

U.S.S. IOWA VETERANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 41 Number 4

Printed in Davenport, Iowa

Winter Edition 2011

From the President's Desk

Shipmates:

Happy New Year! The year 2011 may just be one of the happiest years ever in the proud history of our ship. This year promises to be the year in which USS Iowa finds a final homeport where she will enter into museum status. She will proudly stand as a tribute to all servicemen and women and especially to honor all crewmen who served aboard this historic ship. The Navy should make its decision about awarding USS Iowa in just a few short months.

USS Iowa Donation Status

Pacific Battleship Center (PBC) and Historic Ships Memorial at Pacific Square (HSMPS) have each submitted their final applications for USS Iowa. The Navy will now review and evaluate each of the two applications and make a determination as to which organization and location is best suited to receive the USS Iowa for museum status. A decision is expected no later than 1 June 2011. It is anticipated that shortly after the announcement is made the ship will be moved from its present location in Suisun Bay, CA to a temporary site where preliminary repairs and preservation will occur. When that is completed, the ship will probably be moved to its final location, which will either be Mare Island, CA or Los Angeles Harbor (San Pedro, CA). As we learn more about the process and the decision we will keep you informed via e-mail and on the Iowa website www.ussiowa.org. The Veterans Association of the USS Iowa has pledged its full support and assistance to whichever group is awarded the ship. This is the moment for which we have all been waiting.

USS Iowa Reunion 2011

The reunion location for 2011 is Charleston, SC. The dates for the reunion are July 18-21. We have



negotiated an agreement with the Radisson Charleston Airport Hotel and this promises to be another great reunion. Rates are \$69 per night. It is not too early to begin making plans to attend the reunion in 2011. A schedule of events, tour information, and reservation numbers are included in this edition of the newsletter. See you in Charleston!

Iowa-47 Memorial Service

Plans have already begun for the annual memorial service to honor and commemorate our shipmates, the Iowa-47 who lost their lives in Turret II on April 19, 1989. The service will be held at Iowa Point on the Naval Base, Norfolk, VA. Detailed information about the services, time, location, and participants will be published on the deck log of our website as early as is feasible. Please plan to attend if possible. This is a very wonderful and moving ceremony that gives all of us an opportunity to share our grief and to remember our shipmates.

Other Important Information

- 1- Please submit your association dues that you will continue to receive your newsletter. Dues should be mailed to Paul Ogg. Dues are \$20 per year.
- 2- Make sure that your mailing address and e-mail addresses are up to date. This information is needed so that we can update our data base and ensure delivery of your newsletter. Contact Paul Ogg to provide updates. E-mail addresses can also be updated on the Association website.
- 3- Provide your family with written instructions about the final distribution of your USS Iowa memorabilia so that it will end up in the ship's museum.
- 4- Plan to attend the 2011 reunion in Charleston, SC.

Fair winds and following seas,
Jerry Gneckow



The Veterans Association of the U.S.S. IOWA Newsletter is published quarterly by the Veterans Association for the use of the association membership. Material for publication should be sent to the Editor:

Mark S. Gustafson, 522A Crescent Street, East Bridgewater, MA 02333

Officers 2010 - 2011

Gerald Gneckow, *President*

8314 W. Promenade Dr. (Pat)
Homosassa, FL 34448
November - May - (352) 621-0675 ggneckow@tampabay.rr.com
June - October (208) 661-6786

Michael J. Meldrum Sr., *Executive Vice President*

5701 Tembrooke Way (Shelly)
Bargersville, IN 46106
317-535-6589 MuddrumBB61@hotmail.com

Mark S. Gustafson, *1st VP & Editor*

522A Crescent St. (Michele)
East Bridgewater, MA 02333
(508) 378-3943 • GusBB61@AOL.com • cell (781) 630-1277

Ken Leff, *2nd Vice President*

5812 Naples Drive (Deborah)
Zephyrhills, FL 33540 (813) 778-6952 • kenl636@hotmail.com

Paul R. Ogg, *Secretary/Treasurer*

2916 NW Bucklin Hill RD #169 (Kitty)
Silverdale, WA 98383 (360) 692-6032 • kjoggpr@aol.com

Richard McClellan, *Chaplain*

168 San Benancio Road (Rena)
Salinas, CA 93908 • (831) 484-1206 • rrlacasita@comcast.net

Board of Directors 2010 - 2011

Albert W. Burns

2616 Lelaray St
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
719-471-1480
Alvira1930@aol.com

Kenneth W. Miller (Anna)

2296 Leisure World
Mesa, AZ 85206
480-654-1088
KWAMMILLER@aol.com

Randy S. Frakes (Gina)

5433 Stonecliffe Dr
Lincoln, NE 68516
402-421-6480
402-304-2281 (cell)
RSFrakes@windstream.net

Bryan Moss (Gail)

27845 Springtree Place
Valencia, CA 91354
661-263-1308 (Home)
661-755-7676 (Cell)

Paul Gomez (Gloria)

6325 Vegas Dr.
San Jose, CA 95120
408-268-6068
gopherz@ix.netcom.com

Marty A. Palmiere (Zienna)

4921 Yew Steet
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412-621-1095
724-816-2843 (cell)
MartyAPalmiere@eaton.com

Daniel J. Gramazio

906 Westgate Court
Chesapeake, VA. 23324
757-338-5404
dgramazio@cox.net

Cameron S. Ratkovic (Joanne)

1112 Crestfield Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720-1638
803-283-6801
JTRATKOVIC@AOL.COM

Bill S. Humienny (Ellen)

611- 81st ST
Brooklyn, NY 11209-4015
718-745-4502
BillHBB61@aol.com

James D. Tate (Judie)

9894 S. Iris Ct.
Littleton, CO 80127
303-904-7355
jandjtate@comcast.net

Glenwood T. Ivey (Delaine)

7748 Long Bay Parkway
Catawba, NC 28609
828-241-4482(h)
828-381-0305 (c)
lakeluvgti@aol.com

Scot Taylor

4195 S. 39 RD
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-775-0163
SLTaylorBB61@charter.net

Paul J. Mackey (Michelle)

480 Marshall St. Apt 417
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
908-454-4156
ussowa_47@yahoo.com

Committee Chairmen

Audit: Richard Myers, RAMUNLIM@yahoo.com, 404-373-0120

Membership: Scot Taylor, SLTaylorBB61@charter.net, 231-775-0163

Budget: Ken Miller (see B.O.D.)

By-Laws: John Koerber, john672@aol.com, 941-426-7389

HSMPs: Paul Gomez (see B.O.D.)

Museum Coordination Committee: Paul Gomez (see B.O.D.)

Web Master: John Schultz, johnnyz1234@hotmail.com, 757-497-6896

IOWA Point: Ken Leff (see B.O.D.)

Shipmates, it is very important that each of you keep your e-mail and home address current so we can ensure that you receive your newsletter.

When you move and fail to provide your new address it costs the membership money to forward the newsletter to you.



After a few months the U.S. Postal Service no longer forwards them but they notify us of the undeliverable mail and charge us a fee. It is important to us that we get you your newsletter at the cheapest cost, help us by filling out a change of address card whenever you change your address.

Paul Ogg, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Dues year is 1 June to 31 May.

Dues are \$20 per year

New cards are not issued every year (Replaced if requested).

Dues expiration date is the first line of your address label on this newsletter.

Editor's Letter

Greetings Shipmates,
Happy New Year! I hope that you all enjoyed the recent holidays and have welcomed in the New Year in good health.



I receive, on a regular basis, letters and phone calls from shipmates who want to know what is happening with the IOWA. As you have read in the president's letter, we are all anxiously awaiting news from the Navy as to which group will receive our beloved ship. Both PBC and HSMPS have met the Navy's November deadline for their application. In this newsletter you will be able to read their status update and with any luck, we will know her final destination within the next few months.

In our Fall newsletter, I referenced a conversation that I had with Bill Colorado at the reunion about Ed Sullivan being aboard our ship. I mentioned that I was unable to find anything online about this and asked our members if they had any information. Well I received an email from Walter D. Bennett (FM Div '52- '55). He wrote, "IOWA sailed from Norfolk to New York to celebrate the 4th of July weekend and host the Ed Sullivan show from IOWA's fantail. Peir 37 One of the Queens was next pier. Freddy Decordova was producer. Acts rehearsed aft of Turret 3 off and on during the afternoon. Mr. Sullivan arrived before the show and changed the order of a couple of the acts. The show was shot live and everything ran smoothly. New York fireboats

put up a curtain of spray at the shows end. I have enclosed a photo taken with Mr. Sullivan in wardroom." Thank you Walter for sharing this with us!

This July, we will be holding our annual reunion in Charleston, South Carolina. Mike Meldrum has put together a tentative schedule for you to look at so that you can start making your plans to attend. The tours are listed on page 10 and they will be outstanding! You will also find the hotel information on the back page of this newsletter. Don't wait until the last minutes to make your reservation. I look forward to seeing you there.

Tuesday, April 19, 2011 will mark the 22nd anniversary of the explosion in Turret 2. Anyone interested in joining us at IOWA Point in Norfolk to remember our fallen shipmates can contact either Paul Mackey or myself for more information. Our contact info is on page 2.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,
Mark S. Gustafson
MM3 (SW) 1985 - 1989



Ed Sullivan in the wardroom. Men L-R Ltjg Bennett, Cdr Supply, Cdr Navigator, Ed Sullivan, Maj Smith USMC unknown with Sullivan party. Photo courtesy of Walter Bennett.

Recalled To Duty~The Eternal Voyage (An Ode To Sailors)

Gary L. Edmisten, August 21, 2002

Bon Voyage to those who've set sail
We bid them farewell as we man the rail.

Let us be Joyous and let us not weep
For those who have now crossed over the deep.

When a Sailor's last roll call is made
His final embarking shant be delayed.

So lower the Colors, let them be furled
Each time a Sailor disembarks this world.

The crew onboard in Heaven awaits
The Eternal reunion of their mates.

They'll be welcomed home by those onboard
Moored in peaceful waters with the Lord.

As he approaches, he'll call "Ahoy! The ship!"
Now in safe harbor, an Eternal trip.

Then he'll hear "Sailor on deck! Hoist the flag!"
"Help him get settled! Help stow his bag!"

Be it known that it's a Divine remand
To ship in Heaven, ye Seafaring Man.

On permanent station forevermore
Peaceful duty for Veterans of war.

And when he's weighed anchor for the last time
We'll Honor his memory so sublime.

We'll all reminisce and hoist a brew
In a Toast of Honor to the crew.

**Comfort**

*There is a tower of strength, For you and me—
'Tis that which we call faith, And as the sea
Off dashes on the rocks, To no avail
So storms may come to us; But in the gale
We lean upon that faith, And soon once more
We see a beacon light— It is the shore.*

Franklin Lee Stevenson

MORRIS HOFFMAN	4TH DIV	43-45	BM2
KENNETH A.AUSTIN	CR DIV	42-44	RM2
ROBERT L.GARNER	V DIV	42-45	AOM3
WALTER E REEDER	3RD DIV	42-45	SN1C
ROBERT K.SMOCK	E DIV	52-54	EM3
JAMES H. HAMILTON	R DIV	51-54	YN3

NEW MEMBERS

RONALD SCHULTZ	3366 RAMBLEWOOD DR S, SARASOTA, FL 34237		
NAV	83-85	PATRICIA	QM1
EILEEN G. REEDER	8776 SW CHERRY LN, STUART, FL 34997		
REEDERE@BELLSOUTH.NET	3RD DIV	42-45	HONORARY
GARY N. BROOKS	9436 W HEANEY CIR, SANTEE, CA, 92071		
GNBROOKS@YAHOO.COM	1ST/3RD DIV	42-46	ASSOCIATE FAMILY MEMBER
WILLIAM C. STEVENSON	5442 BOYETTE RD, PINK HILL, NC, 28572-9571		ASSOCIATE SH1(SW)(RET)
ELMER H. SCOTT	PO BOX 121626, MELBOURNE, FL, 32912		
ELMER_SCOTT@YAHOO.COM		B DIV	56-59 BT2
PAULETTE S. OLSEN	6725 W LAKERIDGE RD, NEW MARKET, MD, 21774-6628		
POLSEN46@COMCAST.NET	X DIV	82-86	HONORARY

PACIFIC BATTLESHIP INFO CENTER

This article was submitted by Pacific Battleship Center to provide a status of their effort to acquire ex-USS Iowa as a museum. It does not necessarily reflect the position of the Veterans Association of the USS Iowa.



Greetings from the Pacific Battleship Center (PBC), the Los Angeles-based non-profit organization that is working to make San Pedro, California the permanent home of USS IOWA. A lot has happened since we last wrote to you in the Fall issue of this newsletter. So let's get you all caught up.

In a sweeping round of wins, the PBC has gathered unanimous support from all levels of Los Angeles government. For example, all three San Pedro Neighborhood Councils (Northwest, Coastal, and Central) voted unanimously in support of the project. The Port Citizens Advisory Council, whose role is to advise the Port of Los Angeles on issues that will affect the harbor communities, also voted unanimously, 17-0 (2 abstains), in support of the PBC's quest for a berth. This broad-base of local community support formed the foundation for a tidal wave of higher-level support. For example:

- September 24, 2010: The Los Angeles City Council, led by Councilwoman Janice Hahn, unanimously approved a resolution in support of the PBC's proposal by a vote of 13-0.
- October 7, 2010: The Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners offered its tentative support for the proposal, asking the Port's staff to come back with a recommendation for a berthing site.
- November 4, 2010: the Executive Director of the Port of Los Angeles, Dr. Geraldine Knatz, recommended Pier 87, also known as the "spare cruise ship terminal," as the most viable location of the ten harbor locations studied. Berth 87 has been the PBC's preferred location all along!
- November 17, 2010: The PBC received a letter of support from The Honorable Antonio Villagaigosa, Mayor of the City of Los Angeles.
- November 18, 2010: the Port of Los Angeles Harbor Commissioners voted unanimously (5-0) in support of a resolution to assign Berth 87 as the future home of the USS IOWA, clearing the way for The Pacific Battleship Center to send its completed application to the Navy.

Finally, on November 22, 2010, the Pacific Battleship Center submitted its 1,180 page, complete and compliant application, to the United States Navy, two days



Photos courtesy of Pacific Battleship Center

prior to its deadline.

The Pacific Battleship Center is confident in the strength of its application. Although we must wait for the Navy's decision, a process that could take months, we are moving forward in anticipation of a positive outcome. During the next few months, we're working to align multiple milestones so that if the decision comes our way, we'll have completed the necessary steps to tow her into the Port of Los Angeles by the Summer of 2011.

We at the PBC are excited about the possibility of saving this extraordinary ship. Yet, at the same time, we also realize the magnitude of this responsibility--one that we accept willingly.

If you'd like to stay up-to-date with the most recent news on our progress, please feel free to visit our website, which is located at pacificbattleship.com.

Ron Ploof
Director Communications
Pacific Battleship Center

All letters to the editor can be
mailed or e-mailed to
Mark Gustafson
522A Crescent St.
East Bridgewater, MA 02333
GusBB61@AOL.com

**Deadline for all materials for next
newsletter: to March 1, 2011**



* On any emails sent to the editor, please indicate in the subject box, that your message pertains to the USS IOWA.

HISTORIC SHIPS MEMORIAL U.S.S. IOWA AT MARE ISLAND

This letter was submitted by HSMPS to provide a status of their effort to acquire ex-USS Iowa as a museum. It does not necessarily reflect the position of the Veterans Association of the USS Iowa.

Dear Admiral Gneckow,

To date, HSMPS has presented the Navy and the public the only financially viable proposal to preserve U.S.S. Iowa. It is supported by the only independent third-party economic study showing that U.S.S. Iowa will be profitable and will not require annual subsidies to remain financially viable. This study presents an "in the black" operating environment with nearly 400,000 annual visitors expected to tour U.S.S. Iowa at Mare Island. This attendance is based on the fact that the battleship will be placed in a highly-touristed and recreational corridor built on an annual visitation of 16 million to the San Francisco Bay Area, over 4 million annual visitors frequenting the world-acclaimed Napa Sonoma Wine Country (6 miles away from Mare Island), 1 million annual visitors to the theme park Discovery Kingdom (one mile away from Mare Island), three-quarter million annual visitors to the nationally-known NASCAR Infineon Raceway (five miles away from Mare Island), and a high-speed direct ferry connect to San Francisco. The market study for U.S.S. Iowa at Mare Island was prepared by tourist industry specialist and economic advisors to some of the nation's most successful visitor attractions. Such an analysis is critical to any award of U.S.S. Iowa.

The U.S. economy is engaged in the nationwide recession, and this has factored into charitable giving. To lead us beyond our status as the only financially viable bid to preserve ex-IOWA, HSMPS has appointed as its new Chairman of the Board, Dr Bill Musgrave, Captain, USN (Retired). Dr. Musgrave is a recognized entrepreneur in Silicon Valley and has headed high tech venture capital drives as CEO of a non profit organization responsible for the creation of several revolutionary companies, including the billion dollar firm eBay. A college professor as well

as a businessman and fundraiser, Bill is keenly articulate and business wise. We are truly fortunate to have his help in directing the effort to raise the necessary capital to save the IOWA.

HSMPS has been contacted by non-profit groups wishing to relocate and expand to the U.S.S. Iowa site at Mare Island. This includes one of the nation's largest watch & clock museums as well as one of the nation's largest collectors of tracked military vehicles. The addition of these complementary exhibits enhances the visibility of U.S.S. Iowa as a tourist attraction and presents the certainty of other businesses and non-profit groups coming to the U.S.S. Iowa site, developing a formidable economic zone.

Other recent good news includes the commencement of dredging of the Mare Island Straits. This event now positions further dredging for U.S.S. Iowa.

The economic venue at Mare Island allows HSMPS and the U.S.S. Iowa to offer opportunities to returning veterans through a "Wounded Warrior" program in job training and employment. This marries nicely with the fact there is a modern VA clinic only two blocks away. HSMPS continues to be that forward-thinking and imaginative organization that tomorrow's naval ship museum demands in order to succeed long-term. Moreover, we possess the core values that embrace patriotism and fiscal responsibility

Mare Island and HSMPS presents the U.S.S. Iowa a viable future. We agree with the City of Vallejo, CA that USS Iowa can lend itself to, and capitalize on, Mare Island's rich naval history. The critical path to success necessitates a successful fundraising program in a most challenging economic environment. We are uniquely positioned now to make this noble endeavor a reality.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

On September 16, 2010 my husband and I were invited by Merylin Wong, President of HSMPS, to view the USS Iowa from a yacht at the Mothballed Fleet near Benicia, California.

Another couple, from the state of Iowa joined us on the trip. He works at a radio station in Iowa and came to see the USS IOWA first hand so they could report to Iowans the present state of the battleship. It was a beautiful day and they were impressed and excited to see the ship.

Along for the trip were USS IOWA veterans Harold Mattos, 1943 – 1945, John Wolfinger 1943 – 1945, and George Hillenbrand Jan 1946 – July 1946. George is actively working to bring BB61 to Vallejo, California.

We are looking forward to finding a permanent home for the USS IOWA.

Most Sincerely,

Genevieve & Harold Mattos

FROM THE DESK OF THE HISTORIAN

Several weeks ago I received a phone call from Association Past-President Lester Smith that blew me away! Lester explained that he had discovered some USS Iowa memorabilia that had been “stored away and forgotten.” In the course of our conversation he explained how he had been the unofficial point of contact and accumulated everything that members wished to donate to the future museum. In the course of “downsizing” for their upcoming move Ruth and Lester came across “...a few boxes” and wanted to get them to me. A few weeks later a very tired delivery man dropped off 13 moderately heavy boxes! I called Lester and told him I knew they planned to move but did not expect them to move in with Debbie and me!

The next day I began opening the boxes like a kid at Christmas. Each item was a new adventure; photo albums of reunions past, personal notes and letters from times aboard Iowa, cruise books, patches, magazines, flags, newspapers and articles, even two lamps made from 40mm shells; a real treasure trove! I listed the items and of course I had to “read and study” everything for the historical significance. I was lost in the workshop for hours at a time – Debbie must have felt as if I were on another deployment. One item that caused an “Oh My God” moment was a tattered, musty smelling book copyrighted in 1909 and printed in 1919. “A

SAILOR’S LOG” was written by Robley D. Evans – the Commanding Officer of USS Iowa (BB-4)! I am VERY carefully reading the book and hope to write a summary for a future newsletter. (An inside page is stamped “Hackensack High School Reference Library No. 1673.” Wonder what the overdue bill total is...)

I have contacted the Director of the Historical Society of the State of Iowa – again – to inform him we will have to renegotiate the contract once more. By the time you read this a copy of everything currently on hand has been sent for appraisal so the amended contract can be worked out. When this is complete everything will be shipped to Iowa for preservation and storage.

As I sifted through everything, I came across donor names I recognized from our TAPS listings in the Newsletter. Sad as it was it brings to mind what can happen to our precious memorabilia if we do not ensure our desired disposition is known to our loved ones. I know this may sound like a broken record (we can all remember what those were) but this is so important especially now that it looks like our USS Iowa museum will become a reality!

Reunion 2011, Charleston South Carolina is closer than you may realize, hope to see you there.

Ken

*The Editor of the Veterans Association
U.S.S. IOWA welcomes letters and articles
for the Newsletter and reserves the right to
EDIT and/or SHORTEN them.*

**Send your letters and articles
to Newsletter Editor.**

**All future deadlines for
submissions are:**

**12/1 Winter • 3/1 Spring
6/1 Summer • 9/1 Fall**

*Please make every effort to email/mail your
inputs on or before these dates. Anything
received after will go into another edition.
Thank you!*

DUES Are now due!

*In order to run an organization like ours, we
need your help. We have expenses, such as
printing the newsletter and mailing it to all
our members. You can help us to keep the cost
down by sending in your dues and by keep-
ing your mailing address up to date in our
records. It costs us money every time our
newsletter is sent back to us and you lose
out by not receiving it.*

Make your check out to :
USS IOWA Veterans Association
Dues are \$20.00

Send to our Sec./Treasurer
Paul R. Ogg
2916 NW Bucklin Hill RD #169
Silverdale, WA 98383

TOURS FOR CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

HISTORIC CHARLESTON TOUR

We are offering the following special tour of "America's Best Preserved City," Charleston, South Carolina.

Enjoy a privately guided tour as you explore this enchanting and historic city. Favorite sights include: Rainbow Row, cobblestone streets, quaint gardens, hundreds of 18th and 19th century homes, buildings and churches, and the Battery overlooking the Charleston Harbor and Fort Sumter. You will tour The Heyward Washington House.

The Heyward-Washington House was built in 1772 by Daniel Heyward, father of Thomas Heyward a signer of the Declaration of Independence. It is the only 18th-century house open in the city with an original kitchen house, carriage house and necessary in the courtyard. The house is furnished with magnificent Charleston-made furniture of the 18th century period.

Browse through the Market Square area, well-known for its unique shops, boutiques, restaurants, and pubs.

STARLIGHT DINNER CRUISE

Enjoy a starlight dinner cruise aboard the "Spirit of Carolina", a specially designed harbor cruising yacht. You will cruise, Charleston's Historic Harbor, the Ashley and Cooper Rivers, past Fort Moultrie, which played an important part in the signing of the Declaration of Independence and Fort Sumter, where the War Between the States began. Enjoy the breathtaking view from beneath the two great bridges that span the Cooper River. You will also see the huge State Port Terminals and will cruise within the vast of the former US Naval Base. Relax as you enjoy a delicious dinner during this delightful evening cruise. A DJ will be on board for entertainment and dancing.

Dinner Includes:

She Crab Soup with Sherry, Spirit Salad with Baby Creek Shrimp

Choice of: (Four entrees offered with on-board ordering. Menu may vary.)

Beef Tenderloin with a Savory Wine Sauce

Fresh Filet of Salmon

Roasted Breast of Chicken with Wild Mushrooms and Red Peppers

Penne Rigatoni with Garlic, Tomatoes, Herbs and Parmesan Pesto

Chef's Selection of Potatoes, Rice or Pasta, Fresh Vegetable Medley, Rolls and Butter

Pecan Pie with Fresh Whipped Cream served with Coffee and Tea.

PATRIOTS POINT TOUR AND FORT SUMTER TOUR

Explore at your own pace, the world's largest Naval and Maritime Museum. Discover the destroyer, "Laffey", the submarine, "Clamagore", and the Coast Guard Cutter, "Ingham". You will also tour the aircraft carrier, "Yorktown", flagship of the Patriot's Point fleet. Commissioned in 1943, she fought in many historic battles during World War II.

Navy Style Lunch will be served at The CPO Mess.

Soup of the Day, Roasted Chicken with a selection of two vegetables

Rolls and Butter and Iced Tea or Coffee

Board the Fort Sumter sightseeing boat. On April 12, 1861, Fort Sumter was occupied by Union Troops who refused to vacate the Fort as demanded by the Confederates. All negotiations finally failed and Confederate batteries in the Charleston Harbor commenced a massive bombardment of Fort Sumter, and America's greatest moment of conflict, the "War Between the States" began. The Fort is located at the entrance of Charleston's beautiful Harbor. It is only accessible by boat. The Fort boasts an excellent museum containing priceless exhibits. Historians with the National Park Service conduct interesting and informative tours of the Fort.

In addition to a visit of Fort Sumter, you will enjoy a complete tour of the Charleston Harbor, viewing many point of interest.

FORT MOULTRIE TOUR & BOONE HALL PLANTATION

Fort Moultrie as we see it today, was completed in 1809 and is the third fort on this site. The original palmetto log fort was started in 1776 and was only half-completed when attacked by a British Fleet on June 28, 1776. Colonel William Moultrie's South Carolinians repelled this assault in one of the first decisive patriot victories of the Revolution. This battle began a tradition of seacoast defense on Sullivan's Island which did not end until 1947.

The National Park service administers Fort Moultrie. The interior of the fort has been restored to reflect the story of American seacoast defense, and a visitor center is located near the fort. There is a 20 minute film and a 30 minute slide show at the visitor center.

Arrive at Boone Hall Plantation through the famous three-quarter mile "Avenue of Oaks." Boone Hall was granted to one of South Carolina's first Settlers, Major John Boone, in 1676. Originally a cotton plantation, Boone Hall spread over 17,000 acres. Hand-made brick and tile were also manufactured on the plantation. These same brick have been identified in the mansion, garden walls, slave cabins and many of Charleston's oldest and most historic buildings. This plantation has been used in the filming of "Gone With The Wind", and more recently, "North and South".

Enjoy a guided tour of the grounds, followed by a guided tour of the mansion.

Magnolia Gardens Tour: Ladies Breakfast

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, beautiful Magnolia Plantation is the 300 year old ancestral home of South Carolina's illustrious Drayton family. Ten generations of the Drayton family have utilized it since the 1670's, as a plantation estate garden. Long famous for the springtime beauty of its 250 varieties of Azaleas and 900 varieties of Camellias, it now offers extensive seasonal bloom every month of the year. Scores of experts have described its 50 acres of lawn and gardens as the worlds' most beautiful.

Enjoy a guided tour of the gardens and a guided tour through the plantation home, followed a narrated Tram Tour of the perimeter of the gardens.

CONFEDERATE SUBMARINE *H.L.HUNLEY* TOUR

Tour the Warren Lasche Center where Hunley is being preserved and where the clues to her mysterious past are being discovered.

[An Historic Mission](#)

The Date: February 17, 1864. The Location: Just outside Charleston Harbor approximately four miles off Breach Inlet on the moonlit sea. The Conditions: Cold. Bone chilling. Quiet. The Situation: Desperate. Frightening. Strange. The Ship: A lookout aboard the Union Navy's largest ship was tired, cold — but restless. Talk of a confederate secret weapon was in and out of his thoughts. Suddenly he spotted something move in the chilly waters. A porpoise? There were certainly a lot of them around. But something about this one didn't seem right.

[The Underwater Secret:](#)

While the cold bit through the lookout's coat, 8 men poured sweat over hand cranks that powered a pulsating propeller while their captain manned the dive planes - steering man, iron, anxiety and raw courage towards its final destination. The alarm rang out. This was definitely no porpoise. Nor was it debris floating from a war-torn Fort Sumter. This was something bizarre. Shots rang out and bullets ricocheted as other union sailors joined in the frantic firing of revolvers and rifles. The object continued to approach at about three knots. Contact: Just below the waterline - as bullets bounced off its cylindrical body, The H.L. Hunley plunged her long metal spar deep into the stern area, planting a 135 pound torpedo into the Warship Housatonic. The men inside the Hunley lunged forward from the impact, then quickly backed their sub out as the 150-foot attached detonation rope played out. Within seconds, the world rocked and every man, above and below, became enveloped in a concussion of destruction. The explosion caused the USS Housatonic to burn for three minutes before sending the sloop-of-war collapsing to the bottom killing five sailors.

[An Explosion That Would Rock History](#)

The Hunley had made history, becoming the first submarine to sink a ship in battle. Her effect still ripples through Charleston waters with mystery and unfounded conclusions. The home fires at Sullivans Island shone bright. And the response of the Hunley's eerie blue light declared victory across the rippled waters. The Light: For the first time since its long quest of failed attempts and tragedies, a euphoric surge of victory swept through the Hunley crew like wildfire. For the first time, the burning muscles, the heat and the cold, the bleeding knuckles and aching backs ... the retching fear, anticipation and the unknown was churned away in their wake. The Fires: Rebel compatriots watched and waited on the shore of Sullivans Island - stoking their fires - hoping that Hunley would see their beacons, victory or not. Suddenly one of the men cried out. Sure enough a blue light could be seen reflecting off the rippled sea. The men of H.L. Hunley were never seen again.

PLAN OF THE DAY CHARLESTON, SC

MONDAY, 18 JULY 2011

TBA Registration Open

1:00 PM Historical Charleston Tour - Due to arrival of crew members first day tour cannot start before 1 pm

1:00 PM Hospitality Room Open

6:15 PM-10:15PM Starlight Dinner Cruise

TUESDAY, 19 JULY 2011

TBA Registration Room Open (will be open before and after tour)

TBA Ship's Store Open

9:30 AM-4:00 PM Patriots Point Tour & Fort Sumter Tour

10:00 AM - 10:00 PM Hospitality Room Open

WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY 2011

TBA Registration Room Open (will be open before and after tour)

TBA Ship's Store Open

9:00 AM- 12:45 PM Fort Moultrie Tours & Boone Hall Plantation

10:00 AM - 10:00 PM Hospitality Room Open

7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting

THURSDAY, 21 JULY 2011

9:00 AM Crew's Meeting

9:00 AM ****Magnolia Gardens Tours for the Ladies****

10:00 AM - 10:00 PM Hospitality Room Open

1:00 PM- 3:30 PM Confederate Submarine H. L. Hunley Tour

TBA Registration Room Open

TBA Ship's Store Open

6:00 PM - 12:00 AM Dinner/Dance

6:00 PM - 6:45 PM Cocktail Hour

6:45 PM Memorial Service

7:00 PM Dinner

8:00 PM Guest Speaker
Dance to DJ

FRIDAY, 22 JULY 2011

Reunion completed, members depart Charleston, SC.

NOTES:

1. Additional Ship's Store hours will be built around tours. Additional hours will be posted.
2. People with special diet restrictions should contact the hotel staff.

No Activities Scheduled for Friday Afternoon

USS IOWA REUNION 2011 REGISTRATION FORM:

This order form covers reunion registration, membership dues, planned meals and tours. Please complete this form and mail it along with your check/money order payable to: **VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF THE USS IOWA**, 2916 NW Bucklin Hill Rd #169 Silverdale, WA 98383. **Registration form must be postmarked no later than 30 JUNE 2011. If registering later than this, registration will be at the reunion. Questions call 360-692-6032.**

NAME: _____

DATES SERVED ON IOWA:
_____ TO _____ (IE: 43-45)

ADDRESS: _____

DIVISION: _____
RANK/RATE: _____
NEED NAME TAG: YES/NO

CITY/ST/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

DATE: _____

EMAIL: _____

OTHER ATTENDEES: _____

CHECK # _____

REGISTRATION FEE: (NON-REFUNDABLE)

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: _____ X \$10.00 \$ _____
PAYING 2011-2012 DUES (\$20.00): _____ X \$20.00 \$ _____

CHARLESTON CITY TOUR: _____ X \$40.00 \$ _____
STARLIGHT DINNER CRUISE: _____ X \$72.00 \$ _____

(Monday)

PATRIOTS POINT/FT SUMTER TOUR: (W/Lunch) _____ X \$75.00 \$ _____
(Tuesday)

FT MOULTRIE/BOONE HALL PLANTATION TOUR: _____ X \$48.00 \$ _____
(Wednesday)

LADIES MAGNOLIA GARDENS TOUR: _____ X \$50.00 \$ _____
CONFEDERATE SUBMARINE H.L. HUNLEY TOUR: _____ X \$40.00 \$ _____

(Thursday)

DINNER/DANCE:
(Thursday)

DINNER CHOICES (INDICATE NUMBER OF EACH):

CHICKEN CORDON BLEU _____ X \$36.00 \$ _____
ROAST PRIME RIB OF BEEF _____ X \$36.00 \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NO REFUNDS AFTER 15 JULY 2011. UNLESS FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCY. PLEASE SEND LETTER REQUESTING REFUND TO: VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF THE USS IOWA, 2916 NW BUCKLIN HILL RD #169, SILVERDALE, WA 98383. **REGISTRATION FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE.**

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ **PH:** _____

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS!

As we begin another new year, let us all remember what we have to be thankful for!

We are to be thankful for the countless men and women who have died in all the wars from 1775 until the present day preserving our freedoms and sustaining our democracy.

We are to be thankful for the intelligence and compassion of our founding fathers, patriots from all 13 colonies who joined together to form a more perfect union, which stands today as one nation under God, indivisible and unconquerable. Citizens who built the foundations of our great nation. Foundations and principles that have withstood centuries of conflict, civil war, foreign wars both hot and cold insurrections, the schemes and threats of dictators, madmen and tyrants.

We are thankful for the flag, that star-spangled banner that symbolizes all 50 states and territories. A flag which was born at Valley Forge, carried at Gettysburg, San Juan Hill, the Argonne Forest, Mt Suribachi, the Bulge, Chosen Reservoir, An Khe, Kuwait, and now Afghanistan.

We are thankful for the blood, sweat and tears shed by so many so many times to preserve and protect our society and its freedoms. The blood and the flesh that has hal- lowed hundreds of battlefields and the graveyards, and now makes holy a strip of land at the end of Manhattan Island.

We are thankful we can stand and kneel in our churches,


synagogues and mosques asking our God to bless us, bless our country. We are privileged to live in a country that values life and relishes challenges and adventures. We should be thankful in the coming days, weeks and years that we have been passed the torch of liberty held high by the new colossus, the lamp of freedom the light of opportunity from which a brightness flows unto the rest of the world shining in its darkest corners bringing hope to all humanity.

We should be thankful for the purple mountains majesty, for the amber waves of grain.

We should be thankful we can share in that brother- hood from sea to shining sea. As we sit in our homes and enjoy time with our families and friends let us rejoice that God has blessed America and bow our heads in thanksgiving as did the pilgrims many centu- ries ago. As our forefathers faced the harsh realities of the wilderness give us the courage to face the harsh realities of terrorism and evil.

For even if many of us should perish and die in an inferno of evil terror, let us all remember that it was our country, our fathers and mothers, our brothers and sisters, our children who broke the chains of tyranny and the bondage of despair. We the American people, the U.S.A. who created a government of the people, by the people and for the people, and that it will not perish from earth. Amen.

Author unknown



VETERANS ASSOCIATION
of the USS IOWA BB-61
 Paul R. Ogg, Treasurer
 2916 NW Bucklin Hill Rd. #169
 Silverdale, WA 98383

Membership Requirements

Full Membership: Must have served aboard the USS IOWA (BB-61) as either part of the ship’s crew or in one of the following capacities (military & civilian): embarked staff, flight and air group personnel, technicians, news media, Secret Service, FBI personnel, instructors and training personnel . . . Annual dues \$20.00 Effective June 1.

Honorary Member: The Widow, Mother or Father of any de- ceased member may become an Honorary Member upon request. (No dues are required for Honorary Members.)

Associate Family Member (AFMBR): Any family member of a former crewman is eligible to become an Associate Family Member (Sister, Brother, Aunt, Uncle, etc.) . . . Annual dues \$20.00 Effective June 1.

Associate Member (ASMBR): Any Naval or Battleship enthusiast, or anyone interested in the preservation of the USS IOWA, may become an Associate Member. . . . Annual dues \$20.00 Effective June 1.

Member Application Form

This form may be used to apply for membership in the Association or to request existing information to be revised/corrected. Type of Membership

Type: FULL HONORARY RENEWAL
 AFMBR ASMBR

For Honorary or AFMBR enter Member Name _____

For change of information, enter membership # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Wife’s Name _____

Ship Board Division _____ Rate/Rank _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Era Aboard (40’s, 50’s, or 80’s) _____

Aboard from (yr) _____ TO (yr) _____

* May we post your information on our ONLINE listing of Email addresses? Yes No
 (Only the Name, Division, Email Address, and Era Aboard will be posted online.)

(Signature & Date)

Send your \$20.00 dues check (made out to Veterans Assn of the USS IOWA) and completed form to Secretary/Treas. Paul R. Ogg, 2916 NW Bucklin Hill RD #169, Silverdale, WA 98383

Veterans Assn of the USS Iowa Ship's Store Order Form

Item #	Item Name	CIRCLE SIZE	Price	Qty		Item #	Item Name	Price	Qty
101	Hat, Former Crew		\$18.00			310P	Zippo Lighter - Polished	\$25.00	
101M	Hat, Former Crew - Mesh		\$20.00			311	License Plate Frame	\$17.00	
103	Hat, Silhouette		\$18.00			312W	Bumper Sticker (White)	\$4.50	
103M	Hat, Silhouette - Mesh		\$20.00			312Y	Bumper Sticker (Yellow)	\$4.50	
105	Hat, Regulation - USN		\$18.00			315	Iowa Warship Data	\$17.00	
106	Hat, Former Crew - USMC		\$18.00			316	Plastic Model - 1/600	\$42.00	
108	Hat, Regulation - USMC		\$18.00			317	Plastic Model - 1/700	\$38.00	
200	Golf Shirt/Pocket - Navy	M L XL 2XL	\$34.00			319-3	Assn Patch - 3"	\$8.00	
201	Golf Shirt - Navy	M L XL 2XL	\$32.00			319-6	Assn Patch - 6"	\$15.00	
202	Jacket - Navy	M L XL 2XL	\$70.00			320I	Decal, Association - Inside	\$4.00	
203	Jacket, Fleece - Navy	M L XL 2XL	\$58.00			320O	Decal, Association - Outside	\$4.00	
204	T-Shirt, Child	S M L	\$10.00			321	Ship Crest - 1980's	\$12.00	
206	T-Shirt, Assn Crest	M L XL 2XL	\$17.00			322	Assn Lapel Pin	\$7.00	
207	Nylon Jacket - Navy	L XL 2XL	\$95.00			323	50th Anniversary Pin	\$7.00	
208	Golf Shirt, USMC - Red	L XL 2XL	\$43.00			325	Plaque, Marble	\$110.00	
223	T-Shirt Signal Flag	M L XL 2XL	\$17.00			326	Plaque, Marble, Framed	\$135.00	
224	T-Shirt Signal Flag - Child	M L	\$15.00			328	Briefcase, Durahyde	\$49.00	
225	Sport Shirt, Ladies - Mint	M L XL 2XL	\$35.00			330	Cup - Gold Trim	\$21.00	
226	Sport Shirt, Ladies - Lt Blue	M L XL 2XL	\$35.00			331	Cup - Regulation	\$19.00	
227	Sport Shirt, Ladies - Maui	M L XL 2XL	\$35.00			332	Zipper Pull, Lone Sailor	\$8.00	
228-1	Sleep Shirt, Make my Night		\$20.00			333	Zipper Pull, Navy Anchor	\$8.00	
228-2	Sleep Shirt, Feel Safe Tonight		\$20.00			334	Magnet Navy Anchor	\$12.00	
228-3	Sleep Shirt, Sleep w/the Best		\$20.00			335	Magnet, USMC	\$12.00	
229	Sweatshirt - Navy	L XL 2XL	\$22.00			336	Ornament, Navy Anchor	\$20.00	
230	Sweatshirt - Dk Green	L XL 2XL	\$22.00			337	Ornament, USMC	\$20.00	
300	Challenge Coin		\$13.00			338	Ornament, Battleship	\$20.00	
301	Key Chain - USN		\$12.00			343	Photograph Sunset 8x10	\$12.00	
302	Key Chain - USMC		\$12.00			344	Photograph Underway 8x10	\$12.00	
303	Key Chain - Silhouette		\$12.00			345	Photograph Broadside 8x10	\$12.00	
304	Letter Opener - USN		\$22.00			346	Photograph Broadside 11x14	\$14.00	
305	Letter Opener - USMC		\$22.00			347	Photograph Broadside 12x18	\$15.00	
306	Golf Towel		\$15.00			349	USS Iowa Pen	\$3.00	
307	Boater Tote		\$25.00			350	Lapel Pin, Yellow Ribbon	\$9.00	
308	Zipper Tote		\$27.00			351	DVD, USS Iowa	\$28.00	
310B	Zippo Lighter - Brushed		\$25.00			400	Calendar (2005/2011) Historic	\$15.00	

AUG 2010

International: _____ **Insurance:** _____ **Priority:** _____ **Total Enclosed:** _____

***Name:** _____ ***Phone:** _____

***Address:** _____ ***City:** _____

***State:** _____ ***Zip:** _____ **E-Mail:** _____

***REQUIRED INFORMATION**

All prices contained herein include postage; insurance is recommended for orders over \$50.00 (add \$10.00). Orders are normally shipped parcel post (add \$15.00 for Priority).

ONLY CHECK OR MONEY ORDERS IN U.S. DOLLARS ARE ACCEPTED AND MUST BE MADE OUT TO: VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF THE USS IOWA. International orders please add 25% of the total bill for additional shipping costs.

Send orders to: Ship's Store Officer, 5812 NAPLES DR, ZEPHYRHILLS, FL, 33540. For questions contact: Ship's Store Officer at kenl636@hotmail.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

July through November 2010

Jul - Nov 10

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Membership Dues	3,035.00
Preservation Fund	940.00
REUNION INCOME	
BANQUETS	1,620.00
REGISTRATION FEES	370.00
TOURS	3,491.00
Total REUNION INCOME	<u>5,481.00</u>
SHIP'S STORE INCOME	4,280.06
Total Income	<u>13,736.06</u>

Expense

Office Supplies	398.54
Postage and Delivery	35.90
Printing and Reproduction	1,882.09
REUNION EXPENSES	
BANQUETS	8,737.95
MISC - LAPEL PINS & TICKETS	558.50
TOURS	15,641.00
Total REUNION EXPENSES	<u>24,937.45</u>
SHIP'S STORE EXPENSE	4,251.39
Total Expense	<u>31,505.37</u>

Net Ordinary Income -17,769.31

Other Income/Expense

Other Income

Interest Income	237.52
Total Other Income	<u>237.52</u>

Net Other Income 237.52

Net Income -17,531.79

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT #72	65,493.50
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT #71	10,564.20
CHECKING	17,267.77
SAVINGS	3,776.28
SHIP'S STORE CHECKING 10/31/10	4,801.85

MARINE DETACHMENT BY FRANCIS WELSH USMC

This article is really a eulogy for Jerry Wiedenkiller, who passed away quietly on June 23, 2010, in Grand Prairie, Texas after a long battle with lung cancer. He was 84.

This man had one of the more interesting and varied military careers that I have ever heard, and as such, I believe our USS IOWA membership may also be impressed!

Jerry was born in Decatur, Illinois in October 1925, the youngest of three boys. The two older brothers were already in the Army when Jerry reached the age of 16 in 1942. He joined the Merchant Marines and was soon making convoy trips to England while running the gauntlet of Nazi U-boats. He was even sunk once! At 17, he tried to join the Marines but was considered too light for the Corps, so he stayed with the Merchant Marines. At 18, he tried the Marines again and this time was accepted. After Boot Camp he was sent to "Sea School" for training to serve on the Navy's major "ships of the line." That is where I met Jerry, as we were in the same platoon! Finishing Sea School, we were sent to Pearl Harbor Navy Base where we did duty with the Company "B" Guard. While waiting to be deployed

aboard a ship we did guard duty in and around the Navy Yard for several months. We were quartered 3 decks up in a nice stone permanent barracks. It was also right up next to the Navy's notorious maximum security brig. In fact, the "rock pile," where prisoners sentenced to hard labor, labored to make "little ones, out of big ones" was right behind our barracks!

One day, while on guard duty, Wiedenkiller saw a comic section of a newspaper blowing by. He could not resist the chance to catch up on the further adventures of Dick Tracy, who at that time was working with another detective called Fearless Fosdick. (I wonder how many can still remember Fearless Fosdick?) Anyway, the O.D. drove up



in his jeep and caught Jerry with the newspaper in his hand! Needless to say, Jerry got a Jeep ride to that notorious Navy Brig where he remained for the next 10 days! He became known as Wiedenkeller, the Brig Bunny!!

Shortly after that, 13 of us were flown from Honolulu to Ulithi Atoll, to join the 100 man Marine Detachment aboard the battleship USS IOWA. The Marines combat duties were to man 6 of the many quad 40 mm anti-aircraft batteries. This was in November 1944. Things began to happen immediately! We were involved in the Army's invasion of Mindoro, in the Philippines, followed by the disastrous typhoon of December 1944, in which the fleet lost nearly 800 men, including 3 Destroyers! Every ship suffered damage. The IOWA lost a screw, which brought us back to San Francisco for a complete overhaul. We rejoined the fleet just in time for Okinawa! Followed immediately by 2 months of air strikes, along with 2 battleship bombardments of the home islands of Japan!

The first of those bombardments was a nighttime bombardment (the first and only night bombardment of the war). This took place on the island of Hokkaido and targeted a Japanese steel mill. It was spectacular! Five battleships participated. Each battleship fired 30 nine gun salvos, in 30 minutes, then made a flank speed withdrawal.

When the Japanese surrendered, and after the Navy sailed into Tokyo Bay, while leaving the aircraft carriers

still at sea, to protect against Japanese treachery. The Marines from the various ships detachments were sent to the 4th Marines, 6th Division for temporary assignment (TDY) for the initial landings on Japanese soil. We went with the 2nd Battalion into the major Japanese Navy Base at Yokosuka! A few days later, after securing the base, we stayed with the 4th Marines until after the peace signing aboard the USS MISSOURI, and witnessed the "fly over" by hundreds of our planes! It was an awesome sight to behold and a proud day for us, ashore!

By 1946 we had been discharged. I went home to Pasadena, California. Jerry went home to Decatur, Illinois where he returned to school. He then joined the Illinois National Guard, since there was no Marine Reserve in his area. This gave him \$7.00 per month for beer, right? He then got married and settled down to civilian life!

Surprise, surprise! He was recalled for the Berlin Airlift. After his return from Berlin, Jerry put in for officers training and was accepted (OCS) and graduated as a Lt. along with 17 out of a class of 45, who had also been former Marines. Jerry then chose airborne duty, where he did the usual parachute jumps and survival training. Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia, etc.

By this time the Korean Conflict began. As a Lt., Jerry was sent to

Korea with the 187th R.C.T. (Regimental Combat Team) where he spent most of the next 3 years. He made 2 combat jumps and other extensive infantry service. Wounded and decorated he was promoted to the rank of Captain, commanding a company. His company XO was a Lt. who was a West Point graduate (a Ring Knocker). Jerry's wife Jeanne, was able to come live in Japan during his deployment so they were able to get together on occasion. A second wound caused Jerry to lose a kidney and later in life, caused him to have 5 vertebrae in his back fused!

Wiedenkeller then took his discharge went back to school in Decatur, where he graduated from Milliken College, with a degree in English Literature. Jerry and his wife Jeanne now had 2 small children, son Ross and a daughter Amy. Jerry moved his family to Oklahoma City where he took a job writing advertising for an Oklahoma City tv station. In order to qualify for a home loan, Jerry again joined the Oklahoma National Guard. He again joined as an enlisted man. He stated to me, "I just never felt right as an officer." (My kind of man, for sure!) Jerry continued his studies and eventually got his Masters Degree in English Literature. He also told me years later that the only good he ever got from his degrees was the ability to do crossword puzzles with ease!

His Oklahoma unit was again recalled for Vietnam but never left the states. Jerry's wife, Jeanne, had this

to say when he was recalled for the third time, "When the Army gets the gold out of your teeth and the lead out of your ass, if there is anything left they will send it home to me."

Jerry retired in the late 1970's and stood down as a Battalion Sergeant Major, after 28 years of service...12 active and the balance as a reservist. An interesting side note: shortly before his retirement from the Oklahoma National Guard, his unit stood readiness inspection by a regular army 2 star General (I do not know his name but he is retired and lives in the Denver area). When the General arrived in his staff car, with his two star flag flying, his first act was introductions to the guard senior officers. He then asked, "Is that SGM Wiedenkeller standing in front of his troops?" With that, he left the group of officers and strode over to Wiedenkeller. They exchanged salutes and the General embraced the SGM to the astonishment of all. The General invited Wiedenkeller to have dinner with him at the Officers Club! It turns out that the General had been his XO during the Korean War!

Wiedenkeller had "fruit salad" ribbons that would go over his shoulder, and was a true warrior! He was also, I'm proud to say, "my friend!" for lo these many years!

Rest in peace, old buddy! Well done!!

PFC Francis E. Welsh, USMC

IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS NOT CURRENT. THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST ISSUE.

VETERANS ASSOCIATION
OF THE U.S.S. IOWA
2916 NW BUCKLIN HILL RD, #169
SILVERDALE, WA 98383

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAVENPORT, IA
Permit No. 3130

REUNION DATES: July 18th - July 20th

This year's reunion will be held at the
Radisson Hotel Charleston Airport
5991 Rivers Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29406

Reservations can be made by calling
Toll Free 1-800-395-7046
Telephone: (843) 744-2501 Fax: (843) 744-2501
or emailing Email: rhi_ncha@radisson.com

Newly renovated in 2008, the Radisson Hotel Charleston Airport's full service, 159-room hotel located within minutes of Charleston International Airport offering complimentary airport transportation to and from the Charleston International Airport. This hotel accommodations provide world-class amenities: King/Queen Sleep Number® beds with adjustable firmness, microwave, refrigerators, coffee/tea makers, desk, complimentary Wi-Fi, bottled water, daily newspaper, dry cleaning valet, free local calls, speakerphone, voicemail, ARiSA bath products, cable TV, and a professional staff to ensure a relaxing, stress-free stay!

