



**USS HOLT (DE 706)**

**“HOLT HAPPENINGS”** - a Newsletter for and about the crew, their families and friends.

Vol XIII, No. 3

**SEPTEMBER 2003**

**2004 REUNION - SAN ANTONIO, TX - May 12 - 15**

We are enclosing with this issue of the newsletter a registration form for the 2004 ship reunion which will be in San Antonio, TX. Even though it is several months away, you are encouraged to register now. Time has a way of slipping up on you and we don't want that to happen. Our bloc of hotel rooms will expire 30 days prior to the reunion or when the bloc is sold out. After that date, reservations will be on a space available basis. Call the **FOUR POINTS SHERATON HOTEL** at **1-800-288-3927**. The room rate is [REDACTED] per night plus tax. The hotel's address is 110 Lexington Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78205. A one night deposit is required to hold the reservation.

Plan to arrive at the hotel on Wednesday, May 12, 2004. The hospitality room will be open, stocked with snacks and beverages, just awaiting your smiling face. On Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, we will have a short crew meeting to take care of business. This will be in the hospitality room. While this event is taking place, the ladies will congregate (in a room to be determined) for a little small gift swapping session and fun. On Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, we will take a bus trip to Fredericksburg (about an hour's drive northwest thru the Texas Hill Country). The bus will depart the hotel at 9:00 am and return about 3:30 pm. Fredericksburg is the hometown of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz. The high point of this tour is the National Museum of the Pacific War, headquartered in the building that once was Admiral Nimitz' grandfathers's hotel. There are other buildings in the park that make up the museum: the Japanese Peace Garden, the George Bush Gallery, the PT Boat display plus a host of other artifacts from the Pacific campaign.

Fredericksburg is an old German settlement with historic shops and fine traditional German food, restaurants and bakeries. Shop for unique items along Main Street.

Instead of our traditional closing banquet on Saturday night, we will go to the 7A Cattle Ranch, about 45 minutes outside of San Antonio. This is a working cattle ranch that hosts chuck wagon parties. The ranch has been in operation for over 100 years and is designated as a "Heritage Ranch" by the State of Texas. They raise beef the old fashioned way, without feed lots or chemicals - just range fed cattle. This will be a fun evening (from about 5:30 to 10:30). The dress for this occasion is very casual - blue jeans, boots, cowboy hat or whatever!

### **HOLT ON INTERNET**

As a reminder, you can access most all information about the USS HOLT by logging onto the Internet at [www.ussholt.com](http://www.ussholt.com). Jeff Cope (son of Glenn & Helen Cope) has done a great job of designing a web site and making HOLT information available to anyone who wishes to see it. There are sections for the crew, the history of the ship, photos of crew and families, just to name a few. So log onto the internet and see what all there is for you.

### **Binnacle list**

The list of shipmates and their spouses who are ill or recovering from surgery continues to be lengthy. Following are those we know about. If you know of others, please let us know. Paul Pickett is home now recovering from surgery; Jeri Pickett; Sue Eazer, wife of Ted Eazer; Ralph Parks; Bob DeAngeles; Russ Coates; Frances Clearo; Mary Ann McGauley is much improved after her surgery.

Your cards, calls, and prayers are all appreciated by those who are ill. Just before going to press with this newsletter, I spoke with Paul Pickett and he sends his sincere thanks to all of you who sent cards or called during his recent hospital stay. For those who may want to give him a call, his phone number is [REDACTED]

### **In memoriam**

Since our last newsletter, we have learned of the death of three more shipmates. They are Lt. Cdr. Robert G. Charles, who was the last commanding officer of HOLT (from March 1946 to July 1956) who passed away Dec 9, 2002; Electricians Mate Al Becker, who passed away June 23, 2003; and Carpenters Mate Vergil R. Gracey who passed away May 19, 2003. Our condolences to the families of these shipmates. Each will be remembered by adding their names to our Honor Roll Board.