



**The Fierce Pierce**

**USS JOHN R. PIERCE SAILORS ORGANIZATION, INC.**

**VOLUME 17**

**ISSUE 4**

**DECEMBER 2007**

**Editor: Gene DesRoches**

**Circulation: Beverly DesRoches**

**PRESIDENTS COMMENTS**

The 2007 Norfolk reunion is now history. I would like to thank Ed Millett and Robert Wilno for an excellent planned and coordinated reunion. In addition, an extra special thanks goes to Dee (Ed's wife), Pam (Ed's daughter) and Kristine (Robert's daughter) for their help in making the reunion such a success. While there were some issues with the hotel they were finally ironed out. There were many comments on just how much FUN everyone had. The tour of the Navy base was outstanding. Again thanks.

Further down in this news letter is a reunion report. As can be seen we took in \$221.35 dollars more than we spent. The goal is not to make money on reunions. The ships store (run by Robert Wilno) had sales of \$2,174.00. This (as best I can tell) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> best sales since the store was started.

Our next reunion is scheduled to be held in Biloxi, Mississippi. Shortly after the first of the year hotels etc will be contacted and hopefully by April/May all details will be worked out. Dates are yet to be determined but the reunion will be sometime during the first two weeks of Oct, 2008. So mark your calendar and plan on attending. This will be a three day affair with no tours planned. My goal is to keep the cost of the reunion as low as possible. The 2009 reunion will be back in Norfolk as we celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> year of the ship's commissioning.

Update on tax exemption. I have now filed the requested data to the IRS in an attempt to have our tax exempt status restored. Unfortunately I did not have financial data (income and expense breakdown) for years 2004, 2005 and 2006.

We received our 2007 reunion memory book prepared by Ronald Piper. What an outstanding book. THANKS Ron.

We wish every member a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

**FOR THOSE WHO PAY THEIR DUES ON AN ANNUAL BASIS THE 2007-2008 DUES ARE NOW DUE!!!! PLEASE SEND TO THE NEW TREASURER:**

**Carl Cox  
4610 Hominy Ridge Road  
Springfield. OH 45502**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
JR PIERCE SAILORS ORG.**

**Member's 85 years of age and above no longer are required to pay dues. If you are 85 or older please notify Carl Cox at the above address so we can up date the records.**

Cecil Thompson  
President JRP Sailor's Org

USS JOHN R. PIERCE DD753 SAILORS ORGANIZATION  
ANNUAL REUNION OCTOBER 6, 2007  
NORFOLK, VA  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The annual executive board meeting was called to order by President Cecil Thompson at 0900.

Present:	Cecil Thompson, President Vince Pendolino, Treasurer Doug Simon, Secretary Wes Kreske, Past President Ron Piper, Director Robert Groth, Director	Absent: William Ippensen, VP Angelo Ardingo, Director
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A quorum was present

President Thompson discussed the following subjects:

- majority rules at all meetings
- although some variation had been experienced in the execution of the bylaws, no changes were recommended
- suggestion to redesign the website was discussed but the decision was to maintain the website as is

Vince Pendolino, 2008 reunion coordinator discussed possibility of a cruise for 2008 as there were no readily available reunion locations in Florida. It was decided to request recommendation from the general body as to a suitable location for the 2008 reunion

President Thompson reviewed the status of the association's tax exempt status with the IRS. Several documents and records will be required to have the tax exempt status reinstated. The president will proceed to provide the necessary information to the IRS.

A suggestion was made by a member of the association to have personal information on the website blocked to non members. It was decided to not block the website data information.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 1000.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Douglas Simon, Secretary

USS JOHN R. PIERCE DD753 SAILORS ORGANIZATION  
ANNUAL REUNION OCTOBER 6, 2007  
NORFOLK, VA  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Cecil Thompson at 1030. A quorum was present

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The Treasurers report was presented. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report

There was no old business.

President Thompson discussed the Board of Director term limits and stated that the election process had been disrupted due to cancellation of the Biloxi reunion and the sequence needed to be reestablished.

Nominating Committee chairman Rod Kent was introduced and announced that the present board would continue in place for another year. Officer positions would remain the same with the exception that Carl Cox was nominated to be elected to the Board and assume the duties of Treasurer. Further, Dennis Foster was nominated to replace outgoing Director Angelo Ardingo. The floor was then opened for additional nominations, there being none; motion was made to close the nominations by Wes Kreske and seconded by Jimmy Sigler

President Thompson then reviewed the status of the Association's tax exempt status with the IRS. President Thompson will continue to gather the necessary information and make application to the IRS for re-instatement of the Association's tax exempt status. New Business

President Thompson discussed the following:

- Constitution and Bylaws – It was noted that the duties of the Secretary and Newsletter Editor have been separated. No further changes to the bylaws were anticipated in the near future
- The location of the next reunion would be agreed to by a majority of the Association members.
- A request for volunteers to host future reunions was made. The 2009 reunion has been scheduled for Norfolk, the 65 anniversary of the commissioning of the Pierce. Suggestions were requested for the 2008 reunion. The following were suggested:
  - Cruise – Jacksonville, FL to Bahamas and return
  - Biloxi, Mississippi
  - Savannah, GA

It was agreed by majority to hold the 2008 reunion in Biloxi

- Website – Concerns were expressed that some members could not download a formatted copy of the newsletter and the ship history would not fit on the screen and required scrolling to read. The issues will be addressed with the web master
- It was announced that members over 85 would no longer be required to pay annual dues.

Motion was made by Ben Ferrell, seconded by Desi DesRoches to contribute \$500.00 to the Tin Can Sailors Organization. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Desi DesRoches and seconded by Rod Kent to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1200

Respectfully submitted:

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Douglas Simon, Secretary

## SICK CALL

### Ed Millet

Shortly before the 2007 reunion Ed under went surgery. He had planned on attending the reunion but there were complications and more surgery was forthcoming. Ed is now home and doing great.

### Jay Lose

Jay recently had a stem cell transplant, is home recovering and sent this email.

Dear family and friends,                    SITREP (last one)

"Happy Thanksgiving." I am thankful every day for all of you and for your help in getting me through the transplant. You don't know what it meant to me. We got back to Pensacola a few days ago and are still not completely unpacked. But, we are so happy to be home. We were away for almost 3 months. We stayed with Ken and Karen Bloom in Williamsport and Vickie and Brian Mitsdarfer in Enola, Pa. They were so nice to us and really went out of their way to help us. We can never repay them, all we can do is say thank you and we love you.

Time will tell just how well the transplant worked, but I can tell you right now, it worked.

Again, thank you all. Love, Jay & Janice

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## TAPS

### Donald J. Hoeksema

It is with a great deal of sadness that I report the passing of Mr. Donald J. Hoeksema. Don passed away on November 16, 2007. He is survived by his wife Marcia, three sons Randy, David, Daniel, their wives, several grand children and great grand children.

Don reported aboard the Pierce in August 1952 where he became a Radarman Apprentice Striker, and was released from active duty in December 1953 as a Radarman Seaman.

Don joined the USS John R Pierce DD-753 Sailors Organization in 1995. He served on the Pierce's Sailors Organization Executive Board as Director (3 years) and as Secretary/News Letter editor (4 years). He was also responsible for developing JRP Stationary, the unique name tags used at reunions (2007 included) and was the host for 1998 Jacksonville reunion.

Please remember Marcia and the Hoeksema family in your thoughts and prayers.

## EDITORS NOTE

My wife, Beverly and I were fortunate to be able to attend Don Hoeksema's burial at the Bay Pines National Cemetery in St. Petersburg on Monday November 26, 2007. We were warmly greeted by Mrs. Marcia Hoeksema, one of her sons, a daughter-in-law, a daughter, a grand daughter and a beautiful blue eyed eight month old great grand daughter. The weather was a perfect Florida sunny day.

When we were seated in a pavilion, taps were played by a twenty year veteran Boats'n Mate First. The Boats'n Mate and a WAVE Yeoman Second Class performed a moving flag ceremony and presented the flag to Mrs. Hoeksema. At the gravesite, Mrs. Hoeksema laid a beautiful wreath of greenery and red, white and blue carnations on his grave. Then we said our prayers and good byes to Don.

Our thanks go to the two active duty sailors who performed a flawless ceremony.

**2007 JOHN R PIERCE DD-753 REUNION REPORT**

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
<b>PRE REGISTRATION</b>	<b>\$5,243.00</b>	<b>NAVAL BASE/BUS</b>	<b>\$870.00</b>
<b>COLLECTED AT REUNION</b>	<b>\$596.00</b>	<b>TOTE BAGS</b>	<b>\$453.60</b>
<b>RAFFLE</b>	<b>\$534.00</b>	<b>LANYARDS</b>	<b>\$300.96</b>
<b>REFUND FROM NAUTICUS CENTER</b>	<b>\$711.00</b>	<b>SET UP FEE</b>	<b>\$42.50</b>
<b>REFUND FROM SPRINGHILL</b>	<b>\$204.53</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY ROOM</b>	<b>\$807.72</b>
		<b>NAUTICUS CENTER</b>	<b>\$711.00</b>
		<b>BANQUET</b>	<b>\$2,904.53</b>
		<b>GARDENS TOUR/BUS</b>	<b>\$680.00</b>
		<b>NAME TAGS</b>	<b>\$65.87</b>
		<b>MEMBER REFUND</b>	<b>\$39.00</b>
		<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>
		<b>MEMBER REFUND</b>	<b>\$112.00</b>
 <b>TOTALS</b>	 <b>\$7,288.53</b>		 <b>\$7067.18</b>
 <b>GAIN/(LOSS)</b>	 <b>\$221.35</b>		
 <b>SHIPS STORE</b>	 <b>\$2174.00</b>		

**USS JOHN R PIERCE DD-753 TREASURER REPORT**

<b>9/30/2007</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>\$27,035.37</b>
	<b>INCOME</b>		
		<b>Annual Dues</b>	<b>\$285.00</b>
		<b>2007 Reunion</b>	<b>\$2,045.53</b>
		<b>Ships Store</b>	<b>\$2,247.00</b>
		<b>Interest</b>	<b>\$137.46</b>
	<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$4,714.99</b>
			<b>\$31,750.36</b>
	<b>EXPENSES</b>		
		<b>Reunion 07</b>	<b>\$4,390.19</b>
		<b>FedEx</b>	<b>\$35.50</b>
		<b>Refund to Member</b>	<b>\$39.00</b>
		<b>Ships Store</b>	<b>\$688.10</b>
		<b>Donation Tin Can Sailors</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
		<b>Bank Fees</b>	<b>\$87.89</b>
	<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$5,740.68</b>
			<b>\$26,009.68</b>
<b>11/30/2007</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>\$26,009.68</b>
	<b>LIFE TIME MEMBERS FUND:</b>		
	<b>\$12,000.00</b>		

**NEW MEMBERS**

Name	Rate/Rank	Years on Board
Fred L Burkert	IC3	58-59
Leigh Bartlow	LTJG	59-62

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tion.

Mrs. Phyllis White recently became a widow and wrote to Frank Busch. She wanted to contact the tall, “handsome” sailor she met at a dance in 1956 and thought it might be me. The trouble with that is; I’ve never been to Wexford. I was discharged in June of 1955. If anyone has information about the ship’s visit to Ireland in 1956, please contact: Frank Busch

333 Norway St.  
York, PA 17403

Ph: (717) 848-1754

Email: frankbusch@nextrox.net

**PJ’S CORNER**

We hope to resume this popular feature next newsletter.

**John R. Pierce (DD753) Sailors Organization, Inc. Officers 2006-2007**

**PRESIDENT: Cecil Thompson**  
Tel.: (337) 537-7533  
Email: [cthomp9785@hughes.net](mailto:cthomp9785@hughes.net)

**VICE-PRES: William Ippensen**  
Tel: (217)-223-9254  
Email: None

**SECRETARY: Douglas Simon**  
Tel.: (757) 625-0374  
Email: [simon2ofus@aol.com](mailto:simon2ofus@aol.com)

**TREASURER: Carl Cox**  
Tel.: (937) 969-8246  
Email: [karlcox@woh.rr.com](mailto:karlcox@woh.rr.com)

**CHAPLAIN: Ed Millet**  
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