

# CALVERSION

OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MEN OF THE U.S.S. CALVERT APA 32  
"The Ship and Men of Distinction"

John L. Cole, Original Founder & Publisher

Present newsletter compiled by  
Glynna Morse, Recording Secretary  
USS Calvert Associates  
701 S. Windsor St.  
Windsor, MO 65360-1937  
E-mail: glynna\_morse@yahoo.com  
Telephone: (660) 647-2855

VOL. NO. 70 – 2015



## Comments from the Secretary:

We were saddened to learn of the death of Lou Christiansen, Commander, on January 4, 2015. Lou had been elected as Commander of the U.S.S. Associates at the Des Moines Reunion in October, 2013, and he had been making plans for a reunion in 2016 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the decommissioning of the U.S.S. Calvert. Lou served on the U.S.S. Calvert during the Vietnam era and was active in veterans' activities. In late 2013, Lou was diagnosed with brain cancer, followed with surgery and treatment in the subsequent months. We extend our sympathy to Lou's wife, Carol, and his daughter, Karina, and the U.S.S. Calvert Associates sent a small memorial to Drug Crisis in Our Backyard, an organization formed by Lou and his wife to raise awareness about drugs. His obituary appears on p. 2.

We had a great time in Ft. Worth at the 2014 reunion. As this newsletter goes to press, plans are underway for the 2015 USS Calvert reunion to be held in Baltimore on October 1-3, with arrival date on September 30, and departure on October 4. Over the years, USS Calvert shipmates have requested a reunion to be held in Baltimore. Now thanks to Chris and Tricia Funck offering to host this year's reunion, we look forward to a memorable reunion in Baltimore. One of the special features will be a tour of the Calvert Maritime Museum, Solomons, Maryland. This is the museum where USS Calvert artifacts, memorabilia, and papers are housed. See p. 3 for more details about this upcoming 2015 reunion. Registration and hotel forms will be in the June 2015 *CALVERSION*.

I am heartened by the number of responses we get from family members interested in the history of the USS Calvert, the ship on which their loved ones served. Thanks to the USS Calvert web site maintained by Chris Funck, future generations can browse through volumes of information about and photos of the USS Calvert. Over the years, my husband, Richard and I attended every USS Calvert national reunion except the one at San Francisco. Every reunion is different, but each reunion is special. As Olive Wenninger wrote (see "Mail Call" on P. 4), the friends we met at these USS Calvert reunions became like family to us. The USS Calvert reunions are open to the relatives and friends of the USS Calvert. Invite your family members to come with you to this 2015 reunion. Jot the dates down on your calendar and make your plans to attend the reunion in Baltimore.

# **Louis H. Christiansen**

## **Commander of U.S.S. Calvert Associates**

### **(1948-2015)**



Louis Hammershaimb Christiansen Jr.  
Photo Credit: *Contributed*

#### **Obituary - Louis H. Christian, Jr.**

SOMERS, N.Y. — Louis Hammershaimb Christiansen, Jr., a Somers resident, died on Sunday. He was 68.

Christiansen Jr. was a Vietnam veteran, a retired NYC police officer assigned to the Bronx Task Force an elite squad of 100 men, a contractor and a Somers Lion.

He co-founded Drug Crisis in Our Backyard, along with his wife Carol, to raise awareness of the dangers of drug abuse.

He was a beloved member of the community serving people through many organizations. Christiansen Jr. was a music lover, an avid trivia buff and New York Mets fan.

He is survived by his wife Carol, daughter Karina and predeceased son Erik, who was a NYC police detective.

Calling hours will be held at Clark Funeral Home in Yorktown Heights on Wednesday, Jan. 7 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. A mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Patrick's Church in Yorktown on Thursday, Jan. 8 at 10 a.m. Interment will follow at St. Michael's Cemetery in East Elmhurst.

In lieu of flowers, make a donation to Drug Crisis in Our Backyard,  
[www.drugcrisisinourbackyard.com](http://www.drugcrisisinourbackyard.com)

Source: *Yorktown, NY Daily Voice*, January 7, 2015,  
<http://yorktown.dailyvoice.com/obituaries/louis-hammershaimb-christiansen-jr-somers-resident-68>

# 2015 USS Calvert Reunion Planned for Baltimore, Maryland (Oct. 1-3, 2015)

Chris Funck, webmaster of the USS Calvert website, and grandson of Sterling Funck who served on the U.S.S. Calvert (1942-1944), offered to host the 2015 USS Calvert reunion in Baltimore area. Those in attendance voted unanimously to accept the generous offer of Chris and Tricia Funck to host the 2015. Chris and Tricia have made arrangements for the reunion to be held at Baltimore at the Hilton Garden Inn, Baltimore/Arundel Mills, Maryland:

Hilton Garden Inn Baltimore/Arundel Mills  
7491 New Ridge Road  
Hanover, MD 21076

Main Phone (410) 878-7200  
Fax Number (410) 850-4550  
[www.baltimorearundelmills.hgi.com](http://www.baltimorearundelmills.hgi.com)

**Hotel.** The hotel rate of \$129 plus tax is in effect the night of September 30, Wednesday (check in time: 4:00 PM) through the October 4, Sunday (check out time: 12:00 PM). The cut off date for this rate of \$129 is 8/30/2015 with 2 Queen Beds or 1 King Bed. Rooms include mini-refrigerator, microwave, coffeemaker, and other amenities. *(A hotel registration form will appear in the June newsletter.)*

**Airport.** The hotel is near the **Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI)**, and a free shuttle is included with the cost of the room from the airport to the hotel. Also the shuttle will transport free within a 5-mile radius which includes Arundel Mall, Maryland Live Casino, and restaurants.

**Schedule.** The schedule with final times and costs for tours and meal arrangements are still being planned and subject to change. *(A registration form with the final schedule and costs for tours and meals will be in the June newsletter.)* Below is the tentative schedule:

September 30 (Wednesday), Arrival at hotel ; Meals on your own at Hotel restaurant or nearby restaurants such as Panera's, Cheesecake Factory, The Green Turtle, Chipotles. Also, free hotel shuttle to Arundel Mills Mall restaurants.

October 1 (Thursday), Trip to & tour of Naval Academy, Lunch at the Naval Academy Club, (Afternoon plans still in progress, including Memorial Chapel), Dinner at Hilton Banquet Room (mini assorted sandwiches, potato salad, relish tray, and fruit/berry tray)

October 2 (Friday), Trip to & visit of the Calvert Museum in Solomon, MD. Lunch at Stoney's Solomons Pier Restaurant in Solomons, MD, Dinner on your own at hotel restaurant or local restaurants such as Panera's, Cheesecake Factory, The Green Turtle, Chipotles. Also, free hotel shuttle to Arundel Mills Mall restaurants.

October 3 (Saturday), Trip to Baltimore Aquarium - 2 1/2 tour of the aquarium, Lunch at the Inner Harbor, Choice of boat tour at Baltimore Inner Harbor or shopping at Inner Harbor, Dinner at the Hilton Banquet Room (filet and crabcakes)

October 4 (Sunday), Depart from hotel

**Hotel and Reunion Registration Forms will appear in the  
June, 2015 CALVERSION newsletter**



# Mail Call

July 5, 2014.

Glynna,

Just to let you know that Commander Charles F. Skillman USN Retired, passed away on Friday, June 27, 2014, at the age of 91. A little of his history: 30 years service, WWII served European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign, Korean Service, Philippines, Vietnam. USS Calvert APA 32 was his main ship. Entered Navy Oct. 27, 1941- Retired Nov. 30, 1971.

--Sincerely, **Gloria L. Skillman, Wife.**

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July 12, 2014. *(written after Olive had telephoned me to say Elsie Pribula had passed away on July 19, 2014)*

Hello Glynna,

Enclosed is a clipping of Elsie Pribula's obituary and a check as a memorial in tribute to Elsie S. Pribula. Elsie's late husband, Joe Pribula was in the Navy—served on the USS Calvert as did Harley but they did not know each other then (later the four of us met at one of the Calvert reunions years ago, that started our friendship). Since they lived in the same Lehigh Valley and in a neighboring town, we would get together usually twice a year. At the reunions, Elsie would always bring her homemade cookies as treats for the cocktail hour and after the banquet.

We remember your husband, Richard. He was the only one who could still get into his Navy uniform. I still see him and his impressive salute at those memorable ceremonies to honor the deceased comrades at the reunions.

Harley and I are doing well. Nice talking with you last night.

--**Olive Wenninger & Harley Wenninger**

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August 21, 2014. *(Judy sent some Navy photos of her father, Julius Claar, and some of his buddies taken during World War II and Korean War—and some of them will be used in the upcoming June newsletter.)*

Dear Glynna,

I had these photos scanned and copied because my mother had them glued in the photo album. The photos that say "Jule" are my father, Julius Claar. The ones that say "Jule & Mel" are of my dad and his brother.

--**Thanks, Judy Aigner**

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January 24, 2015

Dear Glynna, I am sending you a box containing items of Joe Pribula's I found when cleaning the house after Elsie's passing. Elsie and Joe would be thrilled that these medals and memorabilia will be shared with others.

--**Sincerely, Cindy Christman, Niece of  
Joe & Elsie Pribula**

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February 25, 2015.

To the USS Calvert Associates,

Your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

--**From The Family of Lou Christiansen**

Dear Glynna,

Thank you for your kind words and gift. Lou was so happy that he was able to attend the reunion two years ago and he was so looking forward to many more. My best to you and "crew." Please send me more info on the Baltimore trip and the day of the Memorial Service. If possible, I would like to attend.

--**Carol Christiansen**

# 2014 USS Calvert Reunion News

Everyone enjoyed the 2014 USS Calvert Reunion was hosted by Saretta Rowland, in Ft. Worth, Texas, October 1-5, 2014. Saretta had also hosted the mini-reunion in Philadelphia in 2012. Her husband, Gerald Rowland, served on the USS Calvert 1951-1954.

Saretta planned some delightful tours and events. On Thursday, attendees toured Dallas, including Dealy Plaza and JFK Museum, with lunch at Sonny Bryan's BBQ, and then the tour of George W. Bush Presidential Library. Friday's tour included historic Fort Worth, the Stockyards, and lunch at Joe T. Garcia's. The Saturday tour took attendees to the AT&T Stadium (home of Dallas Cowboys), lunch at Papa's, then the business meeting, memorial service honoring deceased USS Calvert shipmates, and then the banquet dinner. Saretta Rowland gave each banquet attendee a specially made USS Calvert medallion. The following persons registered for the 2014 USS Calvert Reunion in Fort Worth, Texas:

Carlberg, Dan & Candyce – Villa Park, CA

Cole, Lila & Lyn Clarke – Kenyon, MN

& Red Wing, MN

\*Collier, John & Margaret – Titusville, FL

Dierkes, Jim & Rosalie – St. Louis, MO

Funck, Chris, Tricia & Garrett – Lancaster, PA

Habrat, William & Dennis – Pittsburgh, PA

Haggarty, Bill & Jackie – Maryland Heights, MO

Hickok, Richard & JoNell – Downey, CA

Morse, Glynna – Windsor, MO

Regan, John – Ridgefield, NJ

\*\*Rowland, Saretta – Ft. Worth, TX

Seye, Robert, Pat & Sandy – Ladora, IA

Tollensdorf, John & Dorothy – Bondville, IL

Upton, Bob & Doris – Conyers, GA

Willhite, Dale & Snyder, Pat – Yukon, OK

\*John & Margaret Collier were registered but were unable to attend the reunion.

\*\*Several of Saretta's family and friends also attended the Saturday banquet



**USS Calvert and Navy Veterans – 2015 Reunion in Fort Worth, Texas  
(Receiving Dedication and Texas State flag from Irving, Texas Mayor)**

**Front Row (L to R):** William Haggarty, Jim Dierkes, John Regan, Irving Mayor – Beth Van Duyne, Willie Carrillo, Richard Hickok, Bob Upton, William Habrat.

**Back Row (L to R):** Dan Carlberg, Robert Seye, Dale Willhite, John Tollensdorf.

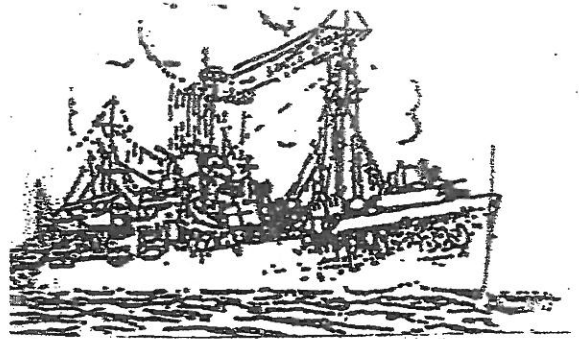
Source: USS Calvert Web Page, <http://www.usscalvert.com>

Go to USS Calvert web site, <http://www.usscalvert.com>, for additional photos of 2014 reunion in Fort Worth, Texas. (See under "Updates" - September, 2014)

# USS CALVERT ASSOCIATES

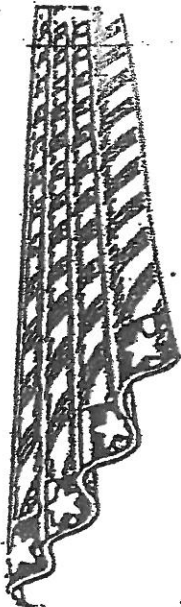
701 S. Windsor St.  
Windsor, MO 65360-1937

U. S. S. CALVERT APA 32



**APA 32**

## We mourn the passing of these shipmates:



Delmer Carlin, RDM, 1944-46; 10-22-2002  
Louis H. Christiansen, (Commander of USS Calvert  
Associates, 2013-2015); 1-04-2015  
Julius E. Claar, BTR2, 1950-51; 12-27-2013  
James Cobb, RM2/c, 8-30-2012  
John Eskew, EMC, 1964-66; 2-03-2014  
Robert Hart, BM2, 1943-46; 5-15-2014  
Milton Hartman, WWII, 5-14-2014  
William A. Hoffman, BM1, 1959-60; 4-01-2014  
Henry C. Ruggeri, SM, 1953-54; 9-13-2014  
Charles F. Skillman, CDR, (1941-71—USS  
Calvert was main ship); 6-27-2014  
Thomas Soutter, LT JG, 1956-57; 9-30-2013  
Joe Taloff, CM2, 1946-47; 6-29-2010

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## Contributions to the USS Calvert Associates

Many thanks to the following persons for their generous donations in the past year to the USS Calvert Associates to support the printing and mailing of the *CALVERSION* newsletter:

Elsie Pribula	\$50.00
Jean Shuster	\$25.00
Robert Seye (In Honor of the Taylors)	\$25.00
Harley & Olive Wenninger (in tribute to Elsie Pribula)	\$25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Warden, Jr.	\$50.00
Lila Cole spent \$60 in postage costs mailing USS Calvert materials to Sec'y	
Cynthia Christman, niece of Joe & Elsie Pribula, spent \$22 postage costs mailing Joe Pribula memorabilia to Sec'y	