



# USS Noxubee AOG 56

## Shipmates Association Newsletter

March 2009

www.ussnoxubee.org "Always on the Go"

CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, ADMIRAL MIKE MULLEN, LAST C.O. OF THE NOXUBEE, HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR A SECOND 2 YEAR TERM BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE GATES. WE'D LIKE TO PASS ALONG OUR CONGRATULATIONS.



## Reunion News

From Howard and Frances Justice.

Plans are in the works for a coal mine exhibit, Blenko Glass Factory, and there are even rumors of a "critter dinner" and some s--- kickin music. We are working with the Charleston visitor's Center on extra activities in the Charleston area.

On October 4th, the day you'll be arriving, the city of Charleston will be sponsoring the annual Doo Wop car show on the Blvd, just a block from the hotel. Sunday will be the last day of the show and the hours will be 8:00am to 4:00pm. Hopefully most of you will be able to arrive early enough to enjoy seeing the antique cars.

We hope you are making your plans to meet in Charleston, WV this October, the next newsletter will have tour and meal information as well as the registration form. If you haven't already made your hotel reservation you can do so now by calling Holiday Inn Express, Charleston, WV. 304-345-0600 or 1-800-465-4329. You must Identify USS Noxubee Association-code NBA

## Agent Orange Updates

There has been another court opinion given on Agent Orange and those eligible for treatment. It does not cover personnel aboard ships operating in waters off Vietnam. To read the reports go to the below listed web sites. [www.cafc.uscourts.gov/opinions/07-7037.pdf](http://www.cafc.uscourts.gov/opinions/07-7037.pdf).

There is also another report from Gerson H Smoger where the Supreme court refused to hear three cases about Agent Orange. [www.vawatchdog.org/09/nf09/nfmar09/nf030609-7.htm](http://www.vawatchdog.org/09/nf09/nfmar09/nf030609-7.htm)

While again going thru the list of shipmates who have crossed the quarterdeck approximately eighteen were from the 1967-1970 time frame. There are another seven men that I know of who have applied for care. Several are receiving treatment while others have applied, I do not know their current status. Not being aboard Noxubee during her time in Vietnam I do not know the total crew size but would guess around 100 men. Figures available do not include shipmates whom we have not made contact with.

While we do not know what caused the passing of some of those aboard during the '67-'70 period we do know Greg Loney, Ray Ledenican and George Hahn had cancer. Using the information available this could represent a twenty percent or higher affected rate among Noxubee Crew Members from the Vietnam Era. The Noxubee operated in the waters off Cua Viet, and other areas?

All I can do is recommend, it would be to the advantage of all crew members from the Vietnam Era to make contact with each other. Compare notes and then start making contact with your Senators and see what can be done to get the help you are entitled to. I have not heard from Cindy Loney or Shalya Gosnell so I am unaware of status of their efforts todote? Any shipmates that have information that will help others, please contact me, we can dedicate space on the Noxubee web site to share the information. If you went ashore on a working party for stores, mail runs, etc; do you remember who was with you?

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#### Editor:

Dick Barber

#### Association Officers:

President; Gary Hall  
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#### Board of Directors:

Dick Bland, Dudley Cass, Pat Francione, Jim Gabrisch, Paul Gryniewicz, "Moose" Haviland, Bill Holton, Howard Justice, Bob Mitchell, Tom Mize and Jan Scott

## Shipmate News

### A reminder to all shipmates.

Veterans do not automatically get benefits. You must apply for any benefits you feel you are entitled to. Social Security was paid during periods of active duty. When you retire or apply to draw SS benefits be sure your account includes active military service.

### Shipmates Located

George Pappas SN 04-02-1956 thru 01-11-1957  
Victor L Pipo CSSN 05-07-1969 thru 04-30-1970

Had the opportunity to talk with Kathleen Crowe Walker, Daughter of Francis "Jake" Crowe SN 1955-1959. Any shipmates of "Jake's" that remember time spent working or on Liberty together during the time frame 55-59. Kathleen would like to hear from you. Contact information available on the website, or reach Dick Barber at 706-540-3494 cell, [dicbarber@aol.com](mailto:dicbarber@aol.com)

I received an e-mail from Lt Gordon Meriwether former XO under Capt Mullin. I'm still waiting for a reply to my response for information to add him to the Shipmates Directory. He is now a retired Navy Capt USNR.

### Lost Shipmates

Mail sent November 2008 to Shipmates John Mignault and Thomas H Mulholland have been returned address unknown. If you know of their whereabouts, or how to contact either man please let me know.

We get several returns after each Newsletter mailing; shipmates have moved and failed to notify us of change of address. If you change your contact address, telephone or e-mail please let me know, Dick Barber 706-540-3494 cell, [dicbarber@aol.com](mailto:dicbarber@aol.com)

### E-mail changes

Tom Barnacle [tombea50@verizon.net](mailto:tombea50@verizon.net)  
Tom Hayes [TomHayes@copper.net](mailto:TomHayes@copper.net)

### Second Notice

In the interest of reducing expenses we post the Newsletter on the Noxubee Web site. If you have a computer, and are satisfied with getting the Newsletter thru that media rather than by snail mail, please contact me, and I will put a hold on mailing one to you. To date, I've received only three replies regarding this.

## Noxubee Shirts and Hats

- Shirt Large (5ea) and X-Large (4ea) \$16.10 ea + shipping
- Hats \$10.60 ea. + shipping

Contact Dick Barber 706-245-6110, 706-540-3494,  
[dicbarber@aol.com](mailto:dicbarber@aol.com)

### Shipmates Crossed the Quarterdeck

Francis "Jake" Crowe SN	55-59	04-10-1975
Russell Shaw RM2	49- 51	05-18-2006
William "Bill" Hoover EN3	51-54	10-04-2008
Robert W Harrand HM1	56-58	10-31-2008
Van Shields SN	66-68	11-03-2008



*Francis "Jake" Crowe*

### Dues

Annual dues are \$20.00, (Jan-Dec) please send to:

Bob Ahlersmeyer  
8033 Seiler Rd  
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

### We Need Your Photos

Do you have a photo or two that is not on the Noxubee web site? If you can forward copies, I will try to get them added to a gallery. It would be nice to have a photo at the time you were on board and a copy of a current photo of you with your family.

