

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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506 Red Wing Ave.
Kenyon, Minnesota 55946
Telephone 507-789-6344

VOL. NO. 48 2003



Comments from the Commander

Yes I do make mistakes. Quite a few of you asked for a copy of "Beachhead #2-Sicily" and I also listed a web site number that you could go to but made a mistake in that. So here I go again and I hope this works, http://www.1stbeachbattalion.org/beachhead_2.htm try that and let me know. Maybe some day I'll get on line....I got a sizeable check from Dave Cullen who wanted to remember his buddies with a donation. That was very nice and I thank him. Dave and Heleh were reunion participants for many years and I hope many years to come. Over the years I have met many great Calvert men and wives at reunions and as we get older we find that we can't always gad around like we used to. I dread the day that it happens to me and Lila probably has the same thoughts. I'd be a bastard if I was cooped up.....Have been on the phone with Rich and Glynna Morse many times and the Savannah Reunion is coming together very well. You will find more about it further on in this newsletter. It should be a great time so get your reservations in by August 25 cause after that there is a late charge. Hope to see you there.....While were on the subject of reunions we will be looking for a site for the 2005 get-to gether. Give that some thought as we need it in Savannah.....The 2004 reunion will be in Springfield Mo. Eugene Szolga and wife went to Brandson and did some leg work for me and got some Phone numbers but that was it. I called 3 or 4 people there and they said they would send me some info but to this day we have heard nothing. On the other hand the Springfield CVB was very helpfull and it paid off for them. We are planning a day trip to see some shows in Brandson. Also if you fly in to Springfield hotel transportation is free as to at least \$75.to get to Brandson from the airport. More in the January newsletter.....When one of our members pass away it is my policy that I don't talk about it on the front page. If I did the whole page would be about people dieing. I try to make this a happy newsletter. I had to say something about it so I wrote a letter found under mail call. I just had to say something.....Well hold a steady course, keep the wind to your back and with fair weather I'll see you all at the reunion or in t he next newsletter.....j.l.cole



mail call



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



I am an American Indian researching WWII history and I came across this address in a veterans magazine. I am wanting to correspond with American WWII veterans on various topics with a WWII theme. I hope this inquiry can be printed in a newsletter or announced at reunions.

The topics are varied and I plan on developing these projects into articles or books. If you would like to correspond about an of these topics, please let me know

- I'm seeking correspondence with Americans of different backgrounds during the war. This is for a project that shows Americans of all ethnicities, creeds, etc- contributed to the war effort.
- Persons who worked with military animals (dogs, horses, messenger pigeons) or served in veterinary corps. Also, seeking animal mascot stories, even if the pet was against regulations.
- Sex, dating, romance, etc- during the war. Includes: favorite pin-up girls, bawdy marching lyrics, "Dear John" letters, unusual marriage proposals, military hygiene lectures, romances with overseas "local girls", same-sex encounters, sexual assault or harrassment on men or women, ideal date while on liberty/shoreleave, war brides, weddings or newlywed life in wartime, divorces, whereabouts when notified of a birth back home, etc.
- Unusual experiences or phenomena. Foo-fighter sightings, hauntings, good luck charms, encountering macabre crime, premonitions, near-death or out of body experiences, extraordinary coincidences, 1940s Halloween parties, visits to fortune tellers, King Neptune rituals, and any other phenomena that a person considers supernatural or extraordinary.
- Being an American Indian descent veteran or knowing Indian or Hawaiian veterans.
- Knowing women who served in defense industries or in the Civil Air Patrol on the homefront.

Thank you, for any response. No anecdote, memory or recollection is too small. I am interested in any of these topics. Even in situations where the events have been kept private for nearly six decades. I will treat all replies with respect. I am also seeking duplicate of photographs (taken during the war) that depicts any of the above topics.

Robert J. Clark
PO Box 685
Collinsville, Illinois 62234

Calvert Marine Museum

P. O. Box 97, Solomons, Maryland 20688

On behalf of the museum, thank you for sending Ray Franklin's framed photograph depicting the U.S.S. *Calvert* APA-32. The photograph arrived safely on January 7. We are pleased to add it to the museum's collection.

I apologize for not acknowledging receipt of the photograph sooner. It arrived at a busy time and I had thought that the museum's Director had contacted you.

I have forwarded the Deed of Gift to Mr. Franklin and have enclosed a copy of the thank you note in this correspondence. Thank you for your generosity and continuing support of the museum.

Robert J. Hurry
Registrar

first of all, thank you for the work you do in publishing the *Conversion*. Some time back you ran an article on Captain Merrill. I was a young fireman in R division working in the Carpenter Shop when Captain Merrill took command of the "San Ju Ni Maru", as we affectionately called the old "War Horse", and I'll never forget the first day I met the Captain in person.

If you'll, remember the Carpenter shop was on the O-2 deck, amidships above the cargo hold. When anyone came to the Carpenter Shop we could hear them coming up the ladder. One day, as was usually the case, Jim Morlan our First Class PO was kicked back with his feet on the bench and having his morning coffee (second pot) and the ship fitters were busy with the latest issues of Playboy. I was working on a Cumshaw project for a guy in the Bakery, (he kept us in fresh pastries) when we heard footsteps coming up the ladder. I walked over and opened the hatch. As I stepped out to see who was coming, I came face to face with Captain Merrill. I snapped to attention and yelled out, "attention on deck"! Behind me I could hear the rustle of magazines being stuffed into the Welding Rod Locker and the sound of Morlan and his coffee cup crashing to the deck. In the time it took Captain Merrill to returned my salute and ascended the last 2 steps of the ladder, Morlan was back on his feet and every thing was put away except my Cumshaw project.

Morlan asked the Captain how we could be of service and he replied that he had come to see me. The Captain asked me what I was working on and my heart sunk. I had visions of Brig time and how I would explain to the folks at home why I had been kicked out of the Navy for doing unauthorized work. He told everyone else to "carry on", at which point everyone suddenly had work to do somewhere else on the ship. He looked carefully at all the pieces that were laid out on the bench and asked how they went together but never asked what the project was for. Instead he said he had been reviewing my file and had noticed that I was a Designated Striker to the Patternmaker Rate and wondered if I could build him a set of "Hat Stretchers". I told him I could.

I grabbed a set of calipers and a ruler, proceeded to the Captains cabin and began to measure his head! I was so nervous that I'm surprised I was able to do it at all. Within a couple of days I had made an exact three-dimensional cross section model of his head, including the bump on his forehead.

Captain Merrill lives only a few miles from me in Redmond Washington and while we have not met again in person, I have spoken to him on the phone. He tells me that he still has that hat stretcher sitting on his mantel.

P.S.

I would like your reader's help in finding a shipmate, Earl Chester Williams. He was in "A" Division from 1962 till at least 1964.

Ron McGaha
3608 172nd Ave. N.E.
Redmond Washington 98052

"THE UNITED STATES NAVY CRUISER SAILORS ASSOCIATION IS ACTIVELY SEEKING NEW MEMBERS TO SWELL OUR RANKS. MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL SHIP'S COMPANY, MARINE DETACHMENT, AVIATION DIVISION, FLAG PERSONNEL AND MIDSHIPMEN THAT SERVED OR ARE SERVING ABOARD CRUISERS. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE TO PAST AND PRESENT NAVY MEN AND WOMEN, RESERVISTS, WIDOWS OF CRUISERMEN AND INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: RONALD J. MACIEJOWSKI, (U.S.S. WORCESTER CL-144), SECRETARY, U.S.N.C.S.A., 55 DONNA TERRACE, TAUNTON, MA 02780.

E-MAIL: c1canavy@aol.com TEL/FAX: 508.824.0789



Sincerely,
Ronald J. Maciejowski
Ronald J. Maciejowski

Got a phone call from Betty Rogers the other day telling me that Carl had died. That hit me. I had been in Ft. Mitchell a little over a year ago enjoying the Roger's program they set up for the reunion. We had been on the phone many times since they came to me in Lancaster Pa. where they told me that they wanted to host a reunion. Carl and family did a super job at entertaining us. One thing that helped was by having the reunion we got some extra money for having it in Kentucky instead of the Ohio side of the river. That money helped with some great door prizes. These are some of the little things a reunion host can do. Carl drove one of the vans that were used and from all outside appearances his health, as far as I knew was good. He wanted to have a great reunion and he did. The sympathy of the Calvert group goes out to the Rogers family at this time. Thank you, Carl will be remembered.

John L. Cole

My name is Robert Hepler Jr. the son of Robert Hepler Sr. who was a shipmate on the U.S.S Calvert 1943-45?. My father passed away 15 years ago and I am trying to put together some of his war experiences. I know that he was wounded while a crewman on a landing craft somewhere in the South Pacific. What I am looking for is possible photos of this time in the South Pacific. I know that this is not much information for you to go on but if you could be of any help it would be appreciated. I also would like to thank you for your interesting newsletter and think that you are doing a great job.

Robert Hepler
5842 Alessandro
Temple City, ca. 91780
(626) 286-2420

Was on the Calvert during 1962 - 1963. At this time the Navy doctor aboard was Thomas A. CAREY. If you have Tom's address, would be interested in contacting him, or asking him to contact me.

Michael E. RUGGIERO
32 King James Ct.
Staten Island, NY, 10308-2910



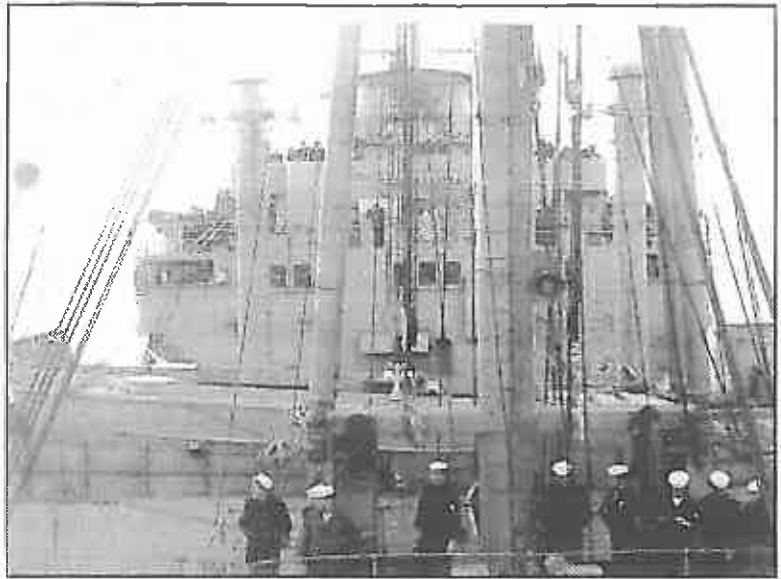
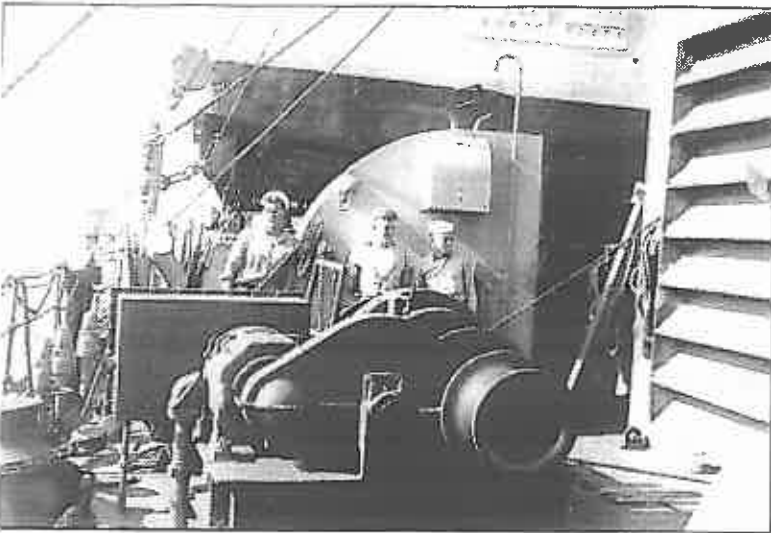
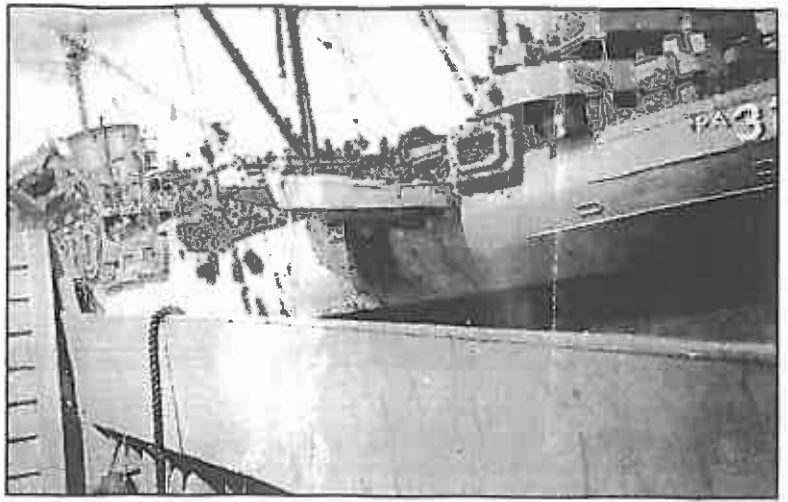
Photo taken in early 1950's from James Chapman.

Front row L to R
Gene Anderson, Jim Chapman and Chuck Ward.

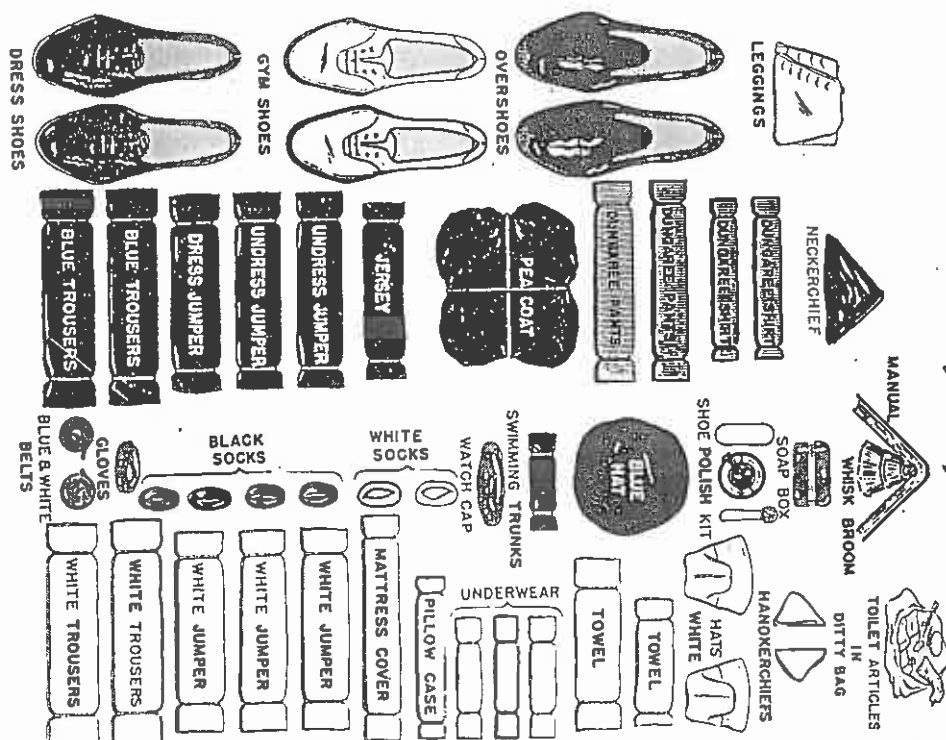
Back row L to R
Trapp, G. Rose, T.B. Boise, L.W. Hastings, Dean Frolander and ?.

the old crew

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



Photos taken aboard the U.S.S. Calvert in 1953 from Rex Crowdes.



Clothing Layout



U.S.S. Calvert during 1953 operations off of Iwo Jima.
Photos from Rex Crowdes.



Many Thanks

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

Henery D. Smith.....25.00
Stephen Schuster.....20.00
Beverly Taulbee.....10.00
William Hobrat.....25.00
James C. Uium.....50.00
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Dale Willhite.....100.00
Amond Ohms.....25.00

The following are in Memory of.....

Norman Slessor 25.00 for Alexander "Sandy" Slesso
Barbara O'Neal 5.00 for Gerald O'Neal
David Cullen 160.00 for Capt. John F. Warris
Charlie Schooler
Robert McClure
Clymer Long
John Paradiso
Vincent Simon
Al "Charlie" Noble
Ray MacLean
Ray Rybarczyk
Roy Holmes
George E. Mackey
Neil Hutchinson
Joe Villien
Joe Evans
Don Reader
Ed O'Brien

William Barris 50.00 for Louis Lund
Lucille Farmer 25.00 for James Farmer
Patrica Crow 25.00 for Willis D. Renz

**We're
stretching
our necks
to please you**

mail this reservation form to:
Attn: Reservations
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
#17 Gateway Blvd. East
Savannah, GA 31419

**RESERVATION FORM
FOR
USS Calvert Associates Reunion**

**Holiday Inn
EXPRESS
HOTEL & SUITES**

The Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites is pleased to accommodate the
USS Calvert Associates Reunion {Group Code: USC} in Savannah
during the dates of September 10th - 14th, 2003

Reservations must be made by August 10th, 2003 to guarantee availability
and the special room rate of \$76.00 + 12% tax for single/double, per night,
\$10.00 each additional adult person in room.

You may call Toll Free to: (800) 465- 4329, FAX to: (912) 927-1027 or

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Number of rooms: _____ Number of people: _____

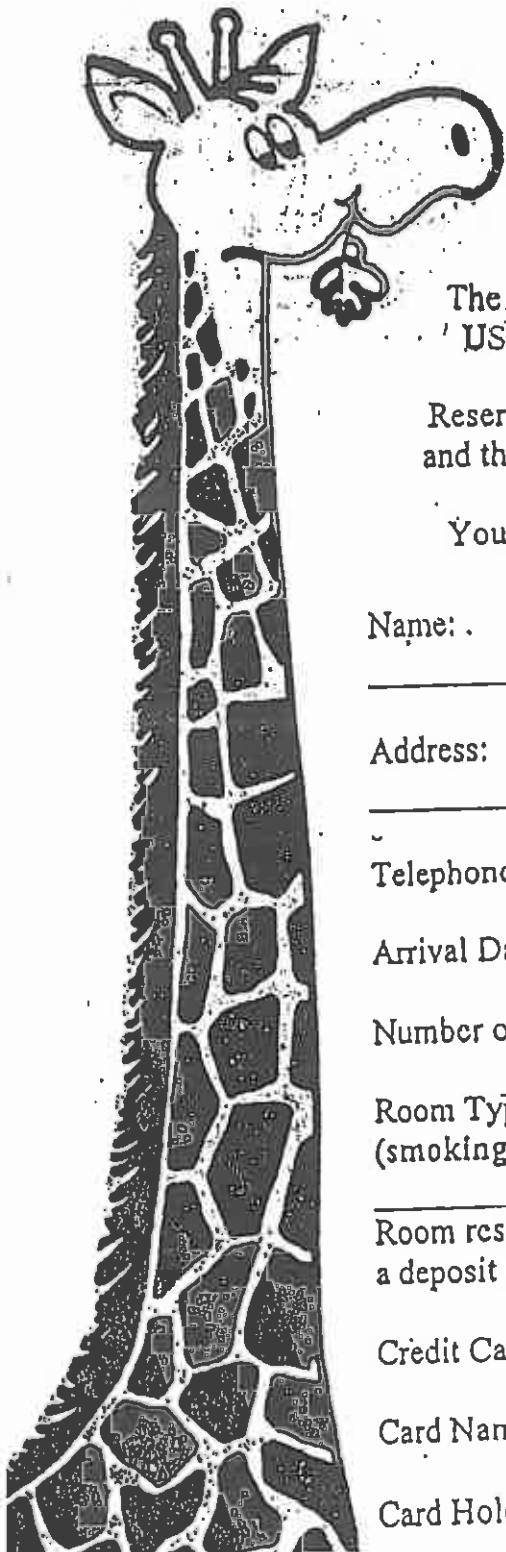
Room Type Request: _____ (king bed _____ or 2-queen bed _____)
(smoking or non-smoking) Special Request _____

Room reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card number or you may send
a deposit for the first night's payment to confirm booking.

Credit Card Number: _____

Card Name: _____ Exp. _____

Card Holder: _____



REUNION EVENTS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 10, 1:00 p.m. Check in-Registration, Hospitality Room, Telfair I

Wednesday, September 10, 5:30 p.m. **Reception**, Hospitality Room, Telfair I

Wednesday, September 10, 6:00 p.m. **Pizza Party**. (free with registration). Hospitality Room, Telfair I.

Wednesday, September 10, 8:00 p.m. **Reception**, Hospitality Room, Telfair I

Thursday, 8:30 a.m. **Historic District Day Tour**. Leave from hotel front for Historic District Day Tour. Guided bus tour of Savannah's historic district sites, mansions, over 260 years of southern history. Tour includes all bus transportation and admissions. Total cost: \$45.00 per person. (Lunch on your own and shopping on Savannah's historic River Street). Return to Holiday Inn Express at 2:30 p.m.

Thursday evening, 5:30 p.m. **Deli buffet supper**. (free with registration). Hospitality Room, Telfair I

Thursday, 6:45 p.m. **Music Show Evening Tour**. Leave from hotel front for Thursday evening music production, "Lost in the 50's Live Music Show" a two-hour, high-energy, Broadway style Musical that has become longest running theatre production in Savannah, produced in the historic Savannah Theatre. The band is rockin' & the cast is boppin' from hula hoops to the hand jive to the twist. Take a trip through one of the greatest decades in history. Show runs from 8:00-10:00 p.m. Total cost of \$45.00 per person includes bus transportation and show admission. Return to Holiday Inn Express at 10:30 p.m.

Friday, 8:30 a.m. **Low Country Day Tour**. Leave from hotel front for Fort Pulaski Monument, Tybee Island Lighthouse (Georgia's oldest and tallest lighthouse), and other historic sites outside Savannah. Includes Low Country Luncheon (select from three entrees). Total cost of \$55.00 per person includes all tour costs, including bus transportation, all admissions, meal, beverage, dessert (key lime pie), and gratuities. Return to Holiday Inn Express at 2:30 p.m.

Friday, 3:00 p.m. **Business meeting**. Telfair II.

Friday evening, **Supper on your own** at nearby restaurants (Ruby Tuesdays, Cracker Barrel, The Shell House, Shoney's, Denny's, and many others)

Friday, 8:30-9:30 p.m. **Ice Cream Social**. (free with registration) Hospitality Room, Telfair I

Saturday, 8:30 a.m. **Mighty 8th Tour & Riverboat Cruise Luncheon**. Leave from hotel front for Mighty 8th Museum dedicated to the courage and patriotism of the men and women of the Air Force from World War II to the present. Then on to the Savannah Historic River Street for river cruise of the Savannah River, the industrial port, and narration of the history of the founding of Savannah and its importance as a leading industrial port. Riverboat buffet is included with cruise. Total cost of \$55.00 per person includes all tour costs, include museum admission, cruise, and riverboat buffet, and gratuities. Return to Holiday Inn Express at 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, 3:30 p.m. **Memorial Services** – Poolside

Saturday, 5:30 p.m. **Pre-banquet**, pictures with Hoyt Worthington, Telfair III

Saturday, 6:00 p.m. **Banquet dinner & activities**, Telfair III. Total cost of \$30.00 per person includes all meal costs and gratuities.

Sunday, September 14. All hands depart (on their own)

2003 USS Calvert Reunion
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, #17 Gateway Blvd. East, Savannah, GA 31419
Hotel Phone Number: (912) 925-2700
September 10-14, 2003

Please print the information below:

Name(s) of persons attending: _____
Mailing Address Street/P.O.: _____
Mailing Address City, State, Zip code _____
Telephone Number: _____
E-mail address: _____
When you expect to arrive at reunion: (Day) _____ (Time) _____

Please check box at left for reservation for events & then fill out totals on the right for each reservation event.

☐ **Registration:** (\$40.00 —includes Hospitality Room receptions, pizza party, deli supper, and ice cream social) No. of Persons _____ @ \$40.00 per person = \$ _____

☐ **Thursday historical day tour.** (\$45.00—includes guided bus tour of historic Savannah sites, all transportation, and admissions costs. Lunch and shopping on your own at Savannah's famed Riverfront) No. of Persons _____ @ \$45.00 per person = \$ _____

☐ **Thursday music evening show** (\$45.00—includes bus transportation and admission to 50s Music Show) No. of Persons _____ @ \$45.00 per person = \$ _____

☐ **Friday Low Country day tour & meal:** (\$55.00— guided tour of Low Country historical places, Tybee Island Lighthouse, and Low Country Lunch—includes bus transportation, all admission costs, and free Low Country Lunch (select from choice of three entrees); includes beverage, dessert, and gratuities)—indicate no.of persons for each meal selection:
Shrimp salad No. _____
Chicken sandwich No. _____
Roast beef on French bread No. _____
Total day tour & Meal No. of Persons _____ @ \$55.00 per person = \$ _____

☐ **Saturday Mighty 8th Museum Tour & Riverboat cruise & luncheon.** (\$55.00—includes all costs, bus transportation, museum admission, riverboat cruise & riverboat luncheon, & gratuities) No. of Persons _____ @ \$55.00 per person = \$ _____

Saturday Banquet (Indicate choice of meat below)

☐ Prime rib No. of Persons _____ @ \$30.00 per person = \$ _____
☐ Roasted Cornish game hen No. of Persons _____ @ \$30.00 per person = \$ _____

☐ **Late Reservation Fee** (only for reservations not received by Aug. 10) @ \$20 per person = \$ _____

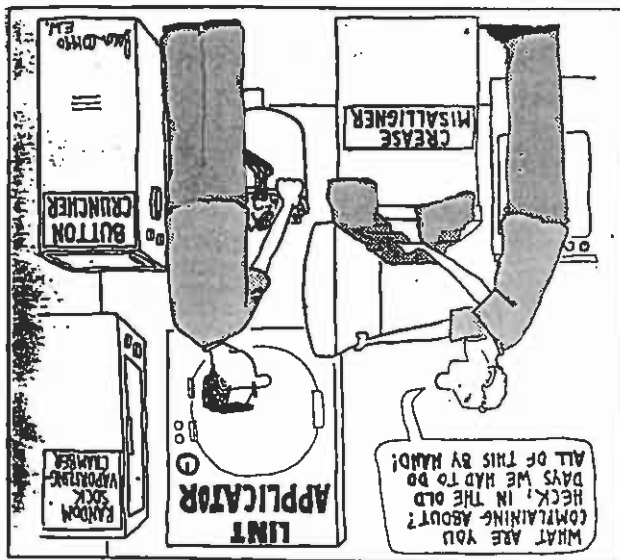
Total Reunion Amount \$ _____

Please make out check to USS Calvert Associates and mail to:

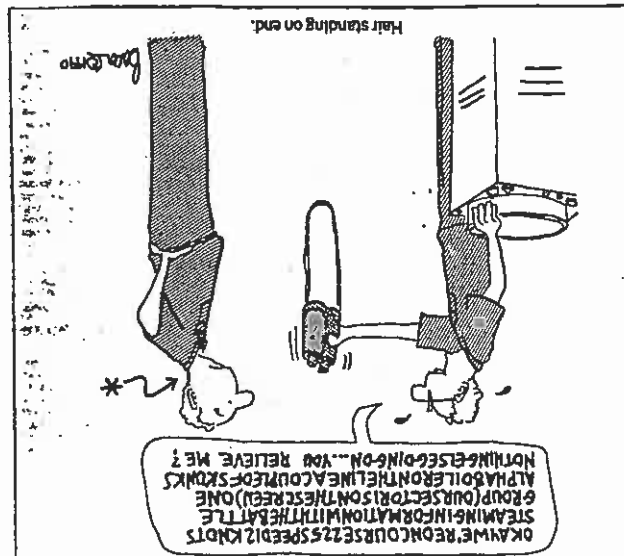
Richard & Glynn Morse
342 Log Cabin Rd. #4C
Milledgeville, GA 31061

For other information: Phone: (478) 452-0700 or
E-mail: richmors@iland.net or
glynna_morse@yahoo.com

Reunion Tour Reservations must be made by August 10; a late fee will be charged for reservations made after August 10. **NOTE: hotel room reservations must be made by August 10.**



Broadside By Jeff Bacon



Broadside By Jeff Bacon

CALVERT ASSOCIATES

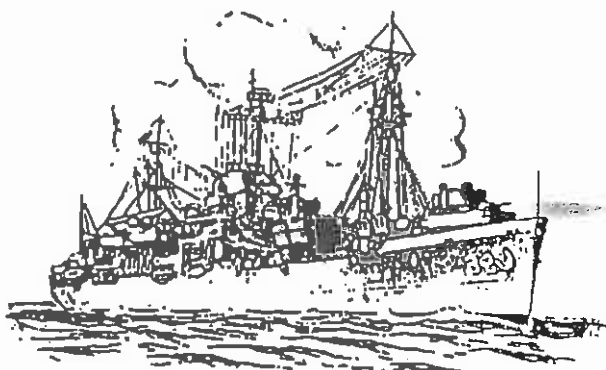
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10

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U. S. S. CALVERT APA-32



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PASSING OF THESE SHIPMATES

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Alexander "Sandy" Slessor Y1 1-10-03
Neil Feaster BT3 8-17-01
John J. Dugan LT.CDR 42-43 12-23-02
Otis Luff S2/c 45-46 2003
Lew Silvers
Stewart P. Brown 43 2-18-03
Darwin Marker EN2 52-56
Carl Rogers YN2 55-56 5-5-03
Merle Maust 51-55 '12-94
Gene Houchins 51 10-7-02
Willis D. Renz SM3 43-46 2-22-03