



# THE FOG HORN



I WILL NOT ABANDON YOU

LIGHTSHIP NOT IN  
CORRECT POSITION

Volume 2 Issue 24 Newsletter of The U.S. Coast Guard Lightship Sailors Association  
SPRING 2009

## Writings of The President

Larry Ryan

### PRESIDENT

- Larry Ryan

### 1st VICE PRESIDENT

- George (Skip) Coleman

### 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

- Bob Gubitosi

### SECRETARY and MEMBERSHIP

- Dave Orszak

### TREASURER

- Fred A. Pelger

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE:

- Bernie Byrnes

- Rick Gryder

- Peter Marx

### VETERAN AFFAIRS:

- Bernie Byrnes

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Bob Gubitosi

### Arts and Graphics

- Dennis Cosmo, Past Pres.

### Web Master

- Rick Gryder

### Chaplain

- Rev. Adrian Van Houten

My Brother Lightship Sailors, Members and Friends:

We have several feature articles in this edition. Our Lightship Sailors Collection inside The CG Heritage Museum under the tutelage of Bill Collette continues to grow with additional items both loaned and donated. Certainly one of our most treasured items for this period is the uniform worn by George Rongner when serving as the commanding officer of the Buzzards Bay Lightship. And we are long overdue on featuring The Five Fathom Lightship as our Lightship of the Quarter. And we seemed to have had an unusual amount of late breaking news both Coast Guard and Lightship Sailors in this past quarter. Please read and mark your calendars regarding the following notice.

### \*\*\*VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE\*\*\*

Since the last issue of our newsletter, several incidences involving either our members or 'Coasties' in general has occurred. We tried to pass the information to our members in a timely fashion by e-mail, with only 50% success due to incorrect e-mail addresses. Some of these have not been updated in several years. Plus many of our members have since acquired an email address which we do not have on record.

To verify the e-mail addresses on file and to establish a way to connect in addition to the newsletter, we will do a test message to all members on Saturday June 13, 2009. If you do not receive a message on that date, please send a message to both of these addresses: [President@uscglightsailsors.org](mailto:President@uscglightsailsors.org) AND ALSO to Dave Orszak [pdorszak@comcast.net](mailto:pdorszak@comcast.net) so we can update our address list.

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Reunion 2009, Concord, CA will be held October 22, 23, and 24th. This will be our first meeting in California. The WLV 605 Relief, formally Overfalls and Blunts Reef, will be our host Lightship. This is the sister ship to the WLV 604 in Astoria, our host ship in 2004.

We are expecting several past crew to attend and at least two that made the trip around from New York in 1960.

Again this year we will have a raffle for a free room during the meeting, three nights plus room tax. ( must have stayed the three night minimum and board members are excluded ). The raffle will be during the banquet on Saturday night followed by our very enjoyable fund raising auction ( donations gratefully appreciated). Air fares are currently at a record low, take advantage of them while you can.

We still have copies of the 2008 reunion activities available on DVD. These were produced and made available at cost of \$14 which includes postage by Mary Lou Coleman. Really great work and an excellent way to preserve the memories of our association. Please see the coupon inside.

We plan on video taping our individual oral histories in Concord. These will be archived for future generations to tell our stories of Lightship duty. Please start preparing your notes with dates, ship hull numbers and as many names as you we can recall. The first session will be Thursday during registration. ( we did this in 2002 but they were never recorded ). Please help, we need this history!

If you haven't been online to visit our website, please do. Rick Gryder, Webmaster, is doing a great job in making the site interesting and easy to navigate. He has added other links to additional sites that most of us would appreciate. As it is an ongoing project, check back often at [www.uscglightsailsors.org](http://www.uscglightsailsors.org) This website belongs to The LSA, please don't hesitate to offer your thoughts and contributions.

Lightship Overfalls Group, Lewes, DE is expecting stimulus money to construct their new berth for the just completed refurbished 118.

Until next time, Keep a Good Light. *Larry*

**USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

*2009 ANNUAL REUNION ... To be Held in  
CONCORD, CA ... October 22, 23 & 24.*

Quick Overview of Basic Reunion Information to Help in your Planning!

Hotel: Concord Holiday Inn  
1050 Burnett Ave  
Concord, CA 94520

Reservations call: 1-925-687-5500

Our LSA Special Rates are: \$89.00 per night plus tax.

Rooms must be reserved under "USCG Lightship Sailors Association" block for special rate.

Make certain to say you are with the USCG Lightship Sailors Assn. to get the \$89.00 special rate. \*\*Room Rates effective until October 1<sup>st</sup>, then they increase to \$129. Make hotel reservations direct with hotel.

**NOTE: Directions to Hotel;** I-680 North Exit 51 ( Burnett Ave). Second driveway on right. NOTE: From San Francisco Airport The Bay Area Rapid Transit ( BART ) runs direct to Concord, \$7.00 per person, Call when passing Walnut Creek Station and Hotel Shuttle will meet you at the Concord Station. Car Rental available in Lobby

LSA Reunion Tentative Schedule:

Thursday October 22, 2009

07:00 am... Hospitality Room opens

08:00 am – 2:00 pm: LSA Registration in main lobby, receive ID Badge.

2:00 pm – 4:45 pm: Annual Membership Meeting. Room TBA

5:00 pm... LSA Social Gathering. Room TBA

Friday October 23, 2009

On your own-Free Day or suggested local tours. There will be several different groups, plan on joining with others.

Saturday October 24, 2009

9:00 AM... Buses **Depart** for CG Base Alameda

12:00 PM...Buses Depart for Jack London Square, WAL 605 Lightship

2:00 PM... Wreath laying ceremony, dockside WAL 605

3:00 pm... Buses Depart for Hotel.

5:00 pm... Annual Banquet Dinner with cash bar, in the Ball Room.

**Note:** As a courtesy to our guest speaker, the bar will be closed during his presentation.

*The Hospitality room will remain open both days for those unable to attend our day trips, coffee & soda will be available.*

FEE: All of the above are included in the low \$ 100.00 per head fee.

Reunion Functions:

**Please fill in the attached reunion form. Enclose this form, with your check or money order, made out to the:** "USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS ASSOCIATION, Inc."

**Please mail to our LSA Treasurer:**

**Fred A Pelger**

**1107 East Saguaro Drive**

**Globe, AZ 85501-2047**

**Note:** Unless otherwise noted, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are on your own. Saturday of course, is the Banquet Dinner.

Sunday October 25, 2009

09:00 am ... After the official program closes, Southern Gospel Country Style Music by LSA Members, Adrian and Sharon Van Houten (LV 196). Please join us for this wonderful Mini Chapel Service. (location TBA)

\*\*\*\*\*  
COWBOY LOGIC:

Speak your mind, but ride a fast horse

# REGISTRATION FORM

USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS Association, Inc. [501(c) (3) Corp]  
2009 REUNION to be held in Concord, CA. October 22, 23 & 24.

**MEMBERS**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**USCG LIGHTSHIP VETERAN:**  
SHIP NAME / HULL # \_\_\_\_\_ & Years \_\_\_\_\_

Aboard  
**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LSA MEMBER:**  
**GROUP MEMBER:**  
**LIFE MEMBER:**  
**NEW MEMBER:**

Other Info. you may wish to add:

**REUNION FEES:**

**DUES for 2010**  
(optional at this time)

**Three Membership Levels:**  
Full @ \$25.00 ea.

**NAMES: Member & Guest(s)** @ \$100.00 ea.

**NAMES:** Group @ \$50.00  
Life Time @ \$300.00 ea.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**REUNION FEES TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note; Dues Period: Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31

Please fill in the above reunion registration form. Enclose this form, with your check or money order, made out to the:

**"USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS ASSOCIATION, Inc."**

Please mail to our LSA Treasurer:

**Fred A Pelger**  
**1107 East Saguaro Drive**  
**Globe, AZ 85501-2047**

The USCG Lightship Sailors Association, Inc. is a "not for profit" 501- ( c ) (3) Corporation. ALL Dues & Donations are Tax Deductable.

**NOTE: Please make ALL HOTEL Reservations Directly with the HOTEL...**  
**Holiday Inn 1-925-687-5500. The LSA Has a special rate of \$89.00 per night. You must state "Lightship Sailors."**

# Secretary's Report

*A Message from the Secretary and Membership Director  
by Dave Orszak*

The Board of Directors was reduced to ten members when one member resigned for personal reasons. A motion was made and seconded to permanently reduce the Board to ten and was passed unanimously.

The **Nantucket Lightship/LV-112 Museum** requested that the USCG LSA act as a fiscal agent for them and on their behalf, receive and account for grants, earned income, and tax-deductible donations (funds) and distribute these funds as directed in writing by the LV-112 Museum. The Board of Directors reviewed the benefits and issues associated with such an arrangement and voted to decline the offer. Although it was for a worthy cause, the principle concern was the potential impact it may have on our not-for-profit status.

## Membership

2009 membership renewals are progressing although we still have quite a few who have not renewed to date.

Remember that 20% of the dues you pay goes to support our historical endeavors.

We currently have 148 paid members for 2009 including life memberships. For this year, there are five new life members to date for a total of 25 life memberships.

The membership status of all members is on our website.

Go to ALL THINGS LIGHTSHIP,  
then to LIGHTSHIP CREW LISTS,  
then to by NAME.

The list is updated monthly.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,

*Dave Orszak*

E-mail: [pdorszak@comcast.net](mailto:pdorszak@comcast.net)

Dave Orszak  
7 Ridge Road  
Palmer MA 01069-2258  
413 283 2841

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*"These poor plain people took their lives in their hands and, at the most imminent risk crossed the most tumultuous sea, and for what? Only so that others might live to see home and friends".*

Annual Report on US Life Saving Service 1885

# A Short Sea Story

## Life Aboard The English Lightvessels

### Falls Lightvessel

When I served aboard the 'Falls' Lightvessel, I served with some characters indeed. There were Robbie, from Yorkshire, who was the Master, Colin, a South African, who lived on the Isle of Wight, Dick, also from the Isle of Wight and 'Bungy' who lived in Ramsgate.

'Bungy', who had served in the Royal Navy prior to his Trinity House career, was a natural practical joker. The tradition aboard the Lightvessels was to always make your relief watch keeper a cup of tea when you called him. 'Bungy' would always oblige with this, except you normally spent about twenty minutes trying to find your tea after he made it. Whenever I relieved him on watch, I found my tea in all kinds of places; it could be hidden in the galley oven, on top of pipe work, in cupboards, even in the freezer compartment of the galley fridge.

On one occasion, I relieved 'Bungy' at midnight to take over the 'middle watch' (Midnight to 06:00 hrs). To my surprise, my tea was on the galley worktop, where normal people would expect to find it. I also noticed a saucepan, containing six eggs, was boiling away on the galley stove. I thought no more about it, until I went and relieved 'Bungy' of the watch in the Radio Room, after exchanging the usual pleasantries and being appraised of what was going on and what shipping was in the area, I casually asked why was he boiling six eggs at midnight. The reply was "they're not my eggs, they're Colin's". As Colin was tucked up in his bunk, he was relieving me at 06:00 hrs, I was a bit confused but didn't question the matter any further.

About a week later, when I was on daywork duties for a week, I was sitting in the crew messroom at lunchtime, 'Bungy' came rushing in and called for me to follow him outside. Thinking he was going to show me something interesting, I followed him out onto the after deck, up the ladder to the boat deck, into the wheelhouse, back down into the main accommodation, where 'Bungy' whispered, "You remember those eggs I was boiling the other night?" I nodded, 'Bungy' then told me to keep quiet and follow him. We crept into the galley to find Colin preparing his lunchtime meal. I can't remember what he was supposed to be cooking, but I know it involved using eggs. You've probably guessed, he tried to crack the eggs into a mixing bowl, momentarily bewildered as to why his eggs weren't breaking as expected. The penny dropped when he spotted us in fits of laughter. I cannot repeat what he said but I can only assume he was swearing in Afrikaans!! Colin then placed the box of hard boiled eggs back into his food locker.

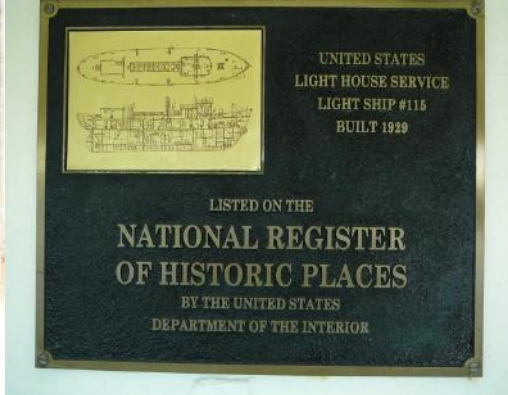
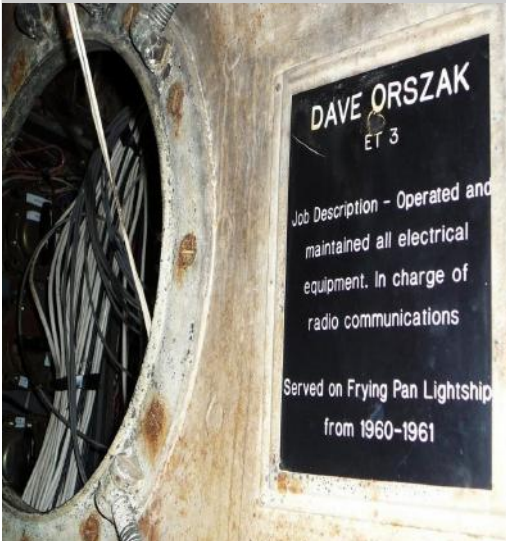
But, this story does not end there. There were another two weeks, or so, before it was our relief day. On the day of our relief, we were all in the Radio Room, waiting for the call from the helicopter, all our personal gear were handy waiting to go. 'Bungy' then noticed, laying on the top of Colin's holdall, was the box of hard boiled eggs, without anyone noticing, he managed to exchange two boiled eggs for two raw eggs, which had been left by another crew member for use by the oncoming crew. It subsequently transpired that, after travelling from Ramsgate to London, where Colin caught his train to the Isle of Wight. It would appear that during the course of the journey, Colin decided to eat his nice hard boiled eggs. Apparently he 'tucked into' the two eggs he had previously discovered to be hard boiled, then assuming the rest of the box were also hard boiled, he discovered, to his peril what 'Bungy' had done, and had to complete the rest of the journey with raw egg stains down his trousers.

Needless to say, when we were all reunited after our leave, myself and 'Bungy' were not exactly Colin's favourite shipmates. However he did forgive us eventually.

By Brian Peckham  
Gillingham, Kent  
England



# LIGHTSHIP OF THE QUARTER



## Frying Pan Lightship 115/537

Above plates are mounted on the various cabins that were once occupied by the designated Lightship Sailor.

This was an idea conceived by the current owners, Angela and John Krevey.

Built in 1930, served on Frying Pan 1930-1942, 1945-1964, three years as an exam vessel and the last year as 4th District Relief out of Cape May.

One of a class of 6 lightships designed with diesel electric propulsion. Where any or all of the 75KW ( GM671) was used to drive the electric motor connected to the shaft. The 115/537 was one of only a few ships that sunk twice only to be refloated, then survived an engine room fire.

The ship now rests at pier 66 in NYC, part of an entertainment venue, at last report still with the barnacles on the inside for extra character.

Frying Pan Shoals are about 38 miles off the coast of Wilmington, NC. The shoals are about 18 miles long and have long been a hazard for coastwise shipping.

Our Thanks to The Kreavey's for their efforts in saving another Lightship.

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"If we didn't have a Coast Guard, We'd have to invent one"

*Tom Ridge, 1st Secretary of Homeland Security*

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"America will never be destroyed from outside. If we falter and lose our freedom, it will because we destroyed ourselves"

*A Lincoln*

# LIGHTSHIP SAILORS OF THE QUARTER



## **J. David Melvin**

Standing at the helm of Frying Pan Lightship 115 WAL-537 December 2001

David served aboard 1959-1960, leaving as EN1. He was instrumental in reconstructing a crew list for the current owners in 2001. These crew men and those currently members of the USCG Lightship Sailors Assoc are all to be recognized as

### **Lightship Sailors of the Quarter:**

A.P. Bland, Wilmington, NC  
C.M. Sawyer, Currituck, NC  
Ben F. Wilson, Savannah, GA  
James High, Whiteville, NC  
Bernie C. Rawson, Ward, AL  
Earnest R. McCelland, Carolina Beach, NC  
Sam Nowlin, TX  
James Guthrie, Morehead City, NC  
Howard Long, Atkinson, NC

### **FRYING PAN CREWMEN AND CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE LSA**

Dave Orszak, Life Member, 1960-1961  
Edward Bender, 1953-1955  
Jerrold Bernella, 1958-1959  
Robert E. Lee, 1962-1963  
Richard Petri, 1945-1946  
Richard Jennings, Life Member, Frying Pan (84/509) 1959-1960



**CREED OF THE US COAST GUARD  
HONOR-RESPECT-DEVOTION TO DUTY**



# VETERANS AFFAIRS

Bernie Byrnes Chairman

If you have a service connected disability and your condition has worsened, it is only necessary to either fill out a form 21-438, a part of VA form 4838 by using Google Search on line.

Be sure that you include your claim number, address and phone number. If possible include your medical records and a letter from your treating physician.

In the comment section simply state as an example: Since my last exam my condition has worsened and I would like to be set up for a re-evaluation.

If you have any questions, or I can help, please don't hesitate to contact me either by phone or email, 781-762-2348 or emjobyrnes@verizon.net

*Bernie Byrnes*, Director Veterans Affairs

## ROSTER OF PAID LIFE MEMBERS

(current at printing time )

RAINVILLE, Richard E. "Dick"	112/534 Nantucket, '73 – '74 LV-612 Nantucket, '74 – '75
PLETNICK, Jerome J. "J.J"	112/534 Nantucket Jul '50 – '52
COURSEY, Gerard H. "Jerry"	613 Relief (Boston) Oct '68-Feb '71
SCOTT, Gary B. "Earl"	612 San Francisco 1962 – 1964
COLEMAN, George H. "Skip"	189 Diamond Shoal 1965 – 1969
QUIGLEY, William "Quig"	106/528 Relief (MA) 1956 to Aug '57
JENNINGS, Richard W.	84/509 Relief (Frying Pan, Savannah)'59-'60
WALES, Howard E. "Bud"	118/539 Cross Rip '61 '62 102/525 Boston '62
COLLETTE, William Jr. "Bill"	LV114 / WLV-536/LV114 Pollock Rip '67-'68

*Founding member*

RYAN, Lawrence "Larry" R.	WAL605 Overfalls, Blunts Reef '60-'61
WHALEY, Curtis L.	604 Columbia Aug '78 - Dec '79
WHALEY, Debra H.	Wife of Curtis above
RINGO, Gene C.	88/513 Umatilla, 5-22-52 - 6-9-52 113/535 Swiftsure, 6-11-52 - 6-14-54
	196 Relief/Umatilla, 7-61 thru 3-64
FLAGG, Marcia A.	LSA Member Family of Harold Flagg, only Vineyard # 73 Survivor
GUYETTE, Floyd E. "Sonny"	118/539 Cross Rip Jun '61-Sep '62
GARRAN, John W.	112/534 Nantucket Mar'63 to Oct'64
DeFRANCESCO, John M.	112 / 534 Nantucket Feb '73-Jun '74 Decomish.
	613 Relief (MA) TAD summer '74 612 Nantucket '74 – Jun '75
WEINBERG, Steven	WAL 605 Overfall & Blunts Reef July '60-December '60
ORSZAK, David	WAL 115/537 Frying Pan Shoals '60-61
Bessette, Roland	WAL118/539 Boston June '63-Nov '65
Walker, Wendell	WAL 84/509 Relief March '59-Aug '60
Blakeley, Willis	WLV 604 Columbia '76-78
Blakeley, Marie	Wife of Willis above
Burgess, Joseph	101/524 Stonehorse & Crossrip Jul '63-April '64

## Our Special Thanks to all of our Life Members

PART OF THE OATH TAKEN BY EVERY MEMBER ENTERING THE COAST GUARD

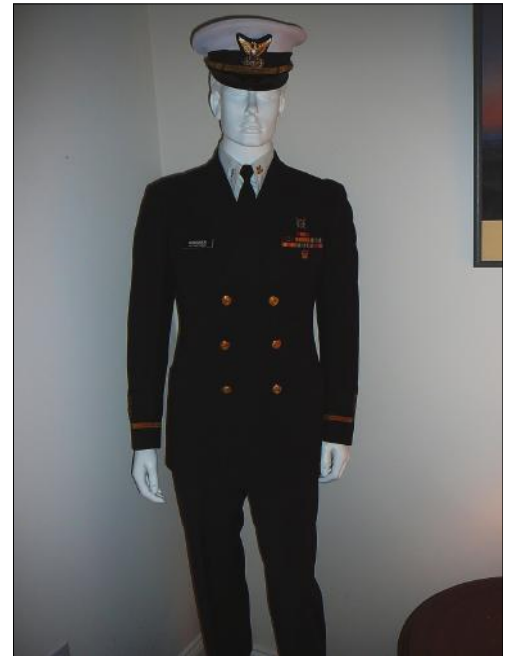
" I am America's maritime guardian. I serve the citizens of The United States. I will protect them, I will defend them, I will save them. I am their shield. For them I am Semper Paratus. I live the Coast Guard values. I am a guardian.

We are the United States Coast Guard"




# GENERAL QUARTERS

## Chiefs Corner



Delegation dedicating and accepting the uniform worn by George Rongner while CO of the Buzzards Lightship. Pat Orszak, Bernie Brynes, Jessie and Joe Burgess, Karen and David Neal, Dave Orszak, Bill Collette and Pete Penfield.

Please use this information for ordering your DVD of the 2008 Reunion, museum dedication and banquet.



**Lightship Sailors Assoc.**  
**2008 10<sup>th</sup> Reunion on DVD**  
 Order yours today – only \$14.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Check or Money Order payable to **LSA**

Send to: Lightship Sailors Assoc.  
 % Skip Coleman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.  
 417 Finch Dr.  
 Satellite Beach, FL 32937

Please allow 2 – 3 weeks for delivery.

### All Hands Announcement

We will start recording our oral histories at our next meeting in Concord. Our plans are to preserve these for future generations.

As such, we need them to be as complete and accurate as possible. Please bring your notes with you with dates and names. Short sea stories are encouraged. Just remember the difference between a Fairy Tale and a Sea Story. Most of the detailed information will be in your service jacket regarding dates served, promotions and transfers. Most of us will find some details missing, such as commanding officer endorsements (mine were signed at the group office). Plan on starting during registration on Thursday morning, a sign up sheet will be provided at the registration table.

### REUNION PLANS

Friday will be an open day for either individual plans or group tours. There will be a variety of local site seeing trips. From the Fisherman's Warf, Wine Country, and to Pt. Reyes Light Station to name a few. This information will be available at the registration table, or you can start your own group and if you have space available, leave your information on the table. Keep in mind that in most cases space may be limited, therefore it will be first come, first serve.

We have several, and adequate, suggested locations for our 2010 annual meeting. We will select and vote on the location during our business meeting in Concord. On the list is Mobile, AL, Charleston, SC, Savannah, GA or Camden, NJ.

“ONCE A COASTIE—ALWAYS A COASTIE”



## CROSSED OVER THE BAR

2009

### Lightship Sailor Veteran

### Crossed Over

### LSA Notified

**Parnell Perry**

**Aug 20, 2008**

**Dec 27, 2008**

**Cheaspeake 116/538 1968-1969**

**George Shutts**

**Nov 04, 2008**

**Jan 03, 2009**

**Nantucket 112/534 1954-1956**

**Bernard "Bernie" Webber**

**Jan 24, 2009**

**Jan 25, 2009**

**Nantucket/Relief 112/534 April '58-April '60**

**Cross Rip 102/525 Aug '63-Oct'63**

**Edmund "Lee" Burbage**

**Jan 29, 2009**

**Jan 30, 2009**

**Relief 78/505 Jan '57-April '58**

**Tom Branco**

**Jan 16, 2009**

**Jan 30, 2009**

**Portland 533 1961-1963**

**Harvey Drexler**

**Feb 16, 2009**

**March 19, 2009**

**Relief 107/529 1968**

**YOU ARE RELIEVED OF THE WATCH,**

**REST IN PEACE**

UPDATED 03-30-09

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Dear Brothers.

Spring is here and in Holland Michigan we are at the beginning of the annual Tulip Time Festival. Around 8,000,000 Tulips are planted around the area and Gardens. A beautiful sight to behold, the wonder of God's beauty. As the Grass turns green and the trees popping their buds and turn to leaves, the worms aerating the ground as they poke their front end out from the ground. Did you ever pick up a night crawler up from the cement and place it on the grass. How thankful it must feel to them to lay on the cool grass and burro back into the ground. Like going back home to us after being gone for a long time.

Well that is how I feel about going to California and the memorial service with all you brother Coasties. There isn't a day goes by I don't think about you and your spiritual needs, the endless work done by those in charge, the venue and travel plans for all of us. We can have peace and contentment if we put our trust in God. You see He doesn't have problems, He has purposes so our focus is on Him for His plan for our lives. Being in the USCG has been a blessing and will be for years to come.

As you make your plans be assured I will be bringing you before Him. Don't wait to make your reservation for flights and Hotel. One less thing you need to think about.

Your Chaplain in His service.

Adrian



**THOSE WHO CAST VOTES DECIDE NOTHING..THOSE WHO COUNT VOTES DECIDE EVERYTHING**

*Joseph Stalin*