

# PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

## GUNBOAT RIDERS



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ICQ # 79121469

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### HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE MCMANUELS FAMILY



*We just want to take the opportunity to warmly wish for you  
A Very Joyous Holiday Season  
and a Happy New Year too....*

*Terry and Nancy*

Christmas Season, 2002, we are truly blessed. Each year at this time, I like to use a small portion of the newsletter to give thanks for the many blessings that we have shared over the past year. I would like to use this edition of "Gunboat Riders" to express my thanks to all who have helped me make our Reunions such a success. I want to say a special thanks to all of the shipmates and their families who we have had the pleasure meeting and corresponding with. Every e-mail, letter, postcard and phone call I get from a former crewmember reminds me how fortunate I am to have had the privilege to serve on a Patrol Gunboat; how lucky I am to have been able to serve in the United States Navy and how great it is to be able to call myself an American.

Many of us who went to Chicago for our 2002 Reunion went on a tour of the Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes. Just today, I sent copies of some photographs from that tour to Jim Thomas, our webmaster. As I looked at the pictures of all those young men and women who were graduating from boot camp that day, it occurred to me that by now those graduates who were not currently in "A" school were most likely already in the fleet.

As we celebrate the holidays this year, remember that today, just like when we were in uniform, Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Marines continue to support and defend the Flag far away from home, loved ones and families. America is currently engaged in the most challenging combat operations in our Nation's history, against an adversary unlike any we have been to war with before. Unfortunately, there is no end in sight, so please take a moment

during the Holidays to give thanks to the Veterans who put their lives on the line everyday. Keep them in your thoughts and say a prayer for their safe and quick return home. It is their vigilance and sacrifices that ensure our way of life and keep America strong.

*From our home to yours, we wish each of you  
the Happiest of Holiday Seasons.  
Terry and Nancy McManuels*

Nancy and I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas, a festive Holiday Season and a prosperous, healthy and happy New Year. We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Valley Forge in August, 2003.

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# Patrol Gunboat Association

## 2003 REUNION SURVEY

In the last newsletter, I mailed each member a 2003 Reunion Survey. So far, I have had 73 of these surveys returned to me. At this time last year, I had 87 surveys returned. I simply cannot find the words to explain how important these survey sheets are to me when it comes to planning the reunion. Almost every event that we plan at the reunion is priced based on the number of people who will be participating. When I sign the contracts for tours, for example, I must guarantee a minimum number of members who will participate. If I guarantee 40 people for example, we receive one price that each person will pay. If I guarantee 45 participants, we will receive a lower price per person. The only way I have to estimate the number of participants is to look at the results of the survey sheets. Please help me make your reunion better and less expensive. It should only take you a few moments to fill out, and while postage has gone up recently, it still shouldn't be too expensive to stick a stamp on an envelope and return the survey.

In the event you still have not returned your 2003 Reunion Survey, please do so as soon as possible. If you feel, right now, that you will definitely be attending the 2003 reunion, barring some catastrophe, mark the **100% Sure** block on your survey. If you feel that you are going to give it your best shot, but reserve the right to change your mind, mark **75% Sure**. If you would really like to come, but have a few obstacles in your way to work out, give me a **50% Sure**. If you know that you will not be able to make this reunion, then respond with **Can't Attend**. *Regardless of your answers today, you can always change your mind at a later date.* **Remember, it's a survey, not a commitment.** **Please** take a moment to complete this survey and return it to me, it is very important.

## 2003 DINNER THEATER

Once again I have had several crewmembers ask me if we could arrange an evening out in uniform during one of our free evenings. While I am sure that many retired members still have their uniforms, I am also certain that some of them may not fit. I have arranged for an evening at Lily Langtry's Dinner Theater on Thursday evening. You can enjoy a delightful evening of entertainment following a delicious dinner in the Victorian splendor of Lily Langtry's spectacular dinner theater. Hand-painted skylights, crystal chandeliers and genuine antiques produce a rich setting for a variety of shows from Broadway and Las Vegas reviews to Ice, Magic and Comedy shows. The 2003 show will be variations of "Legends in Concert."

We have arranged for transportation for the group to Lily's and back. Assuming we reach a minimum of 50 participants, the price for the dinner, theater and transportation should run between \$40.00 and \$50.00 per person which includes step on escort, taxes and driver gratuity. Drinks during the show are not included in the price. I will make arrangements for the best possible price when we negotiate the rest of the tours for the Valley Forge Reunion.

Appropriate attire would be sport coat and tie. For those who wish to attend in uniform, I would recommend Summer White although, as always, Dress Blue is appropriate if your Whites aren't still available. Keep in mind that there have been many uniform changes in recent years, including shoulder boards for Chief Petty Officers. If you need uniform items, you can order on-line at <http://www.navy-nex.com/> or by calling the Navy Exchange Uniform Shop at 1-800-368-4088.

## NEW MEMBERS IN FILE

Following is a list of new members that have been located since the last newsletter was published.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Contacted</u>
Baker, Michael	Canon	10/21/2002
Engelhart, Richard	Chehalis	10/10/2002
Gallagher, Donald	Welch	10/05/2002
Garrett, Joe	Graham County	10/09/2002

## PREVIOUSLY FOUND MEMBERS

Each year following the reunion I send out the Post Reunion Edition of Gunboat Riders. While only those members whose dues are current receive all the newsletters, every member, regardless of dues status, receives the Post Reunion as well as the Pre Reunion Edition. You might notice that the number of new members in file this quarter is smaller than usual. Quite honestly, the few months following the reunion are the busiest for me. There are bills to pay for tours, meals and other events from the reunion. Add to that the fact that this is the time when I am arranging final details for the next reunion as well as starting work on the Association Membership Directory. I am also working on the newspaper data base in preparation for our annual press release. There simply isn't time to actively search for new members.

As I said, we send out the Post Reunion Edition to all members regardless of dues status. As a result of this mailing, I receive quite a few more returned newsletters due to members moving and leaving no forwarding address. The following members had been found, but seem to once again be missing:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Name</u>
Saunders, David	Antelope
Stiff, Dan	Gallup
Onyika, Albert	Canon
Knight, Randy	Gallup
Bishop, George	Antelope
Schilling, Andrew	Antelope

If you know the new mailing address for any of these members, please let me know so that I can get my data base updated and get these members back on the mailing list.

## REDNECK HUNTERS

A couple of Texas hunters are out in the woods when one of them falls to the ground. He doesn't seem to be breathing, his eyes are rolled back in his head. The other guy whips out his cell phone and calls 911. He gasps to the operator, "My friend is dead! What can I do?"

The operator, in a calm soothing voice says, "Just take it easy. I can help. First, lets make sure he's dead."

There is a silence, then a shot is heard..... The hunter says, "OK, now what?"

# Patrol Gunboat Association



**COMMANDING OFFICER  
RECRUIT TRAINING COMMAND  
GREAT LAKES**

November 4, 2002

Terry W. McManuels  
1673 Kilt Street  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Dear Mr. McManuels,

It was a pleasure addressing the Patrol Gunboat Reunion Association on August 24<sup>th</sup>. I was particularly pleased when your group was able to tour Recruit Training Command. Seeing the young women and men who are the Navy's future in action reaffirms that our Navy and our nation will continue to be in good hands for years to come.

I would also like to thank you for the generous contribution your Association made. Without our continued support to the quality women and men hard at work training OUR Navy, all the ships in the world wouldn't make a difference. I appreciate this donation you have made to my staff.

Sincerely,

W. C. WRIGHT, Sr.  
Captain, U.S. Navy

LEADERSHIP: Never Forget a Sailor

*Thanks for the  
asked me. I  
I see OK - Great to  
see McD Group & you  
2/11 in other  
SAILORS!*

## CAPTAIN "O.W." WRIGHT, USN

Our guest speaker at the Chicago reunion was Captain Wardell C. "O.W." Wright, Commanding Officer, RTC, Great Lakes, IL. Captain Wright began his naval career in 1965 achieving the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer before earning his commission as a Limited Duty Officer Ensign in April 1976.



Captain Wright was a YN-2 on Asheville (PG-84).

He agreed to be our guest speaker at the banquet dinner. Captain Wright also helped arrange for a

special tour of Recruit Training Command where we had the privilege of watching several companies graduate. After viewing the Graduation Ceremony and seeing how the young men and women of today's Navy looked and performed, it's obvious that Captain Wright and his staff are definitely doing their part to shape today's Navy.

Following our return from the reunion, I mailed a check as a token of our appreciation to Captain Wright's office, made payable to the RTC Welfare and Recreation Fund.

A special thanks to Captain Wright for providing us with an interesting and memorable evening.

## LOOK WHO CAME TO DINNER (NO KIDDING, THIS IS RIGHT, I THINK!)

The following former crewmembers joined us at the 2002 Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion in Chicago, Illinois

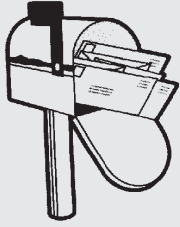
James Ayers, Beacon  
Alfred Berg, Asheville  
John Best, Asheville  
Michael Blundell, Gallup  
Dale Boroff, Canon  
Anthony Brauneck, Antelope  
Fred Brown, Antelope  
Leland Burnett, Ready  
Bruce Carlson, Welch  
Charles Chupco, Crockett  
Ronald Currie, Antelope  
David Donaldson, COSRON THREE  
James Eaton, Surprise  
Hal Fonner, Crockett  
Duane Fredendall, Antelope

Bill Funk, Grand Rapids  
Kurt Hauge, Marathon  
Albert Havranek, Antelope  
Michael Hirvela, Chehalis  
George Ingram, Crockett  
Wayne Jackson, Crockett  
Byron Jones, Canon  
Michael Kaprielian, Antelope  
Gerald Kiewatt, Grand Rapids  
Leo Klotz, Gallup  
Harold Lankford, Surprise  
John Lawson, Gallup  
Bill Lydon, Green Bay  
Floyd Mackey, Gallup  
Royal Magnus, Tacoma

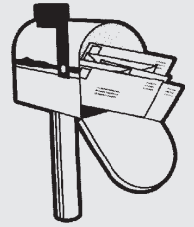
Paul McGurgan, Crockett  
Terry McManuels, Canon  
Gary Metoxen, Gallup  
Robert Mitchell, Asheville  
Charles Moran, Green Bay  
David Nekola, Canon  
Terrence Pankowski, Ready  
Joseph Patton, Ready  
Frank Phelps, Marathon  
John Pletsch, Crockett  
William Powell, Antelope  
Roger Reynolds, Canon  
Paul Roberts, Antelope  
Vernon Roe, Asheville  
Paul Rupp, Graham County

Ronald Sebert, Crockett  
James Showalter, Antelope  
Richard Smoktunowicz, Antelope  
Lee Stamper, Asheville  
Gary Stankey, Chehalis  
Bobby Strozier, Surprise  
Frank Struse, Ready  
James Thomas, Asheville  
John Torek, Green Bay  
Gene Van Orden, Chehalis  
Timothy Van Raalte, Crockett  
Danny Watson, Canon  
Gary Wentworth, Antelope  
Dale Westby, Defiance  
Howard Wick, Crockett  
James Zimmerman, Crockett

# Patrol Gunboat Association



## FROM THE MAILBAG



On this page, I want to print some of the comments that I have received from shipmates who either call or write to me. Due to space restrictions, I cannot include all of these comments. I will include those for which I have space in the current publishing period.

☐ **From Lots of Shipmates:** I didn't think I went to the Chicago Reunion. I noticed that my name was on the list of those who attended, sure hope I had a good time, I just wish I could remember going.

☐ **From Several Others:** I saw several names on the list who were at the Chicago Reunion. I didn't see some of them when I was there. At least I think I was there, my name wasn't on the list. *(I guess I have already used the old "just checking to see if you are paying attention" line already so, this time I guess I have to admit that I made a mistake, and here I thought I knew how to use a computer.)*

## MY HEART ON THE LINE

Before my son became a Marine, I never thought much about who was defending me. Now when I read of the war on terrorism or the coming conflict in Iraq, it cuts to my heart. When I see a picture of a member of our military who has been killed, I read his or her name very carefully. Sometimes I cry.

In 1999, when the barrel-chested Marine recruiter showed up in dress blues and bedazzled my son John, I did not stand in the way. John was headstrong, and he seemed to understand these stern, clean men with straight backs and flawless uniforms. I did not. I live on the Volvo driving, higher education-worshipping North Shore of Boston. I write novels for a living. I have never served in the military.

It had been hard enough sending my two older children off to Georgetown and New York University. John's enlisting was unexpected, so deeply unsettling. I did not relish the prospect of answering the question "So where is John going to college?" from the parents who were itching to tell me all about how their son or daughter was going to Harvard. At the private high school John attended, no other students were going into the military. "But aren't the Marines terribly Southern?" asked one perplexed mother while standing next to me at the brunch following graduation. "What a waste, he was such a good student," said another parent. One parent (a professor at a nearby and rather famous university) spoke up at a school meeting and suggested that the school should "carefully evaluate what went wrong."

When John graduated from three months of boot camp on Parris Island, 3,000 parents and friends were on the parade deck stands. We parents and our Marines not only were of many races but also were representative of many economic classes. Many were poor. Some arrived crammed in the backs of pickups, others by bus. John told me that a lot of parents could not afford the trip.

We in the audience were white and Native American. We were Hispanic, Arab and African American and Asian. We were former Marines wearing the scars of battle, or at least baseball caps emblazoned with battles' names. We were Southern whites from Nashville and skinheads from New Jersey, black kids from Cleveland wearing ghetto rags and white ex-cons with ham-hock forearms defaced by jailhouse tattoos. We would not have been mistaken for the educated and well-heeled parents gathered on the lawns of John's private school a half-year before.

After graduation one new Marine told John, "Before I was a Marine, if I had ever seen you on my block I would have probably killed you just because you were standing there." This was a serious statement from one of John's good friends, an African American ex-gang member from Detroit

who, as John said, "would die for me now, just like I'd die for him." My son has connected me to my country in a way that I was too selfish and insular to experience before. I feel closer to the waitress at our local diner than to some of my oldest friends. She has two sons in the Corps. They are facing the same dangers as my boy. When the guy who fixes my car asks me how John is doing, I know he means it. His younger brother is in the Navy. Why were I and the other parents at my son's private school so surprised by his choice? During World War II, the sons and daughters of the most powerful and educated families did their bit. If the immorality of the Vietnam War was the only reason those lucky enough to go to college dodged the draft, why did we not encourage our children to volunteer for military service once that war was done?

Have we wealthy and educated Americans all become pacifists? Is the world a safe place? Or have we just gotten used to having somebody else defend us? What is the future of our democracy when the sons and daughters of the janitors at our elite universities are far more likely to be put in harm's way than are any of the students whose dorms their parents clean? I feel shame because it took my son's joining the Marine Corps to make me take notice of who is defending me. I feel hope because perhaps my son is part of a future "greatest generation." As the storm clouds of war gather, at least I know that I can look the men and women in uniform in the eye. My son is one of them. He is the best I have to offer. He is my heart.

Frank Schaeffer is a writer. His latest book, co-written with his son, Marine Cpl. John Schaeffer, is "Keeping Faith: A Father-Son Story About Love and the United States Marine Corps."

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## The Supreme Commander

Following are names of **Patrol Gunboat Shipmates** that have met the Supreme Commander since the last edition of "Gunboat Riders". As this information is made available, I will include it in the following newsletter.

<b>Shipmate:</b>	<b>Ship:</b>	<b>Departed</b>
Frank Norris	Asheville(PG-84)	07/2002
Alton Patin	Asheville(PG-84)	09/21/2002



# PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

## GUNBOAT RIDERS

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POST REUNION EDITION, 2002

Terry W. McManuels 1673 Kilt Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 (757) 479-2261

## 2002 REUNION CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

### 2002 REUNION

The 2002 Patrol Gunboat Reunion was held in Chicago, Illinois at the Chicago Sheraton Northwest Hotel from August 21 - 25, 2002. Nancy and I left Virginia Beach on Monday morning, arriving at the hotel Tuesday afternoon. After checking in, we spent the rest of the day unpacking, and unloading hats, cups, raffle table items and all the other stuff we like to have



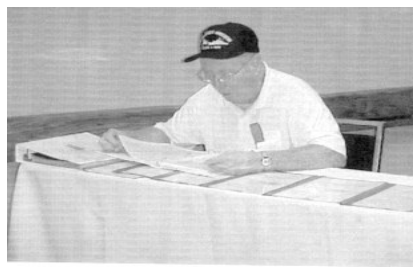
at the reunion. The Association now has access to a UPS Shipping account, so we shipped several boxes of items to the hotel. We took the coffee mugs with us since they are fairly heavy and we wanted to save the shipping costs. Our Historian, Dave Donaldson flew in from the west coast, so we arranged for him to UPS most of his display in advance, and the boxes were waiting for us when we arrived. That afternoon we went shopping for the chips, pretzels, soft drinks and other snacks and refreshments for the Hospitality Room.

#### Pre-Con Meeting.....

Each year just prior to the start of the reunion we have a "Pre-Con" or Pre Convention meeting with the hotel staff. The hotel arranges for us to meet each of the management personnel who are responsible for the events that we will be having. First thing Wednesday morning we met with the sales staff and key hotel personnel for this meeting. We met the Catering Manager who would be responsible for the Buffet and Banquet Dinners, the Registration Desk Manager, responsible for checking in each of our members, the hotel bar manager, housekeeping, audio visual personnel, maintenance, all the folks at the hotel who were responsible for making our reunion a success.

#### Hospitality Room.....

Following the Pre-Con meeting, it was time to get to work. We went back to our normal Hospitality Room configuration this year. We were



getting out registration items and much of what we had stored in our room down to the Hospitality room. Our Historian checked in and started setting up his display while I got the snack tables



set up and soft drinks on ice. As far as I am concerned, the Hospitality Room is the center of the reunion. It is where everyone congregates when there is nothing scheduled for us to do as a group. We opened the doors to the Hospitality Room on time and started checking in members at noon.

At this point I must take a bit of editorial license and thank my wife Nancy for all the work she does at the reunion, in particular at registration. She assists me with making certain that your registration packages are complete and error free. When you arrive she takes care of making sure that you are checked in and that you receive your package and goodies. She makes sure that you get an opportunity to purchase raffle table tickets and then get your "Free" ballcap as well as encouraging you to help with the 50 - 50 by purchasing additional tickets for the drawing.

#### Thursday, our first tour.....

Thursday was our first tour of the 2002 reunion. Home to the Navy's only remaining Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes is the largest training center in the Navy and the largest military installation in Illinois. With the assistance of the Commanding Officer, RTC Great Lakes, we were able to arrange for the group to be guests at the Recruit Graduation ceremony that morning. We had to do a bit of changing to the tour arrangements due to security requirements, primarily having us depart the hotel earlier than originally scheduled. Wednesday the night before the tour, it rained. It rained and it rained and it rained. The news

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reported over four inches of rain on Wednesday night. By Thursday morning the rain had stopped and it was beautiful out. We boarded the bus at the hotel and headed for RTC, Great Lakes. The base was just a few miles away, a few miles away on the other side of the viaduct. If you were ever stationed at Great Lakes, you know that these small tunnels that go under the train tracks frequently flood after even a light rain. I know that we were late, but thanks to Captain Wright, we were still treated to a wonderful experience as we watched a perfectly executed graduation ceremony. I'm not certain how late we were, suffice to say that when asked, Captain Wright just said that the ceremonies started immediately upon our arrival. Another change to the Thursday tour, we had lunch at the RTC Galley. Normally I arrange for the tours to include lunch on our own. This helps keep the cost down, but when Captain Wright's secretary told me that we could have lunch at the RTC Galley, I just couldn't say no. This meant that Nancy would have to collect an additional few dollars from those who went on the tour, but for a chance to enjoy that great Navy Chow at RTC, it was a bargain at twice the price. It surprised all of us that the food seemed better this time than it did when we were recruits.

After lunch, we continued on to Chicago's Botanical Gardens and took the Grand Tram Tour. This 45 minute narrated tour of the entire Garden included views of the Japanese Garden, McDonald Woods and the Prairie. By 3:00 we were back at the hotel

## Friday, another tour and a great meal.....

By 9:00 AM Friday we were back on the bus and on our way. Friday's tour included Lake Shore Drive, The Magnificent Mile, Soldier Field, Art Institute of Chicago, Shedd Aquarium, The Loop, Adler Planetarium and spectacular Lake Michigan. Then it was on to Navy Pier, Chicago's spectacular "playground on the lake". With dozens of restaurants and shops, special exhibits, strolling entertainment and a beer garden, it was a fun afternoon for everyone to enjoy. Several members took a ride on the turn of the century style carousel, and a few tried out the fifteen story Ferris Wheel. The rest of us strolled around the pier and had "lunch on our own" at one of the many restaurants and shops. Then it was back on the bus and return to hotel by 3:00 PM to get ready for the Backyard Bar-B-Que style buffet dinner.

I love good food, don't we all..... The atmosphere was just like being at home in your own back yard, except for the fact that the tent was huge, and we didn't have to do any of the work. Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Italian Sausage and Chicken, all fresh off the grill. All of the typical sides, corn on the cob, potato salad and baked beans, even ice cream for desert.

Each year I try to make at least one major mistake, and after a great deal of effort, I figured out what that mistake would be this year. Since we had cold beer and soft drinks in the hospitality room, I figured that we could pass on the cash bar during the picnic. Since the program said that we would have a cash bar at the picnic, many folks were unhappy that I cancelled it in favor of bringing the beer and soft drinks from the hospitality room. I apologize to those who wanted a mixed drink or wine, my intentions were good, but as I said, I do need to make at least one major mistake each year.

Once again we did not arrange for entertainment on Friday night. This year, since we had so many new members and first time attendees, we had



each of them go up to the microphone and introduce themselves and tell us a bit about themselves. As usual, we got.....

*sea stories, lots and lots of sea stories...  
Once a Sailor, always a Sailor!*

## Saturday, Business

### Meeting, Tour, Banquet, Dancing.....

The annual business meeting was called to order by Terry McManuels

at 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 24, 2002. The following statistics were presented to the members in attendance. As of June 30, 2002, there were 2,159 names in the Association data file. Of these, 858 were listed as regular members with a valid mailing address. Of the 858 regular members in the file, some are duplicate names such as those shipmates who served on more than one Patrol Gunboat.

The data file holds the names of 28 deceased crewmembers. (Included are those who died while attached to one of the ships.) Of the 28 deceased crewmembers, 4 have families who desire to be kept informed of all Association activities and wish to remain active and on the Association Mailing list. They receive all Association Newsletters and other correspondence. These members do not pay dues and receive an invitation to all reunions and other Association functions. There are an additional 24 deceased crewmembers who have been identified whose families have not been located or contacted, or, have been contacted and prefer to not to receive information about our Association or receive our newsletter.

The membership present was reminded about Association Dues, and agreed that dues should remain at \$20.00 per year. For the benefit of our new members, I will again quickly cover our membership structure.

**Member Status "RP"** - Those members who have responded to the membership dues request and are current with their annual dues. These members will receive all Newsletters and other correspondence regarding Association activities.

**Member Status "RNP"** - Those members who have not responded to the membership dues request. These members receive only the Pre-Reunion and Post Reunion Newsletters. The Pre-Reunion Newsletter is published in March and includes all registration forms and other items required to register for the reunion. The Post Reunion Newsletter comes out shortly after the reunion and it gives a rundown of the events and highlights of the reunion.

**Member Status "M"** - Status "M" which is the "MISSING PERSONS" list.

**Member Status "D"** - Status "D" which is our deceased shipmates. I would appreciate your input regarding crewmembers who have passed away. As you may have noticed, we have a column in the Newsletter called "Supreme Commander". In it, we share the information on our departed shipmates.

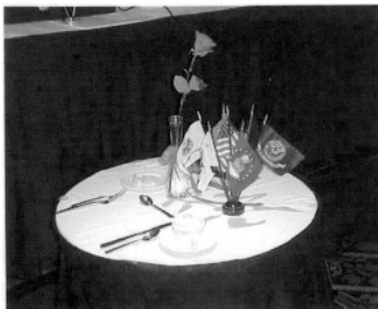
Other items that were discussed included the location of the 2003 Reunion as well as Association Finances, Officers and the events we schedule at each reunion. Mr. McManuels reminded the membership of the importance of filling out and returning the Reunion Survey as well as the need to make reservations early. A motion was then made and carried that we adjourn the 2002 business meeting.

Shortly after the business meeting, we boarded the bus for the Geneva tour. This traditional Midwestern prairie village has changed little since the mid 19th century. It became a city in 1856, a small graceful community which hugged the scenic Fox River with stately homes and well manicured lawns on gas lit streets. Our guide pointed out murals painted by local artists during the tour of this quaint village. Lunch was "on our own" in one of the many cafes' on Main Street. We were back at the hotel by 4:30 pm.

## Saturday Banquet Dinner.....

After returning to the hotel, we had about an hour before the Banquet Dinner Program started. Refreshments were available at the cash bar starting at 6:00 PM and the Banquet Room opened at 7:00. Howard Wick (PG-88) presided over the Banquet Dinner and welcomed the members to the 2002 Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion Banquet. The U.S. Navy Color Guard Detail, Service Schools Command Great Lakes, Illinois paraded the Colors this year. Following the playing of the National Anthem, Howard led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our

## Patrol Gunboat Association



Chaplain, George Ingram (PG-88) said the Invocation and asked for a moment of silence and remembrance. After the Color Guard retired the Colors, the Chaplain said the Benediction and Howard invited us all to join him for the 2002 Patrol Gunboat Association Banquet.

After dinner, Howard introduced the head table and our Guest Speaker for the evening, Captain Wardell C. Wright,

United States Navy. Captain Wright began his naval career in 1965 achieving the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer before earning his commission as a Limited Duty Officer Ensign in April 1976.

His initial operational sea duty assignments included the Aircraft Carriers YORKTOWN and RANGER. He completed numerous service schools which included Survival, Jungle Warfare Training and Assault Boat Coxswain School at Little Creek, VA. He was assigned to the Mobile Riverine Forces, the USS BENEWAH (APB 35), Patrol Riverine Boats (PBR's), USS ASHEVILLE (PG 84), and Advisor duty in Vietnam from 1966 through 1970. Returning from Vietnam, he continued on operational sea duty and forward deployed overseas duty on numerous surface ships from August 1970 through April 1976.

Captain Wright's operational tours include four department head tours: Amphibious Squadron FIVE, USS MIDWAY (CV 41), USS IOWA (BB 61), and USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71).

Captain Wright's personal decorations include: two Legions of Merit, two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, four Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, four Navy Commendation Medals, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, and two Good Conduct Medals. Captain Wright is also the second of only two recipients of the UDT/Seal Association Medal.

Captain Wright has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Personnel Administra-



tion, a Bachelor of Liberal Arts Degree in Psychology, and a Masters of Liberal Arts Degree in Psychology, all from San Diego State University, San Diego, CA. Captain Wright lives in Great Lakes with his wife Doni. They have four children.

Following dinner, we held the annual 50-50 drawing. We will have another 50 - 50 drawing at the 2003 Reunion. There are twelve 50 - 50 tickets included with this newsletter for the drawing that will be held following the Banquet Dinner in Valley Forge. Help support a growing Association by purchasing at least twelve tickets. You may do so, at any time, by sending me a check or money order for the desired number of tickets along with sufficient address labels for me to place on them. Tickets will again be \$10.00 for twelve tickets or \$1.00 each. Make your check



or money order payable to the Patrol Gunboat Reunion Association. **Remember, the winners need not be present at the drawing.**

Next came the raffle table drawing. We had many great prizes this year, the one most coveted was the quilt made by Jodi Bay, wife of Paul McGurgan (PG-88). This quilt had been on display in the hospitality room for most of the week. It generated lots of sales of raffle table tickets, and as expected, it was the first item taken in the raffle.

After the raffle drawing, we were entertained with music from "Fallen Angels" band. It was a busy week for all. I do hope that everyone who attended enjoyed the reunion as much as I did.

Special thanks to my wife Nancy for all her help, Jodi Bay for the



beautiful quilt and Kurt Hauge for being my photographer this year. To Howard Wick and George Ingram, thank you for taking time out of your reunion to help me with the banquet program this year. To Dave Donaldson, what a wonderful display, your hard work and dedication are appreciated by all. Lastly, to the members of the Association who came and made this reunion a success, thank you, I hope you enjoyed the reunion.

Sunday brought the hugs and handshakes, and the promises to meet again next year. As the bellman was loading cars and folks were checking out, many were relaxing in the Hospitality Room discussing plans to once again meet at the next reunion. There were lots of hand shakes and lots of hugs, and lots of people saying:

**SEE YOU IN VALLEY FORGE!**



# Patrol Gunboat Association

## VALLEY FORGE REUNION SURVEY

Each year we send out a Reunion Survey to try to gauge the number of members who will attend the next reunion. I would like to remind you why it is so important that you respond to this survey. First off, remember that it is just a survey, it is a tool that I use to assist me in determining transportation requirements for the tours, how many tour guides and escorts we will need, where we will be able to arrange meals during the tours and a myriad of other details. This survey is my only way to estimate, in advance, how successful a reunion might be. The final negotiated room rate is dependent on the number of guests who will be staying at the hotel. The cost of the meals at the hotel and the final cost for all tours is determined by the anticipated number of participants. In short, the data gathered from the survey is essential to the efficient and cost effective arrangements of virtually every event during the reunion.

I averaged the results of our four previous reunions and developed a formula to compute a ratio of positive responses to actual attendees. I used this ratio to determine what we could expect for participation at the 2002 reunion and signed the contracts based on the results. The results of that survey, out of almost 800 Survey's mailed, I received a total of 101 responses. Of those, 74 indicated that they planned to attend the Chicago Reunion. There were 21 crewmembers who were 100% sure that they would attend, of which we actually had 15 show up. There were 26 who were 75% certain, with 14 showing up and there were 27 who were 50% certain that they would attend, of which 7 showed up. I will use the data from this years survey to adjust the guarantees for the 2003 reunion. From our history it seems that of those who respond with a 100% certain, we should have 79.8% actually attend. Of the 75 percent certain, 61.6% should attend and of the 50% certain, 19.16% should show up in Valley forge. Simple to plan if that was all there was to it.

Of those attending the 2002 reunion in Chicago, 30 registered and attended without submitting a survey and 6 showed up without ever registering with me at all.

I must compute the required room block based on the results of the survey, taking into consideration that we will gain more members during the year as well as lose a few. The problem is that when the final prices and concessions are negotiated, they are

based on the total room block that we guarantee. Add to that the fact that we can be penalized for failing to meet our room block, and the hotel can also refuse to honor the group rate on those rooms exceeding the guaranteed room block. There is some flexibility during the adjustment period, but the bottom line here is that the more accurate we are when we negotiate the final changes to the contract, the better the prices will be and the more concessions the hotel will be willing to make.

At Valley Forge, we have blocked 196 paid nights during the week. I will be able to make some adjustments to that number about 5 months prior to the reunion, and these adjustments will be made as a result of the 2003 Reunion Survey.

There are two areas where we need to do better. First would be for me to have a better idea of the number of local members who show up unexpectedly and want to participate in the reunion without staying at the hotel. This is not usually a problem unless we get to the point where there is insufficient banquet space as was the case in San Diego. This was the primary reason for the Banquet Dinner count going so far above what I had figured on. The other area where we can easily improve is when we make our reservations at the hotel. There is simply no reason not to make advance reservations. We must release rooms from our block at the cut off or risk having the Association being required to pay for them. Every hotel that we work with has a very liberal cancellation policy. Plus, late reservations run the risk of not getting the Association room rate or even worse, not having a room available. The bottom line here is, make your reservations early. When three people show up at the hotel and there is only one room left, the hotel will charge the highest rate it can. Remember my favorite quote, "It's just business".

Simply put, I cannot over emphasize the importance of the Reunion Survey. Please try to have it completed and returned to me by November 30, 2002. This will make planning the 2003 Chicago much easier and result in a better Reunion for everyone.

## IT'S A SURVEY, NOT A COMMITMENT!

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## LOOK WHO CAME TO DINNER

The following former crewmembers joined us at the 2002 Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion in Chicago, Illinois

James Ayers, Beacon  
Paul Bennett, Crockett  
Sidney Bernstein, Crockett  
John Best, Asheville  
Leroy Blankenship, Antelope  
Michael Blundell, Gallup  
Merle Bontrager, Grand Rapids  
Anthony Brauneck, Antelope  
Larry Buchanan, Green Bay  
Leland Burnett, Ready  
Fred Carrozzo, Surprise  
Charles Chupco, Crockett  
Orville Clemmons, Welch  
Ronnye Cole, Welch  
Marshal Collins, Defiance  
Peter Connor, Asheville  
Donald Cumpston, Welch  
Ronald Currie, Antelope  
Louis Dieso, Chehalis

David Donaldson, CCR-3  
David Evans, Defiance  
John Faulls, Grand Rapids  
Robert Flournoy, Asheville  
Warren Foy, Ready  
G. Frost, Crockett  
Felton Green, Antelope  
Daniel Harmon, Surprise  
Kurt Hauge, Marathon  
Albert Havranek, Antelope  
Michael Hirvela, Chehalis  
George Ingram, Crockett  
Wayne Jackson, Crockett  
Daniel Jacobson, Antelope  
Jon Jacques, Asheville  
James Jarvis, Green Bay  
Byron Jones, Canon  
William King, Ready  
Leo Klotz, Gallup

Harold Lankford, Surprise  
George Lockway, Crockett  
Bill Lydon, Green Bay  
Floyd Mackey, Gallup  
Daniel Martucci, Douglas  
Michael McFarland, Asheville  
Daniel McGowan, Asheville  
Paul McGurgan, Crockett  
Terry McManuels, Canon  
Robert Mitchell, Asheville  
Charles Moran, Green Bay  
Terrence Pankowski, Ready  
Joseph Patton, Ready  
Charles Perkins, Asheville  
John Pletsch, Crockett  
William Powell, Antelope  
Scott Rager, Tacoma  
Keith Ray, Tacoma  
Roger Reynolds, Canon

Gordon Rheinstrom, Grand Rapids  
Paul Roberts, Antelope  
Robert Rooker, Chehalis  
John Sapp, Tacoma  
Ronald Sebert, Crockett  
Richard Smoktunowicz, Antelope  
William Spane, Gallup  
Steven Spayd, Green Bay  
James Thomas, Asheville  
James Turnbull, Benicia  
Gene Van Orden, Chehalis  
Billy Walden, CCR-3  
Timothy Wallace, Crockett  
Gary Wentworth, Antelope  
Dale Westby, Defiance  
Howard Wick, Crockett  
James Wylie, Ready  
James Zimmerman, Crockett