

# SCUTTLEBUTT

January 2012



Here is Charlie Heinl, Fred Grabos & Don Heric with the National Executive Director of Boys Town Father Steven E. Boes

Our Mouse Pad with "Freedom's Cost"



Survivors attending 2011 Reunion

Bottom row: Lou Vilmer, Fred Grabos, Don Heric & Charlie Heinl.

Top row: Carl Amundson, Dean Moel & George Feliz.

## Presidents Corner

What a great time we had in Omaha at our reunion! I would like to acknowledge and thank our reunion committee for the superb job they did in planning and executing our 2011 reunion. This year we had a family with four generations in attendance! Vivian Akers, her daughter Nancy Mullnix, her granddaughter Kathy Hunzinger, and her two great-granddaughters Amy Jo and Tyler Ann. It is so nice to see so many extended family members becoming involved in the Association. It is the goal of the Association to honor and keep the memory alive for all those who served on the USS Gambier Bay and we welcome all our extended generation family members and friends become members in the Association, to attend reunions, and most importantly become involved! Many of you know that my father, Paul LaRocco passed away in 1991, and in 2004 I became involved in the Association. I do so wish I could have shared this experience with him when he was alive. I am so thankful to all the survivors and family members for welcoming me into the Association and for letting me part of your family.

We had great tours in Omaha and some unique transportation. Our Thursday started out boarding a trolley named Buttercup. Buttercup took us on a historical driving tour and a few of the highlights included, driving by Warren Buffett's home (twice), a great tour of downtown Omaha, as well as stopping to visit the WWII memorial. We ended the day with a delicious lunch at the Bohemian Restaurant. On Friday we boarded Lulu and we visited Father Flanagan's Boys Town, which is located just outside of Omaha. What a great organization. Our tour guide was Sara, a resident of Boys Town. The tour not only included a view of the grounds but also a tour inside Father Flanagan's home. At the end our tour we shopped in the visitor center and had lunch at the Boys Town café.

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

- Elections for 2011-2013 were held and the following individuals were elected: Paula Grond, President, Chris Stammen, Vice President, Marlene Hughes, Treasurer, Susan Turner, Secretary, Governors, Norm Loats, Ed Haggerty, Lucille Gutzweiler, Susan Bagen, Lauren Buhl, Mark Heini, Tom Westbrook, and our newest addition, Jeanette Hall (daughter of survivor Fred Grabos). Congratulations to everyone!
- As you remember from last year, 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. Last year we formed a historical committee to begin to gather this information. This is a huge project and we have just begun to get our feet wet. The historical committee will continue their fact finding adventures and if you are interested in participating or you have some information to share, please contact me.
- Website update – we are continuing to build our website and we are still in need of contributions such as photos, newspaper articles, stories, acknowledgements or recognitions from our survivors and family members. Photos from the reunion should also be up on the website soon. Should you have any information you would like to contribute to the website or just have some suggestions, please give me a call.
- Location sites for the 2012 reunion were discussed and the reunion committee will be researching the top three. We should have more information after the first of the year.

- As many of you know The Men of the USS Gambier Bay book is no longer in print. There are a few used copies out there but the prices are in the \$100 range! Our Vice President, Chris will be researching to see if it is possible for the Association to reprint/republish.

This year for our raffle at our dinner banquet we had some amazing gifts and we also had a silent auction with some of our more elaborated items from the Tucson gem show. The dinner banquet raffle and silent auction once again proved to be a great fundraiser for the Association. Thank you to all of you generously donated gifts, bought raffle tickets, and for those who placed bids on our silent auction items.

Just a reminder . . . in addition to some of your all time favorite items in our ship store, such as the framed USS Gambier Bay stamp, pewter lapel pins, mouse pad, luggage tag, and shirts, we now have a few new items - - memo pads, note cards, and a limited number of the Last Tin Can Sailor books. Check out the ships store to obtain your official USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 merchandise. Once again I would like to recognize and thank Mr. R.C. Moore who has graciously allowed us to use the likeness of the Freedom's Cost for our various ship store items. He has continually supported the Association and we are very grateful for his generosity. We do have his lithograph "Freedom's Cost" available for purchase from our ship store. Please contact Marlene ([mahhome@cox.net](mailto:mahhome@cox.net)) for pricing and shipping details.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and encouragement to the entire Board. 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 presenting Charlie Heintl with a shirt she won in the raffle, made by Jeanette Hall (Fred Grabos' daughter)



Paula standing in front of the trolley which took us on our tours.

# SHIP'S STORE

WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN OUR INVENTORY:

PRINTS OF FREEDOM'S COST	\$55.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Hats (2 in black rest in Navy)	\$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 cover)	\$10.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Luggage Tag (see below)	\$7.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Travel Mug (see below) 2 left	\$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 Navy Blue with Yellow Embroidery.





**SHIP'S STORE CONTINUED:**



These t-shirts are pre-shrunk. They are charcoal color with the name of the ship & October 25, 1944, Battle of Leyte Gulf on the left sleeve.

5 XLarge, 4 Large & 1 Medium left. Price is \$20 w/ shipping.

We have Blank Note Cards with the picture of "Freedom's Cost" on the front.

Permission given by the artist R. C. Moore. Price is \$11 for 12 cards includes shipping. They measure 5 1/2 X 4 1/4 inches including an envelope.

**BOOKS:**

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

Paperback -"Last of the Tin Can Sailors" only 3 left \$20.00 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. (2 Left)

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.

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

Please send orders w/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 2011 Banquet, we made \$415 plus \$116.75 from our silent auction items



# 2011 USS Gambier Bay Reunion



Board Members pictured bottom left is Susan Bagen, Marlene Hughes, Lucille Gutzwiler, Susn Turner & Lauren Bagen-Buhl. Top left is Tom Westbrook, Mark Heinl, Paula Grond & Chris Stammen.



On our first tour we visited downtown Omaha and had lunch at the Boehmiam Cafe. Great Food and fun was had by all!



## **Our survivors and the ladies:**



**Bottom row left to right: Shirely Turner, Lou Vilmer, Fred Grabos, Don Heric, Lucille Heric, Charlie and Rita Heidl.**

**Top row left to right: Ginger Horton, Fran Carlson, Carl Amundson, Vivian Akers, Dean Moel, Lucille Gutzwiler & George Feliz**



**On our way to Boys Town on our 2nd tour we stopped to check out the Veterans Memorial Park in Omaha. Beautiful rose garden and a steep hill where the locals go sledding in winter.**

**Picture to the right is a statute of Father Flanagan in front of his home which we got to tour.**

## Banquet Pictures



To the left is my famous dancing partner George Feliz with Marlene Hughes

Pictured to the right is Lauren Bagen-Buhl with her grandpa Lou Vilmer and Fred Grabos



Some of our lovely ladies on the way to the banquet.

Left to right-Carol Becker, Jeannette Hall, Paula Grond, Lucilee Gutzwiler and Shirley Turner.



# In Memoriam

## SHIPMATES WHO HAVE CROSSED THE BAR

**John Irvin Turner 04/27/1922 - 09/7/2011**



“Jack”, 89, went home to be with the Lord September 7, 2011.

Beloved husband of Shirley for 67 years; loving father of Susan :. (Bob Greenwald) Turner of Longmont, CO, Bruce I. (Veronique) Turner of Arlington, VA, Donn M. (Mary KAy) Turner of Ft Collins, Co and Anne G. (Russ) Becker of Lone Tree, CO; devoted grandfather of Andrew (Sandra) Perry, Carissa (Keith) Horowitz, Hadrien, Alixe, Kyle, Leah and Kara Turner, Jackie and John Becker; and proud great grandfather of Alexandra and Savannah Perry.

Visitation was Sunday, September 18th at Horan & McConaty Family Chapel in Aurora, CO. A Procession to Ft Logan for the Military Service will meet on Monday, September 19, at Greenwood Community Church in Greenwood Village, CO. A memorial service followed back at Greenwood Community Church with a reception afterward.

Jack was a WW II US Navy Veteran, member of the VC-10 squadron assigned to The USS Gambier Bay. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and Four Air Medals. Jack played a large role in the USS Gambier Bay/VC10 Association as a governor and a reunion chairman. He and Shirley attended most of the reunions and hosted one in Denver. Jack was an United Airline pilot and was a musician.

His daughter Susan Turner who is on the Board of Governors did the eulogy at the Memorial Service in Omaha this past October. **Thank you Jack for all you did for the Association and the help you gave me. Rest in Peace. God Bless**

**Jacob “Thorny” Thornwell Sill 9/14/1922 - 10/10/2011**



Jacob Thornwell “Thorny” Sill, 89, of Spartanburg, passed away Monday, October 10, 2011.

Thorny was a World War II Navy Veteran and a survivor of the sinking of the USS Gambier Bay in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. He was a recipient of a Purple Heart. After Thorny’s military service, he worked as a telegraph operator with the C & WC Railroad and also worked at Beacon Drive-in. His musical talent was used by participating in Spartanburg Little Theatre and church choirs.

Thorny is predeceased by his parents, Robert and Agnes Sill: brothers, Doug, Robert, Joe, Duffy, and Corky; sisters, Sarah and Margaret. He leaves behind his wife of 64 years, Geraldine Houk Sill; sons, John Sill (Anne) of Memphis,

## **In Memoriam-Jacob “Thorny” Thornwell Sill**

TN, David Sill (Susan) of Easley, SC, and Harold Sill (Patty) of Gaffney, SC; a daughter, Jeannette Sill of Spartanburg, SC; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; as well as, nephews, nieces, family and friends whom he loved.

Visitation will be 5-7 PM Thursday, October 13, 2011, at Floyd's North Church Street Chapel. A Mass of Christian Burial will be conducted at 1 PM Friday, October 14, 2011, at St Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, by the Rev. Timothy M. Gahan. Burial will be in Heritage Memorial Gardens, Roebuck, SC.

The family request memorials be made to Mobile Meals Service, PO Box 461, Spartanburg, SC 29304; or the American Cancer, 154 Milestone Way, Greenville, Sc 29615



### **Jesse E. Lee 05/6/1927 - 09/13/2011**

Jesse E. Lee, 84, of Evansdale, died Tuesday, Sept. 13, at Covenant Medical Center, Waterloo, of natural causes. He was born May 6, 1927, in Worcester, Wis., son of Jess L. and Grace Holland Lee. He married Shirley Shaver on Sept. 25, 1950, in Waterloo.

Mr. Lee served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, receiving two purple hearts. He was employed as a press operator at Waterloo Industries.

Survived by: his wife Shirley; two sons, Tom of San Angelo, Texas, and Kenny of Evansdale; four daughters, Beverly LeVasseur of Springfield, Mo., Diane of Huachuca City, Ariz.,

Jody (Jim) Wilson of Dike and Barb (Dennis) Gutknecht of Cedar Falls; 19 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Preceded in death by: a son, Jesse Duane; seven brothers, Orville, Elden, Ward, Glenn, Gary and two in infancy; and five sisters, Dixie, Grace Larsen, Geneva, Dorothy and Evelena.

Memorial services: 10 a.m. Friday at Kearns, Huisman-Schumacher Chapel on Kimball. Visitation from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. His body has been cremated. Military rites will be conducted by Becker-Chapman American Legion Post 138, VFW Post 1623 and the Iowa Army National Guard Honors Detail.

I received this obituary from Norbet Trainor another shipmate. He passed on that Jesse came aboard the last port they were in before the ship sunk. He was an apprentice Seaman. **(Thank you Norbert for sending me this obituary)**

### **Fred Harry Eelman 2/28/1919 - 10/28/2011**

Mr. Fred Harry Eelman, age 92, of Marietta, GA passed away Friday, October 28, 2011. He was born in Clifton, NJ. Mr. Eelman was a World War II U.S. Navy Veteran in the Pacific Theatre serving on the USS Gambier Bay. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood, NJ for over 50 years. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Mr Eelman is survived by his son & daughter-in-law, Bruce & Katie Eelman of Marietta; grandchildren, Matt Eelman, Elisabeth Dilling & four great grandchildren

## IN MEMORIAM



### **Charles G. Heint- 1/8/1926-12/19/2011**

age 85, of 8329 St Rt 119, Maria Stein, Ohio, died at 12:25 AM on Monday, December 19, 2011 at his home. He was born January 08, 1926 in Wapakoneta, Ohio to the late Anthony & Cora (Fisher) Heint. On July 15, 1950 he married Rita (Menker) in Maria Stein, Ohio, and she survives in Maria Stein. He is also survived by two sons, John & Sheila Heint of New Carlisle, Ohio and Mark & Sandra Heint of Coldwater, Ohio, a brother, Larry Heint of Minster, Ohio, three sisters, Joan Heckman, Alice Kuehner and Barbara & Dennis Meyer, all of Minster, Ohio, seven

grandchildren, Matthew Heint, Hannah Heint, Joshua Heint, Ashlee & Matthew Botkin, Mark Heint II, Cassandra Heint and Spencer Heint, two great-grandchildren, Izaak Botkin and Kynlee Botkin, and two sisters-in-law Lucille & Don Heric of Maria Stein, Ohio and Ruth Stammen of New Weston, Ohio. He is preceded in death by his stepmother Edith (Wehrle), a brother, Fr. David Heint, two sisters, Mary Angela Heint and Hilda Morsey, three brothers-in-law, Irwin Morsey, Bob Heckman and Tom Kuehner, and sisters- and brothers-in-law, Lawrence Stammen, Irene & Paul Kleinhenz, Joe Kleinhenz, Alice Menker and Mary Ann Menker. He was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Maria Stein and its men's society and was a past president of the Knights of St. John, Uniform Rank.

He was a veteran of the US Navy serving on the USS Gambier Bay during World War II. He was the founder, former president, treasurer and secretary of the USS Gambier Bay CVE 73 VC 10 Association.

He was a member of the Maria Stein American Legion Post #571, where he was a former commander and member of the color guard, and the Chickasaw V.F.W. Post #9019, where he was also a former commander. Received the Distinguished Developer Award in 2001 from the Marion Community Development Organization, was a member of the Minster Eagles #1391 and was a former licensed private pilot. He was the owner/operator of the former Heint Grocery in Maria Stein for 30 years and was retired from Crown Controls. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 AM on Thursday, December 22, 2011 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Maria Stein, Ohio with Fr. Tom Brenberger, officiating. Burial will follow in St. John Cemetery, Maria Stein, Ohio, with military rites. Friends may call at the Hogenkamp Funeral Home-**Coldwater** on Wednesday from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM and on Thursday from 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM. Memorials may be directed to State of the Heart Hospice. Condolences may be left at [hogenkampfh.com](http://hogenkampfh.com).

***Charlie you gave 100% to the association and will be missed by the USS Gambier Bay Family. Rest in Peace. God Bless***

## IN MEMORIAM



### **Edward Donald Heric - 7/12/1924-12/20/2011**

Edward "Don" Heric of 2160 Buckeye Street, Maria Stein, Ohio, died at 12:29 AM, Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at Coldwater Hospital. Don was born July 12th, 1924 in Escanaba, MI, to Ella Louise (Papineau) and Edward Elige Heric. The family moved to Battle Creek, MI during his high school years where he graduated from St. Phillips Catholic High School in 1942. On March 10th, 1947, after serving 4 years in the US Navy during WWII, he married Kathryn Mary Rasmussen of Wausau, WI, while attending St. Norbert's College. After the passing of his first wife, Kathryn in 1994, Don

married Lucille Kleinhenz (Menker) of Maria Stein, OH in 1998, where he resided until his death. Don is preceded in death by a sister Margaret Koehler and a brother Theodore "Teddy" Heric.

Don is survived by Lucille Kleinhenz-Heric in Maria Stein, OH. From his first marriage to Kathryn, he is also survived by his three children: Steve Heric of Waukesha, WI, Denise Shattuck of Newport News, Virginia and Cinda O'Laughlin of Galesburg, MI, and eight (8) grandchildren – Sarah Johnson, Jacob Heric, Elya Banta, Joel Heric, Howard Shattuck, Chris O'Laughlin & Patrick O'Laughlin—along with their 8 great grand children: Clayton, Luke, Rosa, May, Elijah and Oliver. Don is also survived by eight children from his subsequent marriage to Lucille Kleinhenz: Steve Kleinhenz of Wilmington, Ohio, Sue Kleinhenz of Dallas, Texas, Dave Kleinhenz of Maria Stein, Ohio, Don Kleinhenz of Powell, Ohio, Joann Medlin of Dallas, Texas, Mary Herrera of Portland, OR, Sara Busse of Springboro, OH, and Fred Kleinhenz of Maria Stein, OH, together with their 15 step grandchildren: Craig, Heidi, Eric, Nichole, Emily, Konrad, Nathan, Sophia, Rachel, Aundrea, Brian, Jacob, Anna, Ella, Isabel, as well as two sisters-in-law Rita Heintl of Maria Stein, Ohio and Ruth Stammen of New Weston, Ohio.

Don was a member of St. Phillip Catholic Church in Battle Creek, MI, and St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Maria Stein, OH. He was a veteran of the US Navy serving on the USS Gambier Bay during WWII until its sinking by enemy fire in the South Pacific. As a survivor of that event, Don was past President and participated actively in the USS Gambier CVE 73 VC 10 Association that meets annually at locations around the United States.

Don was a member of the Eagles Aerie #299 in Battle Creek, MI, charter member and past President of the Northside Snowmobile Club of Battle Creek, a member of the American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC) of Battle Creek, the Battle Creek Amateur Sports Association and the Stan Musial Baseball Tournament where he chaired many committees and was on the Board of Directors, and was an avid gardener and outdoorsman. Don worked his entire career (39 years) at the Battle Creek Enquirer and News, starting on October 3rd, 1947 (in the linotype and circulation divisions) until his retirement in January 1, 1987, leaving as the Distribution Center Manager.



A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 AM on Friday, December 23rd, 2011 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Maria Stein, Ohio with Fr. Tom Brenberger officiating. Burial will follow several days later at the Fort Custer National Cemetery in Battle Creek, MI, with full military honors. Friends may call at the Hogenkamp Funeral Home in Coldwater, OH on Thursday from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM and on Friday from 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM. Condolences may be left at the Hogenkampfj.com.

**Don, thank you for all you did for the Association you will be missed by the Gambier Bay Family. Rest in Peace. God Bless**

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### More reunion photos



Lucille being sung to by our entertainment, Michael Lyon at the Banquet.



Paula Grond giving Dean Moel a kiss good bye.



Paula & Tom Westbrook dancing.



Above is Vivian Akers with Daughter, Granddaughter, and great Granddaughters



To the left is Helen & Ginger Horton

# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NEEDED TO CONTINUE OUR ASSOCIATION & 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. *PLEASE E-MAIL THE SCUTTLEBUTT TO ME (INCLUDE E-MAIL BELOW) TO SAVE \$\$*

**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 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.

Salvador & Lupe Berlanga  
Jean Parrish  
Jeanette Hall  
Susan Bagen  
Helen Horton  
Nancy Mullnix  
Ed & Margaret Hagerty  
Lois Kuster  
Christine Fletcher  
Jerome Roberts

Mary Barrows  
Tim Bassett  
Susan Turner  
Shirley Turner  
Dellia Aventura  
Fran Carlson  
George Feliz  
Lucille Gutzwiler  
Marlene Hughes

Paul Bennet  
Paula Grond  
Carol Becker  
Ginger Horton  
Tom Westbrook  
Henry McNichols  
Dean Moel  
Andrew Saft  
James Krzemecki

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### New Board Of Governor Bio- Jeanette Hall



Jeannette lives in Quilcene, a rural town in Washington, with her husband. Her dad, Fred Grabos, lives nearby. After teaching music in Washington State for 30 years, she retired in 2006. Since retirement, Jeannette has been pleased and happy to facilitate her father's travel to the last six reunions. She enjoys kayaking and hiking in the Pacific Northwest where the water and the forests are so beautiful and bountiful. *We are glad to have you on the board with us.*

# Board of Governors & Officers 2011-2013

1. Paula Grond, President  
13632 Carpintino Ave  
Bellflower, CA 90706  
Telephone: 562-866-1192  
E-Mail: [pk\\_grond@yahoo.com](mailto:pk_grond@yahoo.com)
2. Chris Stammen, Vice-President  
4846 State Route 705  
New Weston, OH 45348  
Telephone: 937-338-3914  
E-Mail: [cstammen@embarqmail.com](mailto:cstammen@embarqmail.com)
3. Marlene Hughes, Treasurer  
2228 E Greenlee Rd  
Tucson, AZ 85719-2012  
Telephone: 520-326-0747  
Fax: 520-326-0747  
E-Mail: [mahhome@cox.net](mailto:mahhome@cox.net)
4. Susan Turner, Secretary  
14875 Creekside Lane  
Longmont, CO 80503  
Telephone: 303-485-8815  
E-Mail: [susanturnerma@hotmail.com](mailto:susanturnerma@hotmail.com)
5. Jeanette Grabos Hall, Governor  
PO Box 567  
Quilcene, WA 98376  
Telephone: 1-360-301-5083  
E-Mail: [jh1950az@yahoo.com](mailto:jh1950az@yahoo.com)
6. Tom Westbrook, Governor  
5758 Lookingglass Rd  
Roseburg, OR 97471  
Telephone: 650-854-6653  
E-Mail: [westpony@yahoo.com](mailto:westpony@yahoo.com)
7. Lauren Bagen-Buhl, Governor  
1944 Paris Ave  
Plano, TX 75025  
Telephone: 972-489-7281  
E-Mail: [laurenbagen@gmail.com](mailto:laurenbagen@gmail.com)
8. Lucille Gutzwiler, Governor  
212 W Edgemont  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Telephone: 509-663-01406  
E-Mail: [Luciqutzu@genext.net](mailto:Luciqutzu@genext.net)
9. Edward S. Hagerty, Governor  
8310 Norman Creek TR  
Bloomington, MN 5537-3835  
Telephone: 952-897-1272  
E-Mail: [EHagerty@aol.com](mailto:EHagerty@aol.com)
10. Susan Bagen, Governor  
1944 Paris Ave  
Plano, TX 75025  
Telephone: 972-517-7928  
E-Mail: [bagen@verizon.net](mailto:bagen@verizon.net)
11. Norman Loats, Governor  
432 Rivera Terrace  
Corona Del Mar, CA 92625-2165  
Telephone: 949-760-0387  
Fax: 949-721-1412
12. Mark Heintl, Governor  
217 Eastview Dr  
Coldwater, OH 45828  
Telephone: 419-925-4412  
E-Mail: [heintl\\_22@hotmail.com](mailto:heintl_22@hotmail.com)



# Mail Call

Letter from Lupe Berlanga  
July 7,2011

Dear Marlene;

I am Salvador's wife and i want to order a USS Gambier Bay Hat and a Navy Polo Shirt. Salvador has been at the Audie Murphy Veteran's Hospital for 1 year. It's a Veteran Centre Home. He is doing better. He still reads the Scuttlebutt and he mentioned he would like another hat and a polo shirt. Enclosed is our check for the items. Thank you.

Lupe V. Berlanga

***I hope Salvador enjoyed the hat & shirt. My best to both of you.***

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Letter from Jean Parrish  
September 8,2011

Dear Marlene:

Sorry I am so late in sending my dues. Also would to order a mouse pad. My son Larry has moved to

a larger store. He has a good place to make a display. I have a large picture of the "Freedoms Cost" by Rev Moore. Monroe was on the USS Chicago and USS Helena when were sunk and have large pictures of them also.

Plus one more thing. Thank all of you for the work you do keeping the Scuttlebutt going.

Sincerely,

Jean Parrish

***Thank you Jean for the kind words and the order for the Mouse Pad.***

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Letter from Jeanne Pyzdrowski  
November 25,2011

Dear Marlene and Bob:

Sincere thanks for the holiday greeting and photo of the survivors. Can you tell me how many survivors there are now? The number is declining. I would like to know if you'll be kind enough to tell me. I am glad Bob, you are coming along and wish you a speedy recovery. Clots are risky. I have talked to both Lucille and Shirley who keep me informed of reunions as I am interested, hoping some day to attend. I am recovering nicely but it will take time. My children are wonderful support. Spent "Turkey Day" with family and that was a wonderful blessing. Margaret Hagerty wrote to me about lunch someday but I'll be home bound for a while. Thank you for the check for the books. Mike will keep in touch with you and I wish you both God's blessings.

Jeanne

***I wish I could tell you Jeanne how many survivors are left but I don't have the entire list. In fact I find quite a few of the obituaries from checking the internet. Hope your Holidays were grand.***

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Letter from Jerry Roberts  
January 4,2012

Marlene, Hello, I'm Jerry Roberts the Son-in-law of Joe Mantz, Deceased.

Enclosed is a check for the "Freedom Cost" print. I could never get Joe to let me have his. HA! Hope you and your family are doing well.

Thanks,

Jerry and Cathy Roberts.

***Jerry-thanks for the order and will put you on our mailing list. Enjoy "Freedom's Cost***

## **From your Editor:**

**I found this story online about Shipmate Rex Campbell which aired on KFOR-TV in Enid, Oklahoma.**

### **Lost and Found History**

He is off the farm now. Rex Campbell earned his easy chair and endless Summers of baseball with a long, successful life, and distinguished service to country in WWII. Of his time in the Navy Rex says, "I don't know whether anybody knows for sure how many was lost."

They called him "Soup" Campbell back then aboard the USS Gambier Bay. She was an escort carrier sunk October 25, 1944, during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. "That ship went down fast", he recalls, then points to a artists print of the ship under attack hanging on his wall.

If you're interested in the tale of the Gambier Bay there's a book about its history. Rex had it. He had his shipmates sign the inside cover during reunions. But somewhere in the move from the farm to town it got away. "I lost it," he chuckles. How? "I don't know. It might have gotten sold or something when I had a sale out at Breckenridge."

Charlotte Anderson's husband loved WWII history. He found an old book about the Gambier Bay 15 years ago at the bottom of a box in a junk shop. The store clerk said he could have it for nothing so he took it home as a treasure. When he died Charlotte kept it too. "We knew it was a special book," she says. "Something just kept telling me 'no, keep a hold of it,' someday I will find the owner."

It wasn't long ago the Enid News and Eagle published a story about old 'Soup' Campbell and his wartime adventures. Charlotte read the feature, went home, checked her boo, and then sought out the man she was sure was its true owner. They met one evening after a Phillies game in Rex's apartment where she returned the book he'd lost. "I have been hunting for you for many year," she tells him. "This is what you've been looking for." "That's it," says Rex as he takes the book from her hands. "It just got misplaced."

The broad events of history, names, dates, numbers. They're often kept in the book and articles. But the more intimate details, the human stories, those old handwritten friends, they drift away with generations. Rex points to one of the signatures in the book's cover, "This here is old Ed Huxtable. He was the commander of our squadron. I'd forgot about all these names."

Rex Campbell got a little of his own history back one night from an unexpected visitor who brought him a book that he'll hold extra close from now on. "I'm so happy that I could do this for you," says Charlotte as they sit together and talk into the night.

***I thought everyone would enjoy this. Hold on to those Gambier Bay Books!!***

## E-Book Project: “in the words of the men of the Gambier Bay”

Dear Paula, Marlene & other Board Members,

Congratulations fro arranging a successful reunion in Omaha! After attending the St Louis and the Omaha reunions, I appreciate all the time & effort that you all dedicate to organizing the annual gatherings of the Gambier Bay Association. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet Don Heric and Charlie Heintz and was sorry to learn that they both passed in December.

During the reunion, I felt honored to be nominated as a candidate to serve as of the the Governors. While I am sincerely grateful for your expression of support to join the board. I felt that another member with more experience in the association might be a more suitable candidate at this time. Having the good fortune to be seated next to Jeanette Hall and her wonderful father at the dinner and getting to know them during the event, I was delighted that she was nominated and that she accepted the position. Recently, my wife and I lost our youngest son, Jeffrey, who passed away in July and my reluctance to make new commitments so soon could be partially attributable to the grieving process. If another such opportunity on the association board should arise in the future after more time has passed, I would certainly be open to the possibility of joining.



With the goal of contributing to the on-going success of the association, I would like to determine whether there is enough among the members in sharing any material (stories, memorabilia, letters, photos, etc.) that could be used to produce an E-book with the recollections by survivors and family members of their Gambier Bay experiences. My inspiration for this project evolved from my desire to publish the account written by my father, Lt. Robert G. Young, who served as Gunnery Officer on board the USS Gambier Bay. In reading Norm Loat's excellent story as well as John Hagerty's piece entitled "The Next Generation", I began to envision the potential for publishing an "E-book" anthology in the words of the men of the Gambier Bay and their family members as another way to preserve and pass on their legacy to future generations.

**If there is enough interest among members who wish to contribute family recollections of Gambier Bay experiences for inclusion in a publication, I am willing to edit, format and publish an E-Book online that could be then be made available to association members at favorable rates. Pleas feel free to contact me directly by e-mail at [young23@me.com](mailto:young23@me.com), phone at 707-479-1196 or mail at 3637 Sonoma Ave., #104 Santa Rosa, CA 95405.**

Sincerely,  
Phillip Young

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