

# CALVERTSION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MEN OF THE U.S.S. CALVERT APA 32

*"The Ship and Men of Distinction"*

Published and Compiled by  
John L. Cole  
506 Red Wing Ave.  
Kenyon, Minnesota 55946  
Telephone 507-789-6344

VOL. NO. 28, 1992



## Comments from the Commander

As you start pageing through the newsletter you may think its the George Mackey Memorial Newsletter. Well it may seem so, but its not. George and Beverly did a super job on the Mimi reunion in Warren, Ohio. I received so much info on the get-to-gather that I thought I would share it with you. George is one of many who have worked very hard to insure the remembrance of the Calvert. As you read this the thought might cross your mind to host a reunion yourself. The Association is always looking for some one to do just that. Why not give it a try, You might like it..... Well its time to talk about the next National Reunion to be held in St. Louis in May. David (Big Wally) Wallace is the Host. When you get this newsletter the first thing you should do is fill out the forms for rooms and Registration and send them in. It is only about three months away and time flys fast. I know you won't want to miss out on the fun and games so do it now.....I have been asked about a copy of the mailing list. If you want on it will cost 10.00. Thats what it costs me to have it done. Its the same price if its on mailing labeles or on white paper. If you desire one send me ten bucks and Ill send you a up to date copy by return mail. The list is updated each time I mail out a newsletter.....I got a lot of mail in regards to Ed O'Briens story about the "Turk". Well Ed has come back with a postscript for you. It will add a little more to the story. When I was on the ship in the fiftys, I remember my Division Officer saying to me, John, get your ass in gear or heads will roll. Now I think I know what he meant..... There are two more pages of things from Tom Sawyer that he sent to me. I really enjoy getting things that I can share with you guys out there. Due to the wonders of thermofax copying I can reduce or make larger just about anything you send. It seems like some one always comes through before another newsletter goes to press..... I guess thats it for now. Hope to see you all in St. Louis. Lila and I are really looking forward to it. I dont know if Ill go up in the Arch or not, guess it depends on how much Bud Light I have first. Till then, the best to you all and we hope to see you soon. See Ya.....j.l.cole

**U.S.S. CALVERT**  
National Crew Reunion

*Welcome*  
*We're delighted to*  
*have you*



# mail call



U. S. S. CALVERT (APA-32)  
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



It's a good thing I make carbon copies of everything I write, otherwise I'd land in the looney bin. This morning right after I woke up I lay there for a minute or two thinking about what I wanted to do for today & got to thinking about the tale I sent you yesterday, all of a sudden it struck me that I never did mention the guy's real name, when I finally got out of the sack & had breakfast I checked over my copy of what I'd written & sure enough I'd forgotten the TURK'S name. Well, his name was KOSHABA, Karl John. His parents were Assyrians, some branch of those wandering Arab tribes you find mostly in & around the Mid-east. I recall that one day he was talking to another Arab, a seaman from the 3rd Div. & they were discussing different Arabic Dialects & while many of the words were the same & they could understand each other they could not carry on a running conversation in each other's dialect. He was married to a Gal somewhere's in the mid'west (don't know if she was also arabian descent) & they had a daughter seems to me the kid was around 8 or 10 years. As he seldom ever talked to me, everything I've put down about him is second-hand info. Even when he was berthed in the 'R' div. quarters amidships he was never very chummy with any of the gang. And as soon as he made SF3rd & was assigned to the storeroom in lower 4, it seems he was always either on deck or wandering thru the troop spaces (I can only guess that he was 'drumming up business' for his gambling games) It was only when I was making up his gear to send home & getting bits & pieces of misc. information from the kids involved that I found out that he never did a lick of work in the store-room, always he 'hired' one or two of the R Div. strikers to do all the cleaning up & paid them cash for doing the job, he was never stingy about what he paid the kids so never had any trouble getting all the help he wanted. I think that about covers everything I missed but if you have any questions fire away & I'll try to set you right. I'm sure if you put this in the CALVERSION you'll get a lot of questions about this & that & a few that will say "I was there & I saw or I heard & it wasn't like that at all". If you get any 'stickers' just send me their names & addresses & I'll see that they get an answer. ED O'BRIEN

I enjoyed your last newsletter so much that I decided to help you to continue. I don't have much to add to the Calvert history. I was in the wardroom when they found out about TURK. But, can't write as fluently as O'Brien. I am looking forward to receiving more newsletters- I got a note from Dave Cullen about hurricane Andrew. It passed about 30 miles east of us. So our damage was not as bad -- many trees & limbs knocked out electric power. But we are thankful-- Thanks again for the News -- Hope to make the next reunion. JOE VILLIEN

The Reunion at Warren, Ohio was just a dandy. George & Beverly had a great game plan & did a lot of hard work to make it work. One thing really impressed us. There were signs all over town (various businesses etc.) saying "Welcome USS Calvert Crew" or similar -- This was really Southern Hospitality in Northeast Ohio. RAY GLASCO

The newsletter, I enjoy reading it and usually there is a name or two that I remember. This time it was Doctor MATSUDA in the letter from Arthur F. GRAHAM. Dr. MATSUDA was the Squadron 5 Doctor the two years that I was on the CALVERT. He was a great guy and I remember several enjoyable incidents that the Doctor was involved in. If you have Dr. Matsudas address, please send it to me and I will send him a copy of my VCR tape of the CALVERT. As I remember he was from Portland, Oregon. Maybe I asked you this before. I don't remember. My roommate was the Ships BOSN, Chief Warrent Officer HARRIS. He was on the CALVERT for about 7 years. Do you have any information on him? Keep up the good work and keep sending the CALVERSION. JAMES S. XANDERS

George & Beverly put on a really great mini-reunion in Warren. The Park Hotel is an old downtown hotel built in 1887. From the outside it looked like 1887 but inside it was great. The manager & everyone connected with the hotel seemed to go out of their way to see that we had a pleasant stay. After leaving Warren I took a short cut home by way of Maine. I visited my grandson (Robert in the Navy); Chaplain & Mrs. Paul Elliot; Leonard & Carolyn Hanscom; John & Esther Zdanowicz at Beverly, Mass. (Went lobster fishing again with John). Chaplain Elliot's mind comes I goes. He can't go out alone anymore as he forgets where he is. I am doing pretty good at present. HOYT WORTHINGTON

I, like Lt. Graham, have a vivid memory of Operation Freedom, and remember the incident with the anonymous 2nd. class and the French women prison. Lt. Graham paid me a compliment for being a helmsman and for that I thank him. However, I do not remember designing the flag's crest and certainly would not take credit away from someone else. Lt. Graham has a fond place in my memory, he was a damn good officer. In November, 1991, my wife and I visited my son (who is a morning D.J. on KHFI-FM 96.7) in Austin, Texas. While there, I drove to Dallas and visited with Benny Graves, EM 3, a shipmate who served on the Calvert, in the 1st. Division. It was the first time we had seen each other in 36 years. Boy! Time Flies!

BOB E. DUMAS

I happened to be looking at my 1962 U.S.S. CALVERT WESTPAC CRUISE YEARBOOK and a letter from Jim McFetridge fell out so, it prompted me to write you. The Calvert was my first assignment in the Navy after boot camp. That was from 1/4/62 to 6/15/63 I was on board her. I was a seaman in boat group Div., 2nd Div. & finally 1st Div. until I was transferred in the summer of '63 to the U.S. Naval amphibious base in Coronado. My Westpac Cruise with her began in June 1962 with our first port being Pearl Harbor, then an amphib. Operations to the windward side of OAHU to Waimanalo Bay. (My wife & I celebrated our 25th wedding anniv. in Hawaii on OAHU and drove along Waimanalo & Kailua Bay - just gorgeous.) We had operations in Okinawa and Pohang Dong, Korea. We visited Iwakuni offloading marines, then on to Beppu on Kyushu Island and also Sasebo. We saw Japan typhoon "Nanda" in Hong Kong Harbor. I enjoyed my time on the Calvert. She was decommissioned as you must know. I visited her at the Oakland, Ca Naval Supply Depot where she was a cargo training ship. It was like seeing an old girl friend. Her shaft had been removed. I was not allowed aboard or could not even take a picture. This was around 1968 or 1969. I believe she was de-commissioned around 1967. By trade I am a civil engineering map draftsman. I am married with thirteen children. Our oldest two daughters are married and our oldest son is on a mission for the church - we are Mormon's. PAUL D. STRINGER

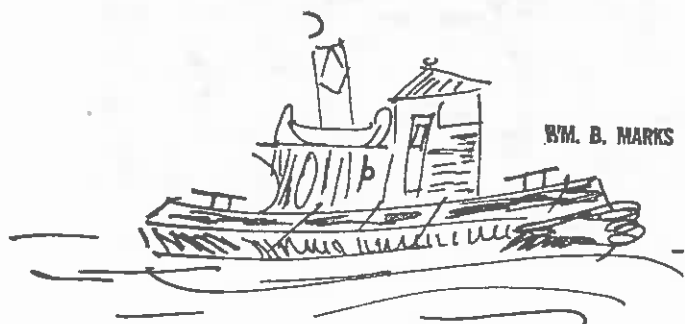
## Many Thanks

To the following persons who are helping with newsletter expences. Thank you very much.....

Claud Baker.....	10.00
Mildred Levett...	10.00
Robert McClusky..	25.00
Bill Marks.....	20.00
Kenneth Keene....	20.00
Wm. Bridgeford...	25.00
Tom Sawyer.....	25.00
Joe Villien.....	25.00
O.R.Gordon.....	10.00
Russ Rexnoth....	10.00
Glen Malin.....	20.00
Robert Huber....	30.00
Harold Lee.....	10.00
Mel Waite.....	25.00
Leslie Knight....	10.00
Homer Taulbee....	10.00
Frank Shemanski..	20.00
Oscar Woody.....	5.00
R.W.Glasco.....	25.00
George Copas.....	10.00



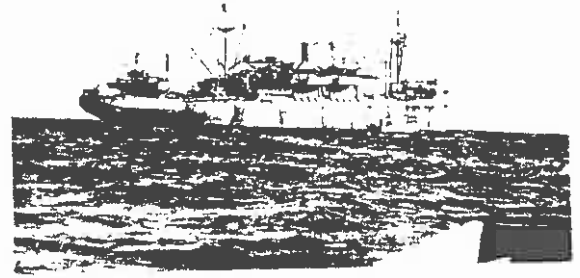
Church Service Aboard the U.S.S. Calvert 1951.  
Photo by Kenneth Keene



W.M. B. MARKS

# CALVERT FACT'S FROM THE PAST

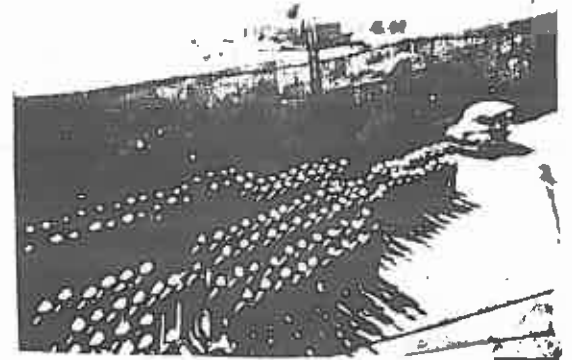
Photos from Thomas E. Sawyer



Scoblitti Sicily

BAR ORDER LIST		Puget Sound Navy Yard	
No.	Item	Price	Exten.
	Warrant Officers' Center		
	Bourbon & Water	25	
	" & Soda	25	
	" & Ginger Ale	25	
	" & Coke	25	
	Scotch (8-yr-old) & Water	30	
	" " & Soda	30	
	Scotch (12-yr-old) & Water	35	
	" " & Soda	35	
	Rum & Coke	30	
	Rum Collins	20	
	Tom Collins	30	
	John Collins	30	
	Key Sour		

Those were the days...  
Bremerton, Washington



Ships Company, USS Calvert  
Citations given on Dock at  
Meys-el-Kabiv, Algiers, N. Africa  
July 1943



Small Boat Launching



In Dry Dock, Alameda, California  
July 1953

# the old crew

U. S. S. CALVERT (APA-32)



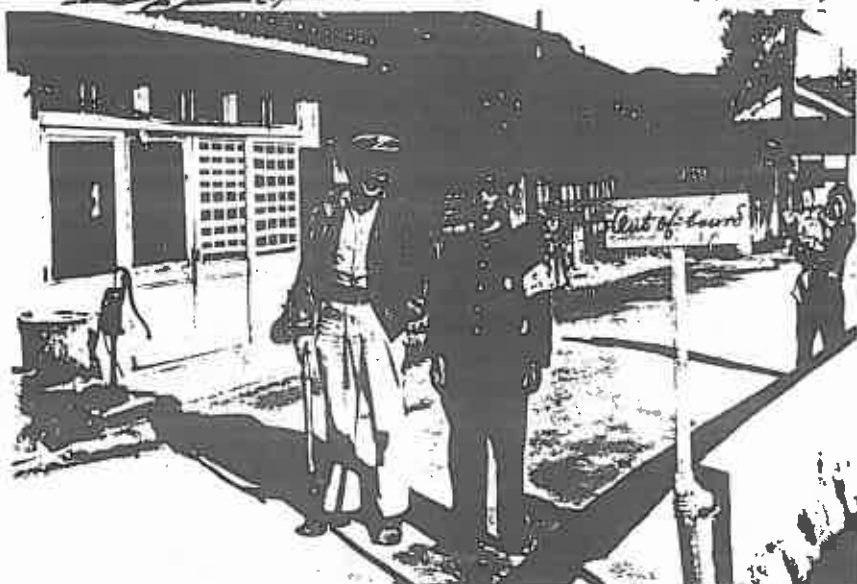
Photos from  
Thomas E. Sawyer



"Shortstop" Wilson  
Sheehy, CCS 1944



Warrant Carp. Ed O'Brien



Billy Trout 1944

Hunky Hobrat and Friend



Shipmate Pottinger



Ens. Holmes, Lt. McClure, Lt.jg Kibbel  
Louis Zampell, Marty Flynn, Willie Lynch  
August 1944



Lt.jg Marks  
Navigator, Nov 1944

Billy The Goat  
by: Duke Newell  
(as told to Barron Mills)

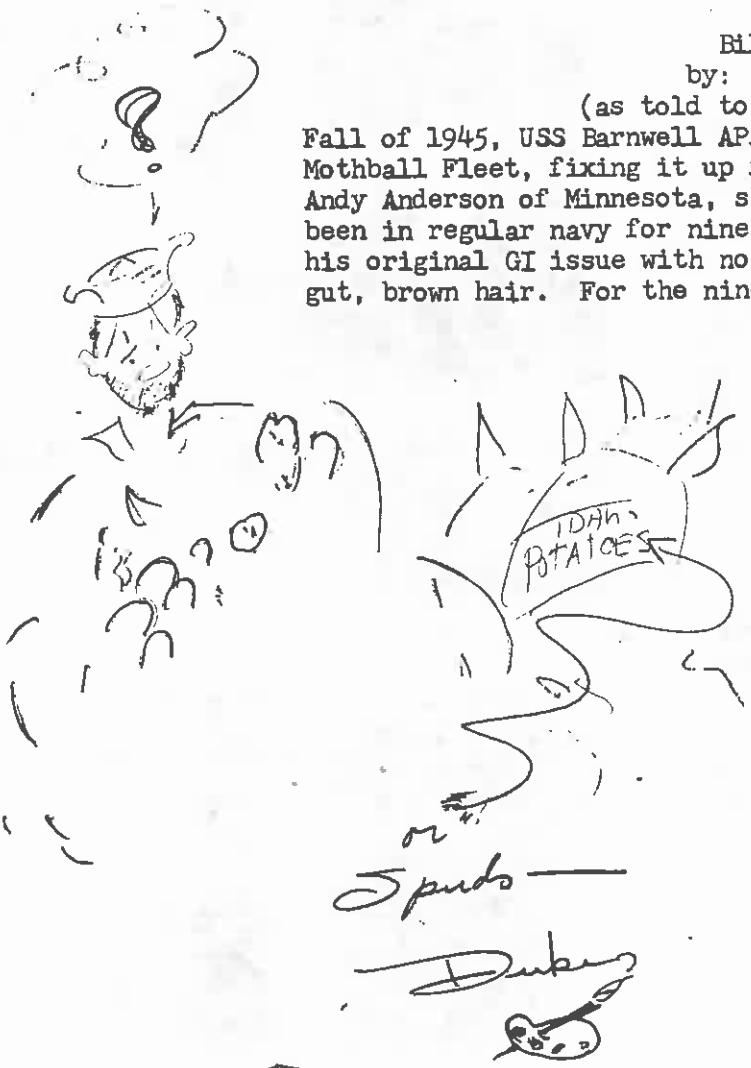
Fall of 1945, USS Barnwell APA-132) Portsmouth Naval Yard, South gate Mothball Fleet, fixing it up for mothballs. 18 men on board.

Andy Anderson of Minnesota, short chubby and anything but neat, 36 years old, been in regular navy for nine years, but didn't wear hash marks, still had his original GI issue with no tailoring 5'6" tall, about 190, and a beer gut, brown hair. For the nine years in his navy career he spent in the spud

locker mess-cooking. A man without a past.

Benny Herman, a ship's cook from Rhode Island, second class petty officer, 5'9", fair complexion, sandy hair, good disposition, neat, good drinker.

LT JG Strickland, a former warrant carpenter who was elevated during the emergencies of WWII.....



L. BARRON MILLS, JR.  
Veterans Service Officer

OFFICE OF

RANDOLPH COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

145 NORTH STREET - COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Dear John, ASHEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27203-3500

How did you come by the sketch of the USS Calvert which you used on page 3 of your great publication CALVERSION Vol. 26, 1992. Duke Newell, the artist, and I were friends in Winston-Salem, N.C. during the period 1953-55. He was a dispatcher with the W-S Police Department. I was first police reporter and later City Editor of the Winston-Salem Journal.


Duke and I collaborated on a short story "Billy The Kid". We didn't get so far as getting it published. Enclosed is one page intro. and some art work of Duke's.

I was a crewmember (YN-3) when the Calvert was recommissioned for the Korean episode. We took her out of mothballs and got her ready.

My rating was changed to JO3 and I was transferred to ComPhilant staff at Little Creek. Our flagship, USS Taconic AGC17, will have a reunion in Aberdeen, MD Oct. 1-3, 1992

I am trying to arrange to be in attendance at the St. Louis gathering of CALVERT.

Sincerely,

  
L. Barron Mills Jr.  
1238 Sunset Drive  
Asheboro NC 27203





# USS Calvert mates gather to recall days on the water

■ The USS Calvert brought men and supplies to battle sites all over the Pacific Ocean, from World War II through Vietnam. Now some of the men who served on the ship are together for a reunion in Warren.

By MARIE TELUM  
VINDICATOR, TRUMBULL, STAFF

WARREN — Because the bunk beds were stacked four high, George Mackey often took his bedding to the deck of the USS Calvert and slept under the stars.

That was back during World War II when Mackey served on the Navy transport ship for two years. When the USS Calvert ferried men and supplies to islands all over the Pacific Ocean, space was at a premium, especially for a signalman second class like Mackey. But Mackey isn't holding any grudges.

He and his wife, Beverly, are serving as hosts for a reunion of USS Calvert servicemen in Warren. The reunion started Thursday and continues through Saturday. About 60 people are expected to attend get-togethers at the Park Hotel in downtown Warren to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the original commission of the ship.

Reunions for those who served on the ship during its long military history are held throughout the United States every two years. But to get folks together more often, regional reunions, like the one in Warren this week, are held annually.

Mackey decided to invite former servicemen and their families from the East Coast to this year's reunion because he wanted to recognize the ship's golden anniversary.

Reunion-goers will be sightseeing in Middlefield, Burton and other places throughout the area. In between, they'll gather at the Park Hotel to catch up with each others' families and lives.

**History:** The USS Calvert was named after a county in Maryland where it was built. Originally designed to be a passenger cargo ship and named the SS D'Orleans, it was drafted into war duty and given a new name when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.



**MEMORIES:** George Mackey of Warren poses with pictures of the USS Calvert and a some of its crew members. Mackey served as a signalman aboard the Navy transport ship during World War II. He is one of the former crew members attending a reunion this weekend at the Park Hotel in Warren.

The ship was 491 feet long, 65 feet wide and could hold a crew of up to 600, plus carry between 500 and 600 soldiers and their gear, Mackey said. Often fired upon when landing troops for amphibious invasions during the war, the ship survived intact and later transported soldiers to battle during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

The ship was taken apart and sold for scrap in 1977.

When Mackey served on the USS Calvert, he was a member of the "Beach Party," the crew that made sure boats leaving the ship took soldiers to their proper landing spots along the shoreline.

**Gatherings:** The Mackeys have been going to USS Calvert reunions since 1979. The get-togethers have taken the couple all over the United States, from San Francisco to Atlanta.

Seeing old shipmates "is a different feeling than [being with] brothers," Mackey explained. "You have a camaraderie you don't have with anybody else — and they're all nice people."

Joked shipmate Ray Glasco, of Skiatook, Okla., "Most of us are 100 pounds heavier. I'm here for good conversation and lots of remembrances."

# Legion Groups Join in Welcome To Two Ships

Whistles screaming, five locomotives of the Forty & Eight, American Legion fun-making organization, steamed out on Navy Pier this morning to welcome home two ships of the Pacific Fleet Amphibious Force returning from Far Eastern duty.

The vessels, the attack transport Calvert and the PCEC 882, docked at Navy Pier shortly before noon, while two more ships of the amphibious force, the transports Begor and Magoffin, went to moorings at the Naval Air Station.

Official Legion greetings to the returning men were voiced by F. Carl Sherwood on behalf of Voiture 732, Forty & Eight, of San Diego. Adding beauty to the greeting was Marilyn Slauth, Miss San Diego of 1951, who also entertained the men aboard with songs over a dockside amplifying system.

Forty & Eight Voitures who brought their locomotives to the dock were San Diego's 732-Orange County's 572, Riverside's 394, Long Beach's 1282 and Kern County's 93.

Personnel returning aboard the ships included Underwater Demolition Team 3, staff members of Landing Ship Squadron 3 and crews of three utility landing ships. Some are scheduled for discharge and others for new assignments.

Lt. Comdr. Archie C. Kuntz commands the Begor; Capt. G. W. Legven Jr., the Calvert; Capt. W. B. Moore, the Magoffin and Lt. R. J. Waldzmas, the PCEC 882. Lt. Comdr. J. F. Chase commands UDT 3 and Comdr. S. A. Leit, USS 3.



VETERANS OF 1918 PROVIDE NOISY WELCOME FOR VETS OF '61.  
Forty & Eight locomotives parade on deck to greet returning ships from Far East.

Articles from Kenneth Keene



**Clarion Hotel**  
**Saint Louis**

200 South 4th St./St. Louis, MO 63102

DON'T FORGET —  
MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER  
PAYABLE TO THE CLARION HOTEL-ST. LOUIS  
DO NOT SEND CURRENCY.

Hotel Use

For Reservations Call: Mo. 1-800-392-7310 Outside Mo. 1-800-325-7353

ORGANIZATION USS Calvert

1993 Reunion

DATES May 6-9, 1993

ALL REQUESTS FOR THE ABOVE GROUP MUST BE RECEIVED BY

05	06	93
MONTH	DAY	YEAR

ARRIVAL DATE

2:00	pm
ARRIVAL TIME	

05	09	93
MONTH	DAY	YEAR

DEPARTURE DATE

CHECK IN TIME 2:00 P.M.  
CHECK OUT TIME 12:00 Noon

BEDDING REQUEST: ONE BED      TWO BEDS      NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ROOM:      SUITE RATES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

ROOM RATES: ONE PERSON \$ 59.00 TWO PERSONS 59.00 THREE PERSONS      FOUR PERSONS     

ACCOMMODATIONS WILL NOT BE CONFIRMED WITHOUT A CHECK FOR THE 1st NIGHT'S DEPOSIT. YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE 1st NIGHT IF RESERVATIONS ARE NOT CANCELLED 48 HOURS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

LAST NAME		FIRST	MIDDLE
FIRM			
STREET			PHONE
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	
SHARING WITH			ARRIVAL DATE
AMERICAN EXPRESS	CREDIT CARD #	EXPIRATION DATE	SIGNATURE

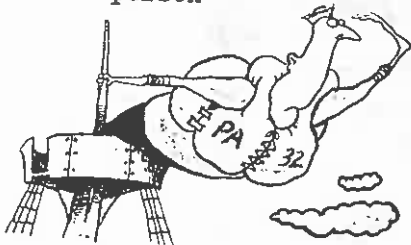


USS CALVERT APA 32  
May 6 - 7 - 8, 1993  
Clarion Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri

Thursday - May 6

Arrival and registration. Check in time 2:00 P.M.  
Hospitality room open all afternoon and evening. NO CHARGE.

Friday - May 7 9:00 A.M. Board busses for Grants Farm Tour - Départ Grants Farm  
Cost \$10.00 per person at 11:45. Lunch at your expense. Following lunch, re-board  
busses for Bush Brewery tour at 2:00 P.M. Return to hotel at  
3:30 P.M. The cost is for transportation only - tours are free  
along with samples of the brewery's products.



Arch tour and tram ride to the top are optional - however  
we can make reservations for larger groups. Our hotel is right  
across the street from the arch grounds. The cost of the ride  
to the top is \$2.50 per person. Please let us know if interested.

Friday night you're on your own for such things as Laclede's Landing,  
Riverboat cruises - union Station and numerous other things.

Ahoy there, seamen

SEE YOU IN ST. LOUIS

Sat. May 8 9:00 A.M. Board busses at hotel for a narrated historical tour of the city.  
\$16.00 per person Stops will include the Science Center, Missouri Botanical Gardens,  
Forrest Park Zoo, The New Cathedral and Union Station.

3:30 P.M. Business Meeting.

4:30 Memorial Service on the Riverfront.

\$25.00 per 7:30 Banquet. \$25.00 per person. Cash Bar. Cost of dinner includes  
person. 8:30 The cost of the band. Dancing to the Oldies 8:30 to 11:30.  
Choice of roasted half spring chicken or Sliced roasted top  
Sirloin of beef, Bordelaise Sauce.

Sunday May 9 Farewells and departure.

*U. S. S. Calvert*

REGISTRATION FORM: *Saint Louis* (APA-32)

Please make your reservations as soon as possible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

ADVANCE REGISTRATION

COST OF DINNER - DANCE - PER PERSON 25.00  
TOUR PER PERSON

Friday Tour 10.00 Sat. Tour 16.00

Enclosed is: \_\_\_\_\_



Please return this registration form to:

BEEF \_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN \_\_\_\_\_

DAVE WALLACE  
6025 Wallace Dr.  
DeSoto, MO 63020  
314 586-8847



# Reunion for shipmates

The USS Calvert brought men and supplies to sites all over the Pacific Ocean during World War II through Vietnam. Now members of the ship's crew are reuniting in **Saint Louis**

George Mackey  
Former USS Calvert  
signalman second class

"You have a camaraderie you don't have with anybody else — and they're all nice people."



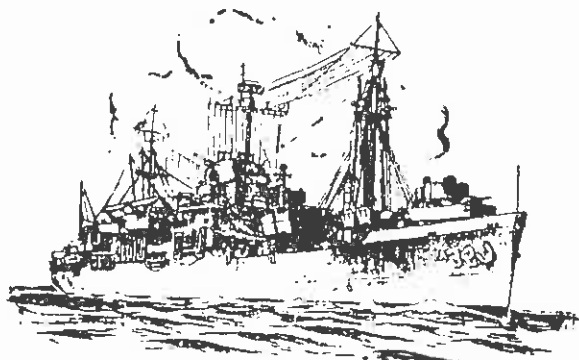
## CALVERT ASSOCIATES

506 Red Wing Ave.

Kenyon, MN 55946

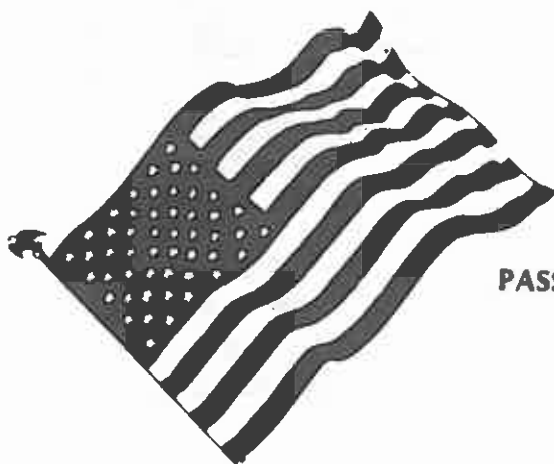
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

3rd CLASS  
PERMIT NO.  
10



U S S CALVERT APA-32

PA  
FUNCK STERLING BM1 42  
208 N ENOLA DR  
ENOLA PA 17025



## WE MOURN THE PASSING OF THESE SHIPMATES

Robert Nordstrom CDR. July 19 1989

Darwin Remington RM2 October 1974

George Gildez RM2 1989

James C. Strickland June 24 1992