## CALUERSION

#### 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. 36, 1997



#### Comments from the Commander

Had a nice trip to Oklahoma. J.B. and his family did a super job on the reunion. The trip to the bomb blast area was really a sober experience for all who took the tour. It is hard to realize the large area that the blast covered until you have been there. I hope I never see anything like that again...........Got this to late for the last issue, but Frank Danca and Wife celebrated their "50" wedding anniversary on Franks "80" Birthday, September 21,1996. We wish the Dancas the best from Calvert Associations.....Nice note from J.B.Stokers on being able to host a national reunion. They had only one year in which to get things done and they did it. I know how hard they worked, and they have our praises...... At the banquet we were entertained by the "Calvert-Tones", who came direct from Mass.and Pa. area.....Albinus and Velma Weigel also celebrated their "50" wedding this past fall. The association wishes them the Best to......John Heine sent me some pictures of Calvert Cups. said they were given to crew members in Hong Kong during the Korean War period. They were not regulation as these had handles,,,,,, To the back of the newsletter is information on the next national reunion which will be held in Houston, Texas this year. Clauss is the reunion host. He has been keeping me informed of all the doings that are planed. It was hard to get firm prices on things till the first of the year so the cost of them are not printed. The hotel price is set so rooms can be reserved. The next newsletter will have the complete information in plenty of time for you to decide what you want to do. When making hotel reservations be sure to say USS CALVERT 1997 REUNION GROUP. These should be made by Setember 1. to be sure of rooms..... John Fiandaca sent out a xmas card to an old Calvert buddy and it came back marked DECEASED on it. As you can see our buddies are leaving us in great numbers. I just was up to friends wake in Farmington, Mn. the first part of the month. Harry and I were the same age from the Korean War area. If you look at the numbers of members that are listed, it really makes you think. I have received some new members but not enough to fill the spaces left by the older ones. If you have any Calvert buddies who you correspond with who arn't on the mailing list, send me their names. Till then, j.1.cole......



# Crewmen Train Koreans In Amphibious Warfare

The attack transport Calvert helped strenghten the military arm of the free works recently by providing training in amphibious warfare techniques for units of the Republic of Korea Navy and Marine Corps. Chinhae Harbor was the scene of wet net and amphibious operations, involving over 1100 men, during the period 6 - 10 February

1961. Calvert, the flagship of Amphibious Squadron Five, is commanded by Captain W. J. Collum, and is presently serving with

and is presently serving with Ready U.S. Seventh Fleet.

After an early morning arrival and pre-exercise conference on February 6, Calvert played host to 100 ROK Marine officers and 450 ROK Marines. Calvert officers and petty officers provided tours of the ship which for a majority of ROK Troops was their first time aboard an APA.

Wet Net Training

The first two days of actual training were taken up by wet net training and LVP/LCVP transfer line operations. In addition to this training for Marines, Calvert's crack boat group was training Korean boat crews in the handling of amphibious craft.

The last two days of the training were spent conducting full scale ship to shore movements. Ill phases of these operations are performed by ROK persond. Calvert's boat officers and boat crews acted solely in an advisory and supervisory capacity.

day to day and Calvert left Chinhae on February 10, satisfied that the benefits of the training had been substantial and mutual.

Plaque Presented

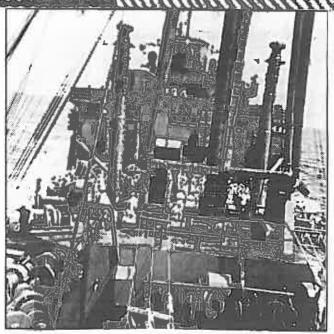
A major highlight of the recent Korean amphibious training occured with the presentation of US° Calvert's plaque to Commod Lee, Commander-in-Chief, Rc Fleet, by Captain W. J. Cullum

Rear Admiral Kim, ROK Navy, Commodore Chull Nam, ROK Navy, Commander Floatilla Two; Captain M. A. Shellabarger, former ComPhibRon Five; Captain R. B. Erly, present ComPhibRon Five and Captain E. F. Higgins, Chief-of-Staff, ComNavFor, Korea, with seed the ceremonies aboard Calvert in Chinhae Harbor.

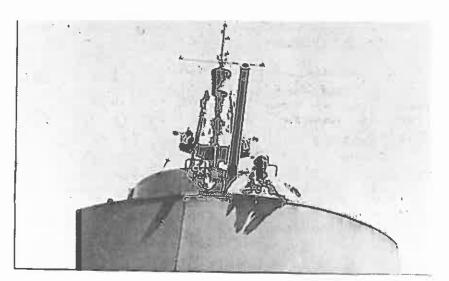
Commodore Lee promised that Calvert's plaque would always remind him of the training and hospitality rendered to the ROK Navy by Capt. Collum and Calvert personnel, and would be permanently displayed in his head-quarters as a lasting momento of the solid United States-Republic of Korea friendship and alliance.



Calverts last trip for Magic Carpet duty, May 31,1946. Left philippines, thru Panama Canal and landed in Norfolk. Had bent screw, trip took 31 days.



Inspection-in whites-at sea
June 1946



Forward 5" gun mount and Charlie Speranza June 46

# mail call



C/O FLEET POST OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



My 3 year enlistment in the USN should have ended on 13AUq51 after spending the entire 3 years aboard ship except for boot camp at Great Lakes. My home town was Waite Park, MN. The end of July Truman extended everyone 1 year for the Korean War. I wasn't exactly happy in that I"was to be discharged in 3 weeks! I was one of two RM3 regular navy raadiomen assigned to the moth balled USS Calvert APA-32 at Portsmouth, VA. The entire inside of the ship had to be ripped out by shipyard workers, since the ship had been nested with many other WWII ships since the war ended. As a radioman I could type. In the weeks it took to install modern radios and commo gear I worked for an engineer officer typing up volumes of authorized running spare requisitions. Eventually we had about 20 radioman and radio officers aboard. Other than us two RM3 and one striker, all senior POs and officers were reserves recalled to AD. Most came from out east and New England. Only a couple of the reserve RM were qualified with Morse Code having been away from it for years. Meaning that us few regulars were on duty many hours it being a 24 hour a day requirement. After many weeks, in the late fall of 1950 when the APA32 was recommissioned and shake down crulse completed at Little Creek, we went to San Diego to pick up the CA 40th Inf NG Division for transport to Japan and eventually to Korea in early 1951. I believe there were 3 or 4 APAs and many support ships as LSM, LSTs, etc in what was TransDiv 13 of Task Force 90. The APA 32 was flagship of TransDiv 13, with home port Yokosuka (Yokuska), Japan. Commodore Hurd was Division Cmder, so we flew a one star blue flag. An army general and command staff were also aboard the APA 32, so we also flew a red flag with a star. As I recall, the marine officer and NCO crew members of the 32 did not approve the Calvert to carry troops of the 40th Div. Ship was not declared troop-ready when we left San Francisco where we loaded the army Division and their equipment. So, the Calvert went to the new home port of Yokosuka almost empty. I believe we dropped the army off at Yokohama upon arrival in Japan. It seems it was just prior to Christmas 1950 when we got there. The convoy across the Pacific was very slow due to the slow moving LSTs and smaller landing ships. My involuntary extension was up in August 1951 and I left the ship in N. Japan at Hochinohe in July to catch a ship back to Seattle and discharge from Yokuska. There were three of us in the first to leave the ship since arriving in the Far East. One I remember was an enginman 1st class, Todd from Macon, GA. In fact, his son was on the ship with him. One of the radio officers I recall was Lt Francis a læwman of some kind from NYC. The RMC was Vogler from Trenton, NJ. Harry Sch#ell an RM1 who worked for RCA from NJ. Moxley an RM1 from Bethlehem, PA. All of these guys were USNR. It would sure be great to run into them at a reunion. Who knows, it could happen. I didn't stay out of the navy but a few months and joined the army, From which I retired with 39 yrs service counting the 4 yrs USN. I was in army security at first due to my radioman experience in the navy. I stayed in communications througout my military career which is generally considered one of the better fields to be in in the army. And all began with my initial background experience as a ship board Radioman. As another ex-APA member wrote in a letter, I, too, remember "short time", "long time"! Remember exchange was 360 yen to a \$. Those big Japanese bottles of beer were about 110 yen. I bought hundreds of hand tied fishing flies for about 2¢ each. Yes, in early 1951 we may not have been doing so good in the war in Korea, but we had good times in Japan! As RM3 pay was \$77 a month.. Romen Weber RM3 50-51

Thank you for starting and serving First things first. as Commander of the USS Calvert Assn. You and all the officers do an outstanding job for all who are members. I feel I was fortunate to have served aboard the USS Calvert.

The Oklahoma Reunion was a good one and I have written to J.B.Stoker asking for advice, information, and suggestions to try and avoid any pitfalls. I will endeavor to make "Myrtle Beach in 98" one that all will enjoy.

I am very fortunate to have Dave Cullen on board to assist Also had others state that they would help me.

I was pleased to see nine first time attendies. mostly Korean War Veterans. We must have new blood for the association to live for many years.

I'm most pleased that they voted for Myrtle Beach. all we can to make it enjoyable. James T. "Pete" Berry.







## CHINA GUNBOATMAN

IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY by the South China Patrol Asiatic Fleet, for the Members and Patrons, who are urged to send in appropriate sea stories of the Far East, and photos (clear ones!). The photos will be returned if desired. Mail to the Editor!

KEMP TOLLEY 16205 Corbett Village Monkton MD 21111

For ten years, since the inception of the SCPAF (South China Patrol Asiatic Fleet) I've put out the enclosed China Gunboatman quarterly. We have a total membership of about 430, half of them 1925-1941 sailors and officers of the old Asatic Fleet and the rest their offspring or widows or just curious guys who never saw China.

Along with the SCPAF, about five other pre-war ex China organisations are having a super reunion in Washington in August 1997, hoping for about 1,000. The basic idea is to bring before the public the existence of the old Asiatic Fleet, which has got precious little publicity in the history books.

My support of the CALVERT ASSOCIATION has been sadly weak when I consider my CALVERT cruise was a great one aboard the easiest-riding ship I ever served in. You are doing a great job in getting the old-timers to hang together. More power to you!

RADM KEMP TOLLEY USN RET

A big move for us as we settle into the retirement home. With Father Time catching up to us, we knew it was necessary to make a change. It is a whole new routine for us and we, to use the current expression, have "downsized" our lifestyle. Since Mary's stroke last year we have needed a network of help -- now we have it with the convenience of assisted living. There is peace of mind knowing that help is at hand should we need it. Ed O'Brien. 1081 Mohr Lane #207, Family Affair Retirement Home, Concord Ca.94518

Receiving the Calversion was very rewarding to me, thank you, especially the article furnished by Lt.Robert McClure Calvert facts from the past.

I enlisted in the navy June 24,1942 and went thru boot camp at Great Lakes Ill. After finishing boots we were transfered to Norfolk, Va. N.O.B. August 14,1942

Out of one hundred and eighteen men of our company, except for four or five, we were told, you men are chosen for a new branch of the Navy, the Amphibious Force.

Sept.8,1942 we left Little Creak Va. for a new amph. base at Solomon, Md. We trained in beaching 36 and 50 foot landing craft, old style boats. They were later redesigned by Higgins.

October 7,1942 we left Solomon for Little Creak again and on October 8,my biggest thrill, we went aboard a new ship, the U.S.S.Calvert PA 32. As you know a new ship always has to have a shakedown cruise and those of us in the boat crews had to learn how to be picked up and lowered from the davits. Also the boats that were over the hatches, using the booms to lower the boats over the side etc. All of this training in the Chesapeake Bay. NEXT PAGE.



That's when we learned the transferring of some of the USS Harry Lee's crew and boat crews. A lot of the boat crews were U.S.Coast Guardmen.

We left October 24 with two destroyers as escots to catch the convoy that was heading for North Africa, of course we didn't know that at that time.

I was put in ships company and my first watch was the forward crows nest. My watch was from dawn for two hours and believe me that was long enough. On the fifth day out I saw a small specks on the horizon and what a relief to know we had finally caught up with the convoy.

Upon returning from the invasion of North Africa (Safi, French Morocco) to Norfolk, Va. I was transferred back to the boat crew and we started training with Army units in Chesapake Bay. In March 6,1943 some of the boat crews were traansfered to Camp Bradford Va. and that was the last time I saw the Calvert. I was discharged in Dec. 1945. Jerald Benjamin S1/c.

I OFTEN WONDERED HOW MY SHIPMATES WAS MAKING OUT. ENGLOSED IS A COPY OF A WATCH LIST FOR MAY 1951. ARE YOU THE "COLE" ON WATCH IN THE FIRERCOM..

I ALSO NOTICED BOB GCCDMAN, WE AND SOME CTHER BUDDIES SPENT SOME LIBERTIES
TO GETHER IN NORFOLK AND YOKUSKA . AND IN THE NEWSLETTER I ALSO RECALL SOME OF OTHER GUYS
I KNEW. I STARTED MY NAVAL CAREER IN 1945, BOCT CAMP BAINBRIDGE MARYLAND. FROM THE RESULTS
OF MY APTITUDE TEST THEY PUT BADIOMAN STRIKER IN MY RECORDS, BUT I NEVER HAD A DAY OF ANY
SCHOOLING AFTER RETURNING FROM 9 DAYS LEAVE IN BOCT CAMP I WAS SENT TO CALIFORNIA IN ONE
OF THOSE CATTLE CARS TO SHOEMAKER ,CAL WHERE THEY KEPT GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR. FROM THERE
I WENT TO TREASURE ISLAND TO BOARD THE APA GEN. BRECKENBIDME 176, SHE DROPPED ME AND SOME—
OTHERS OFF AT GUAM. FROM THERE WE WERE SENT TO "OPERATION CROSSROADS" ON THE KWAJALIEN ATOLL
I SERVED AS RADIOMAN , HELMSMAN, AND ALL REGULAR DUTIES OF THE BRIDGE WHICH I WAS GIVEN
CHARGE OF . MY SHIP WAS YO 178 . WE CARRIED DIESEL FUEL ,WE FUELED SHIPS THAT WAS TO BIG
TO ENTER THE LAGCON. CPERATION CROSSROADS WAS THE NAME FOR THE ATOMIC BOMB TEST AT OUR
NEIGHBORING ISLAND BIKINI ATOLL. A FEW DAYS BE FORE THE TEST WENT OFF ,ALL RESERVIST
WAS ORDERED OFF THE ISLAND OF KWAJALEIN ,WE WERE PUT ABOARD THE USS DANE 238 APA .WE LANDED
IN SAN FRANCISO WHERE I WAS RELEASED IN TO INACTIVE DUTY ,UNTIL I WAS RECALLED BACK TO
ACTIVE AND SENT TO NORFOLK NAVEL SHIPYARD TO THE USS APA 32,THE CALVERT. IN SEPT 1950

I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE FIRST DIVISION AND WITH ALL THE CONFUSION OF BEING REFITTED I FIGURED THEY OVER LOOKED THE FACT I WAS A BADIOMAN STRIKER, BUT AT LAST THEY FOUND ME OUTTO MY DISMAY .IDIDNT WANT TO GC THROUG WHAT I WENT THROUGH ON KWAKALIEN ESPECIALLY WHEN I WAS THE SIZE OF THE CALVERT, THE SIGNAL PFFICER HAD ME PAGED TO REPORT TO THE RADIO SHACK, I GAVE HIM MY STORY OF HAVING NO SCHOOLING OR TRAINING AND PREFERED TO REMAIN ON THE DECK FORCE. HE GRANTED MY REQUEST AND I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE FIRST % FLAG DIVISION UNTIL MY RELEASED BACK INTO INACTIVE DUTY IN DEC. 1951. RAYMOND F. ENSMENGER

Hi... I enjoyed the lat issue (vol #35) of Calversoon.

However, I must take issue with Ron's contention that

"so all pieces seem to fit. There is no doubt that the

U.S.S. BOND was truly the U.S.S. CALVERT"... reference to

that was the book "TO ALL HANDS".

I was Y 2c at that time and typed many, if not most, of his daily talks... After the war, I corresponded with John Mason Brown (the author) and have read "TO ALL HANDS" him times (The author was attached to Adm. Kirks Flag)

The U.S.S. CALVERT WAS THE SPELVIN. For substantion, please read Chapter 27, where the author clearly shows the CALVERT to be the SPELVIN "We of the Flag and you of the SPELVIN are being scattered tomorrow (The Flag& the author were being transferred to the BOND.)

After the Flag moved to the BOND, Chapter 28, the author on one of his talks states "You of the BOND may have guessed you are no longer alone" (referring to the FLAG being on board the BOND)

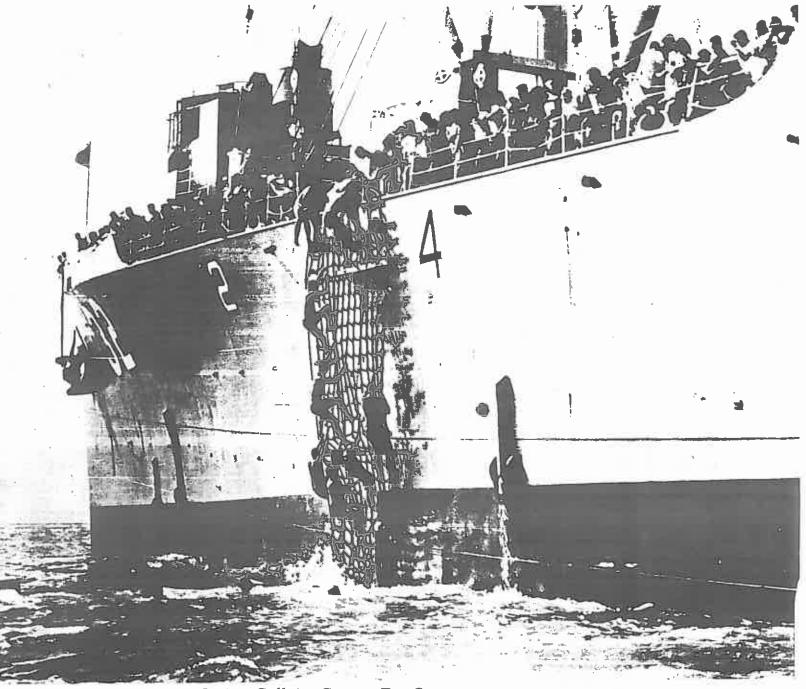
"In short, that the SPELVIN (CAIVERT) has shared her treasure with you" "The men of the SPELVIN are veterans of more than the triumphant invasion of Sicily in which the BOND TOOK PART" "It was Adm Kirk whose Flag the BOND now flies who first thoutht of these daily talks" (page 20 ... Chapter 28)

Please note.. it is not my intention to criticize... but I did want to set the record straight... I'm sure that mamy of our shipmates on board at that time will surely remember that the Calvert WAS THE SPELVIN OR THE SPELVIN WAS THE CALVER T.

THANKS FOR THE TIME.... Frank Danca YOC 42-45

I'm returning your recent letter with my complete address as you requested. I've intended to write you for quite some time now to express my appreciation for your efforts in maintaining a USS CALVERT ASSOCIATION and also for publishing the CALVERSION all these years which I always look forward to reading. I served in the Calvert from 1961 to 1965 and she and her crew was by far the best of the five ships I served aboard in my 22 years of service.

Robert E. Lea BTC



Swim Call in Gagan De Oro.

Photo from Bob Wallace

As I said on the telephone, when I called you, I was on the Calvert from July 1963 until we took her to Hunters' Point, San Francisco, California in May 1966. I am enclosing some xerox pictures that I took from my cruise of 1964. Maybe some of your readers will get a kick out of them. I called up at least one of my old shipmates and asked if he would mind my giving you his address. He said, by all means. One of these days I will try to put together a letter of things we did while I was stationed on the "Old Whisky Ship".

Robert Wallace MSCS 63-66

## the old crew

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







The history of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on its 75th Anniversary places into focus the dedication and commitment by its membership. In 1962-63 Al Lochr was honored by election to State Commander, an honor that will be remembered during my life time. Many personal experiences that leave a lasting memory for me and my family.

The Commander's project that year was the Day Nursery Program on the campus of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. The building provided activities for children while mothers and others visited their loved ones at the VA Hospital. I could relate many more experiences, but space will not allow it.

# Department Minnesota



VETERANS DAY THANKS-World War II Army veteran John J. Kordich receives a lifetime membership to the Veterans of Foreign Wars from Al Loehr, former St. Cloud mayor and current VFW Budget Committee national vice-chairman. Loehr presented the membership on behalf of James E. Nier, the VFW's senior vice commander-in-chief. Nier offered the membership to Kordich upon meeting him on an earlier visit to the St. Cloud Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

If you were at the Minnesota Reunion in 1995 you would have met Al Loehr SKD3 46. Al took time off from a V.F.W. meeting he was attending and came to the Days Inn in time for our business meeting. He is a strong supporter of veterans rights and the Calvert Associates appreciate his hard work ......

#### **Many Thanks**

William File Jr25.00
Mrs.John W.Stratton20.00
Charles J.Pairis50.00
Naomi Bird50.00
Charles Skillman25.00
Jack Carlson10.00
Elmer S.Parker20.00
Harry Underwood10.00
John Heine20.00
John Maryman40.00
Joe Prubula20.00

THE PERSON NAMED IN	All the transmitted of the state of the stat	Marine and Comment of the Comment of the
	Many Thanks  To the following persons who are helping with newsletter expences.	Mrs.James Choate25.00 J.R.Varner10.00 Vincent Hannigan20.00 O.R.Gordon10.00
3.	Thank you very much  William File Jr25.00  Mrs.John W.Stratton20.00  Charles J.Pairis50.00  Naomi Bird50.00  Charles Skillman25.00  Jack Carlson10.00  Elmer S.Parker20.00  Harry Underwood10.00  John Heine20.00  John Maryman40.00  Joe Prubula20.00	Perry Potiris

### U.S.S. CALVERT REUNION **AGENDA**

OCT. 9-10-11:97

USS Calvert Reunion October 9-11 1997 # of Each Guest Room Type Room Desired Rate To hold a room beyond 6:00 P.M., it must be guaranteed for late arrival. Single (1 bed, 1 person) \$69.00 Do not guarantee Reservation Double \$69.00 (1 or 2 beds, 2 people) Guaranteed to a Credit Card Double, Double (2 beds) \$69.00 Credit Card Type \_\_\_\_\_ HOUSTON Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ "Reunion Headquarters!" Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Crib-Free Roll-a-way \$10.00 Holiday Inn ATTN: Please mail reservation card by 9/8/97 to allow for delivery. Plus state and local tax. Intercontinental Airport 15222 JFK Blvd. Houston, Texas 77032 713-449-2311 Check Out 12:00 P.M. Check In 3:00 P.M. Name: \_\_\_\_ Company: Calvert Reunion Telephone #:\_\_\_\_ Address: ---Holiday Drn. City: \_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Arrival: \_\_\_\_ Names of those people sharing each room (First and Last Name): HOUSTON One: \_\_\_\_\_ Two:\_\_\_\_\_ Three: \_\_\_\_\_ SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS Smoking [ Non Smoking EVENT SCHEDULE Saturday, October 11, 1997 hursday. October 9, 1997 8:00 a.m. Hospitality room opens in Cottonwood room 8:45 a.m., . Depart for day trip of Houston 2:00 p.m. Business meeting Hospitality room closes 5:00 p.m. Memorial Service pool-side 5:30 p.m.

			- 8
:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room opens in Cottonwood room		8
	Registration in Cottonwood room		2
30 p.m.	Hospitality room closes for the day		5
00 p.m.	Bus departs for H & H Ranch		5
_	Picnic at H & H Ranch		6
			7
riday, October 10, 1997			8
	•		-6

Hospitality room opens in Cottonwood room

6:00 p.m. Photo shoot in Trinity Ballroom · Flesta Banquet begins in Trinity Ballroom 7:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

"Enjoy big band entertainment from a by-gone era. Cash bar

(approx.)

Depart for day trip to NASA Space center Sunday, October 12, 1997

Hospitality room closes 30 p.m. 💸 Get acquainted party pool-side. Cash bar. 45 p.m. Buffet served in the Trinity Ballroom 30 p.m.

Reunion opening ceremonies

00 am.

30 a.m.

30 p.m.

9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. Hospitality room opens Hospitality room closes

Time to bid adieu and head for home

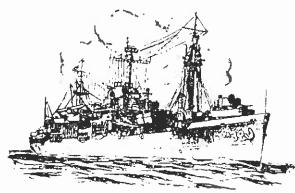


#### CALVERT ASSOCIATES

506 Red Wing Ave. Kenyon, MN 55946

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

3rd CLASS PERMIT NO. 10



U S S CALVERT APA.32

STERLING FUNCK BM1 42 208 N ENOLA DR ENOLA PA 17025-2247







December 4,1996 George A. Jermier 42-43 September 25,1996 James B. Choate Paul Elliott Chaplin 43-45 January 20,1996 Dr.Adolph Flores July 18,1995 Harold Pyburn January 18,1991 Alexander Jaffe LTJG 45 July 22,1996 Marion E. Bird Sl/c 43-45 Russell Grocer BM2 42-43 August 1,1996 November 7,1994 Sherman Dickson Oscar Woody S2/c 45-46 August 19,1996 July 3,1985 Clyde Davenport RM3 Jack H. Lake GM 43-46 Harry M. Gramentz EN3 53-55 January 6,1997