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1st Quarter	2008

A Society of Distinguished Naval Veterans
 Web Site: www.USSSamHouston.org



The Shaft—Revived!

An official publication of the USS Sam Houston Veterans' Assn.

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The membership has grown to more than 120 veterans. This is a sufficient number to begin planning our reunion. While the bulk of enrollment occurred early on, stragglers continue to trickle in. This latter situation is the result of many of the members "passing the word." I thank all of you for doing so, and urge that you to continue. At the current rate of new enrollments, more than 200 veterans of the boat will have been located by the start of the year 2010. The more members that are located, the stronger the Association will become, the more members who can attend our reunions, and the more jubilant those reunions will be.

And speaking of reunion, I have begun the planning stages of our first reunion for late 2010. Jacksonville, Fla. is nearly certain to be the host city. The motivation for selecting this city is the high probability of being able to tour an operational SSBN at Kings Bay Submarine Support Base in nearby Kings Bay, Ga. Many other fun and necessary activities will be planned for the reunion. Much more on the reunion is in this newsletter.

How about the title of this newsletter? How many of you remember or even know about the original "Shaft"? For those who have no idea, it was an underground—often satirical—publication of the gold crew during my period aboard (1969-1972). I welcome suggestions for a different title. After a period of having received suggestions, I'll poll the members for their vote.

Please read on.

*Howard Dobson,
Acting Chairman*

BOARD OF ADVISORS & COMMITTEES NEEDED

In preparation for becoming incorporated, volunteers will be needed to establish a board of advisors (BoA) to manage the operation of the SHVA. (BoA is a modern term for board of directors.) The primary reason for becoming incorporated is to prevent the personal assets of the members, especially those of the BoA, from being involved in the unlikely event of a legal squabble. Liability will be limited to assets owned by the corporation (SHVA) only.

Additionally, volunteers for appointed positions will be needed to assist the BoA in its management of the SHVA. At this time, I am unsure of all of the positions that will be required because I have yet to work out whether some duties/functions can be combined with certain positions. The duties of our positions will be typical of those in other prominent veterans' organizations such as the VFW, American Legion, and US Submarine Veterans, Inc. The anticipated positions for the BoA follow. These positions will have voting privileges:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Reunion Planner
- Chief of the Boat

The ancillary, appointed positions that are not part of the BoA and will not have voting privileges are listed below. Because persons in these positions will be appointed by the Chairman, no vote of the BoA or the members will be required for approval.

- Storekeeper
- Web Master
- Newsletter Editor (and publisher?)
- Chaplain
- Reunion Committee (maybe four individuals that include the Reunion Planner)
- Finance Committee (one person)
- Nominating Committee (one person)

Legally, none of the positions are required to be filled by veterans of the boat although I suggest that our veterans fill them. Spouses of members are acceptable or may otherwise assist the veteran in the position. Further, some positions might be contracted—such as the Newsletter Editor and/or publisher. **Pat Pecorelli** (1969-1972, gold) is considering becoming the Acting Storekeeper, and **Jim Hoey** (1971-1973, gold) is the Acting Web Master. The Chief of the Boat might function as membership administration and historian. I want to keep the number of officials in the SHVA to a minimum while ensuring that enough volunteers are available to perform the required tasks in a reasonable time and without being overloaded.

My intent is that the BoA will meet at our biannual reunions ONLY. Most of our business throughout the period between reunions should be adequately handled via e-mail, USPS, and phone. This situation should eliminate the need to travel for meetings between reunions. The BoA will be required by law to meet, and a meeting only at the reunions will fulfill that requirement. *Also, being a member of the BoA will not force that member to attend a reunion such that he/she can attend in a BoA meeting.* As long as a quorum would be present, official business of the SHVA can be conducted.

An important matter related to the BoA is that I will not be able to remain both the Chairman and Reunion Planner. For business reasons, no person can hold two different positions simultaneously that have voting privileges. For practical reasons, reunion planning is a continuous task despite the two-year period between our anticipated reunions. Also, finding time to produce a quarterly newsletter is difficult for me. Therefore, I'll need relief through a Newsletter Editor. Because I seem to be the only one in the SHVA with reunion-planning experience, I will nominate myself for Reunion Planner for vote at the Business Meeting. Someone else must become the Chairman. (All BoA positions will require nominations followed by vote at the Business Meeting. Any positions held before that meeting are "acting" positions as the organizations is being formed.) If you wish to hold any position now, please let me know, and you will have it on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that if you accept a position now, you will likely be the only nominee for that position at the Business Meeting! I will do my best to spread the necessary tasks such that no one is overloaded. Later, I will delineate the basic tasks for the various positions. Those for members of the BoA will appear in the bylaws that I have yet to draft. I would like a BoA in place by Jan 2009.

Howard Dobson,
Acting Chairman

ASBESTOSIS WITH POSSIBLE RELATION TO SERVICE ABOARD SSBN-609

Larry Ferrell (1968-1970, blue), submitted the following information that he wishes to share with the membership of the SHVA. Larry writes:

I have just received some information that you might find interesting about the USS Sam Houston.

I have recently learned that the ventilation system on the USS Sam Houston was lined with Asbestos, as told to me by a member of its decommissioning crew who went through extreme Hazmat procedures to remove same. I did 6 patrols on the Sam.

I have severe lung problems/breathing problems that have been diagnosed as "Asbestosis" by the VA. After about 3 years fighting the VA and having numerous CT scans, X-rays, PFT testing, etc, the VA acknowledged my deteriorated lung condition and awarded me 30% disability two years ago. I have been told by an experienced Pulmanologist that the Asbestos exposure leaves an identifiable signature that CT-scans can determine. The latency period from my exposure until I showed breathing problems was about 30 years. Although I smoked when I was onboard the Sam, I quit just after I got out of the Navy. So smoking was not and has not been the source of my breathing problems.

My claim to the VA was that my job as an MM (an Auxiliaryman on SS's and a Nuke on SSN/SSBN's) had me working on valves, pumps, air compressors, etc., all insulated with asbestos material. Even the gaskets holding flanges together contained asbestos. The VA acknowledged that my service on 4 submarines (all built prior to industrial knowledge of the danger of asbestos) over a 10 year period "could" have led to my Asbestos exposure. My submarine service went from 1962 through 1973.

I hope this information helps anyone with breathing problems who is filing on the VA.

In a subsequent message, he adds:

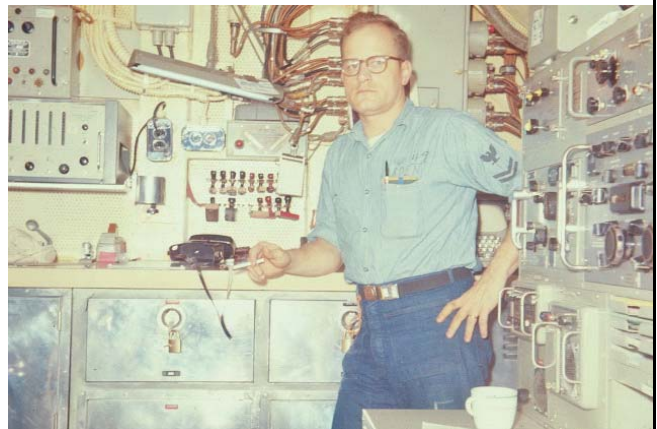
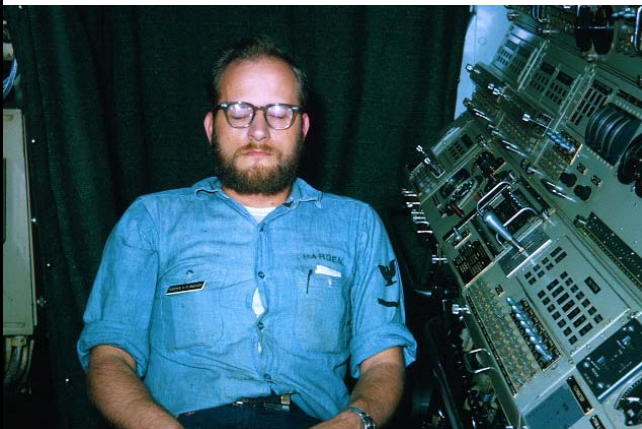
My intent on passing on the information to you about my asbestos exposure problem was to pass on to my submarine veteran buddies any information that might help them if they have similar problems with disability requests from the VA. The VA bureaucracy is extremely hard to get through and any help I can provide to others should help some. Also, they MUST go through an agency like the DAV if they ever want to get anything. You will never get any thing from the VA on your own."

First, I'm certain that, by wishing Larry well, I speak for the membership. Secondly, I hope that this information might benefit others with this illness who are seeking VA benefits related to it or any another medical condition.

Thank you, Larry, for sharing this information and best wishes for a healthy life.

Howard Dobson,
Acting Chairman

JACK HARDEN OF DUTY—WELL . . . MAYBE



Herbert "Jack" Harden (1963-1966, blue) submitted many pictures for inclusion on our web site . I've chosen two of him in the Radio Room. The left picture probably best indicates his degree of awareness during his stint aboard the boat!

YOUR ACTING CHAIRMAN—THEN AND NOW



PLANNING STAGE FOR OUR FIRST REUNION HAS BEGUN

I have begun the planning stages for the 2010 reunion. Right now, I am striving for the host city to be Jacksonville, Fla. The motivation for this choice is a high probability of being able to tour an operational SSBN at Kings Bay Sub Support Base in Kings Bay, Ga.—about an hour's ride from Jacksonville. This nearly required criterion somewhat removes hotel room rates from the selection of a host city, but unless the rates are outrageous, I'll stick with Jacksonville. My preliminary investigation of Jacksonville as a host city based on many other criteria suggests that it would be suitable, and room rates are in the anticipated range. I recently received an e-mail from **Larry Check** (1967-1970, gold) in which he said that, during a recent reunion held in Jacksonville, he toured the USS Rhode Island at the base and participated in other activities that I have in mind for the SHVA's reunion in 2010.

I have eliminated New London because I received a quote from one of the two hotels in Mystic that could accommodate the anticipated size of our group (180 attendees) in which the room rates are too expensive (\$135/night). What's worse is that, as of now, we would not be able to tour any operational boat at the base. Another host city in that area, such as Hartford, might have lower room rates, but it and other cities in the general area do not have major airports. Hence, attendees would have trouble getting to Hartford from wherever if they would travel by air. The lower room rates would be more than offset by the cost (and aggravation) of ground transportation to the host city. Further, the costs of tours would be high because we would likely require busing a long distance to suitable attractions.

Norfolk was in the running for a host city, but a Director at its Convention & Visitors Bureau told me that tours of subs at the base are no longer allowed. Besides, the chance of a nuke boat being at the base during our reunion is slim. Norfolk would otherwise be an excellent host city for all of the reasons of selecting a host city. (In 2004, I attended a reunion of the Destroyer Leader Assn. in Norfolk. It was the best city in which we have held our reunions yearly since 1996 and had the highest attendance to date.)

I intend to have our reunion in Sep-Oct of 2010, although Mar-Apr is being evaluated. The decision will primarily be based on quoted room rates for both periods. Most military-reunion groups prefer the Sep-Oct period for the following reasons:

- Room rates are usually cheapest because many hotels are starving for business.
- The climate in most areas of the country is usually neither too hot nor cold.

A spring reunion might be more suited for a reunion in Fla. because the hurricane season will not have begun.

The reunion will be a 3-day, 3-night event. Contracted group activities would begin on a Thursday morning, and hotel checkout would occur on Sunday morning. A 4-night stay at the hotel would likely be necessary if one would attend Thursday's tour that would begin at about 9:00 a.m.

All attendees will be required to pre-register for reunion-group activities in which they wish to participate. *A deadline will exist, and after that deadline, no one will be allowed to register for any reunion- group activities—even at the reunion.* This is because contracts with the hotel and tour company must include an accurate count of personnel, but I will have an attrition clause in them that will have limitations. The counts must be provided months in advance to allow adequate preparation by those involved. Cancellations will be accommodated after the deadline, and depending upon when the cancellation would occur, full to partial to no refunds will be made. Additional details about this and other reunion-related matters will be included in a Reunion Preregistration Packet that will be sent to all members about nine months before the reunion dates. The deadline for submitting the preregistration form AND payment will be about two months before the reunion. Keep in mind that reunion activities will be governed by contracts. Our Reunion Planner must have sufficient time to process the preregistration forms, provide the required down payments, and allow the staff of the hotel and tour company adequate time to prepare.

At the end of this newsletter is a “wish list” as a Plan of the Day (PoD) of reunion activities. The activities listed are attainable, but at this stage of the planning, nothing is cast in stone. I’m providing you my ideas as reference only and as a means for you to peer into my thought process. Keep in mind that I have spoken to some of the “right” people, but only for their opinions of the possibilities of activities occurring.

One of the contract requirements with the hotel will be that they offer their discounted room rates to reunion attendees three days before and after the reunion. This will benefit those who might wish to arrive earlier and/or stay later to “do their own thing.”

On a final note, if anyone who plans to attend the reunion has relatives near the host city, you might wish to use our 2010 reunion as a pseudo-family reunion. Those guests can participate in any of our reunion-group activities (except the Business Meeting) and receive the discounted room rates offered to SHVA members. In this case, you must include them and the activities in which they would participate on your completed Reunion Preregistration Form or send them a copy of the blank form to complete and submit.

Howard Dobson,

Acting Chairman, SHVA

DO YOU HAVE COMMENTS ABOUT THE REUNION PLAN?

I welcome your comments and suggestions about the ideas for the 2010 reunion. Keep in mind that some of your suggestions might be infeasible, and if so, I will inform you of the reasoning. Also, I might be bombarded with good ideas, but trying to evaluate each and incorporate it might become a near-endless process that could adversely interfere with planning of the 2010 reunion. If this would be the case, I will inform you. Please compare your ideas with the following criteria *BEFORE* you might suggest a host hotel or a nearby region. The following list contains some of the essential criteria for selecting a host hotel.

The host hotel must have complimentary shuttle service.

Most reunion attendees will arrive in the reunion area via airplane. When hotels are close to airports, they usually provide free shuttle service. Paying for ground transportation to a distant host hotel or renting a vehicle will add to an individual’s overall cost of attending the reunion. (In some cases, use of public rapid transit might be acceptable provided walking is restricted to short distances to board the light rail/subway AND to access the hotel afterward.)

The host hotel must have banquet capability.

This is necessary because of the buffet meals and our formal banquet. To be bused elsewhere for these events and likely need to hire a caterer would add to the overall cost of the reunion. (This does apply to tours.) Additionally, the banquet facilities must be able to accommodate the 180-200 attendees that I anticipate. Some hotels in the area cannot support that count for group meals.

The host hotel must have sufficient meeting-room capabilities.

This is necessary because of the Hospitality Room, Business Meeting, and an area for the professional portraits among other activities. Some of these individual areas must have the capability of being active simultaneously and with sufficient capacity for the events to be conducted in them. Also, I intend to get the Hospitality Room at no charge!

The host hotel must have free parking.

Many downtown hotels do not have free parking. Paying for parking for those who would drive will add a significant cost to their attending the reunion.

The host hotel must allow unoccupied RV parking.

Some reunion attendees will drive RVs to the reunion BUT sleep in their motor homes during the reunion; hence, these attendees would not require room reservations with the hotel. They would park their vehicles at the hotel (for free!) while attending reunion activities. Afterward, they would drive elsewhere. (These individuals would incur a Hotel User's Fee of about \$30 because of the use of the hotel's facilities for reunion activities.)

The host hotel must extend the discounted room rate beyond the reunion dates.

Some attendees will wish to combine a vacation with the reunion. To help accommodate this, I will require that the hotel extend the discounted room rate for three days before and after the reunion dates.

The host hotel must include a complimentary buffet breakfast during the reunion dates.

This means a free buffet breakfast—not continental—for two persons of any one sleep room for each day of the reunion.

The hotel must provide complimentary rooms based on the room block.

This is a negotiable situation that can provide free nights for raffle or reduce the room rate.

EXCERPT FROM AN EDITION OF THE ORIGINAL "SHAFT"

ENGINEERING STATUS REPORT:

It has been noted that Rollin, that mild mannered Chemist of AMR 2LL, has been up to some new tricks. Tired of his everyday chemistry he decided upon a new approach, this time he took on a quest to clean chemically the 2,000 gpd. While going about his job he noticed that the chemical involved was truly an acid indeed so without further ado he did some experiments.

First he placed a small amount on the stainless steel cover for the heat exchanger. He noted a reaction taking place. So being of solid character he lavishly covered it with chemicals and watched. Indeed he was transforming stainless to copper! What a miracle of modern science so he thought if this can be done instantly what can time do for the equation. So off he went and left it. He'll come back someday to see the results, but in the mean time he'll be on to bigger and better things.

THATA BOY SID_ YOU DUMMY!!!!!!!!!!!!

* * * * *

EDITOR'S COMMENT:

I am unable to determine which Patrol the above article is associated with. The cover mentions Vol. XXXV and edition 8. Anyhow, the article is undoubtedly about John "Sid" Rollin (MM2; 1969-1972; gold), and "2000 gpd" refers to the 2000 gal./day water-distillation unit.

DETAILS OF DESIRED REUNION ACTIVITIES

HOSPITALITY ROOM (Wednesday-Saturday)

This room will serve many functions. Its primary two functions are socializing and reunion registrations. The room might serve as the location for our chapel service, optional auction, and optional Ladies' Meeting. It will be stocked with water, ice, sodas, and snacks. Coffee might be included IF I can get it without charge. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED; DO NOT BRING YOUR OWN. Also, hotel regulations will probably not allow you to bring alcoholic beverages out of the hotel's bar or restaurant.** You may bring your own snacks and nonalcoholic beverages.

The room will be open during most hours of the days throughout the reunion unless most attendees will attend the two tours. The room will be locked when unattended. The hotel will provide two keys to the room. The Reunion Planner will have one, and the other will be a "floater."

I will need volunteers to staff the room—one person at a time. The person would serve as the Reunion Registrar. Rotation of individuals would be needed throughout each day of the reunion. If someone would not be attending a tour, a key to the room could be left with that individual. He or she could lock the room at any time or transfer the key to someone else who would wish to remain in the room. If during the day, that person would choose to close the room, he/she would place a sign on the door indicating that it would reopen at the time when those attending the tours would return. I think that the best way to handle volunteers would be somewhat spontaneous because someone will likely be occupying the room most of the time.

REUNION-ACTIVITY REGISTRATION (Wednesday-Saturday)

This task would involve issuing to new arrivals envelopes prepackaged by the Reunion Planner and indicating on a list that they have arrived. *This process is independent of room registration with the hotel.* As mentioned above, rotating volunteers would handle this. Reunion registration is not an immediate requirement upon an attendee's arrival at the hotel *unless* a reunion-group activity for which they preregistered is about to occur. Someone will be staffing the reunion-registration table until shortly before each scheduled reunion-group activity unless all attendees would have arrived.

PRECON MEETING (Wednesday) [This meeting does NOT involve reunion attendees.]

The Precon (Preconference) Meeting is one that will involve only the Reunion Planner and any members of the BoA if they would choose. The purpose of the meeting is a final review of the contract terms and conditions with certain personnel of the hotel's management. If changes are required, a determination of their acceptability will be made in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract.

BUFFET BREAKFAST (Thursday-Sunday) [Leisurely arrival during the allotted time]

From Thursday through Sunday mornings, a buffet breakfast will occur. If this meal is not complimentary as standard practice of the host hotel, I will arrange that their costs be incorporated in the contracted room rate. Some hotels offer only a complimentary continental breakfast. My past experience with my other military-reunion group has shown that the continental breakfast is unacceptable.

TOUR A: CITY, RIVERBOAT CRUISE, SHOPPING (Thursday) [Elective participation]

Thursday is actually the first day of the reunion. Buses will pick up those at the hotel who preregistered for this tour and return them afterward. This is an all-day tour comprised of three events.

One event will involve a narrated, ride-through tour of some historic and cultural sections of the area with a possible walk-through of one or two attractions (e.g., a museum). Tour companies are good at suggesting activities suitable for military reunions. I will determine which suggested tour package might best suit our group by polling a few randomly selected members.

I intend to include a riverboat cruise (2-3 hr.?) on the St. John's River. The cruise will include lunch, a DJ, and dancing.

Following the cruise, the buses will drop attendees off at a popular indoor mall for shopping. The allotted time will be 1½-2 hr. After shopping, the buses will return the attendees to the hotel in preparation to attend a Chairman's Welcome Reception.

A volunteer will be needed to staff the Hospitality Room during this day's tour. As mentioned earlier, one might not be needed if all or most attendees will attend in the tour.

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME RECEPTION (Thursday)

This will be a 1-hr. event in the hotel. I intend that it consist of a light fare of fruits, cheeses, crackers, sodas, and water. While this event will appear on the Reunion Preregistration Form, it will not have a cost associated with it. This will be the paid in part by a registration fee and a deal that I might work with the hotel. Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase at this event. **Again, you will not be permitted to bring your own.** Purchases can be made at the hotel's bar/restaurant if the event would occur in one of these areas or from a portable bar in the room. I will do my best to get one free drink for all attendees. A *short* speech from the Chairman (and maybe a few others) will occur.

This event is occurring in the late afternoon on Thursday instead of sometime on Wednesday because some attendees will likely not arrived on Wednesday for a variety of reasons.

NOTE:

No group dinner will be arranged for Thursday evening. Attendees will be on their own for dinner.

BUFFET BREAKFAST (Friday) [Leisurely arrival during the allotted time]

TOUR B: KINGS BAY SUB SUPPORT BASE, and ST. MARY'S SUB MUSEUM (Friday) [Elective participation]

This tour also is an all-day event. One activity associated with this tour is the driving force for Jacksonville having priority as the host city: a high probability of touring an operating SSBN! This can be arranged at Kings Bay Submarine Support Base in Kings Bay, Ga.—about a 1-hr. ride from the likely host hotel. Naturally, a few conditions must be met before a tour of a boat can occur; the most obvious being that a sub is at the base during our reunion and that situations with the sub will allow visitors at the time. I've been assured that we have a great chance of boarding if a sub is there.

NOTE:

Norfolk and New London were considered, but tours of operating boats are forbidden. Even if tours were permitted at Norfolk, rarely are subs in port there. Otherwise, Norfolk is an excellent host city for military reunions because it offers the "best bang for your buck." If Jacksonville becomes infeasible as a host city, Norfolk will be next in line. It has many attractions suitable for any military reunion.

I am hoping that I can arrange to have our Memorial Service on the base—maybe at its chapel or some other suitable location. If an outdoor location is arranged AND the day will be rainy, the Memorial Service will be held in the hotel's banquet room before our meal on Saturday night.

Another part of this event is a tour of the St. Marys Submarine Museum in St. Marys, Ga. that is near the sub base.

In between the tour of the base and museum, we will have lunch—somewhere. I have had no success finding a restaurant in the area that can handle a group of our size. I've spoken with a caterer in the area, and this seems most feasible even though the caterer does not own a banquet facility. Possible locations are the officers' club on the sub base or one of the hotels in the area. (Many of the hotels in this remote area of Ga. do not have banquet capabilities.) **Kirby Schuler (1986-1989)**, a resident of St. Marys, Ga. And member of the Eagles Club there, is evaluating the possibility of the club's hosting the lunch. Additionally, a boxed lunch (preloaded onto the buses) at a pavilion on the sub base or public location is another alternative for lunch and would be relatively inexpensive.

DINNER BUFFET (Friday) [Elective participation]

This event will be a group meal of all-you-can-eat from a typical menu of meats, vegetables, breads, desserts, and beverages. If the event will not occur in a bar/restaurant area of the hotel, alcoholic beverages will not be available. (I will choose a suitable location with the lowest fee.)

AUCTION (Friday) [Optional occurrence]

The occurrence of this event has yet to be determined. Many factors are involved; two of the important ones being the willingness of attendees to bring items for the auction and someone to volunteer as the auctioneer. Otherwise, Friday's group events will end with the dinner buffet. (The Hospitality Room will be open until 9:00-10:00 p.m.) More on the feasibility of the auction at a later date.

BUFFET BREAKFAST (Saturday) [Leisurely arrival during the allotted time]

NOTE:

Saturday is a busy day with meetings, professional portraits, and the formal banquet. Hence, a group tour will not be scheduled. Also, attendees are on their own for lunch. The Hospitality Room will open after breakfast, but will be unavailable during the Business Meeting unless the ladies wish to have a meeting there or just use the room. Otherwise, the Hospitality Room will be locked during the Business Meeting.

BOARD OF ADVISORS' MEETING (Saturday)

This meeting is primarily for the members of the Board of Advisors (BoA). It will involve the overall discussions of managing the SHVA and presentation of ideas for the **2012** reunion. IF all members of the BoA who plan to attend the reunion would have arrived by an earlier day, this meeting might occur at some convenient time on a prior day. A month or so before the reunion, I will establish an agenda for this meeting.

BUSINESS MEETING (Saturday)

This meeting is for the veterans of the boat only. My experience has shown that the meetings run faster, smoother, and with fewer distractions and interruptions this way. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order with deviations approved in our bylaws to prevent chaos. I encourage the ladies to have an alternate meeting and select a spokesperson. I will propose that the spokesperson organizationally report directly to our Vice Chairman.

As far as the **2012** reunion is concerned, I plan to poll the membership on if or how they would prefer reunions that rotate through geographic areas of the country BEFORE the 2010 reunion. From their input, I will present four host cities for which they would vote at the Business Meeting and by mail prior to the reunion for members who will not attend the reunion. The reason for this is that my past experience has proven that asking members at the Business Meeting for specific cities for the next reunion will tie up the meeting for hours just on voting (and bickering!). I guarantee that if 100 members attend the meeting, no less than 40 cities would be suggested! Instead, interested members would notify me for a period BEFORE a reunion of their personal choices; hence, I will be receiving suggestions sometime in early 2010 for the 2012 reunion. If the members wish to rotate through geographic areas, only suggestions for the specific area will be eligible. *Once the voting for a future host city is complete, we will be committed to that city regardless of the room rate of the most suitable hotel in that city and the area's attractions. This should not pose problems as I will have performed some preliminary investigations of the proposed cities.* Other major items of business that will be discussed at this meeting are:

- Vote for acceptance of the bylaws.
- Election of BoA members.

PORTRAITS (Saturday)

I will contract a professional photographer to take portraits of attendees—couples or singles as appropriate. The photographer will also take candid pictures during most of our reunion events. The photographer will produce a Reunion Memory Album for optional purchase. This album would be ordered and prepaid as an option when completing the Reunion Preregistration Form. Those who ordered the album would receive it via postal mail a few months after the reunion. Those who will not attend the reunion would be able to order the memory album on the Reunion Preregistration Form.

Also, the photographer will mail the individual proofs of the portraits to each attendee for possible purchase of the portraits. *This will be a separate transaction between the photographer and each attendee. The optional purchase of the portraits will NOT be listed on the Reunion Preregistration Form because the photographer will offer various packages at various prices.*

BANQUET (Saturday)

The banquet is a dress-up event. Veterans who still have their uniforms—and still fit them!—may wear them. Otherwise, it's jacket and tie for the gentlemen with the ladies dressed complementary. The banquet will encompass many events and will be the highlight of the reunion:

- The Memorial Service (if not held earlier).
- The meal.
- The ceremony of the Table of Remembrance.
- A 50-50 (or 25-25-50) drawing.
- A guest speaker (I will try to get a naval officer).
- Short performance by a Navy jazz ensemble.

The Memorial Service, regardless of where/when held, will commemorate the deceased veterans of the boat. This will include the Tolling of the Bell for each known deceased shipmate. (At future services, only the names of those reported deceased since the prior reunion will be announced.)

The likelihood of obtaining a naval officer to speak is promising. I will attempt to work some magic!

The Table of Remembrance is independent of the Memorial Service. This part of the program will commemorate the MIAs and POWs.

I intend to have a 50-50 or 25-25-50 drawing during the banquet. The members will decide which type at the Business Meeting.

If I can arrange it, I'll have a performance by a Navy jazz band to conclude the banquet. I'll plead with the Jacksonville Naval Air Station for this.

BUFFET BREAKFAST (Sunday) [Leisurely arrival during the allotted time]

This is the final group meal of the reunion.

CHAPEL SERVICE (Sunday) [Attendance optional]

Our chaplain (or designee) will conduct a short, nondenominational, chapel service before checkout.

USS SAM HOUSTON VETERANS' ASSN. 2010 REUNION PLAN OF THE DAY

Date:????

Host Hotel:????

Jacksonville, Fla.????

WEDNESDAY

12:01 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Set up the Hospitality Room
5:00-10:00 p.m. Reunion registration (for early arrivals)
2:00-4:00 p.m. Precon Meeting (a meeting of our Reunion Planner with hotel mgt.)
No group meals; no group tours

THURSDAY

6:00-8:00 a.m. Buffet breakfast
7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Hospitality Room open; reunion registrations
8:45 a.m. Buses load for Tour A (lunch included)
9:00 a.m. Buses depart for Tour A
3:00 p.m. Buses return from Tour A
5:00-6:00 p.m. Chairman's Welcome Reception
Dinner on your own

FRIDAY

6:00-8:00 a.m. Buffet breakfast
8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Hospitality Room open; reunion registrations
8:45 a.m. Buses load for Tour B (lunch included)
9:00 a.m. Buses depart for Tour B
4:00 p.m. Buses return from Tour B
6:00-8:00 p.m. Group buffet dinner
8:30-10:30 p.m. Auction (*tentative*)

SATURDAY

6:00-8:00 a.m. Buffet breakfast
8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Hospitality Room open; reunion registrations
NO GROUP TOUR THIS DAY (busy day)
9:00-11:30 a.m. Board of Advisors Meeting
Lunch on your own
1:00-3:00 p.m. Members' Business Meeting (veterans only)
1:00-3:00 p.m. Ladies' Meeting in the Hospitality Room (*tentative*)
4:00-5:45 p.m. Portraits of attendees
6:00 p.m. Escort ladies to their seats for the Banquet
6:15-9:00 p.m. Banquet

SUNDAY

6:00-8:00 a.m. Buffet breakfast
8:30-9:00 a.m. Chapel Service in Hospitality Room
9:00 a.m. -??? Hotel checkout (if you did not arrange for extended stay)

Farewell Until We Meet Again at the 2012 Reunion