

FOOTE NOTES

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USS FOOTE (DD-511) ASSOCIATION

1 October 2003

LITTLE BEAVERS CALLED BACK TO “SEA” TO COMMENERATE THE BATTLE OF CAPE ST GEORGE

Aug. 28, 2003

Red Lail sent the following messages: “Herewith you will find a message I just received from the USS Cape St. George CG71’s command master chief advising of a potential observance of the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Cape St George. This will quickly bring back memories of the wonderful event ten years ago when we joined them in observing the 50th anniversary of the battle. I have assured him of my support. I am sure many of you will wish to attend whatever program they arrange. This leaves me with the problem of identifying those Little Beavers who would wish to be invited. Please keep in mind that going aboard the Cape St. George is an honor that is not limited to those few remaining veterans of that particular action, but rather an event representing the activities of the entire Little Beaver Squadron in WWII. As you probably know, both a single identified table on the USS Cape St. George mess deck and a large plaque posted on the ship’s quarterdeck honors each Little Beaver ship. They have done a magnificent job of keeping our legacy alive. The USS Cape St. George returned May 29, 2003 from their involvement in the Iraq freedom effort making her crew combat veterans too. I (Red Lail) need to quickly develop a mailing list of those who wish to be kept informed or invited to this upcoming affair. Your help is needed. If you have email, this is quite easy. Just send me a reply confirming your email address and providing your snail mail address and telephone number. (Editor’s Note: I went ahead and sent our Muster List including email addresses to the Cape St. George so if anything is sent out, you should get it. Anyone on the FOOTE mailing list should be all set but if you are planning to attend, please contact Bob Sawyers directly-address below.- Georgia Tuttle). For reunion leaders, anything you can do to get the word spread will be greatly appreciated by me as well as the by the crew of the USS Cape St. George. Send info to: C D 'Red' Lail, e-mail cdredlail@aol.com

Aug. 28, 2003

Master Chief Lail,

Greetings to you and all Little Beavers from the officers and crew of USS CAPE ST GEORGE. The ship returned from deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on May 29th. We received orders to make for homeport with the same mixture of surprise and speed that initiated our deployment back in January. Since our return we have taken a short, but well-deserved rest, continuing to train and maintain the ship in a state of readiness to again deploy in a moments notice if so ordered. The crew performed their duties on

deployment in a most admirable fashion, meeting every challenge with a mixture of tenacity, professionalism, belief in our mission and each other, as well as good old "American ingenuity". I consider myself privileged to serve with men and women whom I, very prejudicially, believe are the finest group of young Americans that our country has to offer. I was often inspired by their dedication and devotion to duty. CAPE ST GEORGE is currently in the planning stages to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Cape St George, tentatively scheduled for a yet undetermined date in November. Events and details have yet to be worked out, but it is our wish to extend an invitation to every Little Beaver who would like to take part to attend this commemoration. I'm writing to ask if you could canvas the members of your organization to determine how many may wish to attend in order to assist us in best planning an event that fully honors the service and historical legacy of the Little Beavers in our Navy and Nation's history.

Last year's commemoration was a most inspirational event for many CAPE ST GEORGE sailors. As the rumor of possible deployment in support of our country's war on terrorism quickly spread throughout the press and Norfolk waterfront, the visit by the Little Beavers brought to light a whole new perspective and importance of each CAPE ST GEORGE sailor's naval service. Many had come to the realization that we were now the defenders of our nation's freedom, security and honor; that it was our efforts that made it possible for our fellow citizens, families and loved ones to sleep each night in relative safety because we were doing our job. This responsibility was now ours because of those, like the Little Beavers, who came before us and served when their country called, making it possible for us, their children and grandchildren, to live in the "land of the free and home of the brave". We were inspired to serve with equal commitment to honor the legacy of those whose service made it possible for us to have that great privilege. It is our strongest desire that the 60th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Cape St George will adequately honor your contribution to world freedom and equally inspire the sailors of this great ship to new and greater accomplishment. I eagerly await your reply.

Warmest regards,

CMDCM (SW/AW) Robert A. Sawyers, (757) 445-6006, sawyersr@cape-st-george.navy.mil

October 3, 2003

Master Chief Lail,

Greetings from the crew of CAPE ST GEORGE. We have had a very busy couple of weeks with trying to avoid the effects of Hurricane Isabel, taking part in a rather detailed submarine warfare training exercise and preparation for a major ship's material inspection that will take place in early Nov. In addition we have been working to schedule some events that will appropriately commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Cape St George. Our plan for right now is to hold a commemoration ceremony and reception onboard the ship Monday, Nov 24 (the time has yet to be determined). I'm writing to ask if you have received any information from members of your association as to how many would be interested in

attending the event? Also, would it be possible to let us know the names of the members of the Little Beavers Association who were actually at the

Battle of Cape St George, if they are attending the event on the 24th and would one of them be interested in speaking at the ceremony providing their recollection of the battle?

I very fondly remember last year's commemoration; for me personally, I was sincerely humbled and honored to be in the presence of such esteemed sailors, warriors and patriots. We are most earnestly excited about hosting this year's ceremony as well. I look forward to your reply.

Warmest regards,

Bob Sawyers, Command Master Chief, USS CAPE ST GEORGE, (757) 445-6006,
sawyersr@cape-st-george.navy.mil

If you are planning to attend the 60th Anniversary celebration, please contact CMDCM Sawyers directly. I will be at the USS FOOTE reunion Nov. 11-24th and am afraid I may miss your message at my home or on my email.- Georgia Tuttle

**ORLANDO, FLORIDA,
NOV. 13 - 17, 2003!**

REMEMBER: Uncle Sam wanted you. WE DO TOO!

IN THE PRESS AND THE MEDIA:

1. USA TODAY: Watch for a story about WWII ship groups and their transition to legacy membership. The story is slated to run around Veterans' Day. Georgia Tuttle was interviewed about the **USS FOOTE** group. We don't know if the interview will be used however.

2. HEAVY METAL: THE DESTROYER

This film was produced by Flashback Television as part of its **HEAVY METAL** series for The History Channel. The program premiered on The History Channel on Friday, August 1, 2003, 9PM ET. Georgia Tuttle taped the broadcast and, if space allows, perhaps we can include it on the annual reunion tape produced by Marie Chalmers. Watch the History Channel for a re-broadcast. The film, **THE DESTROYER**, tells the dramatic story of how, after the destruction of the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, the US designed and built it's awesome fleet of new Fletcher-class destroyers. At over 370 feet long, armed with 5, five-inch guns and a speed of 38 knots, these ships were, at the time, among the largest and most powerful destroyers in the world. Using extraordinary archive film, much of it in superb

color, detailed re-enactments filmed aboard the USS Kidd in Baton Rouge, LA, and unique interviews with men who served aboard these Fletcher-class destroyers, **THE DESTROYER** goes beneath the decks of these gladiators of the sea. It takes the viewer into the world of the American sailors who served and fought in the bitter and often suicidal battle for the Pacific.

LOST AND FOUND

In the month of August, we have had the children of 2 crewman contact us through the website. What follows are detailed accounts of those contacts. Both are touching stories.

The Family of Glenn “Jack” L. Carver

On Sunday, August 31, 2003, Georgia Tuttle received the following email from Brenda Smith of Woodstock, GA:

Dear George:

I found your name on the Internet and I am so excited, I can hardly stand it. You must have known my father, Glenn “Jack” Carver. He worked on the Foote Notes while stationed on the ship. I just found his family this past January and it was a great reunion. I’m sorry to say that Jack died in 1962. Though I never met him and he never married, his family is wonderful. I obtained copies of the Foote Notes from the Joyner Special Archives Collections and I see your picture in the Muster. It says that you are an accountant. I’m so anxious to learn any info about my father. I know that he was a “colorful” character and was often in trouble. Will there be any reunions in the near future for the **USS FOOTE** families? -Sincerely, Brenda Smith

I wrote Brenda the following message:

August 31, 2003

Dear Brenda,

What a pleasure and surprise to hear from you! The **USS FOOTE** has one of the fastest and most active reunion groups for families in the country! In fact, we have a reunion coming up this Nov 13-17 in Orlando. It's very close to you so you should come. There will be sailors there who may have known your dad. The web master for our web page is Tricia Schnaubelt Luke whose dad was the cartoonist for the Foote Notes aboard ship! She will be there too. Now for a slight disappointment. I am Georgia, not George Tuttle. My dad was George. Unfortunately, he died in 1960 so I really never knew him. It was that situation that caused me to look up this group 8 years ago. My mom and I went to 1 reunion and had such a GREAT time that my sisters also began attending when they could. I was able to learn lots of things about my dad from his buddies. Mom and I will be at the Orlando reunion along with over 100 others so I hope you can make it. I have been made the Foote Notes editor but many of the sailors still come to reunions and are very active. I hope to be in Georgia

sometime next year to help future US Representative (we hope!) Tom Price present a flag to the nephew of Alton Watts, a Foote sailor who was KIA (killed in action) during WWII. Visit our website at www.ussfoote.com to find info on the reunion. I will forward your email to Wilbur Rogers, our former president and former non-war Foote Notes editor. He has info on various sailors and will know more about Jack than I do. I can't wait to meet you and your family! -Georgia Tuttle

August 1, 2003

Dear Georgia,

I realized my mistake with your name after I sent the email and I apologize! My dad's brother tells me that my dad was never the same after the war and suffered with mental health problems. He committed suicide in 1962. Unfortunately, I never met him. I would love to get to know him by proxy through the other sailors. I will be in Orlando for the reunion. We have a vacation home there. – Brenda Smith

Rog also sent the following informative and helpful message:

Dear Brenda:

My name is Wilbur V. Rogers. I was President of the USS FOOTE DD-511 group for 14-years and served with Glenn aboard the FOOTE. I have some information about Glenn that you may find helpful: Glenn was on both the first and second cruise of the FOOTE. The ship was torpedoed in the night battle of Empress Augusta Bay and towed back to the states for repairs (that was the first cruise). After repairs in San Pedro, CA she returned to the Pacific for the liberation of the Philippines and Okinawa (that was the second cruise). Here is the data I readily have on Glenn.

Glenn L. Carver, Coxswain, Service No. 653-13-09, entered the Navy 10-14-42 and reported aboard the USS FOOTE in Boston, MA on 12-22-42 (the day she was placed into commission). His last known civilian address was 139 Penn Ave., North Rochester, Pennsylvania. Decorations he is authorized to wear:

1. American Campaign Medal
2. European-Africa-Middle Eastern Medal (trip to Casablanca, North Africa)
3. Asiatic Pacific Medal (4 stars)
4. Philippine Liberation Medal (2 stars)
5. WW-II Victory Medal
6. Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon & Combat Action Ribbon

If you have specific question about Glenn or the actions in which he was involved, I would be glad to try to answer them. It is good to see the young taking an interest in the exploits of their fathers as young men. -Wilbur V. Rogers FC3/c

Brenda wrote:

Dear Wilbur,

It is so exciting to hear from you. I feel like Jack is actually getting flesh on his bones when people fill in the gaps for me. Jack and my mother never married. I was born September 17, 1948 and my mother married someone else in 1950. She told me about Jack in 1968 but asked me not to look him up because it might cause problems for his family. My mother died in December 2001. My husband and I had a foster boy, Ronnie, whose mother died when he was nine. His father had been in the Navy. Because Ronnie was partial to the Navy, we took him to see the movie "Antoine Fisher," the true story about a foster boy who eventually joined in the Navy. In the movie, the Navy psychiatrist encouraged Antoine to look up his birth family that he did. It was such a good story that when we all got home from the movie, I started looking through a Pennsylvania phone book that I acquired and fingered down the list of Carvers. My husband asked if I would like to find my father and I said "yes, but I'm afraid of being rejected." He said that he wasn't afraid. The next day while I was picking up Ronnie from school, my husband started phoning and found Jack's brother, Jim. Jim was so excited to hear from me that he kept saying, "I love you, I love you." I was afraid to get too excited in case it wasn't the right family so I emailed him a picture that Jack had given to my mother, a snapshot at a Navy harbor. Jack had written a love note to my mom on the back of the photo. Jim said that he would call back after seeing the picture.

On January 21, 2003, Jim called back and said, "Are you sitting down? Welcome to the family! This is one of the happiest days of my [Jim's] life. I love you. I took that picture [of Jack]." I said, "you don't even know me" and he said that I was a part of his brother whom he had loved very much. He then added, "You were lost and now you are found." Jack's family had a reunion for me in February of this year. There were 77 people there with a big feast, banners and pictures of Jack for me! My new cousin gave me Jack's old Navy p-coat. I cried and wore the coat home on the airplane. Uncle Jim told me that Jack was never the same after the war and he was in trouble a lot, mostly from drinking. He said that Jack had moved to San Bernardino with his parents, was arrested for DUI and hung himself in the county jail in 1962. I never knew Jack or even met him as far as I know. I wonder if he had known me, if he would have felt that he had something to live for. Uncle Jim said that he never married. I have requested medical and enlistment papers from the Navy and I got some of them. The rest are at the VA here in Georgia (I live near Atlanta). I contacted them a month ago but haven't heard anything yet. I've learned so much this past year and it's wonderful! The Carver's are a great family. They nicknamed Jack, "Windy" because they say he could talk you out of anything! I guess he wasn't a model citizen but I still want to know him.

I understand that Jack was in the Navy a total of 19 years. I'm not sure why he didn't complete 20 and retire. I received some documents from the Navy and he apparently was also on the USS Cobbler, USS Orion and the USS Kittiwake. The documents that I received were incomplete and there were no records of mental illness. My mother said that she wrote to him on the USS Kittiwake so he must have been on that ship during her pregnancy before my birth in 1948. Can you or anyone shed any light on this? My husband and I are planning on

attending the reunion in November. Will you be there? I am not familiar with Navy rank. What position were you? I really appreciate your help and willingness to share. - Sincerely, Brenda

Dear Brenda:

There were 331 crewmen on the USS FOOTE and though I knew Glenn (Jack) by sight, I did not know him personally. The fact that I didn't know him well along with the ravages of 58-years makes it impossible for me to describe his personality. He was in the Deck Gang and I was in the Fire Control Gang (Fire Controlmen control the firing of the guns). But being a Coxswain in the deck gang on a destroyer means he had to be very authoritative, forceful, aggressive and positive. He never would have made Coxswain otherwise. There were no Coxswains on destroyers who were shrinking violets! I was a Fire Controlman 3/c, the same level as Coxswain. The guys in different gangs pretty much went on liberty and buddied with the others in their gang, but you knew everyone aboard ship by sight. When that many men live in a space 376' 5" long by 39' 7" wide you get to know everyone! Glenn was on the FOOTE throughout the war, so if he was on the ORION it must have been after the war and for a short period of time. The USS ORION AS-18 was a Submarine Tender built in 1940. The USS COBBLER SS-344 was a Fleet Submarine of the Balao Class. The USS KITTIWAKE ASR-13 was a Submarine Rescue vessel of about 2,000-ton displacement equipped with a Rescue Chamber to bring men up from disabled submarines. I must say that Glenn's 19-year Navy career was diversified and interesting. He went from one of the most famous Navy destroyer squadrons (DesRon-23) commanded by Capt. (later Admiral) Arleigh Burke (of the famous "Little Beavers") to submarine tender, to submarine, to submarine rescue ship. I'm sure his naval career would make for interesting reading. I have no knowledge of his medical problems, but if you are able to get his personnel file from the Navy, it may give you some clues. Then, with that information you can contact the hospital and, as the closest living relative, ask for the information under the "Freedom of Information Act". I'm glad you are going to the reunion this year. I understand there will be only about 10 shipmates present. Our ranks are thinning very rapidly now. Circumstances prevent me from attending this year, but you should find some of the guys who remember Glenn. Good luck. -Wilbur Rogers

P.S. We have a ship here in the Mississippi River at Baton Rouge identical to the USS FOOTE DD-511. It is the USS KIDD DD-661. The KIDD has been completely restored and looks like it could get underway. When we had our reunion here in Baton Rouge in 2001, many of our FOOTE legacy members spent the night aboard. Georgia Tuttle slept in her father's bunk. What a rush for her!-WR

Well folks, Brenda Smith will be in Orlando! Her son and daughter-in-law work at Disney so she will have 2 reunions in Florida! Brenda says it feels good to belong to yet another family of her dad's (The Foote Family!) Welcome to all of the Carvers!

Any crewmen who knew Jack or have information for Brenda, can contact me (Georgia Tuttle) or send it to Brenda directly:

Brenda Smith

1053 Towne Lake Hills East

Woodstock, GA 30189

Home: 770-517-3382

Cell phone 770-337-6399

William R. Wilson

On August 25, 2003, I (Georgia Tuttle) received the following email from Dave Wilson, the son of crewman William R. Wilson. Dave was interested in getting membership information and learning how he could support the Foote Association! I am always amazed at the sincerity of our web surfers and their interest in the Foote! Dave reports: "My father was William R. Wilson who served aboard the **USS FOOTE**. Bill became an elevator mechanic and electrician for Otis Elevator in Indianapolis, was promoted to Green Bay, WI and then to Minneapolis, MN where he became the District Manager for Otis. He retired in 1978 and moved with his wife Jane to Rogers, Arkansas. He passed away from cancer on December 27, 1980. Bill and Jane had five children.

Bill's son, Dave made contact with the Foote Association a few years ago but got sidetracked with other activities. Dave writes, "I would like to make it to a reunion and hope that this is the year. I am very proud of my father and his service in the Navy aboard the **USS FOOTE**. My Dad didn't say a whole lot about his time in WWII, so I have learned a lot through other sources. (family, the Foote Notes, 'Destroyer Squadron'.) My interest in dad's WWII days peaked years after his passing when I toured a destroyer in Boston harbor. I was there to see 'Old Ironsides' and didn't know of the destroyer until I arrived. I skipped Old Ironsides and curiosity lead me over to the destroyer. My story about touring the USS CASSIN YOUNG is one that I'm sure has happened to many. For me, it was a totally unexpected detour while on a visit to the area with my children's marching band. I met a retired Navy volunteer and began asking a lot of questions. [Editor's Note-I wonder if that retired sailor could have been our own Bill Patsos who often volunteered aboard the CASSIN YOUNG before his death?] The destroyer turned out to be a Fletcher-class, exactly like the **USS FOOTE**! I unexpectedly found myself walking in Dad's shoes. Needless to say, it was a very meaningful experience that I will never forget. From there I learned about reunion groups. I've since done some research on the **FOOTE** and have shared all of this with my brothers and family members. I will follow things up from here in Minnesota. Thank you again for your response and efforts with the association."-Dave Wilson

Well, those of you who attended the Boston reunion know EXACTLY how Dave felt and where he was standing when he had that experience of seeing the USS CASSIN YOUNG (the Foote crew took the turnaround cruise on the CASSIN YOUNG and many of us walked in our dads' footsteps that day!). If Dave liked the ship in Boston, he will LOVE the USS

KIDD DD 661 in Baton Rouge! As I [Georgia Tuttle] told Dave, the KIDD is fully restored and its Commissioner is our own former association president, former Foote Notes editor and Dave's dad's former shipmate, Wilbur Rogers! I told him that twice yearly, he had the chance to live and work aboard the ship, doing what his dad used to do! I told him about the footlockers under the bunks that have been converted into mini-museums for each Fletcher-class destroyer including the FOOTE, the KIDD and the CASSIN YOUNG. It is there that he can see genuine memorabilia from his dad's own ship including the coffee pot that my grandmother sent my dad to make coffee in the fire control room! I told him he HAD to go to see the KIDD and let Rog take him around. I can attest to the fact that Rog is a fabulous tour guide!

Rog also wrote to Dave and sent the following information:

Dear Dave:

How great to hear from you! My name is Wilbur V. Rogers and I served with Bill aboard the FOOTE. The USS FOOTE Assn. is composed of Foote crewmen and their families and friends. We have one of the most actively growing WW II groups in the country. Of the approx. 420 men who passed over the Foote's gangplank, approximately 175 are still living. We have yearly reunions run by the crewmen's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Our membership is composed of 4 generations now. Bill was on both the first and second cruise of the FOOTE. The ship was torpedoed in the night battle of Empress Augusta Bay and towed back to the states for repairs (that was the first cruise). After repairs in San Pedro, CA, she returned to the Pacific for the liberation of the Philippines and Okinawa (that was the second cruise). Here is the data I readily have on Bill:

William R. Wilson, Electrician Mate 1/c, Service No. 626-45-68, entered the Navy on 6-1-42 and reported aboard the USS FOOTE DD-511 in Boston, MA on 12-22-42 (the day the ship was placed in commission). His last known civilian address was 1125 Larch St., Indianapolis, Indiana. Decorations he is authorized to wear:

1. American Campaign Medal
2. European-Africa-Middle Eastern Medal (trip to Casablanca, North Africa)
3. Asiatic Pacific Medal (4 stars)
4. Philippine Liberation Medal (2 stars)
5. WW-II Victory Medal
6. Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon & Combat Action Ribbon

Sincerely, Wilbur V. Rogers, FC3/c

Dave hopes to make it to a reunion and meet some of his dad's shipmates. But all of us have benefited from Dave's dad's work for not only did he help to keep us safe during the war but he was also instrumental in keeping us safe in every Otis elevator in which any of us we rode until Bill's retirement! Welcome to the Foote Family Dave! We all hope to meet you very

soon! Anyone wishing to get information to David about his father, William R. Wilson, can contact me (Georgia Tuttle) and I will pass it on to him.

BOOK CORNER:

FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS by James Bradley: According to Wilbur Rogers, this is a "must read." It gives a good explanation of what the Iwo Jima memorial actually represents. This book may also give one a better insight into the meaning of all of the monuments and memorials around this great country. To gain insight on the book's author and his expertise, read the story below.

THE IWO JIMA MEMORIAL

by Frank Doherty

Each year I am hired to go to Washington, DC, with the eighth grade class from Clinton, Wisconsin, where I grew up, to videotape their trip. I greatly enjoy visiting our nation's capitol, and each year I take some special memories back with me. This fall's trip was especially memorable.

On the last night of our trip we stopped at the Iwo Jima Memorial. This memorial is the largest bronze statue in the world and depicts one of the most famous photographs in history -- that of the six brave soldiers raising the American Flag at the top of a rocky hill on the island of Iwo Jima, Japan, during WW II.

Over one hundred students and chaperones piled off of the buses and headed towards the memorial. I noticed a solitary figure at the base of the statue, and as I got closer he asked, "Where are you guys from?" I told him that we were from Wisconsin. "Hey, I'm a cheesehead, too! Come gather around cheeseheads, and I will tell you a story."

James Bradley just happened to be in Washington, DC, to speak at the memorial the following day. He was there at the memorial that night to say good night to his dad, who has since passed away. He was just about to leave when he saw the buses pull up. I videotaped him as he spoke to us, and received his permission to share what he said from my videotape. It is one thing to tour the incredible monuments filled with history in Washington, DC, but it is quite another to get the kind of insight we received that night. When all had gathered around, he reverently began to speak. Here are his words that night.

"My name is James Bradley and I'm from Antigo, Wisconsin. My dad is on that statue, and I just wrote a book called "Flags of Our Fathers," which is #5 on the New York Times Best Seller list right now. It is the story of the six boys you see behind me. Six boys raised the flag.

The first guy putting the pole in the ground is Harlon Block. Harlon was an all-state football player. He enlisted in the Marine Corps with all the senior members of his football team. They were off to play another type of game. A game called "War." But it didn't turn out to be a game. Harlon, at the age of 21, died with his intestines in his hands. I don't say that to gross you out; I say that because there are generals who stand in front of this statue and talk about the glory of war. You guys need to know that most of the boys in Iwo Jima were 17, 18, and 19 years old.

(He pointed to the statue). You see this next guy? That's Rene Gagnon from New Hampshire. If you took Rene's helmet off at the moment this photo was taken, and looked in the webbing of that helmet, you would find a photograph--- a photograph of his girlfriend. Rene put that in there for protection, because he was scared. He was 18 years old. Boys won the battle of Iwo Jima. Boys. Not old men.

The next guy here, the third guy in this tableau, was Sergeant Mike Strank. Mike is my hero. He was the hero of all these guys. They called him the "old man" because he was so old. He was already 24. When Mike would motivate his boys in training camp, he didn't say, "Let's go kill some Japanese," or "Let's die for our country." He knew he was talking to little boys. Instead he would say, "You do what I say, and I'll get you home to your mothers."

The last guy on this side of the statue is Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian from Arizona. Ira Hayes walked off Iwo Jima. He went into the White House with my dad. President Truman told him, 'You're a hero.' He told reporters, 'How can I feel like a hero when 250 of my buddies hit the island with me, and only 27 of us walked off alive?' So you take your class at school; 250 of you spending a year together having fun, doing everything together. Then all 250 of you hit the beach, but only 27 of your classmates walk off alive. That was Ira Hayes. He had images of horror in his mind. Ira Hayes died dead drunk, face down in the gutter, at the age of 32, ten years after this picture was taken.

The next guy, going around the statue, is Franklin Soursley from Hilltop, Kentucky. A fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. His best friend, who is now 70, told me, 'Yeah, you know, we took two cows up on the porch of the Hilltop General Store. Then we strung wire across the stairs so the cows couldn't get down. Then we fed them Epsom salts. Those cows crapped all night.' Yes, he was a fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. Franklin died on Iwo Jima at the age of 19. When the telegram came to tell his mother that he was dead, it went to the Hilltop General Store. A barefoot boy ran that telegram up to Franklin's mother's farm. The neighbors could hear her scream all night and into the morning. The neighbors lived a quarter of a mile away.

The next guy, as we continue to go around the statue, is my dad, John Bradley from Antigo, Wisconsin, where I was raised. My dad lived until 1994, but he would never give interviews. When Walter Cronkite's producers, or the New York Times would call, we were trained as little kids to say, 'No, I'm sorry sir. My dad's not here. He is in Canada fishing. No, there is

no phone there, sir. No, we don't know when he is coming back.' My dad never fished or even went to Canada. Usually, he was sitting right at the table eating his Campbell's soup. But we had to tell the press that he was out fishing. He didn't want to talk to the press. You see, my dad didn't see himself as a hero. Everyone thinks these guys are heroes, 'cause they are in a photo and on a monument. My dad knew better.

My dad was a medic. John Bradley from Wisconsin was a caregiver. In Iwo Jima he probably held over 200 boys as they died. And when boys died in Iwo Jima, they writhed and screamed in pain. When I was a little boy, my third grade teacher told me that my dad was a hero. When I went home and told my dad that, he looked at me and said, 'I want you always to remember that the heroes of Iwo Jima are the guys who did not come back. Did NOT come back.'

So that's the story about six nice young boys. Three died on Iwo Jima, and three came back as national heroes. Overall 7000 boys died on Iwo Jima in the worst battle in the history of the Marine Corps. My voice is giving out, so I will end here. Thank you for your time."

Suddenly, the monument wasn't just a big old piece of metal with a flag sticking out of the top. It came to life before our eyes with the heart felt words of a son who did indeed have a father who was a hero. Maybe not a hero for the reasons most people would believe, but a hero, nonetheless.

We need to remember that God created this vast and glorious world for us to live in, freely, but also at great sacrifice. Let us never forget from the Revolutionary War to Afghanistan and all the wars in-between, that sacrifice was made for our freedom. Remember to pray for those still in murderous unrest around the World, and thank God for being alive in the greatest country on earth.

TALES FROM ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

1. Unknown American Heroes: A Marine "Captain" and a Navy Seal "Neighbor" Change Lives In More Ways Than One!

There are coincidences that connect our Foote crew and its legacy members to others in the world. Georgia Tuttle, daughter of crewman George Tuttle, is a Dartmouth men's ice hockey fan with season tickets. For several years, her neighbor in the adjacent arena seats was Bob Keeshan, better known to most of you as Captain Kangaroo. Georgia, like many of the crews' children, learned values and skills involving kindness and imagination from the "Captain." What follows is a touching story of how this captain changed the lives of generations of Americans by his actions in a place very different from the Treasure House on

the TV set of his well-known children's television program. The original author of the following is unknown.

“We have seen a lot about heroes.... especially with the recent war...but there are heroes that you haven't been told about...until now:

America's real heroes sometimes hide from us in plain view and in packages that we'd least suspect. Quite a few of us grew up with Captain Kangaroo, as you or your children probably did. I knew nothing of his background, only that his show was both entertaining, educational, and as kids, we looked forward to it with great anticipation. Captain Kangaroo turned 76 recently, which is odd, because he's never looked a day under 76. (DOB: 6/27/27) It reminded me of the following story. Hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Some people have been a bit offended that Lee Marvin is buried in a grave alongside 3 and 4 star generals at Arlington National Cemetery. His marker gives his name, rank (PVT) and service (USMC). Nothing else. Here's a guy who was only a famous movie star who served his time. Why the heck does he rate burial with these guys? Well, what follows is the amazing answer:

I always liked Lee Marvin, but did not know the extent of his Corps experiences. In a time when many Hollywood stars served their country in the armed forces, often in rear-echelon posts where they were carefully protected, only to be trotted out to perform for the cameras in war bond promotions, Lee Marvin was a genuine hero. He won the Navy Cross at Iwo Jima. There is only one higher Naval award... the Medal of Honor. If that is a surprising comment on the true character of the man, he credits his sergeant with an even greater show of bravery.

What follows is dialog from The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. His guest was Lee Marvin. Johnny said, ‘Lee, I'll bet a lot of people are unaware that you were a Marine in the initial landing at Iwo Jima... and that during the course of that action, you earned the Navy Cross and were severely wounded.’

Lee Marvin: ‘Yeah, yeah... I got shot square in the ass and they gave me the [Navy] Cross for securing a hot spot about halfway up Suribachi. Bad thing about getting shot up on a mountain is guys getting shot hauling you down. But Johnny, at Iwo I served under the bravest man I ever knew. We both got the Cross the same day, but what he did for his Cross made mine look cheap in comparison. The dumb bastard actually stood up on Red Beach and directed his troops to move forward and get the hell off the beach. That Sergeant and I have been lifelong friends. When they brought me off Suribachi, we passed the Sergeant and he lit a smoke and passed it to me lying on my belly on the litter and said, 'Where'd they get you Lee?’

'Well Bob...if you make it home before me, tell Mom to sell the outhouse! Johnny, I'm not lying. Sergeant Keeshan was the bravest man I ever knew...Bob Keeshan... You and the world know him as Captain Kangaroo.'

On another note, there was this seemingly wimpy little man (who just passed away) on PBS. He was gentle and quiet. Mr. Rogers is another on those you would least suspect of being anything but what he now portrays to our youth. But Mr. Rogers was a U.S. Navy Seal, combat proven in Vietnam with over twenty-five confirmed kills to his name. He wore a long sleeve sweater to cover the many tattoos on his forearm and biceps. A master-in-small-arms and hand-to-hand combat, able to disarm or kill in a heartbeat. He hid that away and won our hearts with his quiet wit and charm.

America's real heroes don't flaunt what they did; they quietly go about their day-to-day lives, doing what they do best. They earned our respect and the freedoms that we all enjoy.

Look around and see if you can find one of those heroes in your midst. Often, they are the ones you'd least suspect, but would most like to have on your side if anything ever happened." –Author Unknown

2. Honor ... During Isabel

The Third Infantry Regiment at Fort Myer has the responsibility for providing ceremonial units and honor guards for state occasions, White House social functions, public celebrations, interments at Arlington National Cemetery.... and standing a very formal sentry watch at the Tomb of the Unknowns. The public is familiar with the precision of what is called "walking post" at the Tomb. There are roped off galleries where visitors can form to observe the soldiers, their measured step and the almost mechanical silent rifle shoulder changes. They are relieved every hour in a very formal drill that has to be seen to believe. Some people think that when the Cemetery is closed to the public in the evening, that this show stops. First, to the men who are dedicated to this work...it is no show...it is a "charge of honor". The formality and precision continues uninterrupted all night. During the nighttime, the drill of relief and the measured step of the on-duty sentry remain unchanged from the daylight hours. To these men...these special men, the continuity of this post is the key to the honor and respect shown to these honored dead, symbolic of all American combat dead and Americans unaccounted for. The steady rhythmic step in rain, sleet, snow, hail, hot, cold...bitter cold ... uninterrupted...uninterrupted is the important part of the honor shown. Last night, while you were sleeping, they walked silently. When the teeth of hurricane Isabel recently went through Arlington tearing up thousands of trees, causing power outages, turning off traffic signals, filling roads with downed limbs and debris and flooding everything, the Regimental Commander of the U.S. Third Infantry sent word to the nighttime Sentry Detail to secure the post and seek shelter from the high winds to ensure their personal safety. **THE SOLDIERS DISOBEYED THE ORDER.** During winds that turned over vehicles and turned debris into

projectiles...the measured step continued. One fellow said "I've got buddies getting shot at in Iraq who would be disappointed if word got to them that we let them down...I have no intention of spending my Army career being known as the idiot who couldn't stand a little light breeze and shirked his duty.".... Then he said something in response to a female reporter's question regarding silly purposeless personal risk...."I wouldn't expect you to understand. It's an enlisted man's thing." God Bless the rascal! In a time in our nation's history when spin and total bull seems to have become the accepted coin-of-the-realm, there beat hearts...the enlisted hearts we all knew and were so damn proud to be a part of...that fully understand that devotion to duty is not a part-time occupation. While we slept, we were represented by fine men who fully understood their post orders and proudly went about their assigned responsibilities unseen, unrecognized and in the finest tradition of the American Enlisted Man. Folks, there's hope.... The gene that George S. Patton... Arleigh Burke and Jimmy Doolittle left us...survives.

On the ABC evening news, it was reported that, because of the dangers from Hurricane Isabel approaching Washington DC, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They refused. "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment; it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a service person. The Tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

As a result of the troops refusal, to abandon the Tomb of the Unknown post, their Commander took one of the shifts when Isabel was unleashing her fury, because he did not want to ask any of his men to do this. He felt it was his highest honor to be on duty during that time.

We can be very, very proud of our persons in uniform!!!!!!

SOME LITTLE KNOWN AMERICAN NAVAL HISTORY!

(Note: This bit of history is included especially for Dave Wilson who missed the USS Constitution tour when he chose to see the USS CASSIN YOUNG instead!-see previous story in "Lost & Found")

The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides) as a combat vessel carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. fresh water distillers).

However, let it be noted that according to her log:

"On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum." Her mission: To destroy and harass English shipping.

"Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine. On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchantmen, salvaging only the rum aboard each.

By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whiskey distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

The U.S.S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whiskey and 38,600 gallons of stagnant water. GO NAVY!

FROM THE PAST: A THANK YOU TO THE FOOTE CREW!

Webmaster, Tricia Schnaubelt Luke received this touching email from the website. She reported that it "brought tears to [her] eyes" and knew immediately that she should forward it to Wilbur Rogers, the Foote crew and to the Foote Notes editor, Georgia Tuttle.

Fri, 22 Aug 2003 22:58:34 EDT
From: James Coley, JC3563@aol.com
Subject: THANKS FOR THE RIDE

"Just wanted to say hi to the fellows with the USS FOOTE. On or about Sept. 8, 1943, your ship escorted the USS CRATER AK-70 from Noumea enroute to Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. On Sept 11th, we had contact with an enemy submarine. Your ship dropped depth charges and reported heavy oil leakage. Who knows, you fellows may have saved our lives! I'm sorry to have taken this long to say "thank you" but I have just found your ship's history. It's been a long time but here's wishing all of the remaining members of the Foote crew happy sailing!

JAMES COLEY RM2/C
LIZELLA, GEORGIA 31052

CREW NOTES

(Note: your editor apologizes for not getting some of your notes out in a more timely fashion. I continue to work to try to meet the exceptional standard set by your former editor, Wilbur “Rog” Rogers. I hope to become timelier in the coming year.

Greg & Cindy Ferritto have obtained a ship’s bell from the Navy exchange. Their son Michael will mount it for the group so that we will have it in Orlando!

Earl and Leona Curran are regular correspondents (using email). They write that they have been receiving their Foote Notes by email with good success. They have both been going to computer classes and are really enjoying them. They spent Easter in Panama Beach, FL with their entire family including their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. They also spent a week in Waycross, Georgia with their daughter who recently relocated from Grand Junction, Colorado. They spent part of the spring and summer at their cottage. Sounds like they are busy and having fun! They need to be sure to read the account of the Iwo Jima Memorial in this issue as recounted by a self-described “cheesehead” (a term Wisconsin residents sometimes use jokingly to describe themselves). We sure hope we will see them both in Orlando!

I received a note from the late **James C. Dibble's** eldest daughter, **Ann Bilbrey** who sent all of her own and her family’s generational information. **Bernice Dibble**, James’ widow, says she would like to come to the Orlando reunion, but she is afraid she would not remember anyone. It has been several years since she and her husband attended any of the FOOTE reunions. I have reassured her that that won’t be an issue if she does decide to come. It never takes long to acquaint oneself with this group! Bernice has just turned 85 and is still active making beaded necklaces & knitting. (Those sound like great raffle table donations to me!) Ann says she has some pictures from the reunions that her parents attended several years ago along with her father’s scrapbook and his USN uniforms.

I received a nice letter from **Carolyn Nissley** (widow of **Richard K. Nissley**) thanking all of the USS Foote Association members including the legacy members for all of the years of effort and ongoing contact. She says she, and she is sure many other families, have felt a part of history and have felt a kinship that was created by these efforts. She is especially impressed by the lack of a “generation gap” between the crew and the legacy group. She offered us her old Foote Notes and Muster Lists in hopes they might be useful to the legacy members as a resource.

Both the Bilbrey/Dibble and the Nissley letters raise an issue that many may wonder about: what to do with Foote-related memorabilia. For all Foote Association members or crewmen who have memorabilia related to the ship or DesRon 23 and who have nowhere to place those items and/or no one in your family interested in storing these materials, we are in the

process of establishing a museum dedicated to the USS FOOTE. Our vision would be for this to be a place that crewmen, legacy members or historians could come to research this small segment of history. We would be happy to take any photographs, scrapbooks, uniforms, old copies of the Foote Notes, books or other items that add to the depth or breadth of knowledge about the Foote or the Little Beaver Squadron. Contact Georgia Tuttle to make arrangements.

And as we continue to build a multi-generational file of the legacy members, I would ask all of you to send me your children's, grandchildren's and even great grandchildren's names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. I will not barrage them with emails or snail mailings but thought it would be helpful to have some basic information for the future. I might try sending out a periodic (yearly or biyearly) update sheet just so we can keep up with those who want to stay in our database but don't want to be active members.

Lyndel Biby had surgery for an abdominal aortic aneurysm that was picked up during a pre-op physical. He had no pain to warn him of the condition. He was reminded of our dear shipmate, **Red Burnsed**, who died at the Baton Rouge reunion from a similar condition. Lyndel was especially thankful that his surgery was successful but found himself remembering Red and realizing how fortunate he was to have the situation discovered before complications arose. We are all glad Lyndel is recovering and hope he will make it to Orlando. It was Lyndel's son, **Dan**, who gave such a moving toast to the crew in Baton Rouge 2 years ago.

I received the following note from **Mary Jo Stewart**, the daughter of **Marge Benson** and of the late **Ernie Benson**. She writes: "Hello! I got your email with the Foote Notes - well done! I wanted to update you on my mom, Marge's health. At the end of February, Marge was at her weekly hair appointment when she suffered a TIA (transient ischemic attack or mini stroke). As a precaution, the paramedics took her to the ER. Even the ambulance driver couldn't believe she was 85 years young! After a cat scan and some other tests, the doctors thought it best to keep her in the hospital for a few days for observation. Evidently she had had a few TIA's in the past without realizing it, a common situation for people in that age range. After a one-week stay accompanied by a variety of neurology and blood pressure tests, she was declared to be in amazing health. She was placed on a new medication and, unfortunately, forbidden to drive for a few months to be sure everything was "stable." But in typical "Marge-style," she has taken it in stride though it was a big change for both Marge and Mary Jo. She has continued to remain very active. I bet she would love to get a note from her Foote friends sometime. She is planning on being in Orlando. To reach Marge, write: Marge Benson, 3157 Laskey Road, Toledo, Ohio 43623, 419-475-8182

Bill Stone, our former USS FOOTE Association Secretary, underwent 4 & ½ hours of surgery on Friday, October 10th. This is the second time that fall surgery has hampered Bill's

reunion travel plans (he had similar surgery a year ago). All reports point to success. He is still recovering but can be reached at: William Stone, 408 Bedford St., Concord, MA 01742

I keep tabs on **Wilbur “Rog” Rogers** and his wife, **OnaVee** through Rog’s regular email, snail mail notes and contributions to the Foote Notes. Both are doing well.

And then there was the most heart-warming conclusion to a search for lost shipmate, **Don Gunderson**. The last 2 issues of the Foote Notes that I mailed to Don were returned and no forwarding address was available. I had Albuquerque physician colleagues that I met at the American Medical Association meeting look for him in the phone book and in their online local newspaper. I put Foote detective, Annette Eschete, on the case and she hit a dead end as well. And then, out of the blue, I received a phone call from Dominic Romero, a social worker at the Albuquerque Manor Nursing Home. He had met Don Gunderson, who was proudly wearing his USS FOOTE hat! When Mr. Romero asked him about the ship, he got some colorful history that piqued his interest. Don expressed an interest in getting active in the USS FOOTE Association again, so Mr. Romero went to the Foote website, read about the Foote and was moved to put Don back in touch with us. Under the new federal privacy law (HIPAA), he couldn’t do anything without Don’s permission, but once that permission was obtained, he put Don in touch with me. I now have Don’s new mailing address and have sent out the 2 missed copies of the Foote Notes. We look forward to hearing more from Don. I will re-publish his poem, The Old Gray Mast (at least I think that is the title) as soon as I get a copy of it. As I understand it, Don wrote the poem in honor of the **USS FOOTE** mast that is on display at the military museum in Fredericksburg, Texas. Let’s hope that all of us are lucky enough to have someone like Dominic Romero take an interest in our lives and put us back in touch with old friends and shipmates!

Don’s new address is: Donald Gunderson, c/o Albuquerque Manor, 500 Louisiana Blvd. NE Rm. # 410-B, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108, Ph# 505-255-1717

Frank Nelson has gotten distressing news; he has been told he has bladder cancer. After finishing all the testing at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, he was seen at Johns Hopkins on July 29th. There have been several treatment options discussed and Frank has chosen the option that is best for him. His daughter and her husband, who is vice president of Baxter as well as his son who lives nearby in Maryland, have supported him through this difficult time. First they got advice from a urologist with Baxter who recommended a world-renowned bladder specialist at John Hopkins. Frank was able to have his scans & x-rays done at Walter Reed Army Medical Center that is right across the street from his residence. They were able to send everything to the doctor at John Hopkins. Frank’s son took him to Baltimore and was with him. Frank says he is doing well and plans to be in Orlando.

I received the following information from **John Borenski, Jr.** who read his grandfather, **Theophilus A. Borenski** the last Foote Notes mention of him [Theo]. John reports that his

grandfather was so happy that he had tears in his eyes. He sends his thanks because it made his day to see his grandfather smile again. Sadly, Theophilus died on June 20th. A full write up follows in the Taps column.

TAPS

Glenn “Jack” L. Carver-----1962
William R. Wilson-----Dec. 27, 1980
Jesse Bell
Harry Anthony Beach, Jr. -----Aug. 29, 2001
Mary Siders -----May 21, 2003
Donald L. Moore -----May 23, 2003
Borenski, Theophilus A. -----June 20, 2003
Bert Skeel-----July 21, 2003
Eleanore Skeel-----Sept. 6, 2003
Jerome S. “Jerry” Lasley-----Sept. 9, 2003

Harry A. Beach Jr. passed away August 29, 2001 in Syracuse, NY. He was born May 16, 1922. He was survived by 4 children; Christopher, Jonathan, Marguerite and Melanie. His family is appreciative of the Foote staying in touch with his dad over the years.

Jessie Bell When Jesse Bell’s Foote Notes came back as undeliverable, Georgia Tuttle asked Annette Eschete to play detective and see if she could find out what had happened. Annette located Jesse Bell's son and spoke to him on the phone. Jesse has passed away but his son is very interested in the USS FOOTE. Jesse Bell entered the Navy Sept. 15, 1942 and reported aboard the USS FOOTE on Dec. 22, 1942 in Boston the day the ship was placed in commission. He was a "first cruise" sailor who didn't make the second cruise. He was a StMate 1/c. Following the torpedo hit at Empress Augusta Bay, the ship returned to the states for repairs and Jesse was transferred off the Foote. It is believed that he came from Texas. Annette Eschete spoke to Jesse’s son and will try to obtain his address so that we can add him to the Muster.

John Borenski, Jr., the grandson of **Theophilus A. Borenski** wrote to tell me that his grandfather passed away in his sleep on June 20 2003. John read Theophilus the column from the last Foote Notes that mentioned his grandfather’s name and said he was so happy that he had tears in his eyes. It made John’s day to see him smiling! Theophilus had deeply missed his son and his shipmates over the past few years. John says he knows his grandfather is now reunited with all of them. John says he will treasure the memory of the Foote and what it meant to Theophilus. It is my understanding that Theophilus’ wife Mary also survives him.

Glenn “Jack” L. Carver - See story in the “Lost and Found” column.

Jerome S. "Jerry" Lasley

The USS FOOTE has lost one of its most enthusiastic leaders and members as well as a loyal shipmate. Jerry Lasley was best known for bringing his bell as a back up for those of us frantically trying to prepare for the annual memorial service. He saved more than his share of such events and was an accomplished bell-ringer! Jerry departed this earth at 7:46 PM on September 9, 2003 in the N. C. Little Hospice in Medina, MN, almost exactly 11 weeks from the time he became ill. He died peacefully, with his devoted wife, Marlyn, and six loving children at his bedside. He was the proud grandfather of 8 wonderful grandchildren. Memorial services were held on Monday, September 15th. Private internment was to be at a later time. While he was still alert on Grandparents' Day, all his children had a chance to spend some time with him. He knew his circumstances perfectly and he faced his time of trial with far more courage than most of us possess. You may recall that in the last edition of the Foote Notes, I wrote that Jerry lost consciousness during one of his local community theater productions. At that time, a pacemaker was placed. In late June, it was discovered that Jerry had a tumor about the size of a golf ball on the right side of the brain that initially caused some stroke-like symptoms. Jerry bravely withstood radiation therapy but the spread of the cancer was too extensive. As the host of the recent Branson reunion, Jerry was always a source of ideas for fun or interesting places to hold our yearly gatherings. Jerry was a member of the **USS FOOTE** Board of Directors. He had planned to attend the Orlando reunion.

We will ring eight bells in his honor.
Fair winds and following seas dear friend and shipmate.

For those wishing to contact Jerry's family, they can write to:

Marlyn Lasley
6501 Woodlake Dr., #905
Richfield, MN 55423-1397

Donald L. Moore passed away on Friday, May 23, 2003 at Fleet Landing in Atlantic Beach, Florida. His wife, "Buffy", said there was a memorial service at Fleet Landing on Wednesday, June 4th, Don's 82 birthday. He was interned at Arlington National Cemetery on July 8th at 11:00 A.M. All will recall that Don was the Supply Officer aboard the FOOTE and one of her best-liked officers. Besides paying the crew, he saw that the "dry stores" were made palatable during long periods at sea when new supplies were unavailable. Don and "Buffy" have been very faithful to the FOOTE reunion group over the years. He will be sorely missed.

Don and Mary Siders' oldest son, **Duane L. Siders** sent the following note to Rog:
"Dear Mr. Rogers, I don't think we have ever spoken, but I know Dad and Mom talked about you and the reunions a lot. I'm sorry to have to inform you that Mom passed away on May 21, 2003. She was feeling ill and was admitted to the hospital with pneumonia. Unfortunately, her blood oxygen level got so low that her heart stopped. Thanks for being a

good friend to our parents.” After Don passed away, Rog and Mary stayed in touch, exchanging e-mails recently. Don was a dear friend to many, especially to the fire control men on the Foote as they faced some very anxious times together. Mary was a source of support for him in civilian life. They had 5 children. We pray that the faith, courage and strength of character shown by Don and Mary will sustain their children through this difficult time. For those who wish to send note of appreciation to Don and Mary Siders’s 5 children for the collection of Don’s poetry that was sent out, I would suggest that any note be sent to Duane and he will share it with the other four children.

Duane L. Siders, 640 Cement Ave., Lagro, IN 46941, eotobes@fwi.com

Bert Skeel & Eleanore Skeel

It was with great shock and sadness that I report the deaths of both Burt and Eleanore Skeel. Most of you will remember Bert with his gentle manner, lightening smile, twinkling eyes and his 3-wheeled walker that never slowed him down. If there was somewhere to go, Bert and Eleanore were both there.

In November 2002, Eleanore was diagnosed with biliary duct cancer that had spread into the liver. She had become jaundiced because the duct had been blocked. The surgeon operated on her to bypass the duct but was unable to remove the cancer. To compound the tragedy, Bert became ill in mid-December with a Staph infection that he may have contracted while visiting Eleanore in the hospital. He lost most of his mobility and underwent several weeks of antibiotic treatments. He appeared to be improving but each time he was discharged, a new type of infection would appear resulting in a return to the hospital. Finally, on July 21, his heart gave out and he passed away in the early morning hours. Eleanore went to be with Bert on September 6, 2003. Always a fighter, she had outlived the time the doctors initially estimated. Their son Dan said that although Bert did not realize his death was quite so imminent, both Bert and Eleanore knew the end was near and both were an inspiration. Both said they had had a good life and were accepting of their fate. Dan felt they were probably blessed in that neither had to live very long without the other since they were obviously still very much in love with one another. Bert and Eleanore would both be proud and pleased to know that, in spite of an aching heart, Dan sees his brother, his 2 sisters and himself as some of the richest people on earth for having had such wonderful parents. While missing them for the rest of his life, he says he is comforted by the knowledge that they are together in a better place. Typical of the Skeel generosity, Dan sends his best wishes to the crewmembers and families of the Foote. He asks only that we say a prayer for his parents. That is an order easily fulfilled...and we will remember them in the annual memorial service in Orlando. Burt and Eleanore are survived by their 4 children. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Skeel family. We hope they will join us at a reunion in the future where we can share memories of 2 of our most loyal members.

Dan Skeel

4723 Pennoak Rd.

Greensboro, NC 27407

William R. Wilson - See story in the “Lost and Found” column.

FOOTE NOTES

Editor:

Georgia A. Tuttle

10 Mack Ave.

W. Lebanon, NH 03784

603-298-8097

Georgia.tuttle@valley.net

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If you need to change your address, need to notify us of the loss of a crewman or want to write an article for the Foote Notes, please contact:

Georgia Tuttle

10 Mack Ave.

W. Lebanon, NH, 03784

603-298-8097

Georgia_tuttle@valley.net

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES and keep your copy of the FOOTE NOTES coming! Your dues and donations help. Send dues (\$15) to:
Marie Chalmers
48 Aldrich St.
Roslindale, MA 02131

PUT SOMETHING OTHER THAN A LUMP OF COAL IN YOUR KID'S STOCKING!

GIVE A USS FOOTE MEMBERSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS!

DUES STATEMENT

To pay your dues, please return this sheet to: Marie Chalmers, Treasurer
48 Aldrich St.
Roslindale, MA 03121

Dues are \$15 per person and help to cover printing of the Foote Notes, memorial donations for deceased crewmen, web site fees (www.ussfoote.com) and mailing costs.

Widows of crewmen are exempted from paying dues. Any and all donations are welcome!

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL:

If this is a Christmas gift for your child, grandchild or a friend, we can send a special certificate to the recipient marked "DO NOT OPEN UNTIL CHRISTMAS." It will acknowledge your gift and give them something to open on Christmas morning! If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please enter your name and address on the lines below, put the recipient's name in the appropriate area and return to Marie by **Nov. 30, 2003**. (Regular dues payments have no deadline.)

CURRENT MEMBER:

GIFT RECIPIENT:

\$_____ Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City _____

City: _____

State _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Zip Code _____

Phone (_____) _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Email _____

\$_____ Gift Recipient membership

Recipient's relationship to crewman: _____
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\$_____ Non-dues donations

\$_____ Total

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