

The Bucket and Swab will be going green in 2017. To save on funding, and in keeping with the times. There will be one more printed issue of this newsletter in the Spring. In the future you will be able to read the latest on the Lowry website at: www.usslowry.org and on Facebook.

A note from our President, Bob Bishop: Ahoy Mates,

I want to thank all of the officers for all there help and to the ladies who did the decorations for the banquet. I hope we can find more shipmates that will be able to make the next reunion.

Sorry this has taken so long to get out to everyone, been really busy around our house since the reunion. It's been awhile since the reunion in Philadelphia. Wanted to get this letter out and get you up to speed on our next reunion.

I was disappointed at the number of shipmates at the reunion this year. I know some of it had to be do to not everyone getting the information in a timely fashion. We had a lot of people who voted to go to Philly but then not many showed up. We had a great time and I think we had a couple of good tours, while we were there.

This year they have voted to go to New Orleans, LA. We are working on getting things lined up for there and should have that ready by the end of March so you will know where we will be staying and the dates. There are several of us going to look around New Orleans , to see what they have to offer for rooms and tours.

One change we have made is we are asking for dues from the membership of \$10 per year. This helps with the cost of the newsletter and other expenses. We would also like to get current addresses and phone numbers.

Staff: The following changes took effect at the Philadelphia reunion at the all hands business meeting. Bob Bishop was re-elected as president, Early Floyd as Vice President. Fred Lowman will stay on as treasurer. Lance Nemanic has volunteered to take over as the Editor of the Bucket and Swab, and also the duties of the ship's store. Bill Meddings is our Chaplain and Bill Mackey the Ship's Historian.

The Lowry Ladies: The ladies did a great job at the Philadelphia reunion with registration and providing packets of information to all that attended. Goodie bags for all ladies in attendance were provided as well. Kudos to co-chairs Karen Bishop, Marty Lowman, and Jan Nemanic.

The Lowry Ladies would like to hear from you if you have stories to share regarding how you coped when your husband or significant other shipped out. Especially but not limited to the Vietnam Deployment. This could also include trials and tribulations of day to day life during the 60's and 70's. Please send your contribution to the ladies at: lnemanic@comcast.net or to Jan Nemanic 1712

Marschall Road Shakopee, Minnesota 55379-3308, under the subject of Lowry Ladies. Please also include any photographs you wish to share during those years, by sending an email scan.

Ship's Store: A couple of new items will be added to the Ship's Store. A new ball cap and polo shirt. I provided several samples at the reunion for our raffle and some for purchase. Both were very well received. The ball cap is black and the embroidery reads: USS LOWRY DD 770, the second line has the 3 ribbons which we all received. (National Defense, and the two Vietnam Service ribbons.) The third line reads: BROWN WATER NAVY, (In recognition of the ship's service in South Vietnam brown water.) The polo shirt is khaki in color with the same logo over the left breast pocket as well as a "Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club" patch on the left short sleeve. When I spoke to one of our new vendors, I had told him that the shirt holds up really well to washings and is very stain resistant, unlike most of my polo shirts, even the expensive ones. More information and pictures will be provided on these items this spring, as I have placed a new order with the vendor.

Chaplain's Corner: We live in a society where the advocates of "tolerance" are increasingly intolerant. We should be careful not to miss this hypocrisy. These loud and angry voices decry views and beliefs that fail to conform to their own. Under the banner of "freedom" modern secular voices emphatically denounce the freedom of Christians to assert their convictions regarding God's written revelation, Christ's lordship, and the biblical data regarding the coming judgment. We've recently seen this in the political arena as well. The party that cries out for tolerance has shown total intolerance against the winners of the last Presidential election. We all can sympathize with the natural tendency to recoil at the assertion of these sobering realities, but one cannot rationally claim to be "open-minded," "accepting of diversity" or "tolerant," while vehemently attacking those who are convinced of their ideals. For centuries the idea of "tolerance" described the peaceful coexistence of those with divergent views. Today our culture employs the word "tolerance" to justify a rancorous campaign to insist that everyone conform to their intemperate values. We should not buy the rhetoric that holding to an increasingly unpopular view is "intolerant." As a Christian nation we should continue to peacefully and respectfully stand up and speak up for the things that we will all be held accountable for one day.

News around the Navy: Graduate from boot camp one day and **pin on Chief's anchors** the next day? The push is part of the military's plan to recruit experts mid-career for growing areas like cyber warfare. This according to a June 2016 issue of Navy Times. The military has asked Congress to relax officer personnel laws so they could directly hire civilians at pay grades up to O-6. This is not an entirely new concept however. During my one year stint at B school NTC Bainbridge, Maryland, my next door neighbor was an E-6 DP (Data Processing tech.) He made DPC by taking his first exam for advancement in the Navy. This was in the 1960s. The Navy needed Data Processing people very badly and brought them in at advanced paygrades such as E-6. He had to be about the youngest CPO in the Navy.

Uniform changes: The Navy changes uniforms more often than people change socks it seems. One of the many new trends is to go retro. That is, officers and chiefs will wear khaki uniforms similar to those worn in WW II. Also on the docket was to allow Chief Petty Officers to sport sabers as they did in times of sailing ships, although that did not gain much traction I'm told. Now they have come out with yet another camouflage working uniform to replace the "blueberries" uniform, which is not to be confused with the digital design or several of the other camouflage working uniforms and replacing dungarees with coveralls. If this sounds confusing to you, it is. I retired out about 10 years ago and it was not uncommon to see 5 or 6 different uniforms being worn at morning muster.

No carriers deployed: For the first time ever in history, no aircraft carriers are deployed overseas.

Too Young the Hero: This is the true story of a 12 year old boy who enlisted in the Navy during WW II. Calvin Graham not only served, but served honorably and was awarded several medals, including some for his actions at Guadalcanal. Unfortunately he ended up back in the states at a Marine Corps brig. Through no fault of his own, he had missed movement to his next command, another ship in the Pacific. Missing movement during WW II was a very serious offense. He then spent some very unpleasant time in the brig as you can imagine. He was stripped of his rank and medals. Long after Graham's death, it took 3 U. S. Presidents (Carter, Reagan, and Clinton) to get everything re-instated. Graham wasn't very old when he died. Ricky Schroder plays Graham in the movie (Too young the hero) and does an outstanding job. You can stream the movie on Netflix or order it on Amazon.

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SHIPMATES FOREVER!