

# SCUTTLEBUTT

December 2010

The St. Louis Arch



New Mouse Pad



Relaxing in the Anheuser-Busch Tasting room

Paula Grond & Chris Stammen with a member of the staff from the Mayor's office showing the Proclamation.



**More pictures inside and check out the new items in the ship's store.**

## Presidents Corner

What a great time we had in St. Louis at our reunion! We had such an awesome turnout of survivors and family members again this year, including quite a few first time family members attending. I would like to acknowledge and thank our reunion committee for the superb job they did in planning and executing our 2010 reunion.

A few of the many highlights of the reunion was our edible tour on Thursday which included a city tour visiting the Missouri Italian Bakery, Gus' Pretzels, then we enjoyed an Italian lunch at Fazio's, and to complete the day – a delicious custard dessert at the famous Ted Drewes Creamery. On Friday we participated in a tour to Boeing, Anheuser Bush, and the Arches with the USS Raymond. At our dinner banquet each survivor received a copy of a resolution from the Mayor of St. Louis, The Honorable Francis Slay, declaring **October 25, 2010, USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 Day**, and at the memorial service we welcomed the attendance of survivors and family members from the USS Raymond.

I was so happy to see so many of you attend the Board meeting. I do appreciate your attendance, comments, suggestions, and most importantly your continued support for your Board. For those of you who could not attend the meeting here is a brief update of some of the business discussed.

- Norm Loats has resigned his position as Vice President and has requested to continue his service as a Governor. At this time I have appointed Chris Stammen to assume the duties of Vice President and Norm will assume the duties of Governor until our next election, which will be held at our 2011 membership meeting.

I would like to recognize and thank Norm for his many years of service as Vice President. Norm has been a tremendous asset to the Board and the Association with his continued support, dedication, and knowledge.

Additionally, I would like to thank Chris for accepting the responsibilities of Vice President. Chris is a committee member on our historical project, he was also on the committee for the Nimitz plaque, and he provides support and assistance each year to the reunion committee.

- After much discussion at our Board meeting, it was determined we need to track and record the historical memorabilia the Association, survivors, and/or family members have placed in local communities or museums. To begin this task we have formed a historical committee. I'd like to thank Susan Bagen, Lauren Bagen, Rudy Cender, Chris Stammen, Mark Heinl, Ed Hagerty, and Norm Loats for volunteering to participate in this historical adventure. The committee will be developing a questionnaire for survivors and family members to fill out, which in turn will help us determine, track, and record the location of any USS Gambier Bay historical memorabilia. Once the questionnaire/process is implemented we will have a link on our website so we can reach out to others who may have historical memorabilia to donate or who would like the Association to keep track of their historical memorabilia in our database. This is a huge project and if you are interested in participating, you may contact me or one of the committee members. The committee will have an update for us at our 2011 membership meeting.
- 2011 reunion. Thank you to everyone who offered city suggestions. We have made the final decision and we will be traveling to Omaha, Nebraska for our 2011 reunion! Our reunion committee is busy finalizing all of the details and more information will be coming soon.
- It has come to our attention that the **Men of the USS Gambier Bay** book is no longer in publication and it is virtually impossible to find a new copy. We are researching options and hope to have an update for a solution soon.
- Website update – we are still under construction but are moving along quite well. We are still in need of contributions such as photos, newspaper articles, acknowledgements or recognitions from our survivors and family members.  
This year we videotaped our memorial service and we will be posting that onto our website in the near future. You may send any photos or materials for the website to me or Marlene. We will have an update for you on the website at our 2011 membership meeting.

I would like to thank John Larson, our web designer, for all of his dedication, hard work, and diligence in searching and obtaining historical data. Developing a website is a tremendous project to undertake and John is donating his expertise in developing and maintaining our website. We do have photos and other memorabilia on the website – check us out [www.ussgambierbay.org](http://www.ussgambierbay.org).

Additionally, I would like to again thank John and his wife Joselyn, who so graciously provided the entertainment at our dinner banquet. We are so very lucky to have the support of John and Joselyn. They are a great addition to our Gambier Bay family.

I would like to ask all of our Gambier Bay family to keep each survivor in their prayers for continued good health. Some of our regular attendees were unable to make the trip to St. Louis this year. In an effort to reach out to those who were unable to attend (for any reason), as a reminder we will be posting the St. Louis memorial service to our website. In future years we hope to include video of our excursions, meetings, banquets, and the memorial service as well as video of us just hanging out in the hospitality room during our future reunions!

Just a reminder . . . we have some wonderful new items in our ship store (mouse pads, coffee mugs, and luggage tags) as well as some of your all time favorite items (framed USS Gambier Bay stamps, lapel pins, shirts). Check out the ships store to obtain your official USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 items.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and encouragement to not only me but to the entire Board. We are here to serve you and should you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the other Board members.

Paula Grond  
[pk\\_grond@yahoo.com](mailto:pk_grond@yahoo.com)

Paula at the top of the Arch.



George Feliz w/daughters Marsha, Valerie & Vicki



A happy Murray Brown

# SHIP'S STORE

WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN OUR INVENTORY:

PRINTS OF FREEDOM'S COST	\$55.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Hats	\$25.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Lapel Pin	\$8.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Button Pin	\$4.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Mouse Pad (see picture on cover)	\$10.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Luggage Tag (see below)	\$7.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Travel Mug (see below)	\$22.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Coffee Mug (see below)	\$10.00 w/shipping
USS Gambier BAY Polo Shirt (see below)	\$30.00 w/shipping

The polo shirts are embroidered and come in Men's & Ladies sizes S,M,L,XL-XXL is \$1.50 more  
Colors are Medium Blue, Royal Blue, Navy Blue with Yellow Embroidery.





## **SHIP'S STORE CONTINUED:**

### **BOOKS:**

**THE MEN OF THE GAMBIER BAY BOOK IS OUT OF PRINT AS OF JANUARY 2009. I am looking into having a publisher print the book by digitally copying our paperback and then having it published so we can sell it on our website and other website to make money for the association. So look for news in the future.**

**Hardback -"Last of the Tin Can Sailors" only 1 left \$30.00 w/shipping**

**VHS tapes of the 1996 Dedication of Fort Rosecrans monuments. \$10.00 w/shipping**

**MAKE A DONATION OF \$50.00 YOU WILL RECEIVE A SHEET OF 20 STAMPS (THEY ARE .39 CENT STAMPS) with the picture of Freedom's Cost.**

**THE COLORS OF THE ITEMS PICTURED ARE THE SAME ON THE MOUSE PAD.**

**The polo shirts will be made to order and will take approximately 2 weeks to make.**

**We had this years memorial service video taped and if you would like a copy please contact Susan Bagen (Board of Governor & Lou Vilmer's daughter) at 1-972-839-7465.**

**The shipping is included with the prices making it easier to know the cost.**

**Please send orders and check or money order to**

**USS Gambier Bay/vc-10 Assoc  
c/o Marlene Hughes  
Treasurer  
2228 E Greenlee Rd  
Tucson, AZ 85719-2012**

**[E-mail-mahhome@cox.net](mailto:E-mail-mahhome@cox.net)  
520-326-0747**

**Our raffle table at the Banquet, we made \$455 for the Association**



## 2010 USS Gambier Bay Reunion



Pictured bottom row left to right: Jack Turner, George Feliz, Don Heric, Charlie Heinl, Fred Grabos, Norman Loats, Murray Brown.

Top Row left to right: Carl Amundson, Bud Petitt, Dean Moel & Ed Hagerty.



On our tour we went to The Missouri Baking Company, Gus' Pretzels then lunch at Favazza's and Ted Drewes for custard. We basically ate our way through St Louis that day.

Great Food and fun  
was had by all!



**Our survivors ladies:**

**Bottom row left to right: Vivian Akers, Lucille Heric, Darlene Petitt, Shirley Turner, Rita Heini, Ginger Horton.**

**Top row left to right: Sally Loats, Lucille Gutzwiler, Maureen Dugan & Margaret Hagerty.**



**We were able to go on a second tour on Friday. Where we went to the Boeing Company, lunch at the Union Station, up the Arch and then to the famous Anheuser-Busch Brewery. Here are a few waiting in line to go up the Arch.**

**Here are Fred Grabos and Norm Loats at the Boeing Company.**



## Banquet Pictures



To the left is Susan Bagen, Lauren Bagen & Ensign Victor Buhl (Lauren's Boyfriend) Above is



Paula Grond, Chris Stammen & Marlene Hughes



To the left is Dean Moel with his family. Daughter, Linda Shimerda and husband Phil to the left. Daughter Patti Schott and sons Mike & Jack with daughter-in-law Donna Brus.

To the right is Charlie Heinl dancing with his granddaughter Hannah





## More Pictures



**Paula Grond with Rudy & Al Cender**



**Paula with Ed & Margaret Hagerty**



**Lucille Gutzwiler & Bobbie Runnels**



**Our POW/MIA table at memorial lunch**



**Our Color Guard for the Memorial Service. They did an outstanding job as well as our bugler.**

# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NEEDED TO CONTINUE OUR ASSOCIATION AN PUBLICATION. PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN!!**

**SURVIVORS DO NOT OWE DUES**

**THE DUES ARE \$15.00 ANNUALLY OR \$100.00 FOR A LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP.**

**PLEASE CIRCLE ONE OF THE NUMBERED OPTIONS BELOW.**

- 1. ENCLOSED IS \$15.00 FOR A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE SCUTTLEBUTT.**
- 2. ENCLOSED IS \$100.00 FOR A LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP.**
- 3. I CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY FOR A SUBSCRIPTION AT THIS TIME. PLEASE KEEP ME ON THE MAILING LIST.**
- 4. YOUR SHIPMATE OR SQUADRON MATE HAS PASSED AWAY. PLEASE KEEP ME ON THE MAILING LIST.**
- 5. PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME FROM YOUR MAILING LIST.**
- 6. I WOULD LIKE THE SCUTTLEBUTT E-MAILED TO ME (INCLUDE E-MAIL BELOW)**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$** \_\_\_\_\_ **CK#** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY** \_\_\_\_\_

**ST** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE#** \_\_\_\_\_ **FAX#** \_\_\_\_\_

**RANK/RATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DIV** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPOUSE'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SEND TO:**

**MARLENE HUGHES, TREASURER  
USS GAMBIER BAY/VC-10 ASSOCIATION  
2228 E GREENLEE RD  
TUCSON, AZ 85719-2012**

**ANY ADDITIONAL MONEY WILL BE CONSIDERED A DONATION  
AND GREATLY APPRECIATED!!**

# In Memoriam

## SHIPMATES WHO HAVE CROSSED THE BAR

**William Joe Hewitt 2/22/1922-7/10/2010** William Harlan "Joe" Hewitt passed away in Fullerton, Calif. on July 10, 2010 at 88 years old. He was born Feb. 22, 1922 in Pickering, Mo. Joe was the seventh child of seven boys and one girl born to Charles Clinton Hewitt and Nancy Mirah (Nims) Hewitt.

Joe graduated from Hopkins High School then headed west to find work in Southern California before joining the Navy during WWII. He was an Aviation Metalsmith on the USS Gambier Bay when his ship was sunk during the Battle of the Leyte Gulf in the Philippines. This was the last Naval gun battle in history and he was awarded a Presidential Citation. An engineering school graduate of the University of Southern California, he worked in Southern California aerospace for over 45 years. He has lived in the Fullerton and La Habra areas since 1958.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Lois Jean Hewitt; their two children, Charles Hewitt of Philadelphia and Nancy Halterlein of Irvine, Calif.; four grandchildren; sister, Georgia Carter of Fullerton, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

**Thanks to Jack Turner for letting me know about Joe's passing. The bell was tolled for him at this years memorial service**

**Edward H. Schaeffer 6/4/1921-9/25/2010** Edward was born on June 4, 1921 and passed away on Saturday, September 25, 2010.

Edward was last known to be living in Wyomssing, Pennsylvania.

He enlisted in the Navy in early 1942. Edward served as a machinist 1st class on the U.S.S Gambier Bay, an escort carrier, which was part of the Pacific 7th fleet during WWII. In October, 1944, the Gambier Bay took part in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, considered by many to be the greatest naval battle ever fought. Highly outnumbered, the US fleet managed to repel superior Japanese forces and preserve MacArthur's pivotal invasion of the Philippines. After recovering from his injuries, Edward received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his acts of bravery

He is survived by his wife Louise. **The bell was tolled at the memorial service.**

**James Engle 7/10/1925-4/16/2009** James Franklin "Jim" Engle of Eugene died April 12 of complications of Parkinson's disease. He was 83. No service is planned.

He was born July 10, 1925, in Pittsburg, Kan., to Allan and Addie Spears Engle. He married JoeAnn Whitcomb on Aug. 2, 1947, in Pittsburg.

Jim served in the Navy in World War II as a tail gunner on the USS Gambier Bay in the Pacific. He attended the University of Pittsburg in Kansas. He worked as a lumber salesman for the Cascadian Co. for 24 years.

Survivors include his wife; four daughters, JoNell Spring, Trish Wilson, Jackie Mace and Jammie Posey, all of Eugene; a brother, Allan of Pittsburg; nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements by Andreason's Cremation & Burial Service in Springfield. Remembrances to the Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Research Foundation. **The bell was tolled at the memorial service.**

# IN MEMORIAM

## Joseph F Kimball 4/5/1925-10/4/2010

**George Rice Wilson, Jr. 1920-4/25/2010** G. Rice Wilson, Jr, 90, of St. Petersburg, FL passed from this life Sunday, April 25, 2010 at Menorah Manor Nursing Home. He leaves behind Charline, his wife of 60 years, son George (Skip) Rice Wilson III MD and daughter-in-law Judy Wilson of Jacksonville, FL, daughter Susan Wilson Davidson and son-in-law Robert (Buck) Davidson Jr. of Holiday, FL, sister Caroline Tannahill of Jackson, MS, grandson Randy Wilson and granddaughter-in law Jennifer Wilson of Kernersville, NC, grandson Chris Wilson of Jacksonville, FL, nephew Joseph Royalty of Jackson, MS and niece Janet Royalty of Atlanta, GA. A native of Oxford, MS, Rice grew up in Jackson, MS. He began working at the age of 10 selling the Saturday Evening Post and other magazines. Later he sold newspapers and worked at the Jitney Jungle Grocery Store. He graduated from Central High School in Jackson, MS in 1938. He attended Marion Military Institute in Marion, AL and completed the Service Academy Prep Program in 1940. He returned to Jackson, MS and attended Millsaps College where he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He enlisted in the Navy in 1941 and served as a naval aviator on board the USS Enterprise and Gambier Bay. He saw action in the Battles of the Coral Sea and Leyte Gulf and was shot down by enemy fire over New Caledonia. Later he returned to the Pacific coast flying a variety of aircraft and missions between San Diego and the Aleutian Islands. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant before being honorably discharged in 1945. After returning to Mississippi following the war, Rice worked for the Veterans Administration while attending Mississippi College of Law where he obtained his Law degree. For a time, Rice worked with his father, George Sr., in the family owned food brokerage business until his father retired and the business was sold. The remainder of his working career was with GAB Business Service as an insurance adjuster in Nashville, TN. He obtained the designation of General Adjuster, which is the highest designation obtainable - and retired in 1985. Following retirement from GAB, Rice founded a marine surveying business, which he ran until his second retirement in 2000. In his younger years, Rice was active in the Jaycees and Shrine. He was Past Master of Capital Lodge #600 in Jackson, MS and was a 32nd degree KCCH 50-year member. On moving to Nashville he joined the Al Menah Shrine Temple where he was an active member for many years. Per Rice's wishes, he will be cremated and his ashes will be stored until the death of his wife, at which time a joint graveside service will be conducted in Jackson, MS. Memorials may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children or the Alzheimers Association (in honor of Charline Wilson). **The bell was tolled at this years memorial service.**

**This bell was bought by the association to be used at our Memorial Services**





## In Appreciation

**Thank you to all the names listed for your donation, buying something from the ship's store, subscription, lifetime membership or being a volunteer. All of this helps the association spread the word about that fateful day on October 25,1944.**

Helen Kennedy  
Carol Macgill Zimorski  
Rudolph Biller  
Jeanette Hall  
Louis Vilmer  
Nancy & Charles Hooks  
Royce Hall  
Phil Young  
Betty Cowan  
Norman Loats  
Chris Stammen  
Delia Avenenti  
George Feliz  
Ken Mullinix  
Susan Turner  
Sally Loats  
Bobbie Runnels  
Fran Carlson  
Mike Moel  
Phil Shimerda  
**Darlene Pettitt**

Susan Bagen  
Maureen Dugan  
Paula Grond  
Marsha Woodruff  
Carol Becker  
Al Cender  
Jack Turner  
Roger & Chloe Hill  
Don Heric  
Rita Heini  
Ginger Horton  
Linda Shimerda  
Mark Heini  
Lucille Gutzwiler  
Marlene Hughes  
Bob Greenwald  
Barbara Tanaka  
Vivian Akers  
Bud Pettitt  
Don Shrimp

**( A special thank you for lending your beautiful voice to this years memorial service)**



**Darlene sang "God Bless America" and the "Lords Prayer".**

**She almost helped with Anchors Aweigh.**

# Mail Call

July 13,2010

E-mail Received from Rev. Wayne Stokes

Dear Marlene...

It was good to hear from you. Walter is my wife's dad and my father in law. He is in very poor health and now in a nursing home. It is very hard on us since we live in Indianapolis, IN. and he is in Illinois. We never have a way to see him as our van is in rough shape. At least we have a few friends back home that go see him in our stead. It would be better if we could go but sometimes we are dealt difficult things. It is a shame that these American heroes are leaving us so quickly.

I would love to receive the newsletter for sure. I get angry when so few people have never heard of the USS Gambier Bay. Here in Indy they always talk about the USS Indianapolis, which of course they should. But I wrote to our local news paper and asked if someone there could write a story about the heroes of the Gambier Bay and he told me basically..."No thanks!"

We had to fight to get my father in law benefits that he whole heartedly deserved for his service to our country. He was in the water all that time and was disabled due to it. He worked when he should not have but he felt that he did not want to take money from the government. When he could work no more he tried to get help and they fought him all the way. We finally got him the help he deserved. Illinois gave this service vet \$7 a month for food stamps. Thank God he ended up getting more as we continued our fight for him.

I thank God for your association that lets us know there are others like walter out there that love and loved our nation so much that they laid their lives on the line for us all.

Love and prayers in Christ...

Rev. Wayne Stokes (Son-in-law of Walter Duke Stow)

What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly,  
and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Micah 6:8

[waynet341@sbcglobal.net](mailto:waynet341@sbcglobal.net)

July 13,2010

*Dear Rev Wayne:*

*So sorry to hear about Walter. You are right with regard to many of these heroes are leaving us so soon. Do you think Walter would like a copy of the newsletter?*

*I will put you on the e-mail mailing list. Did you see where the reunion this year is in St Louis? It would be great to meet you and your wife. You could give the prayer during the memorial service.*

*Hope you consider it.*

*It must be hard not being able to see Walter. I do know that prayers work though.*

*God Bless*

*Marlene*

July 21,2010

Dear Marlene...

It would be an honor to attend in St. Louis and give the prayer during the memorial service. But I must decline. My wife and I are both disabled and long trips are not something that we cannot do anymore. Believe me I am so honored that you would ask. My wife has broken her back three times. We both live daily in severe pain but God keeps us going in our walk with Him. We use our daughter's van for all of our daily needs such as shopping and doctors and such. Her van is not in the best shape. Between the van and our health is why we can no longer get home to see Walter. We are blessed with a friend that lives near Walter's nursing home and she goes to see him whenever she can. Her husband goes with her as they are both honored to spend some time with this hero. He has shared his and his shipmates story

with them. My old pastor back home goes to see Walter as well. Walter misses us but he does understand that we cannot get there. It is a shame that his wife is pretty near as ill as Walter but she get to see him about once a week.

Again, thank you so much for asking us to attend St. Louis. I am so honored that you asked.  
Love and prayers in Christ...  
your new friend,  
Rev. Wayne

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Letter from Carol Macgil Zimorski:  
July 14, 2010

Dear Marlene;

Please find the enclosed check as a donation for your use with the "Scuttlebutt" publication or Gambier Bay/VC-10 Association expenses.

Perhaps it can be used to help someone who cannot afford a subscription to your wonderful publication.

This comes in honor, (and in memory of) of course, of my beloved father, Robert Tilt Macgill, who would whole heartedly approve of this contribution!

Best Wishes,  
Carol MacGill Zimorski

***Thank you Carol for the donation in honor of your father and the nice compliment on the Scuttlebutt.***

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Letter from Royce and Faye Hall  
August 10, 2010

Dear Marlene:

Please accept this small token of admiration and sincere respect for all you and the Board of Governors perform to keep alive the memories of the valiant men of Gambier Bay and VC10.

I was privileged to fly with CDR. Huxtable and the men of VC-10 only a short while after the Fannie Bee was bombed 17 July 1944 at Saipan.

My flight Log shows I flew my first hop on 14 July after I and a few VC 68 Crewman and Pilots were picked up at Eniwetok, two flights on the 15th and every day through the 30th then on 3 & 5 August when we had been transferred back to Eniwetok for a long flight on an R5D to Oahu to rejoin VC 68 and catch a plane transport to Pitulu in the Admiralties where we catch the repaired Fannie Bee for the invasion at Leyte Gulf.

I have written a number of articles about these events and others in the Piper when I served on the Board of Governors of ECSAA from 2001 through 2005 which some of your members may have read.

I have always been proud of my service with VV 10 and will jot down for the record the names of the Radiomen that flew with me at the Mariannas; Saint Blaney, Murrary Burns E.H., Harris, Phillips, BernArdine, Falulk and Moreland. Some of the above more than one strike and a few VC 68 Radiomen flew the rest.

I pray some of these good men survived the sinking on 25 October 1944 and some are still with us today.

We regret the fact that Faye and I were unable to attend more of your reunions than the one near Pensacola when we had a meeting at RoseCrans National Cemetery long ago. My first wife Phyllis and I also attended Huxtables memorial in Charleston, S.C.

Our dearest friends Hank and Jeannie Pyzdrowski have kept us abreast of the Association and I really appreciate receiving the Scuttlebutt over the years.

We visited with Pilot Owen Wheeler and his wife at Myrtle Beach, SC in September 2009 at the Fanshaw Bay Reunion.

This article may get a little long but I want to write about one of the most memorable events on board Gambier with the hope that some survivors of ships company and VC 10 will remember.

I Had 5 brothers and one sister. All the boys were called into service after my enlistment in the Navy.

Letter from Royce Hall continued:

During the dark days of the depression for amusement the older boys taught all us youngsters to play poker by the light of the fireplace where we would divide up a nickel box of matches because we had no money to be used as chips. By an early age I knew the odds of drawing to an inside straight so it was only natural for me to gamble every payday after I enlisted in the Navy on 29 November 1940.

After boot camp and Aviation Ordnance School I was transferred to NAS Pensacola where my first duty was teaching aviation Cadets at the Ground School Gunnery range. That was my duty until the war broke out 7 December 1941.

In early 1942 I began flying long ASP/Navigation hops over the Gulf of Mexico looking for German Subs. While stationed there we enlisted men would try to find a place to hide our poker games from the Master At Arms. However, about every time the pots were big the sly devils would reach in and grab all the cash. All of them would say the same thing, "this money is going to the Navy relief, any of you say a word and you will be marching lock step with those prisoners you see Marines guarding every day." It does not take a rocket scientist to know they all retired wealthy men.

After joining VC 68 in June 1943, we went to Sea in early 1944, where we gambled in the Norden Bomb Site locker room because I had a key and knew we would be safe.

I was aboard Gambier only one payday night when one of the VC 10 Radiomen said right out loud "hey guns you going to get in the game?" I looked around to see if someone was listening and whispered "where is the game?" to which he shouted as he was leaving the gallery deck, "just lay down to the mess deck." Well bless my soul I could not believe my eyes when I walked in the chow room, which looked like Harrahs in Las Vegas, Poker Games, Crap Games, I think I remember seeing a wheel of fortune and maybe even a Roulette Table, but when the shock wore off, I sauntered over to a crap game to test the water.

There I was tossing those galloping dominoes trying to make a nine when I looked up and there stood two officers with a lot of gold braid on the bill of their caps. I guess my mouth must have flopped open and I just stood there scared to death. The Captain smiled and said "go ahead and make your point son" and just strolled on over to watch another event. I recall I crapped out on the net roll and went on to lose most of my pay check in the other games.

Gambier Bay was the only ship or station I served on during my 6 years in the Regular Navy until my discharge in 1947 where gambling was wide open.

At some point in time I wrote about this event in the Piper I believe, and I ended the article with the following line; "I can just see all those gambling ship and squadron mates that bought the farm that fateful morning of 25 October, 1944 entering the Pearly Gates and saying to St Peter, "Hey Pete, where is the game?" I pray some are alive that remembered the event in July or August of 1944 and will contact me.

I also want to touch on another event which some of the VC10 men may remember. This was an incident I wrote about long ago to recap an event off Guam in July or August about a young Pilot and his crew who were killed as they were catapulted off the ship.

As the plane cleared the bow of the ship it suddenly went straight up, stalled and fell into the sea on the port side. I was asleep in my bunk below decks when the depth bombs on the TBM went off outside the hull scaring me half to death because I thought we had been torpedoed.

Since we had lost a Pilot and crew on 16 June 1944 off Saipan to an identical situation, I wrote about it but do not recall the Pilot or his crewmen's names.

The theory was that the Pilot did not lock their chart boards and the thrust of the catapult dislodged the board and jammed the stick back into the Pilot hands.

I wrote that article while I was still living in the Napa Valley of Calif. And received a nice letter from the Pilots Widow who had remarried and was living in Alaska.

Our good friend Henry Pyzdrowski picked up the story somehow and we have been great friends ever since. In fact Henry was responsible for inviting Faye and I to join you all in Pensacola as noted above. He also nominated me to the Board of Governors on ECSAA.

In closing Marlene may our Lord grant all of you long healthy lives and much happiness all of your days.

In Christian Love,  
Royce & Faye Hall

1125 Kings Road  
Brunswick, GA 31525 (912) 265-4681

***Thank you Royce for this letter and hopefully someone will contact you. My uncle may have been one of the guys at the gambling parties since he was Ships Cook 1st class. (Leonard G. Martin)***



THE LATEST SCOOP FROM AROUND THE  
**“SCUTTLEBUTT”**

RETURNS TO  
MARLENE HUGHES  
2228 E GREENLEE RD  
TUCSON, AZ 85719-2012  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Our Survivors at the 2010 Memorial Service**

