

CALVERTSION

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

"The Ship and Men of Distinction"

Published and Compiled by
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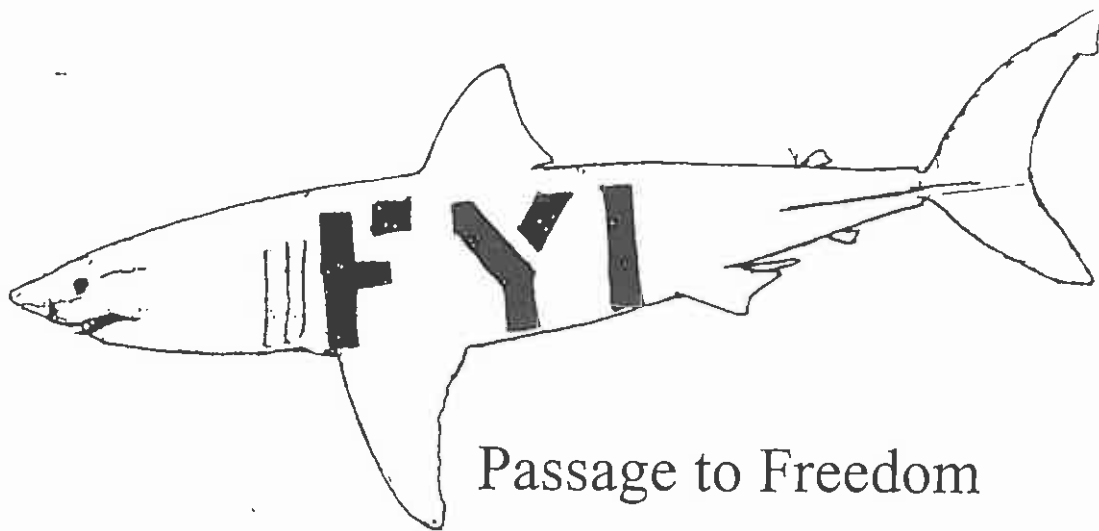
VOL. NO. 45 2002



Comments from the Commander

I have been thinking since September of what I would say in this newsletter. I still don't know exactly how to put it but we all have been affected by the September 11 attack on the U.S. Even our little group was hit as the reunion had to be canceled and we lost one of our shipmates in one of the crashes. The loss of so many people and the interruption of our daily routine, which we take for granted, will never be the same. I know that things will get better but we are changed.....Lila and I had our ticket for Orlando which for the first time was a great price. It took a week for flight traffic to resume out of Mpls.& St.Paul and by that time it was too late. I had been on the phone with Bud Ruth many times and we finally had to cancel, which later we found out that on Friday and Saturday 12 inches of rain fell on Orlando. Someone once said "when it rains it pours". Bud and Barb had worked hard on the planned get-to-gether. I have been working on them to host the 2003 reunion there and if you think I'm right please write or call them and give them your support.....If you were under age when you enlisted in the Navy there is an organization that is looking for you. For more information contact; Eugene Tobaka, 217 SW 142 St. Seattle Washington, 98166 who is the Commander of Veterans of Underage Military Service.....Jay Ralph of Tonawanda, N.Y has purchased a rose bush and has a granite plaque in memory of the USS Calvert placed by it in the Veterans Park of that City. I would like to thank Jay in all our behalf for this nice gesture. If in the area stop by and see it. If others have gone ahead with similar project please let me know.....Peter Beckett has been working hard to find more shipmates of the Calvert. His letter appears in "Mail Call". If you can help him out or in fact know of any guy who isn't on our mailing list, I need that address. While I on the subject of mail,---PLEASE---if you move send me your new address. It costs me 50¢ for every letter that comes back. That counts up.....I'll leave you with this, "On all the oceans white caps slow, So we do not have crosses row on row, But those who sleep beneath the sea, Rest in peace, because our country is free.".....j.l.cole





Passage to Freedom

My name is Ron Frankum and I am a historian as well as archivist for the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University. I have been compiling information on Operation Passage to Freedom, the 1954-1955 evacuation of Vietnamese from North to South after the Geneva Conference, for a forthcoming book on the operation and the individuals who made the history.

I have been interviewing individuals who participated in the operation and have been attending ship reunions of those units that participated under TF90 with the hope of gaining a better understanding of the men who undertook this successful, and historically unrecognized, mission so many years ago. I have attended reunions of the USS Gunston Hall, USS Menard, USS Montague, USS Telfair, and USS Montrose. I was scheduled to attend your reunion this past year and would have enjoyed speaking with those of you who served on the USS Calvert in August and September 1954. It was an unfortunate time in our history that caused the cancellation of your reunion. I still hope to have contact with those of you who were aboard the USS Calvert in August and September 1954 and wish to share your memories and history of the operation.

I have compiled information about my project and the operation on a website at: <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/vietnamarchive/passage/Pindex.htm>. I can be contacted via the website or at the below address, telephone, or email.

The website has a list of questions I have asked the sixty-plus sailors I have interviewed though it is my *no means* complete. I am able to conduct the oral histories over the telephone, and at my expense, at your convenience. A typical oral history will last forty-five minutes to one hour. I have also been collection photographs, slides, and other materials related to the archive. I have scanned these items and return them to the original owner with a CD-ROM for their use. My hope is to be able to use some of these images in the book – the owner of any image used in the book will receive a credit line.

Operation Passage to Freedom was one of the largest humanitarian operations the United States has even experienced. For those of you who served aboard the USS Calvert during this time, I hope you will agree that your role during this mission was critical to the success of the operation and your voice should be included in the Operation's history.

Sincerely,

TEXAS TECH
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THE VIETNAM CENTER

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the old crew

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

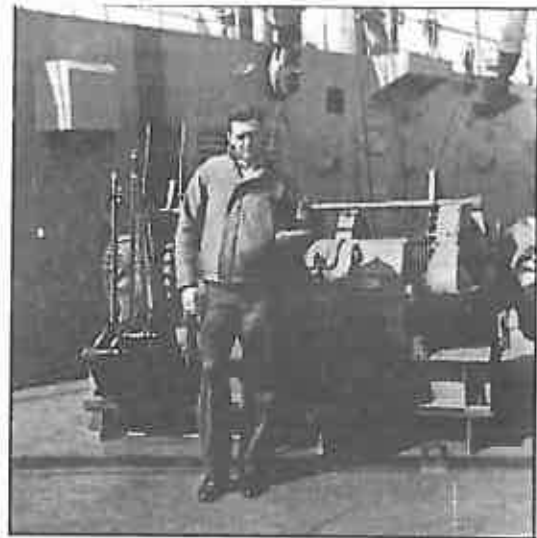
Pictures from,
Stanley Edmonds
Year 1953



Ortez SK3



Shannon (terrific Baker)



John Holland SK3



Stanley Edmonds SK3



Palmer SK3

mail call



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



Little did I think as I was waiting for our vehicle to be serviced on the morning of September 11, 2001, I would witness on television the horrible scene in New York City & Washington, D.C. Little did I think at that point, the tragedy would impact our planned reunion and have such an affect to cause the cancellation. Then on Wednesday morning the weather bureau predicted hurricane Gabrielle would enter our state somewhere around Sarasota and cross the State roaring across Orlando.

Calls to our leader, John Cole confirmed my own thinking and that was to cancel the reunion and contact as many of the 49 registrants as soon as possible. Barbara used the phones (cell and landline) to alert as many people as possible. Many had already canceled or had canceled flight plans. Some were already headed to Orlando.

Barbara and I met with some of the early arrivals at the Delta Resort on Wednesday (Sept 12) evening. Most understood the cancellation decision. All of the tour companies canceled all tours for that weekend. Most of the attractions closed during that period and the Cape didn't open until the following week.

That week is truly a week we will never forget. With all the plans completed, gifts bought, meals planned, activities confirmed, welcoming remarks prepared, packets for all attendees packaged, memorial service in order..... it was very tough to say..... " Sorry, everything is cancelled".

We just hope and pray no one will ever have to witness such a terrible tragedy again and all future Calvert reunions will proceed without any problems.

We dropped all registrants a note with their registration refund saying, please remember John Cole and I have a good supply of ball caps, shirts and license plates for sale. We will fill your orders.

Thanks to all the kind people for their letters of appreciation for our reunion work.
Bud and Barb Ruth

You asked about John Yamnicky who was lost in the crash of FLT 77 into the pentagon. I had just got in touch with John after forty plus years. I was checking out various names in the Navy Memorial Log and came across John and also Norm (Red) Stein. John and I were planning on a long talk when I returned from a cruise. As it was I ended up stranded in N.Y. because of the attack on the WTC. I heard from John's wife Jan when I finally got home.

The navy log is a great resource for finding old shipmates. I have located Dan Clemens, John Moeller, Ed Gilbert, Phil Laudenschlager, Howard Lanyon, Allison Christopher all ready. Also had Steve Farley and Dan Bainton in my file.

Still looking for; Sam Ferguson CWO, R. Davis, Bob Precht, Dan Desmond, Ross Hornblower, George Best, Walt Beattie, Nick Pappas, Carl Moerck, Mike Kenafeck, Bob Patton, Gene Ahern, Lt. Hall, Bill Bridgeford, Jim Duncan (USMC), Dale Wilhite, Anderson BM1, Dr. Fiore, Hamilton BM1 and Dentist Tenny.

Anyone having info. on these men can contact me via Email at, PBECKETT@IOMENER.NET or write me, 216 Pine Valley Rd. Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034. It will be fifty years for those that joined the Calvert in "52". A 50 year reunion would be nice, Peter N. Beckett

It is about time I sent a little (very little) something to show you that I appreciate receiving the Calversion and also that I am still around. Turned 76 in May and lucky enough to still be playing golf three times a week. However, some of my foursome have not been so lucky.

Getting a little too old to travel far so I guess, unless you have a reunion in NY, I am not going to make any. Our shipmate John Lemish, lives here on Long Island near me. I know that he receives the Newsletter. He has not been doing well and started dialysis at home this month. We usually meet for dinner once or twice a year and have put it off until September. Ann and I take a ride out to Sag Harbor or meet them in a restaurant. He was a great buddy when we were on the Calvert, especially in Hong Kong and Yokuska. He was single and I was married. I was being paid \$7 every two weeks, all other money going home. Many a Liberty he paid my way.

Have to comment on "Naval Beach Party." Between you and I it was very poorly written and published. Can't understand how the publisher could have run it without proof reading. There are many paragraphs that I find repeated. Even as a Boatswain Mate I used better grammar than he does. However, the picture of the Calvert on the cover was worth the \$15.

Jack Carlson

Just a short history of my involvement with the USS Calvert.

When the Harry Lee scheduled for invasion of Africa, failed in the Cheseapeake Bay, a swap was arranged as our skipper was moved to the Calvert along with a host of other people..This occurred around October 24,1944.

At the time I was Radio Striker and did not get my rate until I arrived on the Calvert..While on the Calvert I was promoted to Radioman 2/c.. Participated with the Calvert in the following invasions.

1..Safi North Africa. Operation Torch 11/82..Some of the other ships were damaged while in the harbor there by U Boat action.

2..Scogilitti Sicily, Operation Husky 7/10/43..During this period many of our own planes shot down when they flew over the Attack Force,since they were being attacked by German Fighters..General Patton had given a speech to the troops on board. Took prisoners back to Africa from there.

3..Makin (Gilbert Islands) 11/20/43..Had Army troops aboard the Calvert, while the Marines landed with other ships at Tarawa.

On Jan 6 was reassigned to help commision another Attack Transport the USS Herald of the Morning.

When I arrived on the Calvert, I had no radio school at all..2 Radiomen Beebe and Fairfield spent hours teaching me Radio and the code..Obviously they did a good job for I was promoted each time, I was eligible and my final rate before leaving the Navy was RM 1/C..I had the most points on my ship and had final discharge in October 1945..

Felix F Hierbaum Jr

I am writing to you on behalf of my father, Manly Layton Danforth, who spent some time aboard the USS Calvert in June of 1944. We are interested in obtaining history on the ship during that time period and if possible a photograph of the ship. My father was part of a mobile unit called Mine Squadron One and has become interested in reuniting with other men he served with during WW II.

In addition, my father stated that because of his mobile status he never received an award he earned from the Ships Bureau.

Suzan Danforth

(808) 220-1493

1730 Moani Street

E-mail danforths001@hawaii.rr.com

Honolulu, HI 96819

My name is Thomas J. Nichols. I was aboard the Calvert from 29th March 1963 until September 12 1964, I was in the boat group division as a BM Seaman. I attended the U.S. Naval Amphibious school at Coronado San Diego California for my Assault Boat Coxswain training.

My primary duty was taking care of LCVP 12, and stand in on officer's Gig when I was not doing anything else. 5" gun mount on stern was my GQ station as hot case man.

Prior to serving aboard the Calvert I spent 12 months on Midway Island attached to the harbor department on tug boats, crash boats, and LCM.

Prior to Midway I spent 12 months attached to service craft San Diego California aboard a YTB yard tug boat.

Im glad I ran into Hoyt I had no Idea there was a group aboard the Calvert trying to stay in touch with their ship mates, I know that most of you were aboard during World War II but Im still proud to have served aboard the Calvert.

I've tried to get in touch with Robert E. Lea, he has a group page on the Inter Net Military Dot Com. for the Calvert but I have yet to have received any reply to the E Mail I have sent him.

Im sorry I will not be able to make the reunion this year maybe I will in the future.

Well I will close this letter with a thank you for letting me be a part of a group of brave and courageous men that served their country aboard the Calvert during World II.

My E-Mail address is (tjnbro@bellsouth.net) if you are in touch Robert E. Lea give it to him, I would like to have my name on the roster at that web site if possible he only has 10 people on that roster at this time.

Respectfully Thomas J. Nichols (NICK)

I, like so many others, appreciate the fact that you have taken the time to keep the memory of the Calvert in our minds. Every time I get an issue of Calversion, I say to myself John Cole deserves our kudos. Naturally I look for names I know or stories that I can relate to or experienced myself on Calvert.

My duty was during the Korean Conflict and the early stages of Vietnam, 1953-56, two years of which were aboard Calvert. We were fortunate to attend a reunion of officers from Calvert in May 1997 where many of my shipmates were able to make the meeting, organized by Al Mills who lived in La Mesa CA. The memory of an event like that remains in your mind for many a year, and is often food for thought.

With that in mind, John, I wish you great success and large participation for your Orlando reunion this September. I can assure the attendees that they will not regret having taken the time to attend and will have lot's of memories to feed on!

John Moeller

I received your package a couple of weeks ago and think I have read every word. Thank you so much. I am enclosing the information I promised.

First is a letter from the Department of the Navy to my father dated May 9, 1949. It lists the campaigns that the Calvert was involved in during WWII and announces that crew members had been awarded the Navy Unit Commendation. We believe Dad was on the Calvert for all of the named campaigns. He was home on leave when the Japanese surrendered in August 1945.

Second is a diagram of the convoy formation in route to the Mankin Invasion in November 1943. He notes that "All ships crossed Equator November 15, 1943 - 15:00." Dad drew this while on the way to Mankin and brought it home after the war. It looks like the Calvert was well protected.

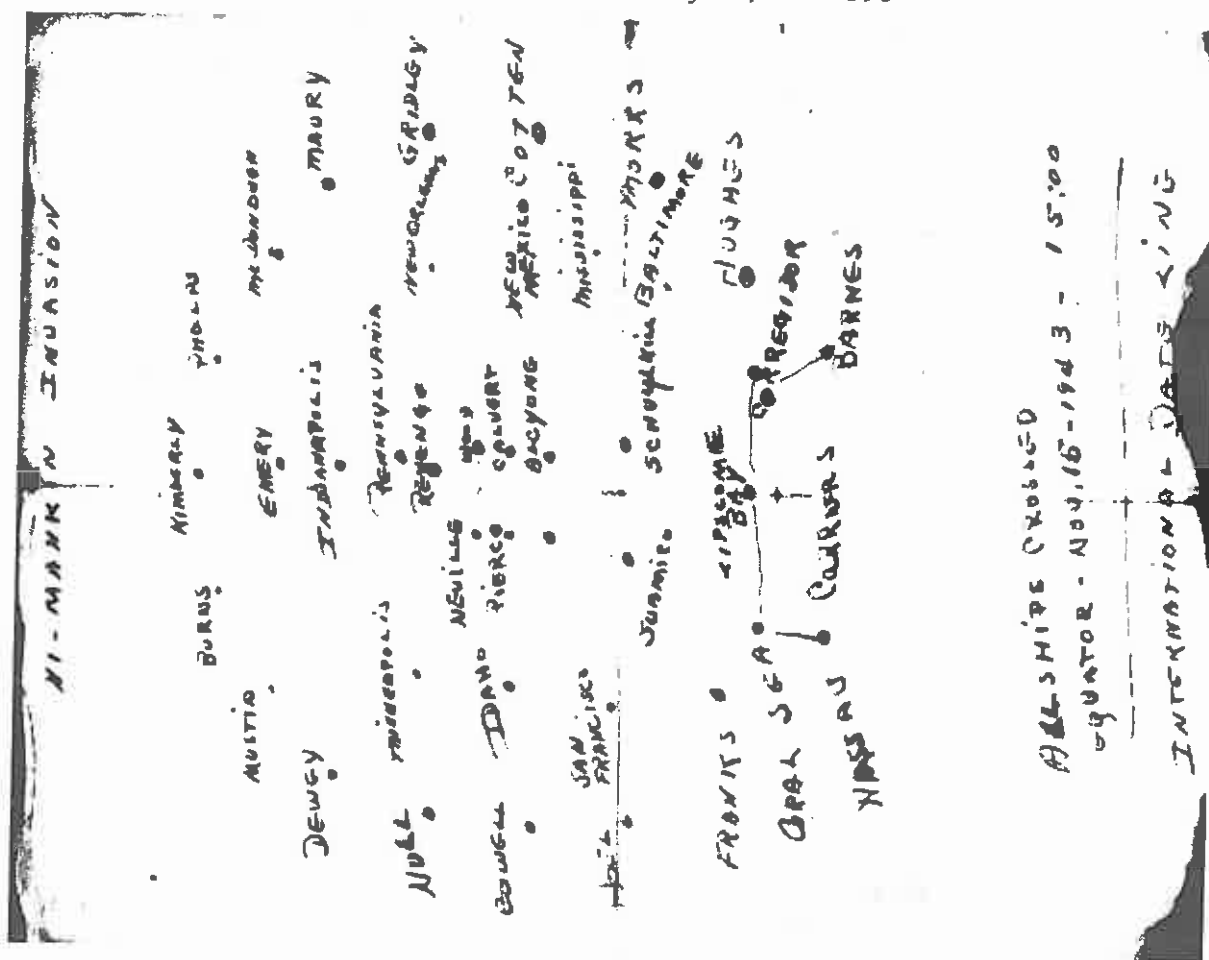
Last is a picture of Dad made about the time he joined the Calvert in 1942.

My Dad was Walter Fred Cox. He was born March 12, 1918 in Ashland, Mississippi and his family moved to Water Valley, Mississippi in the 1920s. He and Mother married on November 1, 1941 just over a month before Pearl Harbor. He joined the Navy in mid-1942 and after basic training was assigned to the Calvert. His highest rank was Radarman First Class. Dad died April 29, 1967 in Russellville, Arkansas.

Also among the things Dad brought back were pictures of two of his buddies (we assume from the Calvert?), H.C. Oath from Arlington, New Jersey and Art Wilson from Pomona, California.

I would be thrilled to hear from anyone who knew my Dad and will be glad to share any information we have.

Ronnie Cox PH. 870-238-1192
1804 Karen St.
Wynne, AR 72396





The following article is what the ships log says on "Passage to Freedom" which took place in the fall of 1954. If you were aboard at that time please contact Ronald B. Frankum at Texas Tech and help him with his project. He is also interested in pictures, snap shots reproduce very well using a computer. Tell him what you have and let him decide. Thanks, Ed...

Completing the tour in Hong Kong, CALVERT proceeded to Kobe, Japan, where, on 26 July 1954, Captain Frederick V. H. Hilles, USN, relieved Captain Otto A Scherini, USN, as commanding officer.

On 1 August, units of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division were embarked to participate in MARLEX II-55 at Kinmi Wan, Okinawa. Also embarked for the operation was Brigadier General Thomas G. McFarland, USMC, the Assistant Division Commander, 3rd Marine Division.

With MARLEX II-55 completed and the troops disembarked, CALVERT sailed on 12 August to Indo China to join other units of TF 90. There, for the next six weeks, the ships were involved in the evacuation of civilians from Haiphong to Saigon and Cape San Jacques (later known as Vung Tau). That operation, known as the "Passage to Freedom", was authorized under the terms of the Geneva Accords of 1954 which terminated the prolonged war between France and the Vietminh led by Ho Chi Minh. Among other things, the Accords partitioned Vietnam at the 17th parallel and made provisions whereby people could be relocated between the two portions of the country. By the time the "Passage" was completed, CALVERT had moved approximately 6,000 people to the south.

In October 1954, the Pacific Fleet's Amphibious Force was reorganized. That resulted in the disestablishment of TRANSDIV THIRTEEN and the establishment of PHIBRON (Amphibious Squadron) FIVE. CALVERT was designated as the permanent flagship of the newly formed squadron.

CALVERT, with 900 Marines of the 17th Rotational Draft embarked, left the Far East on 7 November en route to San Francisco. Upon arrival, the Marines were debarked and CALVERT returned to San Diego for leave and upkeep. The ship then resumed a routine schedule of local operations.



Many Thanks

To the following persons who are helping with the Newsletter expenses; Thank You very much.....

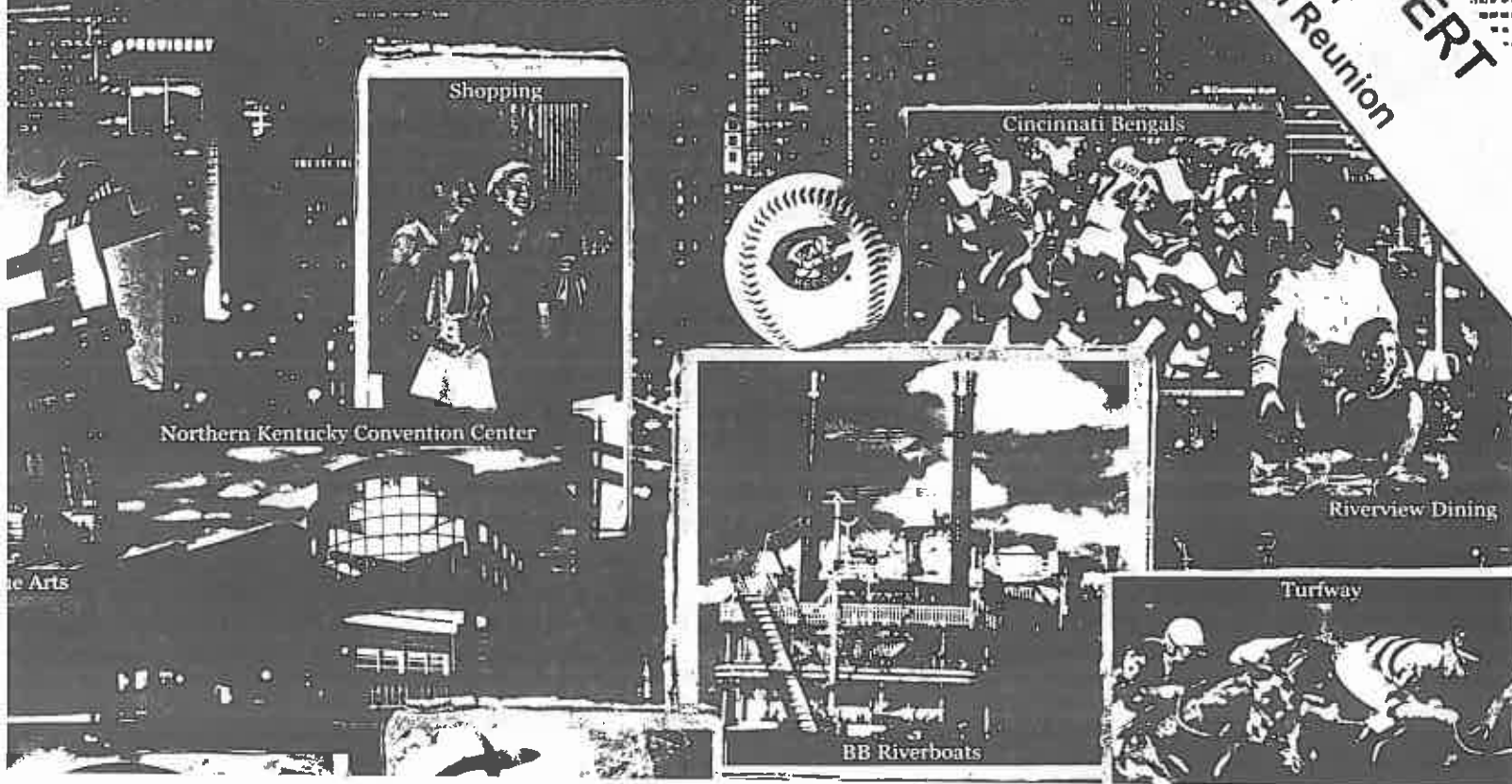
Larry Rickert.....10.00
Alva Perry.....30.00
Stanley Edmonds.....20.00
Howard Lanyon.....25.00
John Moeller.....25.00
Charles Pairis.....75.00
Carl Talbert.....20.00
Elizebeth Kenefick...25.00
John T. Carlson.....10.00
Peter Beckett.....25.00
Betty Widell in
memory of Edward.....25.00
Joe Evans.....7.00

Daniel Brotherton.....20.00
Norman Durr.....25.00
Eugene Szolga.....20.00
Bob Miller.....25.00
Daniel Mercuri.....20.00
John Fiandaca in Memory of
Russell Grocer RM1
Joe Turpell Commander
John "Jake" Clancy LTJG
Vincent "Swabie" Swab 20.00
Robert J. McClusky....25.00
Bev. Taulbee.....10.00

NORTHERN KENTUCKY

The Southern Side of Cincinnati.

USS CALVERT
for their
2002 Annual Reunion



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- ★ 7 miles from both the airport and downtown Cincinnati
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- ★ A customized banner hanging in the main lobby welcoming the **USS CALVERT**
- ★ The entire hospitality staff wearing customized welcome ribbons
- ★ Ample meeting and hospitality space

Carl and Betty Rogers (513-398-0721) have been working on the 2002 Calvert Reunion to be held in Fort Mitchell, Ky. at the Drawbridge Estates in September 11 to 15, 2002.

Room reservations can be made at this time by telling them you are with the Calvert Group. Rooms in the Main Building are \$78.00 per night or in the Garison Building which is 1000 yards away for \$68.00 per night.

The Drawbridge Estates is at 2477 Royal Drive, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky 41017.

Reservation Phone is;

Toll Free Ky.# is 1-800-352-9866

Toll Free US.# is 1-800-354-9793



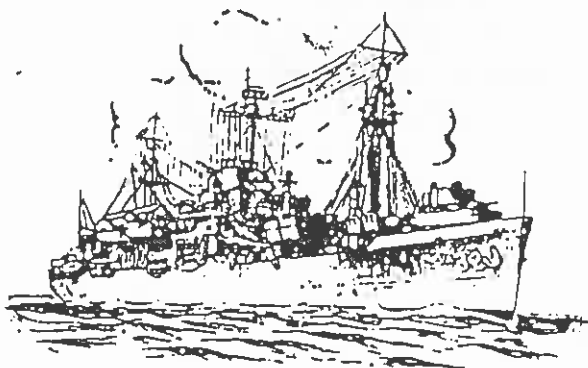
CALVERT ASSOCIATES

506 Red Wing Ave.

Kenyon, MN 55946

3rd CLASS
PERMIT NO.
10

"Change Service Requested"



U S S CALVERT APA-32

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

17025+2247 01

17025+2247 01

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF THESE SHIPMATES

Edward Widell CM1 42-43 June 7, 2001
Raymond Maclean LT 43-45 November 26, 2000
Alvin Gordon FI/c 42-43
John M. Kenefick LTJG 50-51 June 12, 2001
John Piacentini MOMM2 43-45 March 9, 2001
John Heine ET1 52-54 June 23, 2001
Walter F. Cox RM2 42-45 April 29, 1967
Leslie Knight 55-57 September 1, 2001
Edward Pease RM2 51-54 November 23, 1999
Amedey Mollica MM2 51 December 18, 1998
G.C. Fergerstrom RMC 52 January 19, 2000
Dave A. Melicher MM2 54-55 August 3, 2001
John D. Yamnicky ENS 52-53 September 11, 2001

