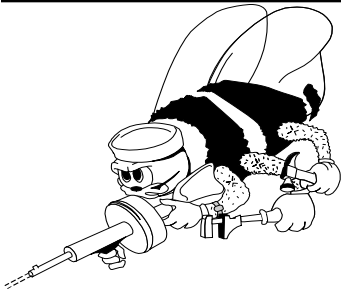


MCB 2 Reunion Association

Volume 6, Issue 8

July 28, 2007



SEABEES

*A Newsletter for Former US Naval
Mobile Construction Battalion 2 Personnel*

and host to CBD 1802, CBD 1804, CBMU 1, CBMU 101 and CBMU 577

This Is Your Last Newsletter

Before the St. Louis Reunion!

See Pages 17 & 19

And Make All Your Reservations

NOW!

**Many Seabees and their
wives/girlfriends are
making their plans to attend!**

~~~~~

Have you made your reservations yet? The tours are exciting and the banquet will be another great success! Be sure to bring your Door Prize for the banquet fun. We will also have some really nice raffle items and our usual great Ship's Store! See you there!

## Door Prizes!

A really good time is planned for the reunion but the Door Prizes that are distributed at the banquet is what really makes it a success. Be sure to bring yours. We have had golf clubs, baseball caps, dolls, crystal, homemade items, and even a week-long stay in Hawaii donated!

The tours are exciting! We will enjoy a wonderful tour of the Gateway Arch and the

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

Anheuser-Busch Brewery on Thursday, then Friday evening we will enjoy a dinner and cruise on the Mississippi aboard a paddle-wheeler. Come and enjoy the great time with old friends and make acquaintance with new friends. We will again have a great Hospitality Room where we can gather, share our memories, buy Seabee items and souvenirs, and enjoy a beverage (or two). Don't miss out! Make your plans to attend now! Cancellations can be made right up to 48 hours prior to the reunion, but reservations may get tight, so don't be left out! Make your reservations now! And don't forget to bring your **Door Prize!** See you there!

*Success is getting up  
one more time.*

## **The Commander and Staff**

*Our leadership consists of:*

**Commander  
Pete Elliott**

**Staff:**

Joe DeFranco  
David Haines  
Rich Nelson  
Roy Peak, Vice Commander  
Malcolm Pearson  
Stoney Serrett, Commander Emeritus  
Scott Williams, Sec'y/Treas.

# **SEABEES**

## **July - October Dates to Remember**

---

|                |                                                                                                  |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 26, 1944  | Seabees land on Tinian.                                                                          |
| Aug. 6, 1945   | Bombing of Hiroshima.                                                                            |
| Aug. 7, 1942   | 1st Marine Division lands on Guadalcanal.                                                        |
| Aug. 9, 1945   | Bombing of Nagasaki                                                                              |
| Aug. 11, 1942  | USNCTC Camp Endicott, Davisville, RI, commissioned 'Original home of the Seabees.'               |
| Aug. 20, 1942  | OIC, 6th NCB, arrives at Guadalcanal, first CEC/Seabee officer to enter a combat zone.           |
| Sept. 1, 1942  | 6th NCB Seabees arrive at Guadalcanal, first Seabees to enter a combat zone.                     |
| Sept. 2, 1945  | Formal surrender of Japan. WW II ends.                                                           |
| Sept. 14, 1892 | Admiral Ben Moreell's birthday.                                                                  |
| Sept. 15, 1950 | MCB 2 commissioned                                                                               |
| Sept. 15, 1950 | Seabees land at Inchon, Korea.                                                                   |
| Oct. 13, 1775  | Navy Birthday                                                                                    |
| Oct. 16, 1942  | Eight men of NCB 6 killed at Guadalcanal, first Seabees killed in action                         |
| Oct. 31, 1941  | First Headquarters Construction Company authorized by Admiral Nimitz (forerunner of battalions). |



## Notes from our members:

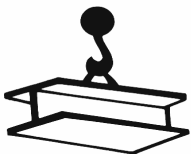
From **Les (Margaret) Keller**: Please forgive me for not sending my 2007 dues. I totally forgot! [OK, they are in now. Thanks.] I will try to be on time next year. Also, we are sorry but my wife and I will not be able to make it to the reunion. Keep up the good work! Enclosed is my check for dues..... received dues from **Pat (Joyce) Badgett, Norman Eveleth, Emilio (Tony) deLeon, William Alwine, Pat Morris, John Jurkash and Don (Winifred) Grobbel** [thanks all]..... from **Ron Landrum**: Late again. Thanks for keeping the news coming in spite of my slow pay. Enclosed is a check for dues [thanks]..... from **Robert Graf**: Sorry I missed the January dues date. I was taking Hyperbaric Oxygen treatments at the time. Here is a check for my dues and that should take care of me for a couple years [thanks]. As time goes on, I need more reminder notes [don't we all!]. The extra check is to help with your expenses [thank you very much]. By the way, do you have any of the books left of The Seabees at Port Hueneme. If so, please send me one along with a bill [OK... on the way and thanks again]. Also, do you have a list of what's in your ship's store? I'm looking for some hats, etc. Keep up the good work, **Scott**. You do a great job..... from **Earl (Pat) Presson**: Enclosed is a check for the flags **Ralph (Earl)** ordered [thank you]..... from **Mel Dixon**: Here's a check for my dues [thanks] and I see I am late again. They tell me I got "sometimer's"... sometimes I remember and sometimes I don't. I appreciate all the work you do. I enjoy the Newsletter very much. Also, enclosed is a little extra for a couple of the MCB 2 decals if you have any [on the way]. If not, buy some stamps..... from **Gene Robinson**: I did not realize I was behind in my dues. Enclosed is a check to cover me [thanks]. It was good to see a picture of Mr. Sim and Mr. Merit in the latest Newsletter. I served with both of them 1950 thru 1954..... from **Chuck Ingalls**: Sorry I'm late [enclosed a check and thanks]. I sure like the

Newsletter [good! It's for all the Good Guys!]..... received dues from **Dale Rogers, Alex (Ruth) Hamilton, Leroy Weiselberg, Don (Martie) Nitsche, Paul (Pat) Schell, W. R. (Catherine) Smith, Darl Schmidt, Ralph (Mary) Bokern, Fred Wilmarth, and David Haines** [thanks to all]..... from **Harold (Harry) Agles**: Sorry I am late but I have an excuse: I am OLD! I hope this catches me up [it does and thanks]..... from **Bob Graf**: [Bob had asked for a list of what is in our ship's store and this is his letter in response] Thanks for replying so fast with the book. I went through the ship's store list and would like some caps and decals. Enclosed is a check for the book and all additional items. Thanks..... received reunion reservation forms from **Arlin & Betty Hardwick, Don & Linda Jones, Erv & Bernice Lampe, David & Marjorie Haines, Duane & Mary Henrichson, Tom & Mary Jo Dowd, Joe & Audrey Sitkowski, Frank & Marjorie Fibich, Don & Jeanne Hofstetter, Ambrose & Sonja Johnson, Tony & Mary Ann deLeon, Kenn & Connie Gaskell, Allan & Sylvia Alberg, Wayne & Eleanore Turley, Emil & Betty Krygier, John & Marcy Bloem** [thanks all]..... from **Roy Peak**: Re: SEA-BEES Newsletter, April 20, 2007, page 11, "Note to our members." Great job getting the hotel arranged. You had quite a shock to learn that the downtown hotel was going to be closed for renovations during our reunion. The alternative hotel and its free airport shuttle was a good move. Glad you two checked it out by your visit in mid-February [thanks]. [enclosed a check for the reunion.]..... from **Mal (Marge) Pearson**: Enclosed is a check for tours and banquet at the reunion. We are looking forward to this trip. Sorry to hear that **Rachel** won't be in St. Louis with us. We go to our lake home for the summer on Memorial weekend. **Mal** will be in touch with you later. Hope you and **Rachel** are happy in Georgia [we are but we still need to sell our Las Vegas home!]. You do a good work on the Newsletter [thanks]. See you soon ..... from **Cecil (Arkie) Price**: I see in your last Newsletter a picture of a guy and a gooney bird and, for the life of me, I can't put a name to the guy but it isn't me [hmmmmmm... it was with all the pictures you sent me]. I am sending along a couple of pictures of me and also of the guy with the gooney bird, but



(Continued from page 3)

it's not me. You see, I turned 18 when I was on Midway and I had a bit more hair than the guy in the picture with the gooney bird. What a hell of a long time ago that was! I sure hope I make St. Louis. If my health doesn't fail me, I'll be there. **Wilma** had a pace maker put in back in December and is having quite a few problems. Now they tell me Alzheimer's is setting in. The doctors are giving her medication to slow it but they say there is no known cure. Oh, well. Again, I hope to see you and all in St. Louis in October [Arkie enclosed a check for the reunion]..... from **Bob Elder**: Thanks for sending us the reunion info for St. Louis. Also for the past Newsletters. I am enclosing my checks for dues and the reunion [thank you! **Bob** is a new member after finding us while at a Seabee reunion in Savannah]..... from **Clyde Stenholm**: Our hotel reservations have been made. Once again, we can't wait to see everybody. We always look forward to these reunions as we have never been disappointed at any of them. Say hello to **Rachel**. I know you both must be enjoying your new residence. See you both in October [nope.... Just me. **Rachel** is tired of travel right now.]..... from **Glenn Sisco**: At this time, I have no idea where I stand on my dues. I'm behind, I know that [Glenn enclosed a check for his dues and thanks.] 2004 was a disaster, battling a liver disorder. Not much productive got done while recuperating, then 2006 became the second disaster year. I had a heart attack and open heart surgery as a result, with double bypass necessary. Recuperation was lengthy but very successful. I now feel excellent and able to get back on track. Diet and exercise is in the daily equation. That's not difficult, just a matter of getting used to it. The reunion this year looks eventful and exciting. I have never been to one, so maybe this year is possible. Sure hope all is well with you [it is, and thanks]..... from **Preston (Helen) Wilson**: Please use the enclosed check to put my husband back on the Good Guy List [done! And thanks]. I forgot to renew his membership and he has missed the Newsletter [He is still on the mailing list so cannot understand why he isn't receiving his. I am sending some back issues to get him back up to speed.]..... from **Stoney Serrett**: I received your package with the

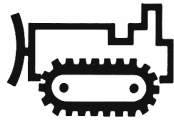


two Newsletters and thank you very much for them. I want to apologize for misinforming you that I did not receive the March issue. I did receive it but had misplaced it, so I am receiving the Newsletter as all the others do [no problem. Now you can share the extra copies with a friend]. I always enjoy them and thanks for all you do to keep us informed about our membership..... from **Bob Graf**: Sorry I didn't get this check for the caps out right away, but it is enclosed [thanks, all is even and square]. Thanks for sending them and let me know if I owe any more [nope, all is OK]..... from **Paul Muma**: Just to let you know that I am still around. I am enclosing a check for dues. I am sorry I am so late with these [not a problem... and thanks]. Guess I am just getting old. Use the extra for whatever you need [thanks again]..... from **Roger Germundson**: It looks like I'm past catch-up time - Ha! I see **Ralph Burnley** and **George Gustin** on a regular basis. The three of us and our wives get together at least once a year. Take care..... from **Dwight Yetter**: Enclosed is a check for my dues [thanks]. I apologize for being so far behind but I have been fighting a battle with what I thought was just acid reflux but ended up being esophageal cancer. I don't want to be an alarmist, but if any of our friends out there are having a lot of problems with acid reflux, have it checked out. I am told that this type of cancer is becoming more common in men and most people don't even know it. If I had not had problems swallowing, I would never have had a checkup and would not have known that I had cancer. But, after chemo, radiation and surgery, they think they got all of it [keep on keeping' on, **Dwight**. Our prayers are with you]..... from **Wayne Turley**: Enclosed find a check for dues and one for the St. Louis reunion in October [thanks]. I would like to get a roster if I can [on the way!]. Is there a chance to get a white Seabee flag at the St. Louis reunion? I would like to get one there [sure can. We will have blue and white Seabee flags there]..... from **Tom Nolan**: [email] I enjoy the Newsletter but have only seen **Don DeLisi** in it that I remember. We served together in MCB 2 and was my buddy then and still is. Bainbridge, Maryland, was my first duty station after boot camp. It had reopened right after the Korean War started. **Don** and I met at Port Hueneme when



(Continued from page 4)

we were both going to school after boot camp. I retired on disability as EOC after 17½ years. My time with MCB 2 is my fondest memory and the best part of my life and I will never forget it. Old sailors never die, they just get saltier! Thanks for the last Newsletters..... from **Pat Morris**: This attached picture sure brought back some memories for me [see page 6]. I was a short timer at Atsugi, Japan when an officer told me that they had a job that required a responsible person and they had had their eyes on me for a while and had decided that I was the man for the job. Those were the kindest words that I had heard from an officer in a long time, since my least favorite Warrant Officer had just done a hatchet job on me. This told me that his fellow Officers had no more confidence in him than I had. My new job was to be in charge of staying in radio contact with the control tower and signal the heavy equipment operators to get clear of the runway extension they were working on when landing aircraft were due to land within a minute or so. It would have been a soft job except for the fact that most of the time the equipment operators couldn't hear my whistle blow over the noise of the equipment. I would run in front of them waving my arms and blowing my whistle hoping that I wouldn't stumble in front of one of them..... from **Paul (Pat) Schell**: [enclosed a check for the reunion... thanks] We've got all our reservations made and we are looking forward to the convention. We can't wait to see everyone again. It looks like you guys have gone to a lot of work to plan a great time for everyone. We want to do all of it [Great!]. We'll see you soon..... from **Don Dellit**: I received your letter a couple of years ago after **Jeff Welch** sent my name to you to receive the MCB 2 Newsletter. Thank you for sending them to me. I was with MCB 10 on Midway in 1953 and on Guam from 1954 thru 1956. Please continue sending the Newsletter and enclosed is a check for dues [thank you! We welcome you and hope you can attend our reunion in St. Louis.]..... from **Steven Phillips**: This is to inform you that my father, **Amos C. Phillips**, from Sussex, New Jersey, passed away on June 26. Please accept this donation from his estate [thank you]. **Amos** really enjoyed the reunions. Keep up the good work!.... And that's all! SW



## A Message From Pete Elliott

~~~~~  
Just a few lines to say hi and looking forward to seeing you in October.

It was nip and tuck, but we made it. The original location fell through because of construction, etc., but the new location is better in more ways than one. There is FREE parking, better access to airport, FREE shuttle service, FREE breakfast, complimentary cocktail hour, plenty of SPACE, excellent rooms, and a swimming pool!! (see March Newsletter, page 2, Important Notice.)

Clorinda and I are well and happy and trying to move into our new home as you read this. Most of our family went to Washington, D.C. on May 12, 2007, to watch our son Pete, who is the U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Ohio receive one of ten TOP COP awards in the nation by the National Association of Police Organizations. The awards were hosted by John Walsh and shown on the television program, "America's Most Wanted."

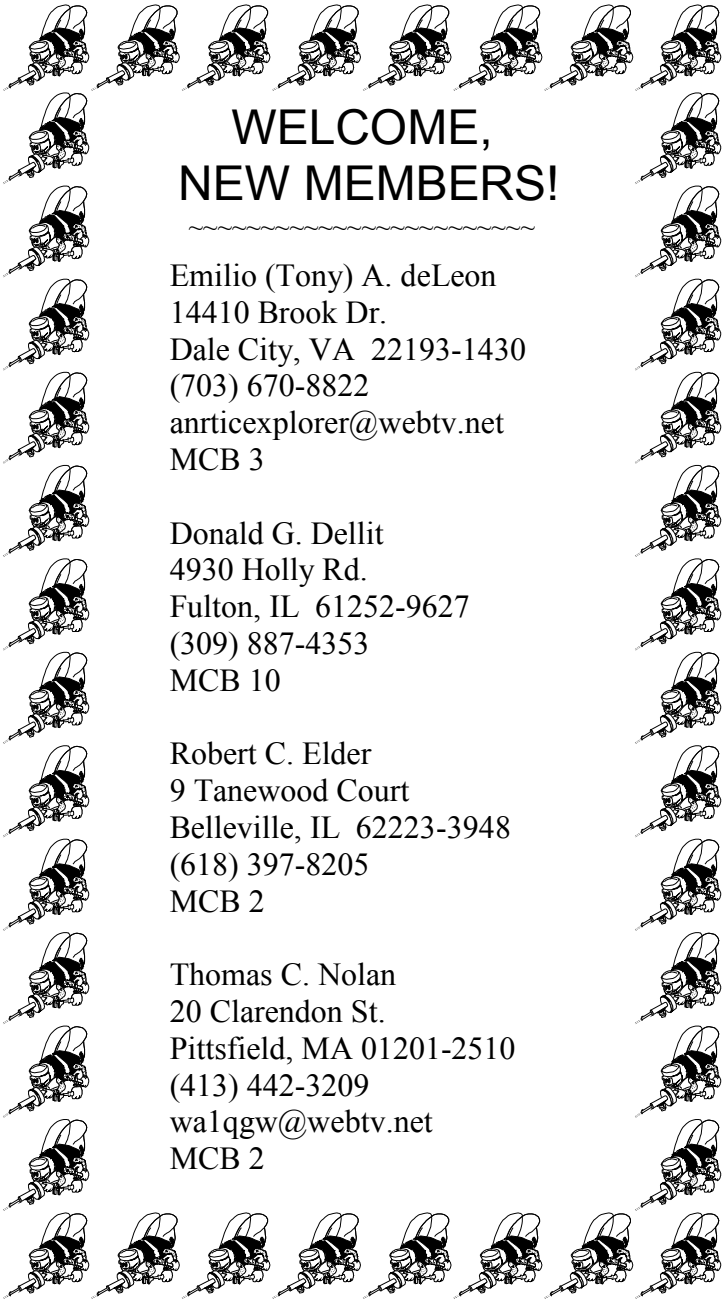
SEE YOU OCT 18 !!!



Seabees repairing a runway in Afghanistan—from Pat Morris



MCB 2 Atsugi Softball Team
September 1951
From LeRoy Weiselberg
(second from left)



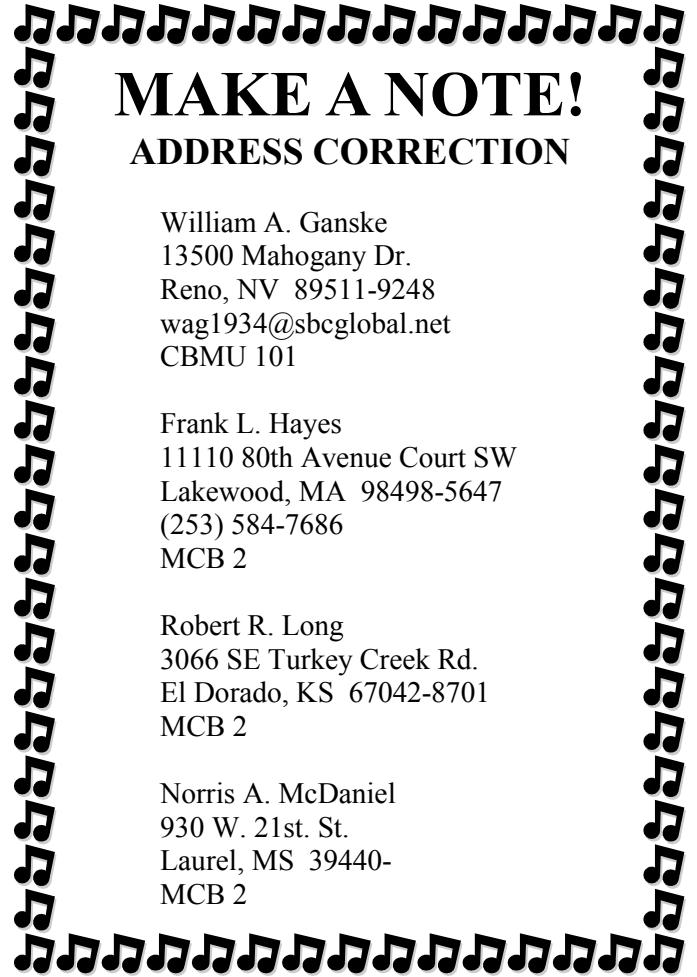
WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Emilio (Tony) A. deLeon
14410 Brook Dr.
Dale City, VA 22193-1430
(703) 670-8822
anrticexplorer@webtv.net
MCB 3

Donald G. Dellit
4930 Holly Rd.
Fulton, IL 61252-9627
(309) 887-4353
MCB 10

Robert C. Elder
9 Tanewood Court
Belleville, IL 62223-3948
(618) 397-8205
MCB 2

Thomas C. Nolan
20 Clarendon St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201-2510
(413) 442-3209
walqgw@webtv.net
MCB 2



MAKE A NOTE! ADDRESS CORRECTION

William A. Ganske
13500 Mahogany Dr.
Reno, NV 89511-9248
wag1934@sbcglobal.net
CBMU 101

Frank L. Hayes
11110 80th Avenue Court SW
Lakewood, MA 98498-5647
(253) 584-7686
MCB 2

Robert R. Long
3066 SE Turkey Creek Rd.
El Dorado, KS 67042-8701
MCB 2

Norris A. McDaniel
930 W. 21st. St.
Laurel, MS 39440-
MCB 2

Our Fallen Comrades

Amos C. Phillips	6/26/07
George E. Terry	4/26/07
Alfred J. Ulman, Jr.	6/10/07

May they live on in our memories.

Ahhh, those Irish...

Murphy and his wife went for a stroll in the park. They sit down on a bench to rest for awhile. Soon they overhear voices coming from a secluded spot nearby. Suddenly, Mrs. Murphy realizes that a young man is about to propose. Not wanting to be eavesdropping during such an intimate moment, she gently nudges her husband and whispers, "Whistle, to let that young couple know that someone can hear them."

To which Murphy replies, "Whistle? Why should I whistle? Nobody whistled to warn me!"

The Good Guy List

Allan Alberg, Harold Agles, William Alwine, Vern Ammentorp, David Anderson, Eugene Antoine, Basil Arnold, Pat Badgett, Lewie Baker, Richard Baker, Jack Balding, Ed Ballerstein, Benjamin Balog, Mike Barron, Glen Bates, Henry Benguerel, Hank Bentsen, Frank Betonte, Ralph Binney, Vernon Blakeslee, John Bloem, Ralph Bokern, James Bolton, Alexander (Cat) Borys, Robert Bowdler, Don Bradley, Philip Brunelle, Al Bryant, Silas Bucher, Robert Buckley, David Budworth, Wayne Bulgerin, L.P. 'Pop' Burleigh, Ralph Burnley, William Burns, Elwin "Shorty" Campbell, Pat Carey, Bennie Carlson, Mike Castlevecchi, Ken Catchpole, Frank Chambers, George Chang, Chuck Chapman, Ken Chew, Walter Cloonan, Robert Coley, Bob Colquhoun, Roy Cone, Howard Cornwell, Richard Coulson, Jack Coulter, Fred Cozad, Warren Culberson, Pat Cunningham, Arnold Daisy, Paul D'Angelo, Stan Dauer, Joe DeFranco, Jim DeKeyser, Tony deLeon, Don Dellit, Ted DeVit, Mary Dick (for all the Good Guys), Melvin Dixon, Robert Doezie, George Dorge, Tom Dowd, Howard Doyle, William Duensing, Don Eminhizer, Doug Emond, Ralph Evans, Norman Eveleth, Richard Fairbanks, Dick Farbo, Jim Firebaugh, Forrest Foland, Jack Foster, Leonard Fowler, Bill Frazier, Harold Freeland, Lane Freitag, Al Fritz, William Ganske, Claude Garcenot, Ken Gaskell, Roger Germundson, John Ginther, Ron Glasser, Robert Graf, Russ Granby, John Grasz, Jim Green, Clem Gregurek, Frank Gresser, Roy Grisham, Don Grobbel, Gerald Grubb, Marvin Guetling, George Gustin, Gordon Gwathney, Charles (Pauline) Hagemann, Walt Hagen, David Haines, Les Hall, Luther Hall, Alexander Hamilton, Roger Hamilton, Arlin Hardwick, Roy Harris, Art Hees, Ralph Heitt, Bert Helms, Charlie 'Don' Henderson, Duane Henrichson, Wayne Heple, Bob Hoare, Don Hofstetter, Sam Holsomback, Ray Hooter, Rod Howard, Ron Howatson, Charles Ingalls, Hugh Ireland, Vic Jacino, Frank Jacus, Robert Janson, Lawrence Jessop, Ambros Johnson, Charles Johnson, Don Jones,

John Jurkash, Robert Kaempfe, Lloyd Kallsen, Chuck Kangas, Ed Kazarian, Duane Keech, Les Keller, Denise King (for her Dad, Don Truskey), William Knight, John Kolasz, James Krause, Emil Krygier, Harry Ladley, Ervin Lampe, Ron Landrum, Sherwin Larsen, Harold Lind, Herbert Liverman, Dale Lundstrom, Tom Maere, Ivan Majetic, Anthony Marcella, Bob Markey, Bob Marshall, Jack Mayo, Chuck McCabe, Gene McDonagh, Norris McDaniel, Don McLain, Bobby McMillan, Herbert Meade, Grant Millard, Daniel Millett, Dan Mills, Chuck Minert, Frank Mingo, Gary Mitchell, Roger Mohs, Pat Morris, C. Finley Morrison, Paul Muma, Richard Muns, Richard Nelson, Ray Nethercott, Paul Neusetzer, Don Nitsche, Joseph O'Brien, Mel Olson, Ernest Owens, Billy Partridge, Roy Peak, Mal Pearson, Ben Pedrotti, John Petronka, Amos Phillips, Mike Piro, Ralph Presson, Cecil Price, David Pyle, Sam Ragusa, Gary Rawlings, Charles Rebb, John Recklitis, Rex Roark, Gene Robinson, Dale Rogers, Richard Rose, Thomas Roy, John Ruby, C. Edner Rudolph, Vinny Ryan, Harold Saucier, Paul Schell, Darl Schmidt, Millard Schneider, Jack Schrader, Don Seethaler, Gerald Seger, Stoney Serrett, Rik Shafer, Don Shoff, William Sigmund, Dick Sim, Fred Simon, Art Siple, Glenn Sisco, Joe Sitkowski, Richard Skillicorn, W.R. Smith, Joe Sobczak, Ray Sonnen, Ray Sorrentino, Ted Speros, Gene Staples, Tom Stapleton, Clyde Stenholm, Jim Stephens, Larry Stevenson, George Stewart, John Stock, Willis Struecker, Dan Svendsen, Richard Swallow, James Taylor, George Terry, Doug Thorp, Richard Tittle, Richard Todd, Charles Trimarchi, Don Truskey, Wayne Turley, Alfred Ulman, Jerry Vasquez, Larry Vibber, Walter Waddell, Phil Wagenschnur, Dick Walters, Harold Wardenburg, John Weires, Leroy Weiselberg, Duane Weltlich, Cecil Westwood, Bud Wheless, Rodney White, William Wilcoxon, R. G. 'Pete' Williams, Marshall Williams, Scott Williams, Fred Wilmarth, Jack Wilson, Jesse Wilson, Preston Wilson, Jim Wommack, Bill Wisnowski, Dwight Yetter, and Stephen Yunger.

Everyone listed here has their dues paid at least through 2007, some much longer. If you don't find your name on this list, then maybe you have forgotten to send in your dues recently. All dues are paid through the calendar year, January 1 through December 31 (no dues card sent out). This list is as of July 14, 2007. There are currently 268 paid up

(Continued from page 8)

members from a mailing list of 529. If dues have never been sent, they do not receive the Newsletter. There are 756 names on the full member roster. (SW)

Need a Membership Roster?

If you have a need for an up-to-date membership roster, drop me a line with a couple of bucks and I'll send you one. We currently have 777 names and addresses of former CBD 1802, CBD 1804, CBMU 1/101, CBMU 577, and MCB 2 personnel, so this is a pretty thick directory (23 pages). Glad to have all aboard! And keep sending those cards and letters — especially the ones with checks!
Scott Williams

Teachers

While a third-grade class was completing a writing exercise, one of the students asked the teacher how to spell “piranha.” She told him she was unsure. To the teacher’s delight, the student went to the dictionary to solve his problem. That’s when the teacher overheard another pupil say to him, “Why bother to look it up? She doesn’t know how to spell it anyway.”

*When things go wrong,
don't go with them.*



MCB 2 Det. A Camayan Point crew—1953. Thanks to LeRoy Weiselberg - anybody remember any names? (LeRoy seated in front.)

WAR MOVIES....

John Wilborn

Yesterday I was visiting with my neighbor Ben, who is much younger than I...He casually asked what was my favorite war movie and I thought for a moment before I mentioned a movie he had never heard of. Of course, I had to scratch to recall the actors and actresses names but I did fairly well. Told Ben of names and events about Korea he had never heard of---"what was the Korean War for, John"-----I scratched for a reason for that, also. William Holden, Grace Kelley, Mickey Rooney and Fredric March were names of the character actors I could remember---only the Mick is still alive. Ben asked was the movie real or made up fiction----told him I didn't know...Went to Google to check and this is what I found out. Chief

~~~~~  
James A. Michener wrote the novel *The Bridges at Toko-Ri* from his experiences as a war correspondent with the Seventh Fleet in Korea, dispatching stories on life aboard the carriers Essex (CV 9) and Valley Forge (CV 45). The novel tells the story of a civilian attorney recalled to active duty as a reserve Naval Aviator who is shot down over hostile North Korea. The enlisted helicopter pilot and crewman who try to rescue him are also shot down, and all three end up in a ditch fighting for their lives. Following Michener's death in 1997, the Library of Congress released the notes and journals that he compiled during the war, revealing many of the real characters and events behind the scenes of the popular story.

Soon after his arrival aboard Valley Forge in January 1952, Michener witnessed what was to become the central theme for his book. Early on 8 February, Rear Admiral John Perry, Commander Carrier Division 1, and his staff were alerted to engage in a possible rescue attempt of an escaped prisoner of war (POW) pilot, Lieutenant (jg) Harry Ettinger of Composite Squadron (VC) 35, who had been shot down in December 1951. Friendly guerilla forces removed the ailing Ettinger from a POW camp and took him to the Wonsan area, where they contacted U.S. intelligence units for a possible rescue.

It was a routine job for Chief (AP) Duane Thorin and Petty Officer Ernest Crawford, who manned the duty HO3S-1 helicopter aboard Rochester (CA 124) 10

that morning. A member of the intelligence group replaced Crawford, and the HO3S-1 was loaded with supplies for delivery to agents on the ground. As Ettinger climbed aboard at the rendezvous point, the helicopter crashed. Meanwhile, the rescue combat air patrol (RESCAP) aircraft overhead were under heavy fire. Lt. John P. McKenna of VC-3 was fatally shot down in an F4U-5N Corsair, and four AD Skyraiders were forced to land due to battle damage. An HO3S-1 from Greer County (LST 799) was launched to try to reach Thorin, Ettinger and the crewman but was riddled with bullets. After two attempts, the stricken helicopter departed the scene, safely landing aboard St. Paul (CA 73).

An hour later, four AD-3s from Fighter Squadron (VF) 194 and two F4Us from VF-653 led by Lieutenant Commander Robert Schreiber, CO of VF-194, were scheduled to hit three railroad bridges on the Kowon-Yangdok-Samdong-ni rail line. Aerial reconnaissance photographs from F9F Panther photo planes showed that the targeted stone bridges lay in a deep valley with heavily defended guns atop surrounding hills, which required a hit-and-run attack.

A single coordinated dive-bombing attack was planned in which each AD would drop two or three 1,000-pound delay-fused bombs, and the F4Us would drop 250-pound bombs on the bridges. Only two of the three bridges were destroyed, so Schreiber called for a second attack, during which VF-194 pilot Ensign Marvin S. Broomhead's AD was hit in the engine. Too low to bail out, he landed the Skyraider wheels up on a small, snow-covered clearing atop a mountain. Moments before touching down a small arms bullet grazed his temple, causing him to crash-land, breaking both ankles and a vertebra. Pulling himself out of the cockpit, he crawled clear of the wreckage to watch his circling comrades who were anxiously calling for the rescue helicopters from Rochester and Greer County, which were not available.

The cruiser Manchester (CL 83), however, had an HO3S-1 that was used for shore gun spotting, but it was more than 100 miles away. Despite the distance, pilots Lt. Edward Moore and Marine Corps 1st Lt. Kenneth Henry answered the call and headed inland, finding Broomhead surrounded by enemy troops on the mountain top. Suddenly their helicopter sput-

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

tered from enemy ground fire and rolled over next to the AD wreckage, injuring Henry in the process. Broomhead's squadron mates frantically called for a fourth helicopter. A rescue attempt by an Air Force helo was driven off by heavy ground fire and 60-knot winds.

Broomhead could not get up with both ankles broken, Henry was down with a sprained knee, and Lt. Moore was not about to leave them. With dusk approaching and the RESCAP planes running out of gas and ammunition, hope for a rescue was lost. All three were now alone in the darkness facing Chinese Communist troops coming up the hill.

By the following morning, the only visible trace of the three airmen was a large circle of what appeared to be blood in the snow near the wreckage. Actually, it was mostly dye marker from life vests that had spread through the snow, creating a huge red circle around the aircraft that gave the appearance of a massacre.

James Michener news-dispatched the death scene of the three airmen from his post aboard Valley Forge, believing that Chinese soldiers had killed them during the night (in reality, all three survived their ordeal and were repatriated as POWs after the war). His United Press article "An Epic in Failure" and International News Service story titled "Heroes Fail to Save Pal" hit the national news a week after the incident. A more detailed dialog of the episode titled "All for One" appeared in Readers Digest in July 1952, and became the inspiration for a magazine novel called "*The Bridges at Toko-Ri*," which appeared in Life magazine on 6 July 1953. Its popularity blossomed into the best-selling 1954 book and movie.

For many years, Cdr. Paul N. Gray, CO of Attack Squadron 54 aboard Essex, was rumored to be the basis for *The Bridges at Toko-Ri* central character, "Brubaker." However, the author's notes reveal that the character was patterned after Lieutenant Donald S. Brubaker of VF-194 aboard Valley Forge, whom Michener interviewed on 5 December 1951 and, like his literary counterpart, was recalled to active duty as a Naval Reserve pilot. The final death scene, however, was taken from the above-mentioned inci-

dent of Brubaker's squadron mate, Ens. Broomhead.

During his stay aboard the carriers of Task Force 77, Michener wrote several other magazine articles about Naval Aviation, such as "The Forgotten Heroes of Korea," published in the Saturday Evening Post on 10 May 1952, in which he expanded on the story of Cdr. Gray and others. Gray was a tenacious and gifted AD Skyraider pilot who made low-level bombing runs against hard-to-reach targets and inflicted great damage to the enemy, but at the cost of some shootdowns and near-misses, prompting RAdm. Perry to ground him. The enthusiastic response to this article laid the groundwork for a cast of other characters that Michener would later use in *The Bridges at Toko-Ri*, including "RAdm. George Tarrant" (based on RAdm. Perry); "CAG Wayne Lee" (Cdr. Marshall U. Beebe, Commander Air Group 5); and "Nestor Gamidge" (Chief (AP) Thorin).

Later, "The Forgotten Heroes of Korea" article became a hot commodity to the movie industry. Michener had sold the rights to Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Studios, which in turn altered the narratives to fit another story by naval officer Cdr. Harry Bums, "The Case of the Blind Pilot," published in the 29 November 1952 Saturday Evening Post. The combined story became the movie *Men of the Fighting Lady*, which supposedly portrayed the true experiences of Cdr. Gray and "blind pilot" Ens. Kenneth A. Schechter. In reality, the "blind pilot" affair occurred long after Cdr. Gray had returned to the United States.

Ens. Schechter of VF-194 was flying an AD from Valley Forge north of Kowon on 22 March 1952 and was severely wounded by an enemy shell that struck his canopy and exploded. Blinded by blood and suffering from shock, he was unable to see to maintain control of his airplane. Lt. (jg) Howard Thayer, hearing his squadron mate's call for assistance and observing his erratic maneuvers, joined up on the damaged plane and literally "flew" it by radioing instructions to the completely blinded pilot. Thayer's controlling was so competent and reassuring that the wounded man elected to proceed to a landing strip rather than bail out. Depending entirely on Thayer's directions, Schechter flew the Skyraider more than 100 miles "blind" to make a perfect wheels-up land-

(Continued from page 11)

ing at a small emergency airstrip. Schechter was immediately evacuated by helicopter to a hospital ship.

Ironically, the Broomhead story and the Schechter story were related. Two months before Broomhead was shot down on 4 December 1951, he had received a Red Cross telegram that his wife was injured in a car accident. He was allowed to return to San Diego on emergency leave where he found his wife in critical condition, disabled and a permanent paraplegic at the Balboa Naval Hospital. Six weeks later he returned to the carrier but was shot down and presumed dead on his third flight. Michener was aware of these facts because on several occasions he had corresponded with George Schechter, father of "blind pilot" Ens. Kenneth Schechter, about Broomhead's wife who was in the hospital bed directly across the hall from his son. Michener contacted Broomhead's wife, but for whatever reasons, he chose not to expand his storyline beyond the death climax of the three airmen on a hilltop. Instead, he wrote about a fictitious happy "Brubaker" in a good-bye scene with his wife in the luxurious surroundings of the Fujiya (Fuji-san in the story) Hotel. In reality, the greater paradox, perhaps, was the repatriation of a crippled Broomhead (his two fractured ankles and compressed vertebra were left untreated by his captors) coming home to a paraplegic wife in a wheelchair.

True wartime events such as these colored Michener's perception of the war, and provided him with a depth of experience that translated into the characters in his renowned book. Michener wrote *The Bridges at Toko-Ri* as a tragedy based on true wartime events of Naval Aviation personnel he knew. It would become the seminal novel on Naval Aviation in the Korean War.

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Article by Dr. Richard E. Kaufman, Professor Emeritus at California State University, Sacramento. He was a Naval Aviator in the Korean War and later a professional acquaintance of professor and writer James A. Michener at the University of Texas. This article is based on the author's interpretations of Michener's notes and journals.

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50 Rules To Live By

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1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others'. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Life is too short for long pity parties. Get busy living, or get busy dying.

(Continued on page 13)

*(Continued from page 12)*

17. You can get through anything if you stay put in today.
18. A writer writes. If you want to be a writer, write.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words: "In five years, will this matter?"
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood. Make it memorable.
38. Read the Psalms. They cover every human emotion.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
42. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
43. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
44. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
45. The best is yet to come.
46. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
47. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
48. If you don't ask, you don't get.
49. Yield.
50. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

# Gateway Arch & Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour

Thursday, October 18, 2007

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

7-hour tour

St. Louis is an historic city dating back to 1764. From that time on, St. Louis has grown and made its place in history. Today, you will visit some of the places for which St. Louis has become known.

Begin your day with a narrated ride through **Laclede's Landing**, a nine-block historic area named for the founder of the city. This area showcases century-old warehouses filled with nightspots and restaurants. Bumping along the original cobblestone streets will bring you to the riverfront where it all began in 1764.

We will stop at the 630-foot **Gateway Arch** to see the Museum of Westward Expansion and take a tram ride to the top (if you desire) or see a movie on how our nation's tallest manmade monument was built. Either option allows you time to visit the Museum where a glimpse of the gritty reality behind Western legends can be seen. The Indian Peace Medals made by Thomas Jefferson for Lewis and Clark is a "can't miss"! Before leaving this part of downtown, you'll see the oldest cathedral west of the Mississippi, the Old Courthouse where the Dred Scott case began its way through the legal system, and Busch Stadium, home to the St. Louis Cardinals.

Lunch will be at **St. Louis Union Station**, which was the largest train station in the country when it opened in 1894 with 32 tracks beneath 11 acres of train sheds. Reopened in 1985 as an urban marketplace, it is now home to restaurants and stores and a perfect place for lunch on your own after a brief tour by your guide of the complex.

Next stop, you're off to **Anheuser-Busch Brewery** to see where what was to become the world's largest brewery, where it began and where it continues! The tour includes a visit to the century-old Clydesdale stable, the elegant Brew House and the Bevo Packaging Plant. At the end, relax over complimentary tasting of the world-famous products or shop in Bud World.

No trip to St. Louis is complete without a drive through **Forest Park**, site of the 1904 World's Fair and one of the largest public parks in the United States. Filled with some of the city's major attractions: the Zoo, Art Museum, History Museum, Muny opera and Science Center, your guide will share information about the Fair and changes the Park has undergone since that time.

*The price per person is \$40.00 based on a minimum of 35 people per coach and includes a 54-passenger motorcoach, a professional Discover St. Louis guide, Arch admission with tram or movie ticket, all reservations and arrangements. Gratuity for the guide and driver is always appreciated but left to the discretion of our guests.*

# Dixieland Dinner Cruise

Friday, October 19, 2007

6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

4-hour tour

A moonlight cruise on the Mississippi River aboard a replica of a 19th-century paddlewheeler provides an enjoyable evening for everyone! There's Dixieland music for dancing and listening pleasure, a dramatic view of the St. Louis skyline, and your choice of a dinner entrée.

Champagne Chicken with rice pilaf is the selected dinner for our cruise. Alcoholic beverages are available on the paddlewheeler.

*Price per person is \$60.00 based on a minimum of 35 people. Price includes a 54-passenger motorcoach, a Discover St. Louis escort, riverboat cruise, sit-down dinner, all reservations and arrangements.*

## A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE

### Who to contact about your dues

Scott Williams, Sec'y/Treas.  
MCB 2 Reunion Association  
725 Summer Ridge Dr.  
Villa Rica, GA 30180  
(770-456-4246)

e-mail: [williash@aol.com](mailto:williash@aol.com)

make checks payable to:  
Scott Williams/MCB 2

**Dues are \$20/year**  
January - December

This is what keeps us going  
and enables us to send this Newsletter.

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Pythagorean theorem:  
24 words

The Lord's Prayer:  
66 words

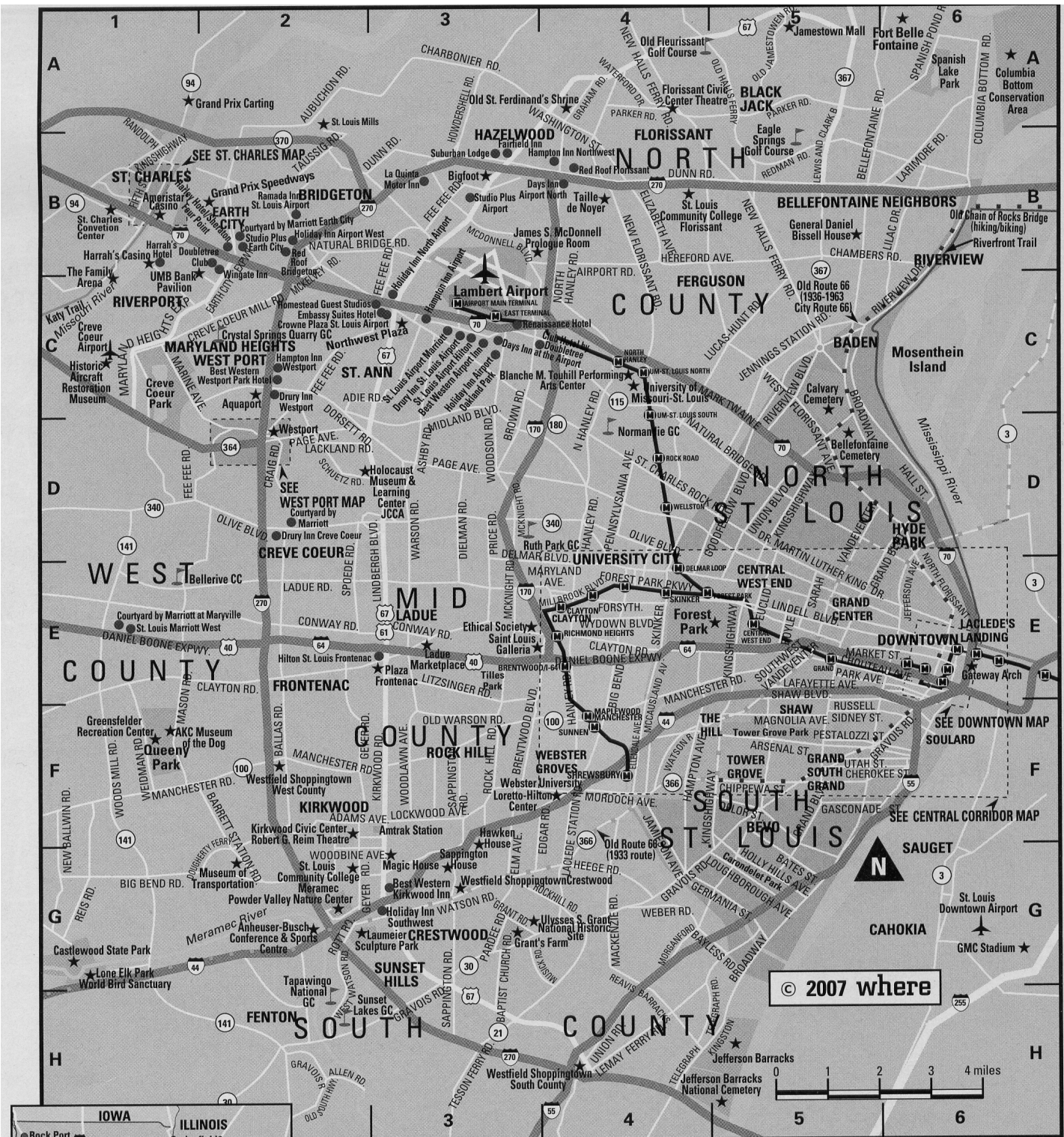
Archimedes' Principle:  
67 words

The 10 Commandments:  
179 words

The Gettysburg Address:  
286 words

The Declaration of Independence:  
1,300 words

U.S. Government regulations on the sale of cabbage:  
26,911 words



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MetroLink light rail system travels from Lambert Airport to Scott Air Force Base, and from Shrewsbury to Emerson Park, from approximately 5:30 am to mid-night, M-Sa; Su 6 am-11 pm.

|                                            |         |                             |         |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| MetroLink 2-Hour Pass from Lambert Airport | \$3.50  | adults                      | \$3.50  |
| MetroLink One-Ride Ticket                  | \$2.00  | seniors, children, disabled | \$1.75  |
| MetroBus Fare                              | \$1.75  |                             | \$1.00  |
| MetroBus Fare with Multi-use Transfer      | \$2.25  |                             | \$0.85  |
| Metro One-Day Pass (MetroLink & MetroBus)  | \$4.50  |                             | \$1.10  |
| Metro Weekly Pass (MetroLink & MetroBus)   | \$19.00 |                             | \$4.50  |
|                                            |         |                             | \$19.00 |

- ★ **ATTRACTIONS**
- ★ **SHOPPING CENTERS**
- ★ **CONCERT, THEATER & SPORTS VENUES,**
- **HOTELS**

MetroLink tickets and One-Day Passes available at Ticket Vending Machines (TVM) at all stations. Tickets and Passes available at the MetroRide Transit Store, 7th & Washington, in America's Center. Passengers must have exact change. Multi-ride tickets and tickets purchased elsewhere must be time-and-date stamped at the station in the red validator before boarding. Bicycles are allowed on MetroLink. Call 314-231-2345 in Missouri; 618-271-2345 in Illinois. www.metrostlouis.org.

Embassy Suites Airport is located at C-3 above, west of the airport.





MCB 2 REUNION ASSOCIATION, Inc.  
 Biannual Reunion  
 Schedule of Events  
**EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL - AIRPORT**  
**ST. LOUIS, MO**  
**October 17-20, 2007**

*Wednesday, October 17*

|            |   |           |                                |
|------------|---|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m.  | - |           | Hospitality Room open          |
| 12:00 p.m. | - | 5:00 p.m. | <b>Early Bird Registration</b> |
| 4:00 p.m.  | - | 5:00 p.m. | Planning Committee meeting     |
| 10:30 p.m. | - |           | Hospitality Room closed        |

*Thursday, October 18*

|            |   |           |                                                     |
|------------|---|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m.  | - |           | Hospitality Room open                               |
| 9:00 a.m.  | - | 5:00 p.m. | Bus tour to Gateway Arch and Anheuser-Busch Brewery |
| 8:00 a.m.  | - | 5:00 p.m. | <b>Reunion Registration open</b>                    |
| 10:30 p.m. | - |           | Hospitality Room closed                             |

*Friday, October 19*

|            |   |            |                                        |
|------------|---|------------|----------------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m.  | - |            | Hospitality Room open                  |
| 8:00 a.m.  | - | 5:00 p.m.  | <b>Reunion Registration open</b>       |
| 6:30 p.m.  | - | 10:30 p.m. | Dinner cruise on the Mississippi River |
| 10:30 p.m. | - |            | Hospitality Room closed                |

*Saturday, October 20*

|            |   |            |                                       |
|------------|---|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m.  | - |            | Hospitality Room open                 |
| 8:00 a.m.  | - | 8:30 a.m.  | <b>Reunion Registration open</b>      |
| 9:00 a.m.  | - | 10:30 a.m. | Business Meeting                      |
| 10:30 a.m. | - | 11:30 a.m. | Memorial Service                      |
| 12:00 a.m. | - | 4:00 p.m.  | <b>Late Reunion Registration open</b> |
| 4:00 p.m.  | - |            | Hospitality Room closed               |
| 6:00 p.m.  | - | 11:00 p.m. | Cash Bar in Banquet Room              |
| 7:00 p.m.  | - |            | Banquet                               |
| 9:00 p.m.  | - |            | Door Prize drawings                   |

*Sunday, October 21*

|           |   |  |                          |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. | - |  | Hospitality Room open    |
|           |   |  | Farewells and departures |

Fill this form out and have it ready when you call the hotel for your reservations.  
Bring this completed form to the reunion with the Confirmation Number.

# Embassy Suites Hotel - St. Louis Airport

11237 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044-2739

## HOTEL RESERVATION WORKSHEET

**CALL 1-800-362-2779 & Identify Yourself: MCB 2 Seabees**

**Group Name: MCB 2 Reunion Association**

**Dates: Wednesday - Saturday, October 17 - 20, 2007**

**Rate: \$103 plus 14.9% tax      Single or Double Occupancy**

**Bed type requested: (Circle one)      King      Double**

Parking: **FREE**

Check-in Time: 4:00 p.m.

Check-out Time: 12:00 Noon

**Confirmation Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Guest & Companion's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date

Departure Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Number for Guarantee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Card & Expiration Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cardholder's Name:

**Special needs**

(subject to availability): Smoking/non-smoking; Handicap.

**Deposits:**

Please allow one night's deposit plus 14.9% (current rate) room tax.

Deposits must be received prior to the reservation cut-off date.

A credit card or a deposit in the amount of one night's room plus tax charge must be received no later than 14 days from the date the reservation was made.

**Reservation Cut-Off Date:**

All reservations must be received by the hotel no later than September 16, 2007.

**Cancellations:**

Individual room reservations may be cancelled up to forty-eight (48) hours prior to arrival with no penalty.

**Early Departure Fee:**

Guests wishing to avoid an early checkout fee of \$50 should advise the hotel at or before check-in of any change in planned length of stay.

# MCB 2 Reunion Association, Inc.

c/o Scott H. Williams  
725 Summer Ridge Dr.  
Villa Rica, GA 30180

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*Return Service Requested*