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U.S.S. LOWNDES – APA 154

September 2010 NEWSLETTER

Web Site:<USS LOWNDES.org>

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On page 2 of this newsletter you will note my experience on the "Honor Flight" to Washington, DC. It was a one day event starting at 4:30 AM and ending at 9:00 PM. Leaving and returning to Midway Airport in Chicago. Really not as tiring as it appeared. Lots to do and see.

David Long described his Honor Flight trip on page 2 of a previous newsletter (July 2009). We both agree that it was a very emotional experience and consider ourselves fortunate to be among the chosen few.



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My Honor Flight Chicago trip to Washington, DC.

It was only a one day affair starting at 4:30 AM at Midway Airport and returning 9:00 PM. The entire affair was an extremely heart warming and emotional event. While waiting to board the plane there were three young and pretty girls (Legacy Girls) entertaining us for about 30-40 minutes singing '40's era songs. While waiting to board the plane. The Honor Flight Chicago had the entire Southwest Airlines plane booked for us. Over 90 vets and many volunteer guardians to cater to our every whim. The Vets were issued gray tee shirts and the guardians and volunteers green tee shirts. Also back packs and a 40 page book about the monument. The main event was to visit the WWII Monument which was awesome and very impressive. I would certainly recommend anyone having the opportunity to sign up for this trip. There is absolutely no cost to the veterans. The organization relies strictly on donations and will NOT accept money from vets. One vet sent in a donation, but it was returned. I filled out an application many months ago and received a phone call a couple of weeks ago telling me I was accepted. The waiting list is about 1300. Guess I was very fortunate. I was glad that my son, Bill, was able to be my guardian (Baby sitter). He had the dubious task of pushing me around in a wheel chair, could never had been able to attend without him and others. I believe that he enjoyed it as much as I did. The HFC brought back memories with "Mail call". They passed out 9x12 envelopes containing actual mail from relatives, friends and some we didn't know. Even letters and notes from school children. I guess I must have received almost a 100, but was unable to read them all until arriving home. Upon our return to Midway there were fire water trucks sending streams of water over the plane as a greeting. Deplaning we were greeted, even as we went through the tunnel and in to the building. My estimation is that there had to be more than a couple of thousand making up the crowd. There was also a band belting out patriotic songs, even bag pipes. The crowd was lined up on both sides of the aisle that we proceeded through. To name

a few, there were firemen, police men, VFW, American legion, DAR all waving flags that the HFC had provided. We were in wheelchairs but, some were able to walk. Welcome signs and thank you posters were in abundance. A young sailor pushed me along and when we passed a platoon of sailors they were called to attention and saluted. There were many, many sailors there. I shook so many hands that I felt like a politician. Going through this line up I told the sailor to "Stop ! That's my wife there." We back tracked and I lifted the barrier so she could get to me and give me the best greeting of the day. It wasn't too much longer until I was greeted by more family members. Really, I've never been one to wear emotions on my sleeve, but even as I compose this I kinda get a bit choked up. Getting back to Washington, we also visited the Lincoln, Korean & Viet Nam memorials. The July 2009 newsletter contained a description of David Long's experience of his Honor Flight to Washington, DC and I am in total agreement with him as it being a very emotional event. So did the editor of our local newspaper, I sent him a copy of the above recounting and it was published in an issue of that newspaper.

Honor Flight is a nonprofit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for their sacrifices. They fly our heroes to Washington, DC to visit and reflect at their memorials free of charge. Honor Flight can be contacted: <Honor Flight.org> Insert your state after 'Flight'

They depend entirely on donations as the chart below indicates citing statistics in the Chicago area. However, the Honor Flight is available and has branches in many states. The above mentioned web site contains a map showing the states involved in this operation plus much information.

Time is rapidly running out for many of us. I urge the "Lowndesmen". To take advantage of this opportunity. You won't regret it. I heard from Donald Lorenzi that he has been on the waiting list for two years. Guess it all depends on the state you reside in. However, it is well worth the wait and to repeat myself, the WWII Memorial is very large and awesome.

"Lowndesmen" a phrase coined by Gordon Buck.

Dotty Flood

Bill Ramsey

Please note my change of address. Also I thought this might be of interest, a project being started here in McMinneville. A high school teacher brought her students out here to interview WWII veterans. They took pictures and are going to publish a book on these interviews. The book will be out in August and they are going national to try and get students all across the country to do the same. She feels like they know nothing of the war and they need to get a feel of what it was like. The big news around here is my first granddaughter is getting married this summer. I know we are kind of late but we got a slow start. Enclosed my check for the treasury.

Bill, a great idea. Please let me know when the book comes out.

Dottie Bornhorst

I appreciate you sending me the news about Bill's ship, the Lowndes. He was so proud of his Navy days and liked to relive those days. However, I think I should prefer that my name be removed from the mailing list since Bill is no longer with us. Thanks again for remembering Bill.

After several years of attempting to find out which Lowndes shipmate was the youngest it turned out that all data indicated the honor went to Bill.

Frances Miller

Remembering the San Diego, San Antonio reunions well with an album full of good memories. After Frank died one of our daughters (searched for) and found her half brother, Frank Leo Miller. He copied his Dad, joined the Navy at age 17 and spent 3 years there.

Thanks for asking about my hips, they're doing fine, it's the rest of me that's gone downhill, but like Jean keeps reminding me, "You're still able to get around."

Thank you, Bud, for keeping me on the Lowndes mailing list for the newsletter...guess I really don't have a right to be there but do enjoy hearing news of those I have met, and those I came to know though Clark Martin.

Dotty we would like to continue sharing news of Clark's former Lowndes shipmates.

Mitchell Chasteen

I was a radioman aboard the U.S.S. Lowndes from the time of it's commissioning until I was discharged in November of 1945. My wife, and I, attended the first few reunions but as the years progressed they became more and more difficult for financial and/or physical reasons, (At the end of 2009 I'll be 87.) Being a radioman, they were the only crew I got to know, at least well enough to remember. Over the years their names disappeared from our newsletter so I lost much of the interest in it that I once had. I'll always appreciate the expense, time, and effort you spent providing the newsletter. Needless to say you did me, and others, a great service by providing the news that was good as well as bad. I now feel, however, it is time for my name to be removed from the mailing list. The years have taken their toll but I'll always remember the months I spent aboard the U.S.S. Lowndes and always wish the best for all of the crew.

Joyce Ringo

Please take me from your mailing list – you've done so much – thanks for all you've sent.

Mitchell and Joyce, your request are duly noted, however, if you change your minds, you will be welcome to return to the roster.

Joyce DuBois

Bud, good to talk to you on the phone. Enclosed is a contribution for the endowment fund. Please keep me posted on it's progress.

Leo O'Brien

Sorry for the delay. The website is a great idea. Margaret had an accident in late April. She broke her right hip and right shoulder and had to have a partial hip replacement.

I know the feeling Margaret, just hang in there and follow the given instructions and all will be fine.

Bill Dunbar

My Dad, who died 20 Years ago-ironically a day after the Lowndes was destroyed – was a doctor on the ship. I have photos and a brief, incomplete autobiographical 'sketch' he dictated to his secretary in 1982. It's pretty interesting stuff, the recollections of a 63 year-old man on his times as an egotistical, impatient 25 year old doctor. He recollects some of the Marines and sailorshe knew and or treated, and even mentions watching the flag go up on Suribachi. What's missing unfortunately is his account of Okinawa. I remember asking him when in his life he was most frightened and his answer was at "Okinawa". I guess the ship and all others around it were under pretty heavy fire and I think I recall him saying that the ship was a near casualty of a Kamikazi. Anyway, I plan to make copies of the photos (some of the silliness of the equatorial crossing shenanigans) and his recollections. I will gladly add them to the stash o Lowndes memorabilia. I'd love to hear from some of the sailors who knew my Dad. Mr. Kautz remembers him and that made me feel great. Thanks again to Mr. Brinkman for his hard work in putting and keeping the site together. I look forward to further correspondence – maybe I'll attend as Dad's proxy. My most heartfelt thanks to all of you vets out there

Marty File

I am Joe and June Zinkgraf's daughter. She still loves getting the newsletter. Mom just turned 84 and is in long term care due to her advanced Parkinson's disease, but she is still very cognizant and enjoys keeping up with information. You are greatly appreciated.

We wish her the best.

As I told you when I talked to you recently I told you I left the Bowfin Park in May 2008. Mona's health had really failed and I moved here with her. She could not breathe and we replaced the carpet to cut down on the dust, installed wooden flooring and a new air conditioning unit. In the end she spent about a month in the hospital. They did all they could, but in spite of a long time on a forced breathing machine she passed away, the cause of death being respiratory failure. She passed away in January 2009. Sorry for the typing and typos This is a 1943 Standard upright machine just like the one I used on the LOWNDES, and like me has seen better days. I turned 88 on November 22 and am going strong, retiring here was planned because of TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER and they have provided me with the finest you could imagine. It is a real pleasure receiving the Lowndes newsletter, let me put in my two-bits worth of thanks for all you and Jean have done to keep so many of us still connected. The same goes for David Brinkman. I don't have a computer, but the idea of a web site sounds like a good idea. Let me hear as plans progress and I will be happy to chip in my share of the needed funds. I apologize for the typing and for taking so long to write. Since I have broken the ice maybe I'll get hot and send some of my memories of the good old days on the LOWNDES. Yes some of them were good.

Aloha to Everyone.

Will certainly keep you apprised of the status of the Lowndes web site. And look forward to hearing of your experiences aboard the ship. I imagine as yeoman you were exposed to many interesting incidents that occurred on and around the bridge. Sorry to hear about Mona, hang in there guy.

A bit of trivia

During the Pearl Harbor attack, The Japanese

lost 55 Airmen
9 Submariners KIA
4 Midget submarines
27 Aircraft

Sep2010-5

I recently received this email from Odess informing me of David's medical mishap.

I am so sorry that David has not replied to your emails lately, but it's because he has not been in his best "health" lately—Three weeks ago (August 22nd to be exact), @ 8PM, I took him to the Lexington Medical Center ER not knowing what caused his welts (hives all over his body) that's "killing" him of of a severe itch; after waiting for more than two hours, he was finally called to see the dr. Few minutes after he in an exam room on a stretcher, the nurse found him kinda shivering like in shock...the next thing we knew, he had, he had anaphylactic shock. He was immediately given Benadryl IV. The nurse said to him that they thought he was going to "leave" them)...It was a scary thought knowing that he could've died from allergic reactions right there and then!...We hear some stories about it and how life-threatening. David was put on steroid (prednisone) and hydroxyzine tabs but then what got him into this is really severe that he has to go back to the urgent care to get another shot after a week since the ER visit the welts came back like crazy and so he was given a steroid shot...he was told to to continue on the steroid and the hydrox tabs and to see his allergist. He did 4 days later and was prescribed more of the same meds only the stronger kind. He also now carry Ep-pine shots. David went to see his allergist again to find out (take a blood test) what bu/insect may or what caused his severe allergic reaction. He is ok now except for some kind of red zits almost all over his back. For three weeks, we seem to be always on the alert on what's going on-like David can't sleep almost every night since he started taking the medications, there was also a time his dose was messed-up that he that he took more than what he was supposed to take in a day and got him so "drugged" that he wobbles to go to the bathroom at night. So I had to call the pharmacy to straighten it and was told to call the doctor and so I did and they called the pharmacy to change the dose i.e. from 25mg to 10mg. I have never been so nervous in my life because of this episode in David's life. After about two hours from the time he was treated at the ER, he walked out of it like nothing happened. But each time, the steroid wears out, the hives come back again...it does make life miserable. Poor David has to quit drinking beer for three weeks until three days ago. Please help us pray that whatever was David's allergic reaction will not happen again. We will let you know what the doctor finds out aside from his suspicion that David may have been bitten by a yellow jacket bee.

Ronnie Milligan

It is with regret that I am sending this note to inform you that my step-grandfather, Rhonal Eugene Shy passed away on June 3, 2010 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He suffered head trauma when he overturned his garden tractor while cutting the grass in his yard. We always referred to him as "Shy". He was born on November 24, 1923 and served on the USS Lowndes. He spoke often of his time in the service and on this ship, and he was very proud to have served. He also spoke of his good friend, Carmel Fesi from Houma, Louisiana who also served on the Lowndes. Shy was 86 years old and he will be missed.

Attempts to reach Mr. Milligan have been unsuccessful. The following is all the information available. Rhonal boarded the Lowndes September 14, 1944 in Astoria, Oregon and became a Plank Owner. He left the ship March 23, 1946.

Sept. 2010-6

HERE'S ONE FOR THE MEN WHO REMAINED ON THE LOWNDES FOR MAGIC CARPET DUTY

Those who were on the Lowndes when we were on "Magic Carpet" duty may remember when we took aboard 1,501 enlisted men and 86 officers of the 86th division of the Army. They boarded the Lowndes on August 23 in San Francisco, and we transported them to the Philippines to replace Marine, Army, Navy, and Air Corps service men who had been out "there" for many months and, in many cases, years, while they fought at Tarawa, Pelelieu, Saipan, Guam, Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the Philippines.

So what's the story here? Well, as soon as they came aboard they began bitching about their "unfair treatment." They claimed that they'd served their time, had done their duty in combat, and deserved to be discharged to return to their families. Of all the troops of all services we'd had aboard, they were the only ones who continued to rant about the injustice of it all.

With no disrespect to those men, here are the facts.

The 86th Division (the Black Hawk Division) was activated on December 15, 1942. They trained at bases in Texas and Louisiana before moving to three camps in California.

They did not go overseas until they were sent to Europe on March 1, 1945. They entered combat on March 29, 1945, and were in battle for 34 days. Their combat casualties in Europe numbered 785, which included dead, wounded, or missing in action. They actually had 84 KIAs. They returned to the U.S. as soon as the war ended, and enjoyed more leave time before becoming guests of the Lowndes.

In contrast, the Marine 4th Division, during 26 days of combat on Iwo Jima, suffered 9,098 casualties.

In thinking this over, I wonder how many of the men who were relieved by the Black Hawks had been Saipan, Tarawa, Guam, or Iwo Jima survivors? Or, perhaps, members of "Navy Beach Battalions."

As the Black Hawks left our ship in Batangas, Luzon Island, the Philippines, I failed to see any tears shed by our crew or officers. Perhaps there were some tears shed by a crewman who had earned a goodly amount of cash during poker games, but if that is true, that person has not spoken up.

There you have it - a memory that has lingered long, despite its ultimate insignificance

Stuart Hyde