

Army Pays Tribute to Korea Vet

When Arnold E. Kirk went to the Pentagon recently, he was expecting to attend a ceremony during which his daughter, Wanda Kirk-Huester, was to be rewarded for her service with the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Instead Kirk, a 74-year-old Korean War veteran from Forest Hill, Md., found himself the guest of honor at an awards ceremony presided over by Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White. Kirk, who fought at the battles of Bloody Ridge and Heartbreak Ridge, was awarded four medals and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon by White.

"It has often been said that there are not extraordinary men, just extraordinary circumstances that ordinary men are forced to deal with," White said. "[Kirk] served in a distinguished unit in the Korean War some 50 years ago and, as was the case with many soldiers of that generation, because of one thing or another, the recognition of a grateful nation for his service was not appropriately rendered at the time of his service. So we are here today to correct that."

"I was really shocked," said Kirk, a Virginia native, according to the Army News Service. "It feels great to be honored. I was elated when they put up the Korean War Memorial, and this lets me know that anything can happen. I'm lost for words, really."

Four generations of Kirk's family attended the April 24 ceremony, including his great-grandchildren wearing Boy Scout uniforms. "It was like a Norman Rockwell painting," said Paul Boyce, an Army spokesman.

Kirk-Huester, one of Kirk's six daughters, said she wrote "hundreds of letters" and finally got a call from Col. Harold Neal of the Korean War Commemoration Committee. "It has taken about 2½ years to make it all come together, and I am overwhelmed and so proud of my father," she said.

Kirk, a retired pipe fitter, served in Korea from September 1951 to June 1952 as a forward observer and engaged in the battles of Bloody Ridge and Heartbreak Ridge with the 37th Field Artillery Battalion.

After returning to the United States in August 1952, Kirk served in the reserves for four years before leaving military service in 1956 without receiving any of the medals to which he was entitled, including the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Medal, Korean Service Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Asked why the Army put on a special ceremony for Kirk when so many veterans are eligible for these awards, Boyce said, "Ms. Kirk-Huester's request was so unique, and she had worked on this as a surprise. . . . Who couldn't help out with something this nice?"

The Defense Department commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War extends through Nov. 11, 2003.

"Regrettably, as we celebrate the events of the Korean War some 50 years after the fact, there are many Korean War veterans that still view themselves as participating in a war that did not receive appropriate recognition. . . . but I want you to know that you are not forgotten," White said during the ceremony. "You deserve the gratitude of our nation, because a nation that forgets its defenders will itself soon be forgotten."

Military Matters appears every other week. Steve Vogel can be reached by e-mail at vogels@washpost.com.

8012114 1508 WASHINGTON POST 4/17/08

Obituaries

**Dennis J. Reilly Jr.
Navy Chief Petty Officer**

Dennis J. Reilly Jr., 87, a retired Navy chief petty officer who spent more than 20 years as a safety inspector and engineer for Savoy Construction Co., died of cardiogenic shock March 15 at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda.

Mr. Reilly served 26 years in the Navy until retiring in 1962. During the Korean War, he received the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" for his service on the aircraft carrier USS Bon Homme Richard as a chief aviation machinist mate.

He later studied military justice and law, and his final active-duty assignment was at Patuxent River Naval Air Station as a special in-

vestigator on security matters.

He worked for Savoy Construction from the mid-1960s to late 1980s.

Dennis Joseph Reilly Jr. was a native Washingtonian and a 1937 graduate of Gonzaga College High School. He attended Montgomery



**Dennis J. Reilly Jr.,
a retired Navy
chief petty officer
and safety expert.**

College on the G.I. Bill after World War II.

He had been a volunteer with Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad since the late 1950s. He was secretary-treasurer of the rescue squad alumni group for the last 25 years.

He was a former president of an American Legion post in Bethesda, his city of residence, and his memberships included Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Bethesda, the Knights of Columbus and the Izaak Walton League conservation group.

He earned a pilot's license at 16 and later flew gliders. He enjoyed studying engineering and mathematics.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Martha O'Neil Reilly of Bethesda; seven children, retired Army Maj. Denise R. Mitcham of Annandale, retired Navy Cmdr. Dennis J. Reilly III of Merritt Island, Fla., James E. Reilly of Gaithersburg, Barbara A. Scruggs of Belmont, N.C., Mary K. Krivda of Kensington, John F. Reilly of Olney and Rosemary M. Seminario of Rockville; 24 grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

— Adam Bernstein

**Enclosure 11 to
DUCKS Letter
of 10/15/08**

ENCL-12
3/15/06

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in commending

TASK ELEMENT 90.62

consisting of The U.S.S. MANSFIELD, U.S.S. DEHAVEN, U.S.S. HENDERSON,
U.S.S. GURKE, U.S.S. LYMAN K. SWENSON and the U.S.S. COLLETT

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For outstanding heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea from 13 to 15 September 1950. Skillfully navigating the extremely difficult and hazardous approaches to enemy-held Inch'on in advance of the initial assault against that fortress, Task Element 90.62 coolly entered the strongly fortified harbor and anchored within close range of hostile gun positions. Defying the deadly barrage of heavy enemy shore-battery fire delivered from a myriad of hidden gun emplacements scattered along the coastline, the gallant destroyers of this Element courageously proceeded to launch an accurate and crushing fire attack in the first of a series of well-planned and brilliantly executed bombardments which culminated in the reduction of the port's defenses and the successful landing of friendly forces at Inch'on on 15 September 1950. Although sustaining several casualties and numerous hits from the roaring enemy shore batteries, these ships repeatedly refused to leave their assigned stations and boldly continued to return the heavy counterfire of hostile guns until their scheduled time of withdrawal. Fully aware that with each successive entry into the treacherous channel the peril of meeting increased resistance was greatly intensified, they braved the hazards of a hostile mine field, passed dangerously close to the enemy's shore fortifications and unleashed a furious bombardment which eventually neutralized the port defenses sufficiently to permit the successful amphibious landings. An aggressive and intrepid fighting unit, the daring officers and men of Task Element 90.62 achieved a splendid combat record which attests the teamwork, courage and skill of the entire Destroyer Element and enhances the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

All personnel attached to and serving on board the above mentioned destroyers from 13 to 15 September 1950 are hereby authorized to wear the NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION Ribbon.



Secretary of the Navy

Enclosure 12 to
DUCKS Letter
of 10/15/08

ENCL 12 3/15/06
TO ADM MILLER - CNO



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000
 3 November 2003

WHICH NAVY UNITS?
 AND WHAT DID THEY DO?
 THIS IS AN UNUSUALLY
 ALL INCLUSIVE PUC

ENCL-13
 11510

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
 PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION to

I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance in action against enemy forces in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM from 21 March to 24 April 2003. During this period, I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) (REIN) conducted the longest sequence of coordinated combined arms overland attacks in the history of the Marine Corps. From the border between Kuwait and Iraq, to the culmination of hostilities north of Baghdad, I MEF advanced nearly 800 kilometers under sustained and heavy combat. Utilizing the devastating combat power of organic aviation assets, coupled with the awesome power resident in the ground combat elements, and maintaining momentum through the herculean efforts of combat service support elements, I MEF destroyed nine Iraqi Divisions. This awesome display of combat power was accomplished while simultaneously freeing the Iraqi people from more than 30 years of oppression and reestablishing basic infrastructure in the country. During the 33 days of combat, to the transition to civil-military operations, I MEF sustained a tempo of operations never before seen on the modern battlefield, conducting four major river crossings, maintaining the initiative, and sustaining forces. The ferocity and duration of the campaign was made possible through the skills and determination of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coalition Partners comprising I MEF at all levels, all echelons, and in all occupational fields. By their outstanding courage, aggressive fighting spirit, and untiring devotion to duty, the officers and enlisted personnel of I Marine Expeditionary Force (REIN) reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

Secretary of the Navy

Enclosure 13 to
 DUCKS Letter
 of 10/15/08

Enclosure 14 to
DUCKS Letter
of 10/15/08

Navy Times article on multiple
awards of the PUC to Navy Units
in Iraq, giving rise to the
question - "Why did SECNAV re-
ject the upgrade to the PUC for
the "Sitting Ducks"?". Palticos?
Wrong War? Bad advice?
Disdain for old veterans of a
"Forgotten War"?

Frontlines

WIRE REPORTS FROM ALL OVER

www.navytimes.com

NAVY TIMES 11-17-03

Joint resolution

Presidential Unit Citation goes to I MEF sailors, Marines

Sailors attached to I Marine Expeditionary Force during the charge to Baghdad will be awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

Navy Secretary Gordon England on Oct. 31 approved the Presidential Unit Citation for I MEF for "extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance" in Operation Iraqi Freedom combat actions from March 21 to April 24. During that period, MEF units covered a distance of nearly 500 miles, pushing as far north as Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown.

The MEF is credited with destroying nine Iraqi divisions. The award citation notes that "the ferocity and duration of the campaign was made possible ... through the skills and determination of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and coalition partners comprising I MEF at all levels, all echelons and in all occupational fields," according to a Camp Pendleton, Calif., news article.

I MEF leaders are to receive the award Nov. 13 during the annual Marine Corps birthday pageant at Camp

Pendleton, said Maj. T.V. Johnson, a I MEF spokesman. "It's a very prestigious award," said Lt. Col. Geffery Cooper, commander of 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, a bilized Reserve unit that saw action in OIF. Cooper led a battalion in Iraq with the division's Regimental Combat Team 1. "In my 26 years, I didn't know of any of my peers or acquaintances wearing a PUC," he said.

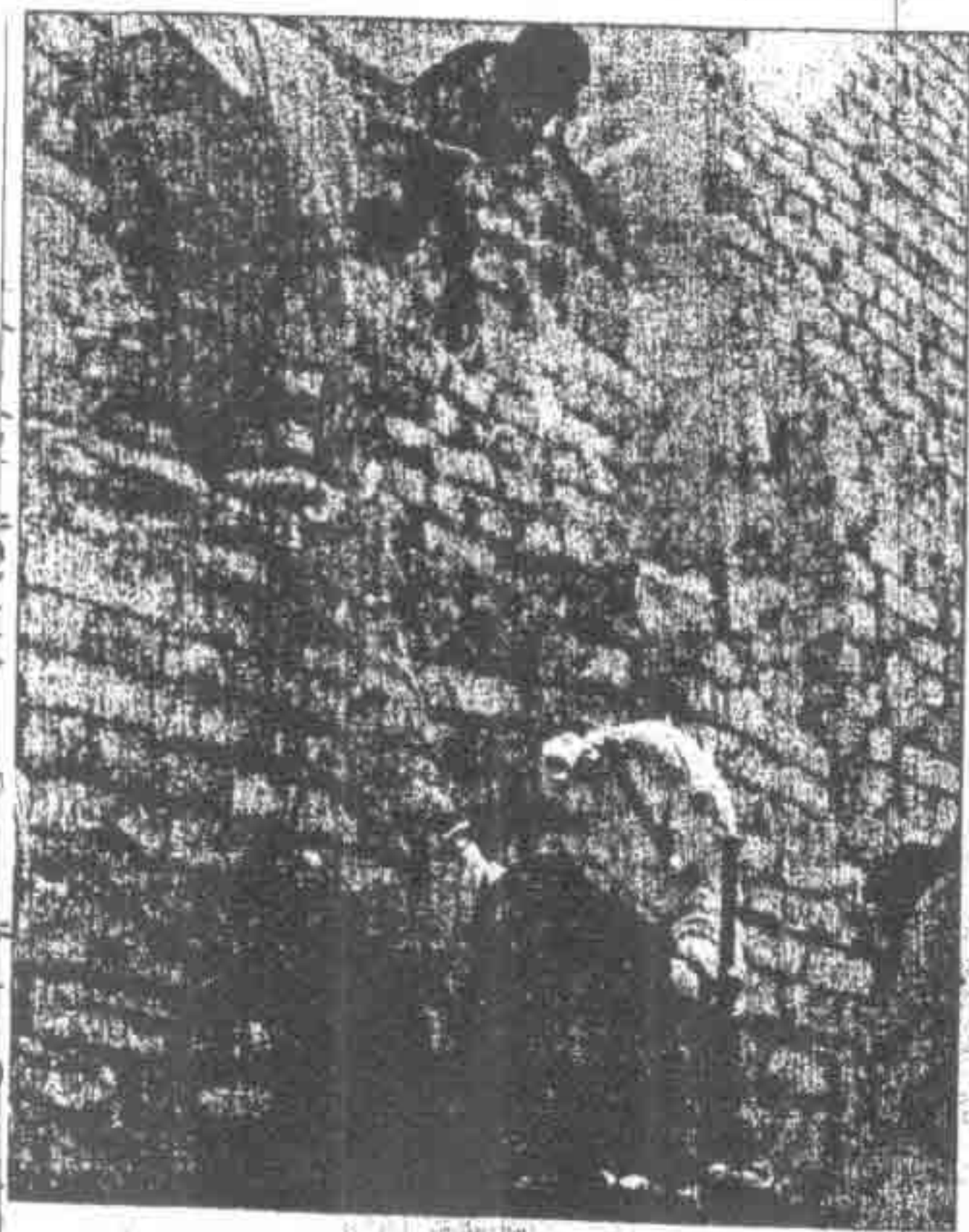
It didn't take long for his Marines and sailors to add PUC ribbon to their uniforms, which already sport Co Action Ribbons.

Navy units receiving the award include Naval Mobile Construction battalions 4, 5, 74 and 133; Naval Construction Force Support Unit 2; Underwater Construction Team 2 Air Detachment; and 22nd Naval Construction Regiment.

I MEF deployed with about 2,300 hospital corpsmen, dental technicians, religious program specialists and Seab

— Gidget Fuentes and C. Mark B

It appears that they are passing these out like candy at the parade. And they wonder why vets are pissed!



Engineering Aide 2nd Class H Lee gives candy to local children from within the Al Kut Cemetery in Iraq. Navy Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 will be awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

ENC 14
DUCKS 10/15/08

USS Henderson DD785
Reunion Coordinator - Richard Sierra
505 Park Way - South San Francisco, Ca 94080
(650) 952-7440 email: DIXERA@aol.com fax (650) 952-7064

1-2-04

MR RICHARD BOWMAN

FIRST PLEASE EXCUSE THIS HAND WRITTEN NOTE - DUE TO MY COMPUTER BEING DOWN - BUT I THOUGHT I WOULD GET THIS IN THE MAIL RIGHT AWAY BEFORE IT JUST SITS HERE.

PLEASE LOOK AT THE NEWS CLIP THAT WAS IN THE NAVY TIMES - LOOKS LIKE THEY GIVE IT OUT LIKE CANDY - ANY WORD ABOUT OURS YET? HAVE NOT HEARD FROM CAPT WILLIAM H. BARNES III ON HOW WE ARE DOING SO FAR. PLEASE ADVISE ME ANY UP DATES OR INFO SO I CAN PASS IT ON TO THE "SITTING DUCK" CREW

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE RICHARD,



Richard Sierra writes for the "Sitting Duck" veterans who served on the "Duck" destroyer HENDERSON, inquiring of "Duck" vet Richard Bowman (MANSFIELD) of the status of the petition for the upgrade to the PUC. Mr. Sierra also comments on the great number of Presidential Unit Citations being awarded to Navy personnel in Iraq.

Enclosure 15 to
DUCKS Letter
of 10/15/08

March 1, 2008

Captain Barnes,

I am enclosing a key chain I had made up for the crew that was at Inchon and I thought that all the work and effort you have put into this project, you of all people should have one. Thanks Captain.

Dick Sierra



Enclosure 16 to
DUCKS Letter
of 10/15/08

JOHN McCAIN
ARIZONA

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

November 12, 2004

241 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0303
(202) 224-2235

4450 SOUTH RURAL ROAD
SUITE B-130
TEMPE, AZ 85282
(480) 897-6289

2400 EAST ARIZONA
BILTMORE CIRCLE
SUITE 1150
PHOENIX, AZ 85016
(602) 952-2410

450 WEST PASEO REDONDO
SUITE 200
TUCSON, AZ 85701
(520) 670-8334

TELEPHONE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED
(202) 224-7132
(602) 952-0170

William Barnes
2 Williams Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401-2215

Dear Bill:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your letter of November 12, 2004 regarding your request to upgrade the battle award given to "Sitting Duck" combat sailors.

Your situation is in the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy. Therefore, I have forwarded your letter to that agency.

Bill, I do hope your situation can be resolved favorably.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator

IM/x:mt

**Enclosure 17 to
DUCKS Letter
of 10/15/08**

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

May 15, 2006

Mr. William Barnes
2 Williams Drive
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2215

Dear Mr. Barnes:

I have received a response from the agency that I contacted on your behalf in an effort to assist you in resolving your problem.

I am enclosing a copy of the reply. I am sorry that the response is not encouraging. I had hoped to resolve this matter to your satisfaction.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

BAM:rm

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO
OFFICE INDICATED:

- 1629 THAMES STREET, SUITE 400
BALTIMORE, MD 21231
(410) 962-4510
VOICE/TDD: (410) 962-4512
- 80 WEST STREET, SUITE 202
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401-2448
(410) 263-1805
BALTIMORE: (410) 269-1650
- 6404 IVY LANE, SUITE 406
GREENBELT, MD 20770-1407
(301) 345-5517
- 32 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
ROOM 203
HAGERSTOWN, MD 27140-4804
(301) 797-2828
- SUITE 1E, BUILDING B
1201 PEMBERTON DRIVE
SALISBURY, MD 21801-2403
(410) 546-7711

**Enclosure 18 to
DUCKS Letter
of 10/15/08**

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 23, 2003

Captain William H. Barnes, USNR, Ret.
2 Williams Drive
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2215

Dear Captain Barnes:

Thank you for contacting President George W. Bush for assistance with an agency of the Federal government. I am responding on behalf of the President.

The White House is sending your inquiry to the Department of Defense, which will review your correspondence. This agency has the expertise to address your concerns. They will respond directly to you, as promptly as possible.

The President sends his best wishes.

Sincerely,



Desiree Thompson
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Presidential Correspondence

**Enclosure 19 to
DUCKS Letter
of 10/15/08**

Commissioned 2 May 1944
WWII Asiatic-Pacific Campaign
(5 Battle Stars)
Philippine Liberation (2 Stars)
Philippine Presidential Unit Citation
WWII Victory
Occupation Service
China Service



Korean Service
(6 Battle Stars)
Navy Unit Commendation
United Nations Service
Korean Presidential Unit Citation
Vietnam Service (10 Stars)
Decommissioned 12 Feb 1971

May 14, 2008

Dear Bill,

I want to give you an update regarding Swenson's "Sitting Ducks".

In March of this year I mailed out 455 Lyman K Swenson postcards (including one to you). They were surplus cards we had in our ship's store and we had not been able to sell. I decided that I would mail them to each Shipmate on the Swenson roster that I had a mailing address for. This did not include the 100+ 2007 annual reunion attendees.

My objectives were:

1. To spark interest in those who had not paid their 2008 annual dues.
2. To create interest in those that have attended reunions in the past to plan to attend the 2008 reunion.
3. To get feedback updating mailing addresses.
4. To get feedback from heirs of passed Shipmates.

The results this far are as follows:

1. The feedback reporting seven deaths, One was a Plank owner; One was a 1946-47 Shipmate; One was a 1957-58 Shipmate; One was CO #9 1957-59; and **three** were "Sitting Ducks".
2. There have been 3-4 Shipmates renew their membership for 2008.
3. Another 2-3 have called me saying they planned to attend our upcoming 2008 Orlando reunion.
4. I have received several mailing address updates.

When I receive notification of a death I update our Tap's listing, and while doing this the thought ran through my mind "I hope Bill Barnes gets the NUC upgraded to a PUC before all our "Ducks" are gone!

The names of the deceased "Sitting Ducks" are:

Charles D. McKenzie, DC1, USN Ret
Norman L. McCulloch, BMCM, USN Ret
John W. "Zeke" Zettner, BMC, USN Ret

I have enclosed the obituary for Zeke for your information.

Respectfully,

Don Snider

Secretary, Lyman K. Swenson
Reunion Association

**Enclosure 20 to
DUCKS Letter
of 10/15/08**