

# BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT ROD MORILON AND HIS LADY ELNORA

We are looking forward to having all of you at our Oregon Reunion. I am sure you will have a great time. We have selected some interesting tours and have planned some fun entertainment. There are so many things to do that it was hard deciding. We will be having several pamphlets around so that you can make some selections on your own during your free time. Please feel free to call or e-mail if you have any questions. We spend our winters in Arizona and summers in Oregon.

**Our Oregon Address will be 258 Brush Trail, Eddyville, OR 97343, Phone No. (541) 875-2401**  
Email: [elrod830@aol.com](mailto:elrod830@aol.com)

## CONCERNING ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURES BY AIR OR RAIL

Please let Rod know when you have your travel plans made. He wants to put together a schedule for picking up those of you that are flying in or coming by train. If you will send the name of your air line, the date, time and flight number, they will arrange for picking you up.

At the same time, Rod would also like to have the departure date, time and flight number, so they can make arrangements to get you back to the airport with plenty of time.

### RESERVATION INFORMATION

The Greenwood Inn, 10700 SW Allen Blvd, Beaverton, Oregon 97005 503-643-7444

*Room Rate: \$72.00 for singles and doubles; \$82.00 for triples; \$92.00 for quad. Lodging Tax 7%*

**Call 1-800-289-1300** for reservations,

When speaking with clerk use: **#341558 USS Balch/Porterfield Reunion**

**Cut off date for reservations: August 19, 2001**

The board of directors met at the mini reunion recently, one subject on the agent was the cost of the bulletin mailings. It has come to their attention that some are being sent to deceased members or others. We want everyone who wants the bulletin to continue receiving it. We are enclosing pre-addressed post cards and if you wish to continue receiving the bulletins, just print your name and address and current area code, phone number on the post card and mail it back. We currently mail out over 500 bulletins, four times a year at \$2.78 per person. . The number we lose to deceased members are equaled with new members added. We have 5 to 10 returned undeliverable for assorted reasons. The association does not have dues, and with postage and copy work having increased, it was felt there was a need to update the mailing list.

**PRESIDENT: Rod Morilon, 258 Brush Trail, Eddyville OR 97343, 541-875-2401** Email: [Elrod830@aol.com](mailto:Elrod830@aol.com)

**TREASURER: Dave Spencer, 105 White Oak, Ingram TX 78025, 830-367-3077**

**SECRETARY: Patrick J. Fisher, 18493 – 730<sup>th</sup> Av, Colo, Iowa 50056-8520, 641-487-7692**  
Email: [clfisher@netins.net](mailto:clfisher@netins.net)

## BALCH-PORTERFIELD REUNION WEB PAGE:

<http://www.balch-porterfield.org> & [http://www.members.nbc.com/balch\\_porterfield](http://www.members.nbc.com/balch_porterfield)

**WEBMASTER: Jeff Shaffer, PO Box 154 Burrows, IN 46916. Email: [jeffs@tds.net](mailto:jeffs@tds.net)**

**CO: Patricia & Jim Siler, 34 Burnside Street, Plymouth, MA 02360. Email: [psiler@adelphia.net](mailto:psiler@adelphia.net)**

U.S. veterans of the Korean War are eligible to receive the Republic of Korea War Service Medal  
Criteria for award of the Republic of Korea War Service Medal (ROKWSM) have been established by the ROK government.  
To qualify for the medal, the veteran must have:

- Served between the outbreak of hostilities, June 25, 1950, and the date the armistice was signed, July 27, 1953
- Been on permanent assignment or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days
- Performed his / her duty within the territorial limits of Korea, in the waters immediately adjacent thereto or in aerial flight over Korea participating in actual combat operations or in support of combat operations

To obtain the medal, those who meet the criteria above must provide the US Air Force Personnel Center (contact information listed below) a copy of their discharge paper, commonly known as a "DD-214," or a corrected version of that document, a "DD-215." National Guard members must provide their statement of service equivalent, "NGB Form 22." Please only send copies of these documents, do not send original documents.

US Air Force Personnel Center contact information:

Office hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (CST)

Telephone numbers: (800) 558-1404, (210) 565-2432/2520/2516, or fax (210) 565-3118

Mailing address: HQ AFPC/DPPRA, 550 C Street West, Suite 12, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas 78150-4714

Web Page address: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards/>

To obtain information concerning your personnel records (e.g., DD Form 214 and medical records) contact the National Personnel Records Center. When requesting information, provide the veteran's full name, SSN, mailing address, applicable service number, branch of service, dates of service, type of information needed and the veteran's signature on request. Please forward all personnel records requests to:

National Personnel Records Center

9700 Page Boulevard

St. Louis, MO 63132-5295

COM: (314) 538-4200

FAX: (314) 538-4175

The U.S. Air Force is the lead agency to distribute the medals to US servicemen and women from each branch of Service. The Air Force will provide the medal at no cost, and on a first come first served basis, based upon availability of medals, to veterans who meet the criteria and provide a copy of their discharge paper.

[Republic of Korea War Service Medal News Release](#) | [Korean War 50th Anniversary Home Page](#)

There were 26 attending the mini reunion at Kerrville Texas. The group went to Fredricksburg and the Nimitz Museum, viewed the many attractions. Jack Hanley gave his report on the 2002 reunion to be in Daytona Beach area in October. Alice Hanley visited the ER and a medical clinic, as she was experiencing swelling and blisters on her feet and ankles. Since returning home, it is much improved. Everyone seemed in good sprits and looked well. We arrived on Tuesday, and missed seeing **Carl & Marlene Breshears (P52-53)** who has recently become part of the association.

We spent several days with our son Mark and family and while there we called **Pedro Morales**, only to learn that he had passed away over a year ago. The same with **Charles Crane**, we did visit with his daughter who lives in the house with her family. She graciously let us take Charlie's album and journal of his time on the Porterfield, which we plan to have photocopied and bring to the reunion.

When we left we drove thru northeast Texas, stopped and visited **Horace & Ann Mitchell**. (P-51-53) They now have custody of their 4 year old grand daughter, so they have their hands full. Then on to Linden and a visit with **Andy Bosler**. (P51-52) It seems every one knows Andy. I went thru a stop sign and behind me was the local policeman, when I told him I had been visiting Andy Bosler, he shook my hand and told me to stop at stop signs from now on. We drove thru the western side of Arkansas on Hi 71 and it was a delightful trip. Our next stop was at **Larry & Donna Colwell** (P-58-60) in Platte City MO. They attended their first reunion last fall. They are extremely hospitable people and we enjoyed our visit very much. Next morning we stopped in St Joe MO, and spent a couple of hours with **John Kerns**, (P51-52), He was glad we stopped and gave me a large picture of the "P" in appreciation for being secretary. He then sent another one along for us to give to Ed & Evie Bennett for the San Diego reunion, the first one he had attended, he has several health problems and had planned to go to Rapid City, as he and Jim Bivens are close friends. But he said he just wasn't feeling well a few days before it was time to go. He really enjoys the newsletters and made a contribution to help with the cost.

#### **BALCH-PORTERFIELD WATCHES AVAILABLE**

Sam writes that he has ordered watches and will bring them to mini as several have requested them, he will bring the remainder to Portland. They are \$18.00 each plus postage, if he mails them.

**Sam Thomas**, 2121 S. Pantano Rd, Space #243, Tucson AZ 85710 520-731-8492

## NEW MEMBERS

**Audano, Francis (Frank) / Brenda J;** 2420 So. Federal Hwy Apt # 6, Hampshire Gardens, Boynton Beach FL 33435-7728  
561-731-2515 P 11/65 – 12/67 RD3, Email: [audano@bellsouth.net](mailto:audano@bellsouth.net)

**Ballenger, James/Sandra;** 2152 Pine Dr., Conroe, TX 77304 , (936)-588-4390; Porterfield 56-59 FA-BT2  
Email: [jasaba@msn.com](mailto:jasaba@msn.com)

**Gossett, Bob/Jean;** 4184 Muro Ln, Bridgeton MO 63044, 314-291-8227 Porterfield 62-63 MM2  
Email: [bob\\_gossett@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_gossett@hotmail.com)

**Mullins, Paul F. son of Hubert “Moon” Mullins B 37-45;** 6590 Petunia St. Carlsbad CA 92009-2516 760-438-2072 Email:  
[PMULBK@aol.com](mailto:PMULBK@aol.com)

## ADDRESS CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

**Bengston, Paul/Cheryl; P64-65;** AREA CODE change to 231

**Brick, Gene & Vivian P 45-46;** Email address: [embrick@empnet.com](mailto:embrick@empnet.com)

**Brown, Dan, P51-54:** Ham Radio Call Letters: ZL2COS

**Carroll, Date & Gail P 60-62;** Email address: [dalechpamerica@aol.com](mailto:dalechpamerica@aol.com)

**Coon, Robert P 55-57** BM1; c/o Roberta Hatto, 10003 Pebbles Bch Dr. Santee CA 92071

**Crass, Daryl & Laurice P 51-52:** Email address: [docrass@juno.com](mailto:docrass@juno.com)

**Dutton, Pete & Vivien P 59-61;** Email address: [petenvivien@pocketmail.com](mailto:petenvivien@pocketmail.com)

**Engle, Bill & Linda, P 68-69;** Email address: [billywaterman@aol.com](mailto:billywaterman@aol.com)

**Guyer, John & Katy P 52-54;** Email address: [jkguyer@skynet.net](mailto:jkguyer@skynet.net)

**Hanley, Jack & Alice B 42-44;** AREA CODE Change in Florida (386)

**Johnson, Charles H & Dorothy, P 45-46;** 9337 Dahlia Dr., Minocqua, WI 54548-9273

**Kraus, Jack,** ADD: wife Katherine, 315-457-7077 Porterfield 54-56 MR2. Change ZIP to 13090

**Lane, Phil & Fran P 53-57;** Cell Phone # 505-430-2747

**Powers, Al & Dottie B 39-43;** AREA CODE Change in Florida (386)

**Pruett, Charles & Jane P WW2;** 127 Woodland Dr. Staunton VA 24401-2370

**Schoppe, Richard & Geda;** 3405 Zia Court, Deming NM 88030

**Vezzani, Arnold & Lee B 42-46;** AREA CODE change (650)

After my hearing from **Neil Macintosh**, P 43-46, and learning that he had a cruise book that was done while the Porterfield was in Bremerton WA, shortly before she was decommissioned. I wrote Neil to inquire if he would consider letting us make a copy so we could take it to the next reunion, and having Bill White scan it for the web page. He also sent his historical journal of the Porterfield, that he wrote, I asked Jeff if there was anyway of making it more legible. Jeff felt there was something he could do to make it more readable. He will have it available on the web page, and we will be bringing a copy to Oregon. I had a lazer copy of the cruise book made, it made the images sharper compared to just photocopy.

Before I mailed the items to Bill and Jeff, I had great pleasure in going thru the book and then checking our roster to see whom I could find and recognize. They were only last name, no first names so some I had to guess at by their years on board.

I had to email **Don Mackie** (P44-46) for some information, so I mentioned I thought he was in the cruise book, only as a chief in C Div, and how I came by the two items. He said yes, it was he and he made a very nice statement, which I am going to quote, “Lt. Commander Macintosh was the key man on the U.S.S. Porterfield for the entire WW2 period. Captain’s were rotated but “Mac” as Executive Officer was the guy that gave the officers and crew leadership continuity. He is the person who oversaw the entire logistics and maintenance operations. “Mac” is an invaluable resource to learn about the historical reality of serving aboard the USS Porterfield not only in the intensity of combat but also in the hard day to day work of maintaining operational readiness. He deserves some special recognition by our association for his unique tenure as Executive Officer during the entire WW2 period”.

Received a note from **Charles H. Johnson, P 45-46** & Dorothy with a change of address, also, he wanted to get some information on the members of the 19<sup>th</sup> fleet tournament basketball team? It was in 1946 in San Diego. The Porterfield took 2<sup>nd</sup> place, losing to the USS Klondick by one point. "I would like to hear from some of my team members". In the cruise book, there were a number of Johnson's, but I bet he was one of them. So if you were on that team, drop him a line, and send us some memories to put in the next bulletin. Their address is in the ADDITIONS & CHANGES section.

**Hugo Blomgren B 42-45**, has recently had another cancer surgery and we were informed he is doing well.

**John Guyer P 52-54**, recently had heart surgery and is now home, doing quite well, he tells us. We were so pleased to get an email message from his daughter after the surgery. Have hopes that John will make one of the reunions.

**Eula Rotter**, sent this message to all: "A special thanks to our Balch-Porterfield "family" for their caring and support, at the loss of my husband, Les Rotter. Your kindness is appreciated. Eula Rotter" Les was on the Balch 38-43 Porterfield 43-44. He and Eula only missed one reunion in the 25 years since it started.

I have been trying to get some printed articles from the San Francisco Examiner of the article that was in around June 6<sup>th</sup>, having to do with the anniversary of the Battle of Midway. I am working on getting in touch with the San Francisco Public Library, which I was told would have the article on microfiche. Keep your fingers crossed. I have already received a request for a copy from Nancy Adair. **Tex, Balch 42-43**. Nancy writes that she is OK, that her children are helpful and that is why she moved to CA. **HURRAY!** I received a copy of the newspaper article, and it features Arthur Lewis, who saved many Yorktown sailors. We will bring it to Oregon with us and if anyone wants a copy just let us know, include 3 or 4 stamps.

To give Jack Hanley a thank you for sending notices to the following publications. It helps in getting the word out about the reunions. They are the Proceedings, Naval History, Shift Colors and US Navy Memorial. Patrick and myself sent a notice to American Legion and Tin Can Sailors. We know there are some VWF members out there, so if you can do likewise, it will help get the word out.

We received a note from Shirley Sutherlin **C R (Dick) P 51-54**, said she enjoys hearing about Dick's shipmates and thinks of us often.

Got an email from Jack Hanley, informing us that he had a call from Jim Morrison, that **William Benson B 41-45 GM2**, was in special care after suffering a stroke. He apparently has a history of them, Jim spoke with him and it appears he will be going back home soon. His address is 4300 NW 53<sup>rd</sup> St., Oklahoma City OK 73112 (405) 948-1302. Bill and Faye attended the Norfolk VA reunion in 89'.

Just received in today's mail a note from Amy & **Ski Lonczewski B 36-39**; and a nice copy of a photo from the Santa Rosa Reunion 1984 of the 4 comrades, Ski, Joe Vullo, Ed Luzak, & Frank Krutz. I wish the photo would copy well, so it could be added to the bulletin. Amy writes "The added stimulation of family and a son he can relate to (who also has retired from USN) he has become more responsive and lucid. Physically he may never improve, but his alertness is encouraging. He will always remain bedridden or in a wheelchair or lounge chair. We always enjoyed attending the reunions and keeping in touch with friends. Fortunately we have a few living in this area who are still able to visit. Your prayers are helping." Their address is: 2655 Holderness Ln, San Diego CA 92154-1419. I believe the last reunion they attended was in 1995 in Placerville CA. Ski is a Balch plankowner.

We had received a request for a photo of the USS Balch or information, as she was at the time of the Battle of Midway 1942. Mike is building a model of the ship and was having trouble with a particular area. Well I email several that had been on board, Jack Hanley called Jim Morrison, then emailed Mike the information. I accessed the website [www.blueaternavy.com](http://www.blueaternavy.com) It is the MB Models/Blue Water Navy, 622 Old Trolley Rd, Summerville SC 29485 (843) 821-3558. Mike Bishop, Email address: [mbishop446@aol.com](mailto:mbishop446@aol.com) The kits should be available to order any time.

A while back we received a letter from a Ron Bennett, who had been on the USS Hailey DD556. He is putting together a book called Korean War-US ships sunk or damaged 1950/1953. He would like to hear from Porterfield sailors of that era, who were on board when the ship received hits. So if you would like to share your memories of that time, contact Ron at 2126 Benson Av. Apt. 4 D, Brooklyn NY 11214 Tel; 718-266-7484 Email: [ronmar@jps.net](mailto:ronmar@jps.net) I know Pat was on when it was hit on Feb 52 and I have somewhere a piece of the metal. I remember hearing of the incident on the radio, not two weeks before our eldest son was born.

**Gary Essig P61-65**, had surgery a couple of weeks ago and his wife Diane said, he is doing very well so far. He hasn't had to load up on pain pills, gets the staples out and cast put on Monday. They used some fancy new putty stuff that the doctor was eager to try. 255 Winchester Av., Reedsport OR 97467 Email: [nitewolf@presys.com](mailto:nitewolf@presys.com)

## DEATHS

**Bachelor, George**, a friend died August 22, 2000, we received note from Madeline, "George did not serve on the Balch but located the Balch Bell at the Balch house in Beverly MA. I can't remember his name, but one of your members drove to Beverly to retrieve it" I imagine that was our dear George Marcotte. The Bachellers attended reunion at Charleston SC and ate at Gregory's restaurant. which now is the home of the USS Balch bell.

**Balamaci, George**, USS Balch 43-46, died January 10, 2001 Sent cards to 50 Linksvie Pl, Stratford, CT 06614

**Bruto, George**, USS Balch, 42-45 died December 28, 2000. Sent cards to Rt #3-Box 98 Butler MO 64730

**Crane, Charles**, USS Porterfield 51-53 died May 9, 2000. We called him when we were in San Antonio, received news from his daughter.

**Flito, Louis**, USS Balch 39-45 died March 27 2001, Cancer of the esophagus. Received word from Jack Hanley and Choppy Powers. Send cards to 23 Reno Rd, Ely, NV 89301

**Gosen, Jack**, USS Porterfield 43-46 signalman; died October 2000. Received information from Bill Cogley. Jack and he were going to attend the Portland reunion.

**Hamm, Gene Allen 11**, USS Porterfield, 51-52, died October 1981. Cancer. His son Gene emailed us, he has a photo of the division his father was in, his dad was listed as GMSN and he is asking if we remembered his dad. We came to the conclusion that his dad was on the first cruise in 1951 to 52. There is no cruise book, but we have seen some division photos, that some fellows still have. If you remember his dad, Gene's address is 2036 Venable Rd, Winchester KY 40391 Email: [gene@cgsautomation.com](mailto:gene@cgsautomation.com)

**Laursen, Everett**, USS Porterfield 43-45, died March 18, 2001. I remember meeting Everett at the reunion in Denver. He was not able to travel as he was on oxygen most of the time. Sam Thomas informed us of Everett's passing, they were both MM's on the ship and kept in close touch. If you know the Porterfield history from WW2, Everett was wounded on Feb. 26, 1945, when the ship was hit.

**Morales, Pedro**, USS Balch 42-44, died December 6, 1999. We called to see how he was and his daughter informed us.

**Mullins, Hubert (Moon) F.**, USS Balch, on board from 9/30/37 to 1/10/45. He was Boiler Room Chief. He died July 16 1976, of heart attack. He retired from navy and work at the power plant at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Naval Station and retired after 41 years of government service. Paul said his dad didn't talk much about his 26 years in the navy, but he has his Green Pay Book and his medals. His dad was very proud to be in the U.S. Navy as a "Tin Can Sailor". Paul would like to hear from any shipmates who remember his dad. Paul F. Mullins, 6590 Petunia Pl, Carlsbad, CA 92009-25516 (760) 438-2072. Email: PMullBK@aol.com

**Rotter, Les**, USS Balch 38-43 & Porterfield 43-45, died March 12, 2001. Les and Eula attended the first reunion in San Diego in 1976 and have only missed the PA reunion. This past October Les had had triple bypass surgery and was reported on the road to recovery and doing well. He was found unconscious on Monday. Send note to Eula at 333 Chateau Drive, Carson City NV 89701-4511.

**Welch, Raoul (Ray)**, USS Balch WW11, died September 1980. He son wishes to hear from some of his dad's shipmates. He was only 10 years old when his dad died. Would like to learn more about the ship and its tours & finding photos of the ship and crew in hopes of finding a picture or two of his dad. Ray served as a cook on board. He would like to find ship lists or any information. So if anyone remembers Ray, drop his son a line, Chuck Welch, 1261 Birch Pt. # 5, Eagan MN 55123 (651) 454-7278 email: [welchtc@qwest.net](mailto:welchtc@qwest.net)

Received a call from **Bill Cogley P43-46**, to let us know he has found some names in the Tin Can Sailors paper, he gets and was wondering if we had these names. Bill found us last summer and came to Rapid City reunion. He will not be able to attend this year, as he fell a couple of months ago and is still having problems. He traveled to Jupiter, FL to visit Bob Gewinner, they were on the "P" the same time. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, Bill attended the commissioning of the USS Lassen DDG and open house in Tampa, FL. Said he checked out the 5 inch gun mount, which uses no men to man them, all computerized., it had a 50 caliber gattling gun, a helicopter pad, has gas driven turbines. He got into the berthing area, where the mattresses are real thick and no hammocks.

Mark your choices on this form; enter the number of people attending each event and mail to **Rod & Elnora Morilon, 258 Brush Trail, Eddyville OR 97343, (541) 875-2401**  
**or email: [elrod830@aol.com](mailto:elrod830@aol.com) by August 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Sunday Sept. 2, 2001	Quarterdeck will be in the Birch Alder Room, located in the building directly across from the Main Entrance to the Hotel. Registration, Pick up Badges ,Meal & Tour Tickets. Free day and evening.	Registration Kitty	\$5.00 \$20.00
Monday Sept. 3, 2001			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens – Alder/Birch Room	Bowling	
1300	Board of Directors Meeting		
1700	No Host Bar – Pine Room		
1800	Dinner & Entertainment – Pine Room		\$25.00
Tuesday Sept. 4, 2001			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens	Golf	
0900	Leave for Portland’s largest classical Chinese gardens and architectural elements and displays of literature. With formal Chinese music performances and demonstrations of calligraphy. Lunch in one of the Chinese restaurants. Free evening.		\$20.00
Wednesday Sept. 5, 2001			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens		
0900	Leave for Memorial Service at Tom McCall waterfront park, Willamette River		
1200	Back to hotel. Lunch on your own. Free evening		
Thursday Sept. 6, 2001			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens	Golf	
0900	Leave for tour of the Evergreen Aviation Institute, home of the Howard Hughes Flying Boat, “The Spruce Goose” and other aviation exhibits. Stopping for lunch. Free evening.		\$20.00
Friday Sept. 7, 2001			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens		
1300	General Business Meeting & Raffle – Wanigan Room		
1700	No Host Bar – Oak Room		
1800	Grand Banquet & Dancing – Oak Room Chinook Salmon ( ) Prime Rib ( )		\$35.00
Saturday Sept. 8, 2001			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens		
0800	Buffet Breakfast. Smooth Sailing until we drop anchor in Daytona Beach, Florida		\$10.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION \_\_\_\_\_

AIRLINE \_\_\_\_\_ FLIGHT # \_\_\_\_\_ ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ ARRIVAL TIME \_\_\_\_\_

AIRLINE \_\_\_\_\_ FLIGHT # \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE TIME \_\_\_\_\_

Mark your choices on this form, enter the number of people attending each event and mail to **Dave Spencer, 105 White Oak, Ingram TX 78025 830-367-3077**, by Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>.  
 Make check to the **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Assn.**

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_