus tax per night, based on single or double occupancy. For those of you who choose to arrive early or stay late, the same room rate is available 3 days before and 3 days after the official reunion dates, based on availability. Please make your hotel reservations NOW by calling the hotel directly at 877-651-7666 between 9-4 pm CST and ask for in-house reservations. Mention that you are with the USS Lowndes Reunion to assure you are associated with your group. You may request specific room types when you call to make your reservations (handicap accessible room, etc.). The hotel check-in time is 3:00pm; please don't expect to get into your room before then. Make your reservations today; you can cancel up to 24 hours prior to arrival without penalty. They will ask you for a deposit or credit card number to guarantee your room reservation. The hotel is holding rooms until they sell out or August 14th, 2009, whichever comes first. Don't delay.

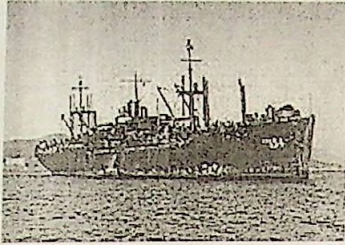
Transportation & Directions

The closest airport is Milwaukee International (MKE). For those of you driving, the hotel offers plenty of free parking. Contact the hotel directly if you need specific driving directions.

Travel safely and we will

See you in Milwaukee

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USS LOWNDES 2009 REUNION EVENTS

EVENT A: PABST MANSION, LAKEFRONT BREWERY TOUR & FISH FRY DINNER

Friday, September 25th (1:00pm-8:00pm)

Your tour begins at the *Pabst Mansion*; the magnificent Flemish Renaissance Revival Mansion, home of Captain Frederick Pabst, built in 1893. Captain Frederick Pabst was a world famous beer baron, accomplished sea captain, real estate developer, philanthropist and patron of the arts; his home is a testament to his success. Pabst chose the Flemish Renaissance style of his original homeland as the inspiration for the home. Today, the mansion has been restored and furnished to reflect the dignity, graciousness, and affluence of the period in which it was created. Boasting stunning interiors, elegant original furnishings, elaborate wall coverings, the finest wood craftsmanship, intricate ironwork, brilliant stained glass, and rare art, the Mansion helped make the 1890's the "Pabst Decade" in Milwaukee. You will then take the short ride to the *Lakefront Brewery*, a locally-owned microbrewery specializing in handmade beers in the tradition of early Milwaukee brewers. After the tour, take a seat in the *Palm Garden*, a unique warehouse-type atmosphere, where you will enjoy an all-you-can-eat fish fry dinner.

FREE DAY TO TOUR ON YOUR OWN

Saturday, September 26th

There is so much to see and do in the Milwaukee area we are leaving Saturday free so you can visit the sites that interest you the most. You may want to consider the new *Harley Davidson Museum*, shopping at *Old World Third St.*, or touring the *Miller Brewing Company*.

BANQUET DINNER

Saturday, September 26th (7:00pm at the Hotel)

Join your friends for your Banquet Dinner at the Hotel. Cocktails will be available from the cash bar at 6:00pm; dinner will be served at 7:00pm. Entrée choices include *Petit Filet Mignon* or *Chicken Cardinale* (boneless breast served with a lemon butter sauce). Please make your entrée selection on the reservation form.

TOUR CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by sickness, injury or any other causes that impact your travel plans. This insurance enables a refund of Tour & Banquet expenses up until three (3) days before the start of your reunion. If you need to cancel – please call our office immediately (817-251-3551) for a cancellation number. If you have not purchased cancellation insurance all tour and meal money is non-refundable 6 weeks prior to the reunion.

Important Reunion Notes:

- ~ Tours may be cancelled if a minimum of 30 people per bus is not met. In this case, full refunds will be given.
- ~ Please understand that a certain amount of walking is necessary from the bus to attractions and in some instances to also see the attractions. Please consider your abilities before purchasing tours.
- ~ Be sure to bring photo identification (like a driver's license) on all events.
- ~ All tour times are subject to change. A final itinerary is available at registration.