

# ***USS WILHOITE***

## **DE-DER 397**

### **JULY, AUGUST AND SEPT, 2023**

#### **Newsletter**

Hi Guys and Gals:

Summer is passing us by pretty quick and before long we will be wearing coats and long sleeves. That is something that I dread.

In your 2nd page I list some that should be in our prayers and I need to add two more and those are Johnny Payton and Raymond Rott. Please keep them in your prayers also. If you know of someone that is in rest home, or homebound, please let me know. They are your shipmates, whether you served with them the same time or not.

I'm ordering tickets Sept 1st for the reunion. If you are planning on coming, please let me know quickly. I am just ordering for the ones that have signed up, so if you plan on coming, better let me know.

Those that are planning on coming so far are the following: John & Brenda Caldwell, Steve Gergens and his guest, Art and Judy Pohl, William and Marilyn Owens, Tom Morrissey, Helen West, Mike and Dana Alcorn, Peter Silhan, Liz and our guest Raul Herrera.

This is a reminder: **CONTRIBUTIONS/DUES ARE DUE IN SEPTEMBER. PLEASE PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR SO YOU DON'T FORGET. THEY ARE \$25.00 A YEAR.**

**"God grant me the serenity:**

**To accept the things I cannot change;**

**courage to change the things I can;**

**And Wisdom to know the difference."**

**May our Gracious Savior and Lord Jesus Christ Bless and keep you!**



**Our Contributions/dues for 2024 will be coming up in September so keep that in mind.**

Alcorn Michael (2023)	Silhan Peter (2023)
Caldwell John and Brenda (2023)	Smith Raymond (2023)
Cusato Paul (2023)	Syverson Norris (2023)
Dutchuk John (2023)	Thompson Ross (2024)
Frederiksen Geri (2023)	Throm Larry (2023)
Gennetti Fred (2023)	Torriglia Paul (2027)
Gergens Steve (2025)	Valiant Martha (2023)
Hackenbert Richard (2023)	West Helen
Hagee Charles (2022)	Wickizer Larry (2024)
Horch Linda (2023)	Yonkofski Ben (2023)
Huff Roland (2023)	
Huml Vincent (2023)	
Hydro John (2023)	
Johnson Robert (2023)	
Knight James (2023)	
Long Leroy (2023)	
Morrissey Tom (2025)	
William Owens (2023)	
Parker David (2023)	
Payson (2023)	
Payton Johnny (2023)	
Pohl Art (2023)	
Rider Elisabeth (2023)	
Robinson Lee (2023)	
Robinson N.W.	
Rott Ray (2023)	
Shanahan, Jr. John (2023)	
Shuck Donald L. (2023)	



**Donald Ruel**

**Letters can be sent to the following:**

**To the Family of**

**Donald Ruel**

**2211 Nobili Avenue**

**Santa Clara, CA 95051-1409**

**Gary Payne**

**Mrs. Cathy Payne**

**2754 Burlingview Drive**

**Burlingame, CA 94010**

**Tom West**

**Mrs. Helen West**

**8864 LaRoche Dr.**

**Trafalgar IN 46181**

**I don't have pictures of Gary or Tom to put in newsletter.**

**Don't forget that Gene Strickland and Bill Endter is in a rest home. You might think about dropping them a note. I don't hear anything from either one of these gentlemen. If someone does, please let me know. If you know of someone that is in rest home, let me know, I'll send them a newsletter. Just found out that John Dutchuk is going to have open heart surgery at end of this month. Keep him and Richard Scheeder in your prayers.**

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# SHIPMATES NEWS



# GO NAVY



### **LEE ROBINSON**

After playing instead of studying in college, I was invited not to return the next semester. Not attending college meant that I was not deferred from the draft. Fortunately I was able to join the Naval Reserve in 1966 and avoid being drafted. I was lucky in that I was able to attend Electronic Technician School during my active duty requirement. My two year's active duty began in 1968. In March 1968 I was assigned to the USS Wilhoite. I served aboard the Wilhoite from March, 1968 until February, 1969, making a West Pac cruise from Pearl Harbor and a number of Market Time patrols along the coast of South Vietnam. We also did Tiwan Patrol and visited several other Asian ports including a super assignment in Hong Kong. We returned to Pearl Harbor in January, 1969.

After I was separated in February, 1969, I returned home, earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration, worked at a school district for 26 years, serving as Superintendent for the last 8 years. After retiring from the school district I managed a credit union for 13 years and retired for the second and last time in 2010.

I have been married to my wife, Betty for 48 years. We have 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

## RAY ROTT'S QUILT - HIS SISTER IS ON THE LEFT



### RAY ROTT'S QUILT

Ray when you turned 18 years old, you and all the other young men had to sign up for the draft. Uncle Sam was looking for some good men and so you joined the United States Navy in 1954.

Ray the Korean Conflict was going on from 1950-1955. So you served during this time in history. One of your duty station was Settle, Washington, 13th Naval District, Pier 91.

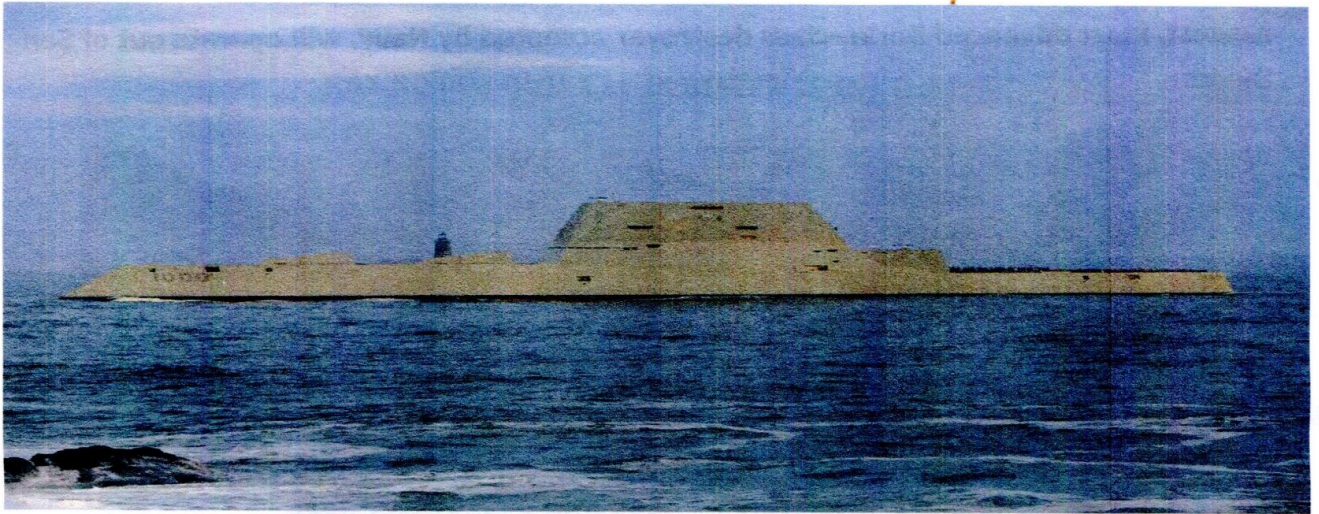
Raymond Rott in 1958 after you served your time the United States Navy awarded you an Honorable Discharge with you earning the rank of O2.

A member of the Quilts of Valor Foundation that meets at the American Legion in Corning, New York, has made this quilt just for you. The organization would like to present it to you with a gesture of gratitude from a grateful Nation and wrap you in the comforting love of your family, friends and fellow countrymen.

Thank you Ray, for your Service, Sacrifice and Commitment!







The USS Zumwalt is the lead ship among three Zumwalt-class destroyers. It is the largest destroyer in the world! It is known as a guided-missile destroyer, which means its main purpose is to provide anti-aircraft support to the US Navy's fleet. \$4.4 billion US Destroyer was touted as one of the most advanced ships in the world.

The other two Zumwalt destroyers are the USS Monsoon and the USS Lyndon B. Johnson.

The knife-like bow is said to make it more stable in the navy seas compared with other surface combatant ships.

Despite their cost, the Zumwalts have been plagued by equipment problems. Soon after its commissioning in 2016, the USS Zumwalt broke down in the Panama Canal. The second ship in its class, the USS Michael Monsoon, failed during sea trials the following year.

The Zumwalts lack several vital features, including anti-ship missiles, anti-submarine torpedoes, and long-range area-air defense missiles. The cost of adding and fixing is costing a lot of money and they are in question as to what to do.

## Newest, most advanced Burke-class destroyer accepted by Navy, will operate out of San Diego



### Jacklyn H. Lucas

**Jacklyn Harold "Jack" Lucas** (February 14, 1928 – June 5, 2008) was an American Marine in World War II who was awarded the Medal of Honor at the age of 17 years as a private first class in the Marine Corps during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

During a close firefight in two trenches between Lucas and three Marines with 11 Japanese soldiers, Lucas saved the lives of the other three Marines from two enemy hand grenades that were thrown into their trench by unhesitatingly placing himself on one grenade, while in the next instant pulling the other grenade under him. The grenade he covered with his body exploded, and wounded him severely; the other grenade failed to explode. He is the youngest Marine and the youngest serviceman in World War II to be awarded the United States' highest military decoration for valor.<sup>[1]</sup> He later commissioned into the United States Army and reached the rank of captain.



<b>Nickname(s)</b>	Jack
<b>Birth date</b>	February 14, 1928
<b>Birth place</b>	Plymouth, North Carolina, U.S.
<b>Death date</b>	June 5, 2008 (aged 80)
<b>Death place</b>	Forrest General Hospital Hattiesburg, Mississippi, U.S.
<b>Burial place</b>	Highland Cemetery, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
<b>Country</b>	United States of America
<b>Service branch</b>	United States Marine Corps
<b>Service branch</b>	United States Army
<b>Years of service</b>	1942–1945 (U.S. Marine Corps)

The 505-foot, \$2.4 billion Arleigh Burke-class destroyer John H. Lucas will operate out of San Diego. (Courtesy of HII and U.S. Navy ) The \$2.4 billion warship features an advanced air and missile defense radar system that will help it protect aircraft carrier and amphibious assault groups BY GARY ROBBINS JUNE 28, 2023 8:10 AM PT

The Jack H. Lucas, the newest, most advanced Burke-class destroyer, became part of the Navy Tuesday and will operate out of San Diego, where it will help replace aging Cold War-era cruisers.

Mississippi-based shipbuilder Ingalls delivered Lucas to the Navy following a week of sea trials in the Gulf of Mexico. The \$2.4 billion ship is expected to arrive at Naval Base San Diego later this year.

Luas is the first variant III version of the Burke-destroyer, a ship that's known as the backbone of the Navy because of its power and versatility. It can strike targets 1,000 miles away with Tomahawk cruise missiles.



## **PHOTOS CAPTURE US SPECIAL OPERATORS LANDING ONE OF THEIR FORCE'S BIGGEST PLANES ON A WYOMING HIGHWAY.**

US special operators recently practiced landing various military aircraft on Wyoming highways. The event helped train the Air Force to use roads in case runways aren't an option.

Participating units flew a MC-130J, a MQ-9 Reaper drone, and A-10 Thunderbolt II attack planes.

Rural Wyoming's Highways 287 and 789 don't have the typical resources of a military-grade runway. But that didn't stop the US Air Force from using the roads to land several aircraft — including one of its biggest planes.

Soldiers from the 15th Special Operations Squadron flew a MC-130J Commando II on the highway during an exercise earlier this week that was intended to help the Air Force practice landing and taking off in smaller and more mobile settings, instead of larger locations like air bases with vast resources.

The 160,000 pound MC-130J, which stretches nearly 100 feet in length and has a wingspan of over 132 feet, landed at speeds of around 140 mph on a lonely — and scenic — stretch of asphalt that was closed to the general public, the 1st Special Operations Wing Public Affairs said in a statement on Tuesday.

Airmen from Kentucky's National Guard even parachuted from the MC-130J to secure the 30,000-foot-long highway runway for the aircraft.

Lt. Col. Adam Schmidt, the 15th SOS Commander, said the MC-130J is the "most versatile platform" in the branch. "This is what we do," he said in the statement. "And having the capability to land on a highway or a road can absolutely present some unique challenges to our adversaries. We can take the concepts from this exercise and apply them to any road, and in the most austere environments."

## **THE ADDAM'S FAMILY MANSION**

**By Dick Scheeder, Dave and Mary Jo Hanon, Gary and Georgia Dickenson**

Ten weeks after Charlene and I married, the Wilhoite was to change Homeport from Seattle to Pearl Harbor. After much hunting the only apartment we could afford, that would rent for ten weeks, was on the edge of Skid road in downtown Seattle. It was located at the intersection of Olive and Boren streets which is now a freeway entrance.

The building had 2 floors and several units on each floor. It had been constructed in the early 1900's and was an upscale facility--- in its prime. That it had been upscale was evident from several features in the building. Each unit had a little pass outdoors so people could pass their shoes to be cleaned and polished. You would put your shoes just inside the little door. The shoe polisher would reach in and pick up the shoes. Shine them and then put them back into the apartment through the little door. While we lived there your shoes would be picked up if you left them by the little door. However, they would not be returned. The shoes would spend the rest of their life traveling "skid road". In addition, each unit had been equipped with an Ice Box type refrigerator. A block of ice would have been delivered every few days to permit the residents to keep their food cool. There was drain piping to carry away the melted water. The units had been upgraded. A central refrigeration plant had been installed in the building and piped to each old ice box to serve as the refrigerator.

The units consisted of a combination bedroom and living room with a pull-down Murphy bed. A sofa and some end tables and lamps comprised the rest of the furnishings in the room. There was one window over the sofa. Everything was totally infiltrated with dust--very old dust. It was the kind of environment where you would not walk barefoot on the floors or rugs. I much preferred to wear shoes rather than walk on the rugs in just socks.

Charlene was a clean freak and was out of her mind trying to get the place to at least sanitary.

During our stay she made the unit habitable. The curtains and sofa were beyond true cleaning. The best she could do was to work the sofa to the point where just a small cloud of dust emerged when you sat on it.

There was a large, tiled bathroom off from the living room near the front door. The fixtures were ancient and had the old flush tank mounted high on the wall over the toilet. The kitchen also had a window, a table, stove and beat up old sink. Somewhere in the building there was an old Kirby vacuum for use by the tenants--if you could find it.

There was a basement where one washing machine and one dryer were provided for use by all of the tenants. The wives did not go to the basement by themselves. I felt uncomfortable when I had the duty to watch the wash. It was a "Watch it or Lose it situation" --I know from one cycle of personal experience.

## **THE ADAMS FAMILY MANSION (cont)**

Now for the view. The windows faced the wall of the adjacent building and a view of the "Addams's Family Mansion". All the buildings on that block formed a center Courtyard. The Mansion sat in the middle of this courtyard and appeared to be a spooky structure. It too had been an upscale home sometime in the past. It did not have turrets or towers but in all other respects appeared to be the Addams family home. It was gothic in design with wood siding unpainted and darkened by

weathering and rot. The dead remains of old shrubbery and foot high dead grass surrounded the building. The shades were pulled fully down -all the time--on all visible windows. No one was ever observed in or around the house during daylight. Combined with the rainy foggy weather of Seattle winters there was an indistinguishable difference with the spooky mystique of the Addams Family Mansion. Access to the Mansion was through a small walkway between our building and its neighbor. The windows had a view of anyone passing on the walkway. To any observer the Mansion appeared to be unoccupied. However, after dark every night there were people coming and going to the Mansion --all night long. Watching the strange assortment of visitors became a source of entertainment. Only at night would a few dim lights be visible--behind the shades. The variety of strange people coming and going also reminded me of the Addams family. There was an Addams family character called "Cousin It" that was a short pile of hair that moved and spoke. Had I seen "cousin It" coming up the walkway I would have been surprised. However, all strange types of characters were seen nightly.

Now to the residents of our building. It may be fair to refer to it as the Addams Family Guest House. The so-called Manager looked like "Uncle Fester" of Addams Family fame and had the personality of a tree stump. I mentioned the location as just off "skid road". Sometimes skid road overlapped to include our building. The skid road residents would enter our building for shelter and a place to down their dinner of wine before retiring in the stairwell for the evening. They would frequently try the doorknob or push open the little shoeshine door. It was not safe to be in the halls of the building after dark.

Then there were the long-term renters. Most were down and out with enough money for rent in the Addams Guest house. Our neighbors on one side liked to drink and fight. They would sit with their feet on the windowsill and yell and curse each other every evening. The man continually threatened the women he was going to kill her and there were episodes of dishes and furniture being thrown around as well as the women who bore new bruises each time we saw her. The neighbor on the other side was an older man who I never observed when he was sober and he would not respond to any greetings.

There was saving grace. The Wilhoite Aerologist (Dave) and his wife (Mary jo) were also renting in the building. They lived on the first floor and we were on the second floor. Even better they were close friends with another Wilhoiter (Gary) and his wife (Georgia) who lived near our building. It was not long before we met and formed friendships. Dave and Mary Jo had a very nice apartment and furnishings. They had managed to clean up their unit and decorate it to a

## **THE ADDAMS FAMILY MANSION (cont)**

comfortable living space. On occasion Dave and Mary Jo took pity on us and invited us to spend time with them. You could sit on their furniture without being engulfed in a cloud of 50-year-old dust.

That was not the case in our units in the Addams Family guest house. There was a sense of security between the 3 couples---having friends close by in the event of trouble in a neighborhood designed for trouble. Dave, Gary and I were never comfortable leaving our wives in that circumstance but-- it was life as young Navy married couples. While the 3 of us were at sea the wives had each other to lean on if necessary. They also had their own little group to get together to pass the time--without spending money none of us had at that time. We also visited back and forth when the ship was in port. When we entertained, we considered the Mansion and the after dark activities a cheap source of entertainment. We would sit at the kitchen table and monitor the people transiting the alley and watched them disappear inside-- to leave some time later. The most exciting events happened while we were at sea and the wives were left to fend for themselves. We were all planning for the move to Hawaii and there was a lot to plan and do before leaving Seattle. The wives were busy.

The rest of this story is from secondhand reports from 3 excited wives related individually after we returned from sea. MaryJo and Georgia had come over to visit Charlene in our apartment. They had previously heard our neighbors during their daily fight routine. They initially ignored the fighting next door including the threats to kill one another. The wives were now battle tested to this activity . That is, they ignored it up to the time that they heard gunfire coming from the neighbors. Georgia and Mary Jo dived under the table for cover. Charlene found my steel helmet, put it on and, for some reason, backed under the table. I still cannot envision the three of them under the tiny kitchen table--two head in and one backside in. I still cannot envision why 2 were head in and one backside in. Maybe that was the only way they could all fit under the table.

Dave is the one who reminded me of this event. Blame him.

I seem to recall the police came and knocked on the door to make sure none of the wives were injured. I think the man was hauled off to jail. Do not have any recall of anything beyond that. I think we moved out and left for Hawaii a week or so after the event.

Now 48 years after we last saw or communicated with each other we are getting reacquainted through the internet. The cyberspace reunion was made possible by the Wilhoite Association. We are swapping pictures, life stories and recalling fun times from the Wilhoite.

You will see by reading the above that I am not even sure I remember what I THINK I remember.

HELP

## **A FEW CHUCKLES**

I once dated a lady, who broke up with me because I only have 9 toes. Yes, she was lack-toes intolerant.

I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's all about raisin awareness.

I've started investing in stocks: beef, vegetable, and chicken. One day I hope to be a bullionaire.

If you boil a funny bone, it becomes a laughing stock. Now that's humerus.

I accidentally rubbed ketchup in my eyes. Now I have heinzsight.

I tried to come up with a carpentry pun that woodwork. I thought I nailed it but nobody saw it.

## **GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED**

Raising teenagers is like nailing jello to a tree.

Wrinkles don't hurt.

Families are like fudge....mostly sweet, with a few nuts.

Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.

Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.

Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

## **A WISE ADVICE FROM A FARMER'S WIFE**

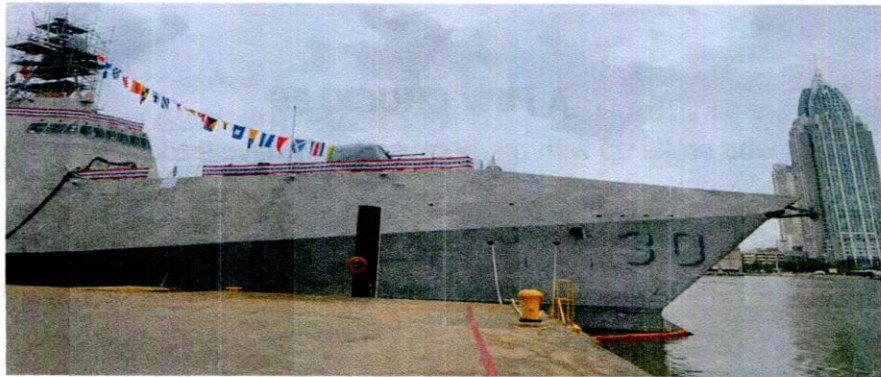
Make home a happy place for the children. Everybody returns to their happy place.

It's a whole lot easier to get breakfast from a chicken than a pig.

Check your shoelaces before runnin' to help somebody.

It's easy to clean an empty house, but hard to live in one.

A tongue's like a knife. The sharper it is the deeper it cuts.



The newest USS Canberra is a 421-foot- (128-meter-) long, 3,200-metric-ton ship that can accommodate a crew of up to 75 sailors.

A bottle of wine was broken across a mass of gray metal in Mobile, Alabama, on Saturday, as the United States Navy unveiled the only ship in its fleet to be named after a foreign capital.

The USS Canberra – named for Australia’s seat of power – is a brand new littoral combat ship, one of the US Navy’s newest platforms.

“It says much to the strength of the friendship between our two nations that Australia is the only allied country whose capital the US Navy has used to name a ship,” Commodore Matthew Hudson, Australia’s military attache at its embassy in Washington, said at the christening ceremony Saturday.

With a top speed of around 50 mph (80 kph), it will be one of the fastest ships in the US Navy. It will also be armed with the Naval Strike Missile, a sea-skimming cruise missile that is difficult to spot on radar, and can maneuver to avoid enemy defenses.

Littoral combat ships come in two variants, the single-hull Freedom class and the Independence class catamarans, of which Canberra is the 15th.

The ship is the second US Navy vessel to bear the Canberra name. The first was during World War II, when the then-USS Pittsburgh, a cruiser, was renamed Canberra after an Australian ship of the same name was sunk by Japanese forces in the Battle of Savo Island, part of the Guadalcanal campaign in the Solomon Islands.

I am proud to join Australian partners in continuing the legacy of this name,” Vice Adm. Ricky Williamson, US deputy chief of naval operations, said at Saturday’s ceremony.

The first Canberra was also in the US fleet when the ANZUS Treaty, a non-binding security agreement among the United States, Australia and New Zealand, was struck in 1951.

Hudson noted that milestone on Saturday.