USS Charles R. Ware DD865



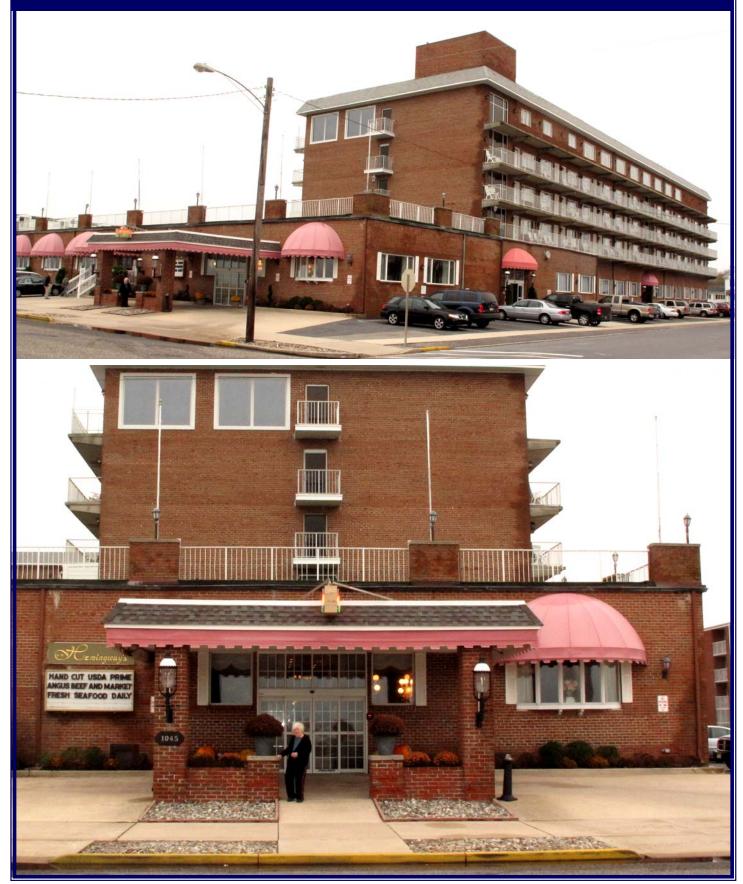
Charles R. Ware Reunion Cape May, New Jersey November 11 to 15, 2009

Editor Jerry Alperstein

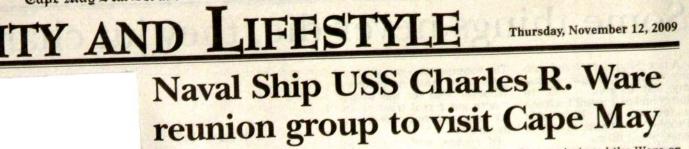


Honoring the Waremen of the 1950s

Our home away from home for the reunion was the Grand Hotel in Cape May, New Jersey



Cape May Star a Mave



CAPE MAY - John Bailey has invited his ship's reunion group to visit Cape May this Nov. 11 to 14. The USS Charles R. Ware (DD-865) crewmen meet every year at different locations. They are planning a memorial service for their departed members at Sunset Beach on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 4:15 pm.

The ceremony will include an Invocation and Benediction by Fr. Miles J Barrett CDR CHC USN, Commanding Chaplain of the Coast Guard Training Center. A 2-person uniformed Coast Guard flag detail will lower the casket flag of the group's shipmate Ralph Siegers, fold and present it to his widow, Minnie Siegers, while the ship's bugler, Jerry Alperstein plays taps. The crew extends an invitation for the public to join them.

The ship carried the name of Lieutenant Charles Rollins Ware, USN, who lost his life June 4, 1942, during the battle of Midway. He flew off the flight deck of the USS Enterprise (CV-6) with Scouting Squadron 6 on that fateful day. Only two members of the Squadron returned to the Enterprise Squadron after the battle. No one ever found Lt. Ware's Douglas Dauntless dive bomber. The ship's roster listed both him and his gunner ARM1c (Air Radioman first class) William H. Stambaugh as missing in action. The Navy posthu-mously awarded Ware the Navy Cross for his "heroism in pressing home his attack on the Japanese fleet in the face of fierce enemy fighter opposition and formidable anti-aircraft fire."

To further honor Ware' heroism, the Navy named the Gearing Class destroyer,



number 865 after him. Bethlehem Steel Corporation of Staten Island, NY, built the ship. Ware's mother, Alva Zena Ware, christened the vessel on July 21, 1945, at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

World War II ended within two months after her commissioning, too late for her to join in the fight. She never fired her guns in anger until she received orders to go on the gun line of Yankee Station off of North Vietnam in 1967. Her crew considers her a lucky ship as she never received a scratch during weeks of combat under fire at that station, despite being bracketed several times. John is proud to have been with the Vietnam crew.

On March 6, 1962, after a complete upgrade, she left the Brooklyn Navy Yard and sailed straight into the Ash Wednesday Storm of 1962 that devastated the entire east coast. The storm practically destroyed Cape May, ripping up its entire boardwalk and demolishing its original Convention Hall.

At the same time, the crew of the untested rebuilt Ware was right off shore from Cape May fighting for their lives and their ship. They managed to keep her afloat and she limped into Norfolk for repairs under the amazed gaze of every sailor in port.

She participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, where her crew boarded and inspected Russian cargo vessels. She roamed the seas on several Cold War missions throughout the 60s and early 70s.

In the summer of 1974, while serving as a Naval Reserve training ship in Galveston, Texas, she maneuvered too close to an anchor buoy and her screw became entangled in its anchor chain. The damage was too severe for repairs, so the Navy

decommissioned the Ware on November 30, 1974. On November 15, 1981, a US Navy warship fired a missile that struck her amidships sending her to the bottom at 21 degrees N, 62 degrees W. She rests in the Puerto Rico Trough, the deepest part of the Atlantic Ocean, being 30,246 feet deep. The 36-year career of the USS Charles R. Ware (DD-865) ended as she slipped beneath the waves.

Following the sinking, a small group of shipmates got together and swore to keep the memory of their ship alive. They held their first reunion in 1991 and have met annually ever since. They meet in a different city each year, except every third year they meet in Athens, Tenn.

Lt. Charles Ware joined the Navy in Athens on June 14, 1929, so the City of Athens considers itself the Ware's Final Home Port; and has invited the crew to return every third year. The crew has erected a monument in their Veteran's Park commemorating the ship and the man.

The McMinn County Museum, in Athens, houses an entire wing devoted to the Ware. It contains memorabilia from the ship, including it's commissioning plaque, bunks, uniforms, holiday dinner menus, Ware' sword, and two three-foot long models of the ship that the group commissioned.

The crewmen fondly refer to their ship variously as: the Chargin' Charlie, the Charlie R, or just simply the Ware. Two years ago, at the crew's Boston reunion, John Bailey invited his shipmates to Cape May for their 2009 reunion. They voted, almost unanimously, for Cape May.

Please join them at Sunset Beach on Saturday as they remember their own.

Manning the Registration Desk .



was Nancy Bailey . . .

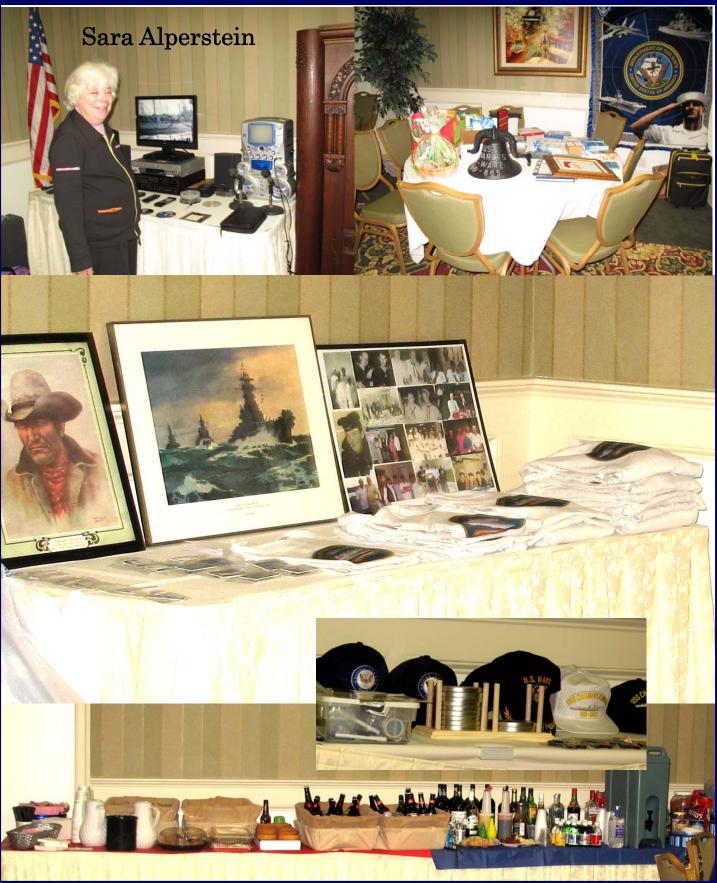


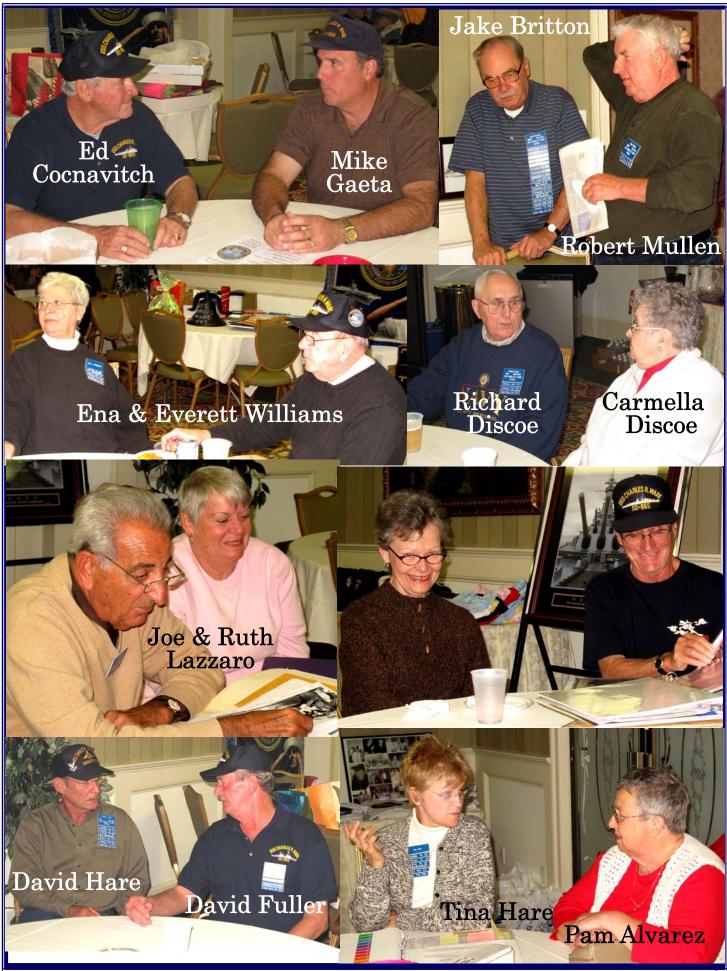
with Muriel Biondo

The Hospitality Suite was our headquarters, our meeting room, our social hall



For those who return each year, the Hospitality Suite has a familiar look







A nor'easter storm with a lot of rain and wind kept the sun away for the entire reunion





Then it was off to United States Coast Guard Station, Cape May



The rain and wind kept us indoors

Our tour of the Coast Guard Station was confined to an auditorium ...





Then it was off to lunch at the Coast Guard Harborview Club where the chow line started back there . . .



... and continued on ...



... until we got here



Our only problem was when the soft ice cream machine conked out

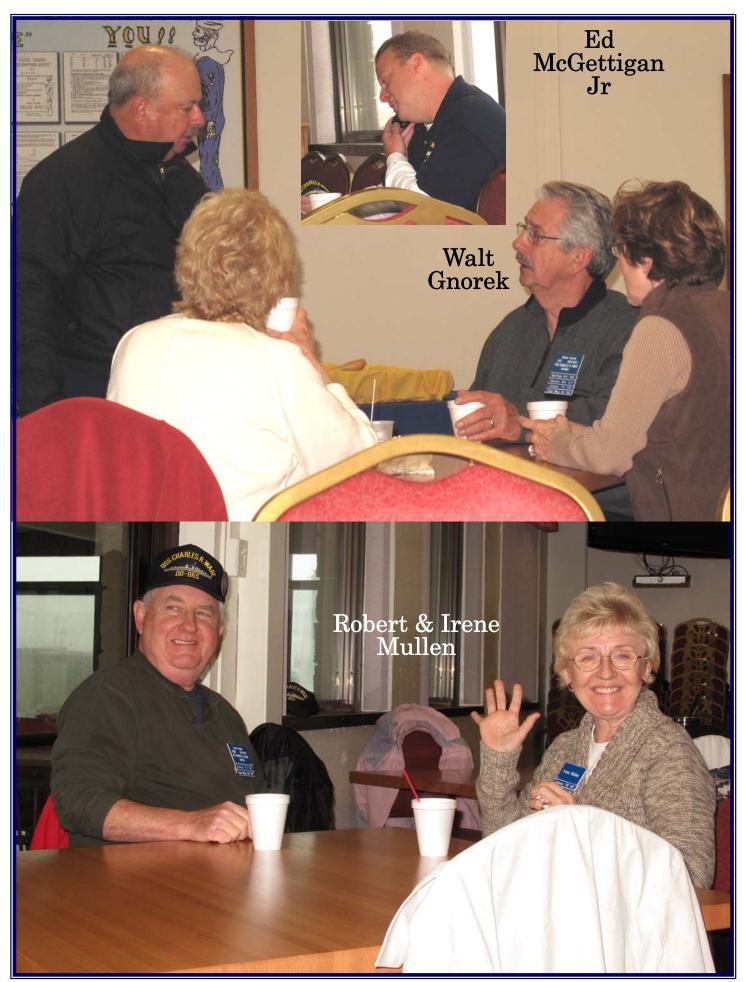


The Guardian Ethos I am America's Maritime Guardian. I serve the citizens of the United States. I will protect them. I will defend them. I will save them. I am their shield. For them I am Semper Paratus. I live the Coast Guard core values. I am a Guardian. We are the United States Coast Guard. This is a noble calling !







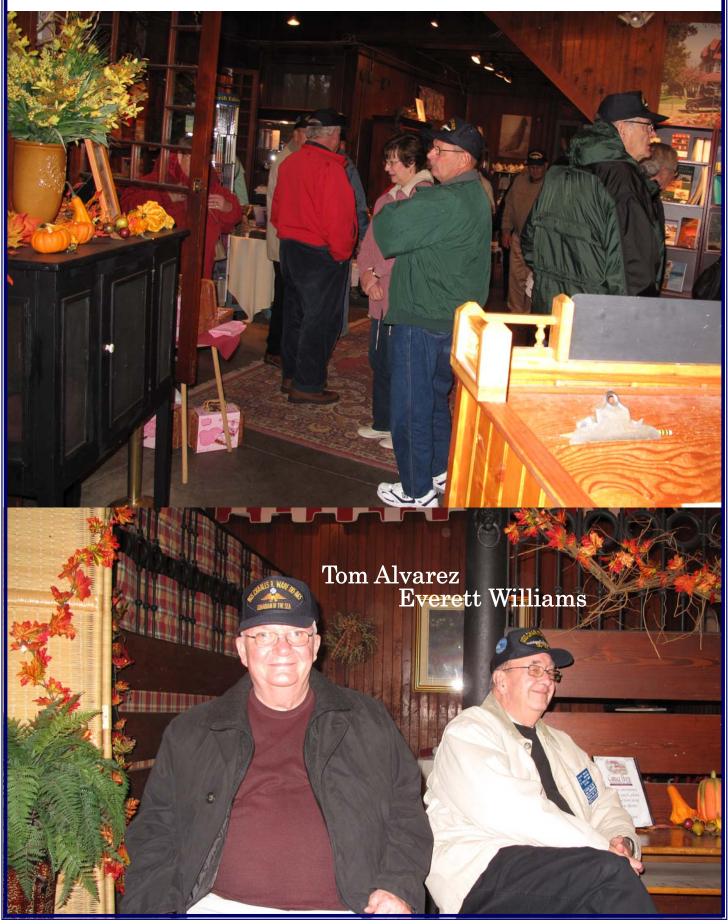


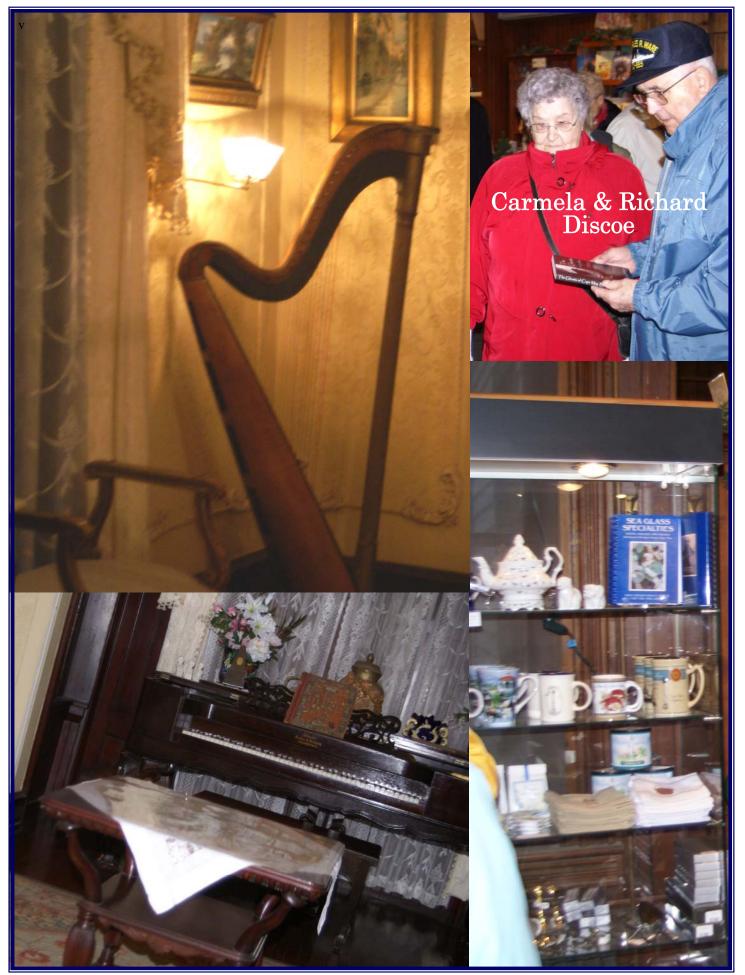
Then it was back to the hotel for our Historic District Trolley Tour . . .





... and our visit to the Emlen Physick Estate



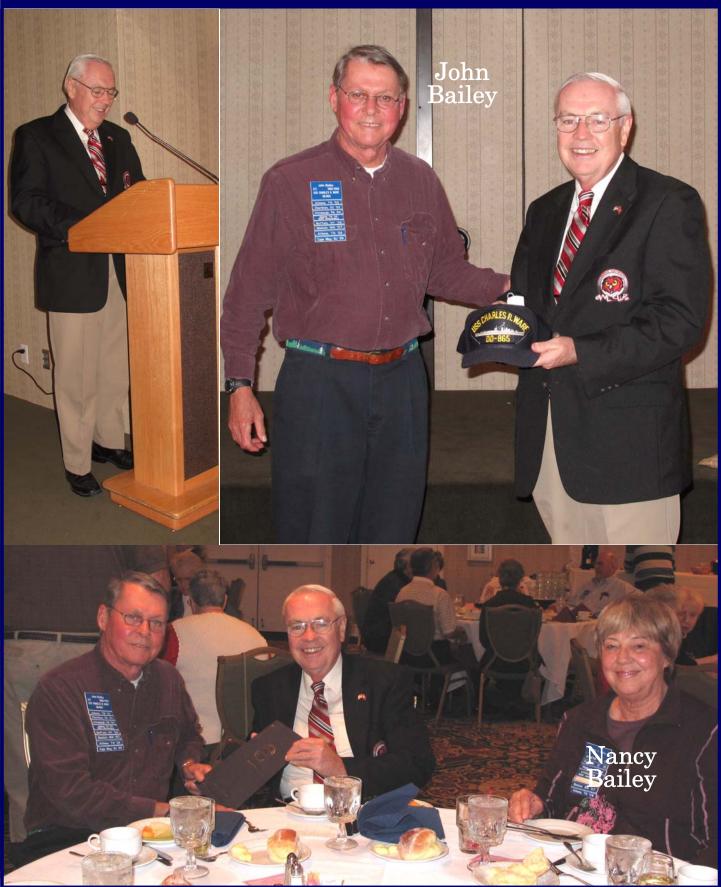


Thursday evening's activity was our first of three banquet meals . . .



... where many Ware shutterbugs were out in force

We were greeted by Cape May Mayor Edward Mahaney . . .



. . . who presented us with a Certificate of Appreciation

November 12, 2009

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE CREW MEMBERS OF THE USS CHARLES R. WARE (DD-865)

Whereas, during a distinguished 36-year career, the USS Charles R. Ware (DD-865) served with distinction during the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War, as well as several Cold War missions throughout the 1960s and early 1970s; and

Whereas, the "Chargin Charlie" sailed straight into and survived the perfect storm known as the Ash Wednesday Storm of 1962 which was practically destroying the City of Cape May at the same time; and

Whereas, for the past 19 years, dedicated crew members who have served on the "Charlie R" have conducted annual reunions to keep the memory of their gallant ship alive; and

Whereas, the reunion attendees have forged an unbreakable bond among themselves and their families which represents the strong character and heroism of Lieutenant Charles Rollins Ware, USN;

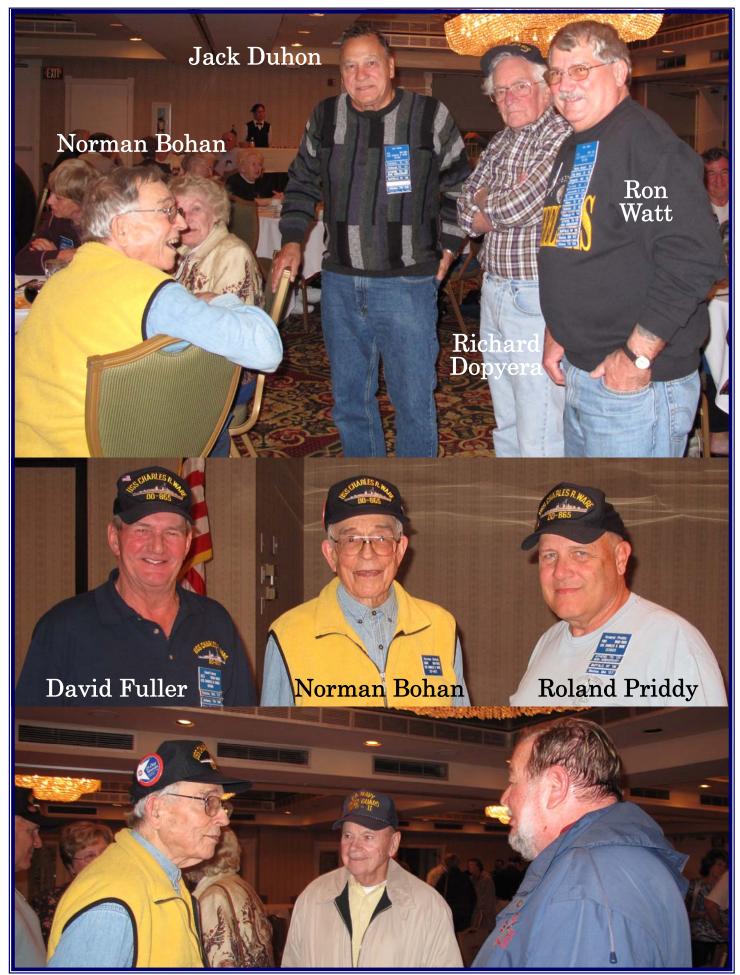
Now, therefore, I, Dr. Edward J. Mahaney, Jr., by the virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby extend to the crew members of the USS Charles R. Ware (DD-865) our deep appreciate for their distinguished military service and our gratitude for the freedom and liberty which they have assured for us.

In Witness Therefore, I do hereby cause the Corporate Seal of the City of Cape May to be allixed this 12th day of November 2009.

Dr. Edward J. Maker Mayor

It was Captain Norman Bohan's night to shine as part of a panel discussion by Cape May's "greatest generation remembering their wartime service







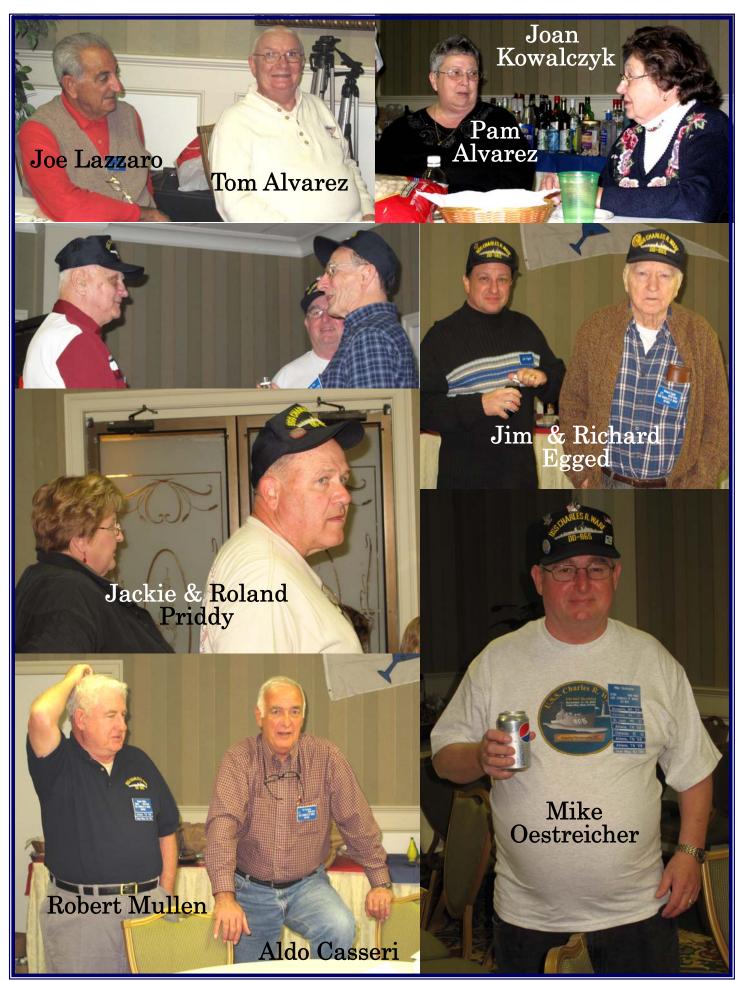
Some of that rain leaked into the hotel, including in our banquet room

The bad weather continued Friday, cancelling our boat cruise around Cape May

OOUIL FRIDAY * Boat Cruise Concelled * (Depriving the USCE an opportunity to demonstrate SAR techniques) See Registration For retund 12:30 · Carriage House Tearoom Lunch at PhysickEst. (\$19) 2:00 - Lighthouse Tour-Trolley out Front 5:00-50s Vets Ceremony in diving room - blue golf shirts & hats requested 5:30 Cash bar dining room 6:00 Dinners in dining room 505 Music speaker Jim Ronzy (VFW Chaplain)

So it was back to the Hospitality Suite for a morning of camaraderie





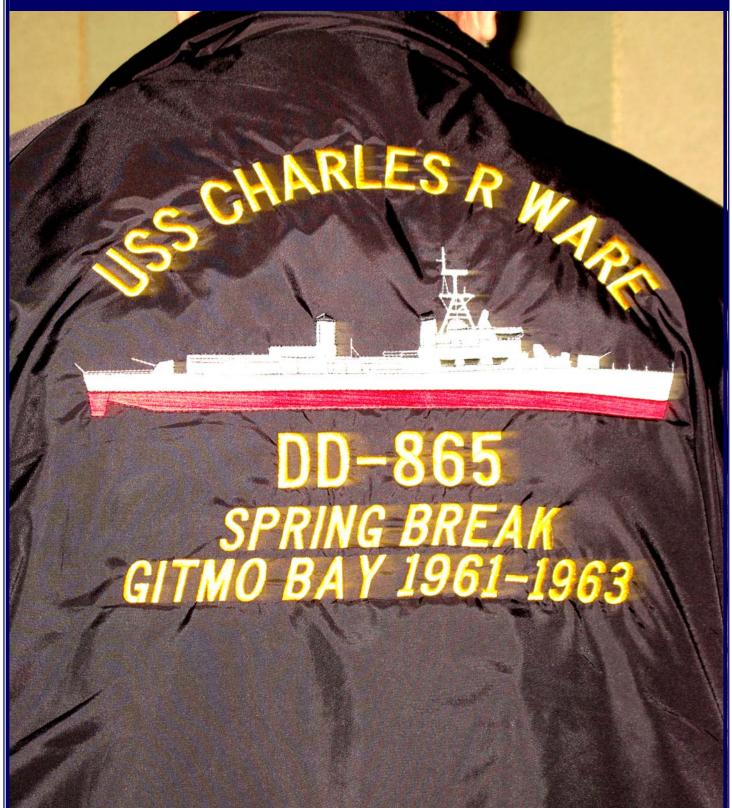








One of the more interesting pieces of Ware clothing worn at our reunion was this jacket



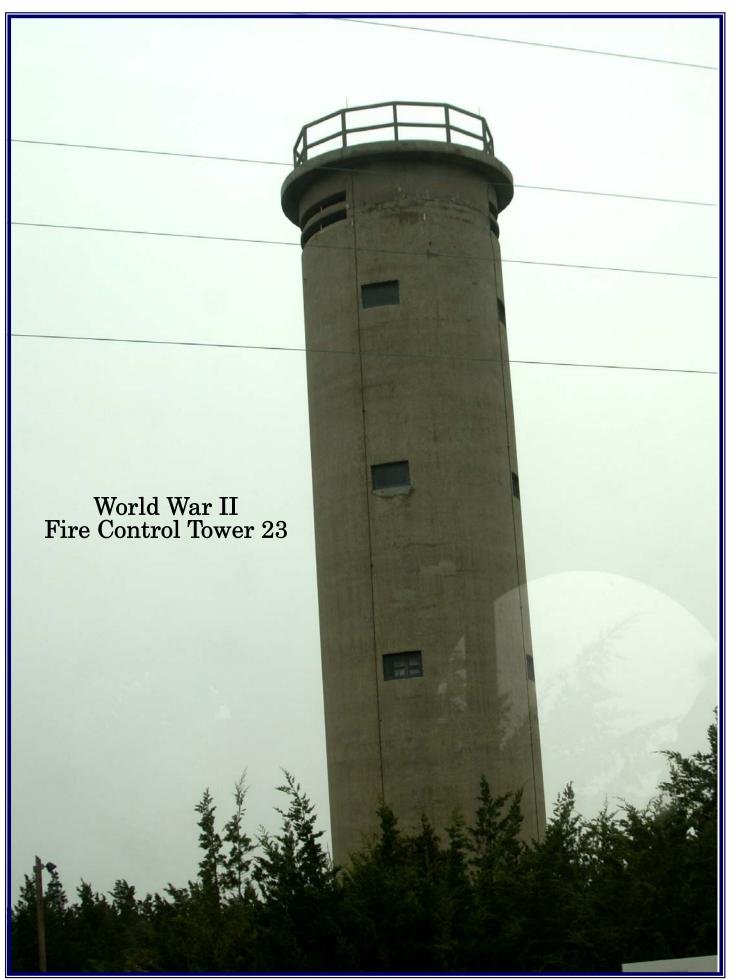
Contrary to popular belief, Frank Biondo was seen relaxing at the reunion



On Friday afternoon we visted the restored lighthouse at Cape May Point State Park







The Friday evening banquet started with the ceremony honoring Waremen of the 1950s

UNIFORM OF THE DAY FOR DINNER

* Blue Polo Shirts & * Blue Caps

Before the festivities started, Reunion hosts John and Nancy Bailey needed to take care of last-minute details

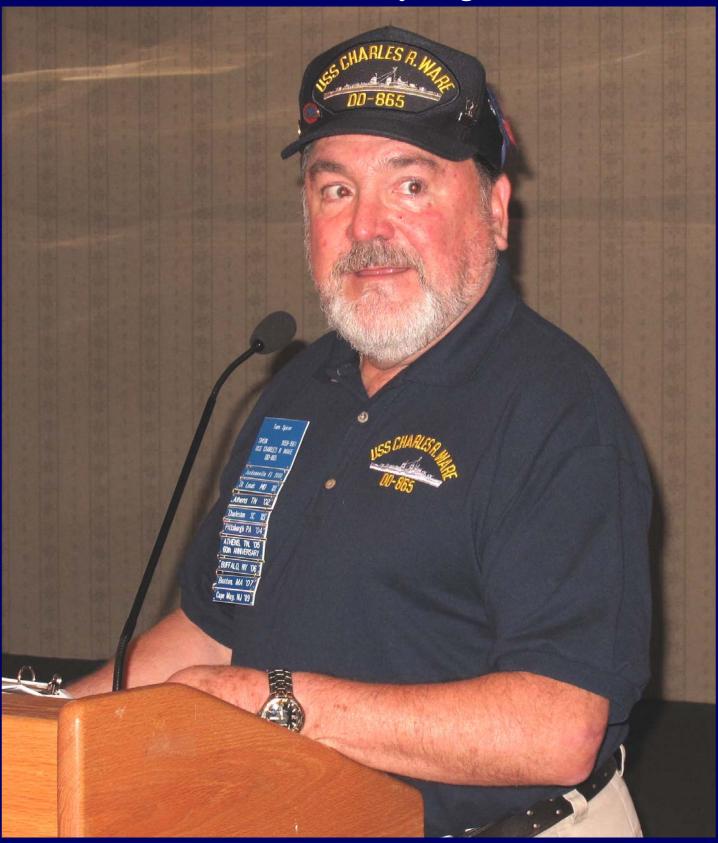


If it moved, Tom Alvarez was there to film it . . .



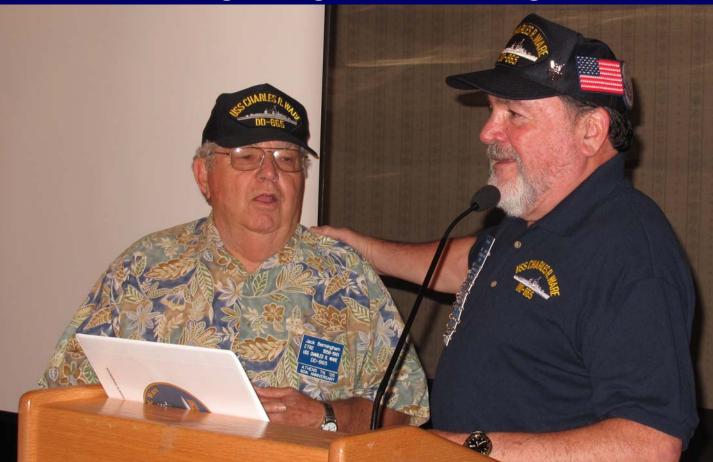
. . except when he was at the dinner table

Let the ceremony begin . . .

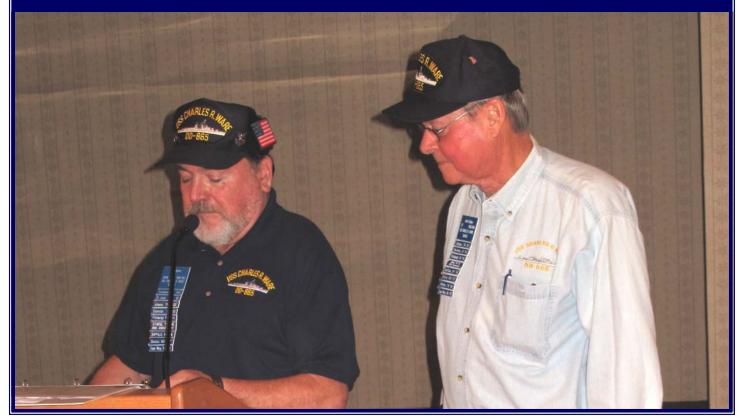


... with Tim Spicer as our Master of Ceremonies

... recognizing Jack Bermingham



... and John Bailey



Honoring the Waremen of the 1950s



Our guest that evening was the local VFW Post Chaplain



After supper we enjoyed a nostalgic trip down "memory lane" with the music of the "Greatest Generation"



John Bailey introduced the entertainment . . .



... while John and Nancy Bailey thanked them at the end

In between, we stood to be recognized . . .



.. and did a little dancing



Jackie & Roland Priddy

Diane Gillum Allan Jongetjes

Carmen & David Fulmer

Looking back on Friday, we started with breakfast . .



... paused for lunch

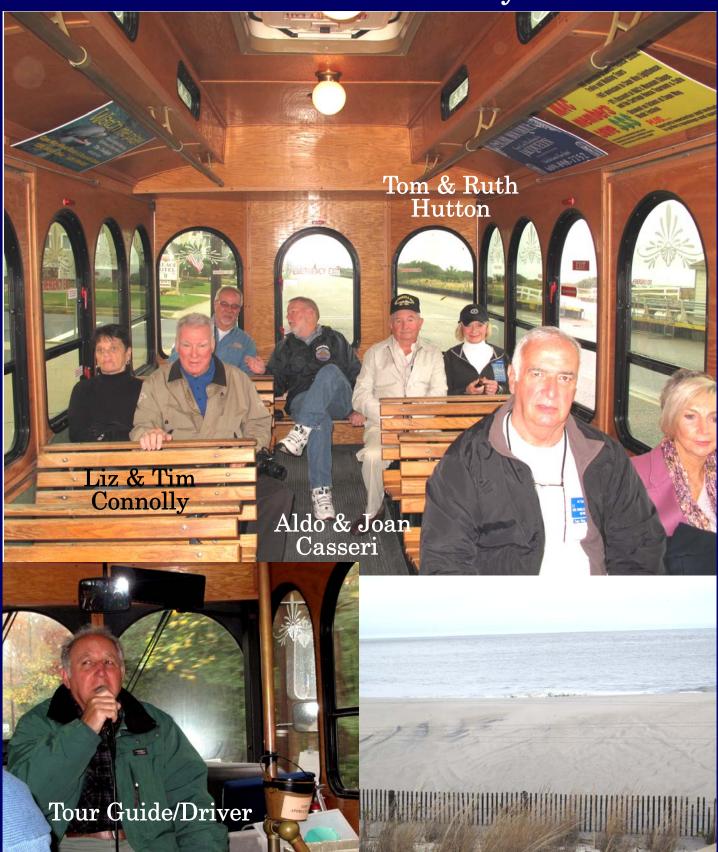
Allan Jongetjes Diane Gillum

... and finished with a wonderful banquet

II

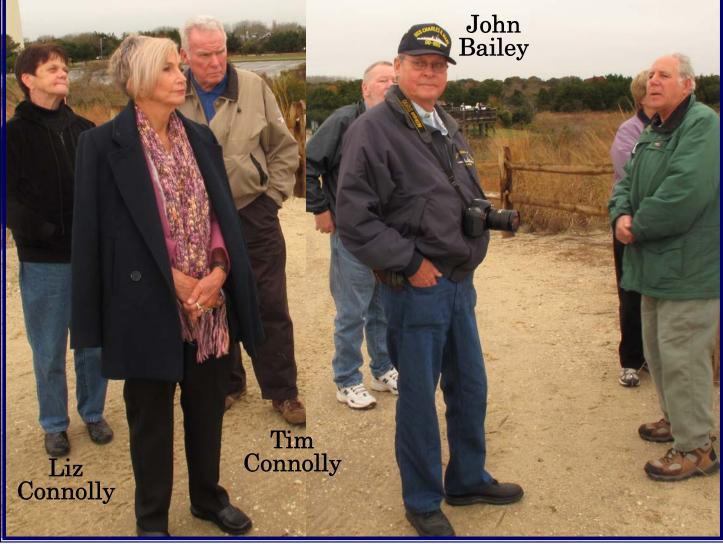


A trolley tour of Cape May's World War II landmarks started our Saturday





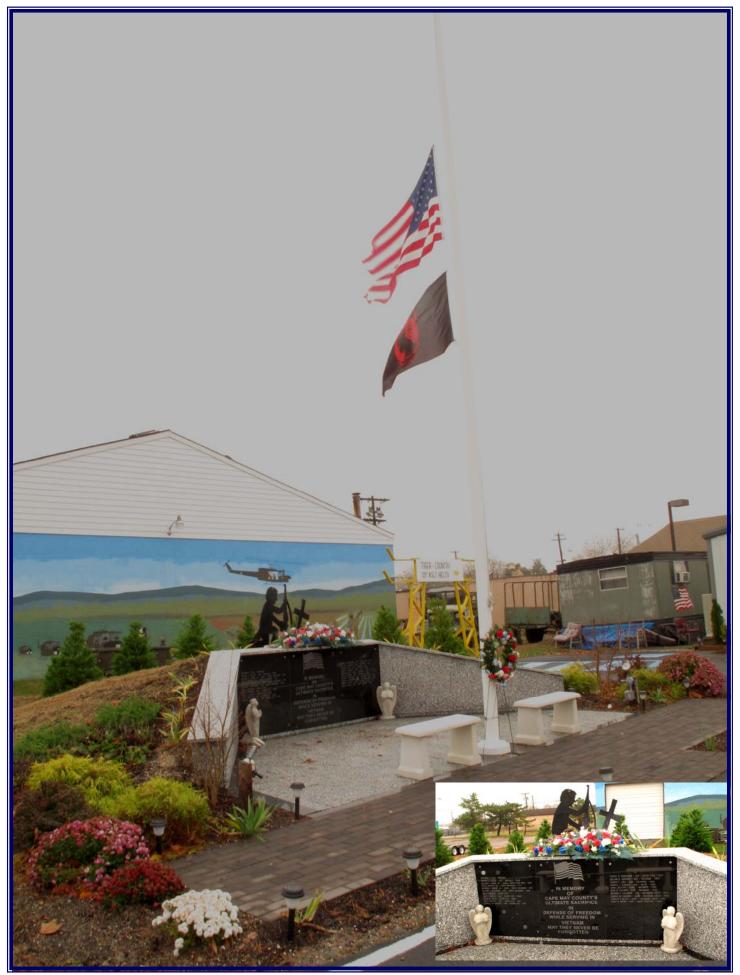
The rain may have stopped, but not the wind



Then it was off to the Forgotten Warriors Vietnam Museum

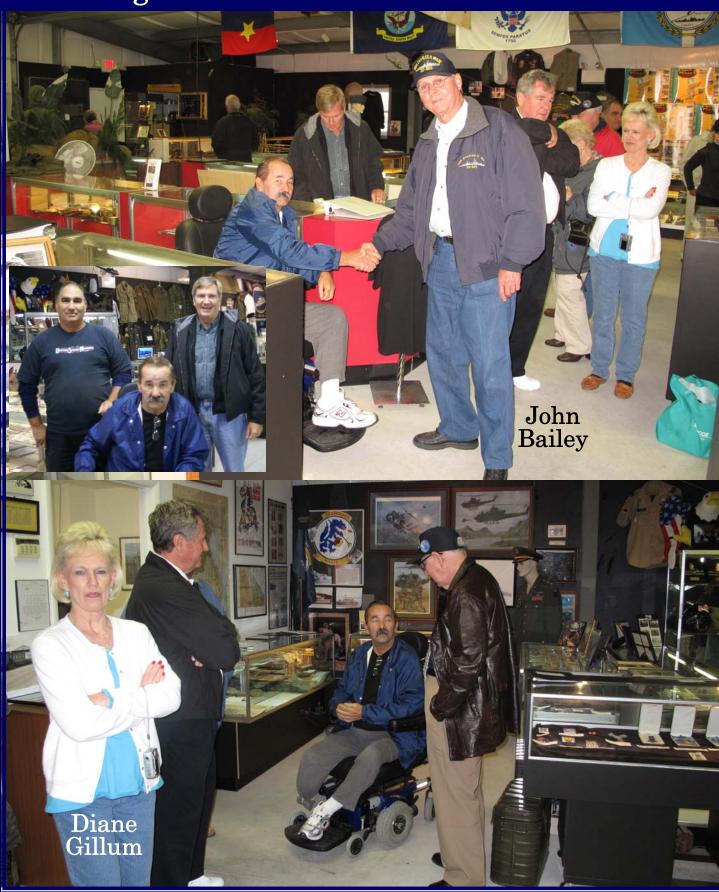


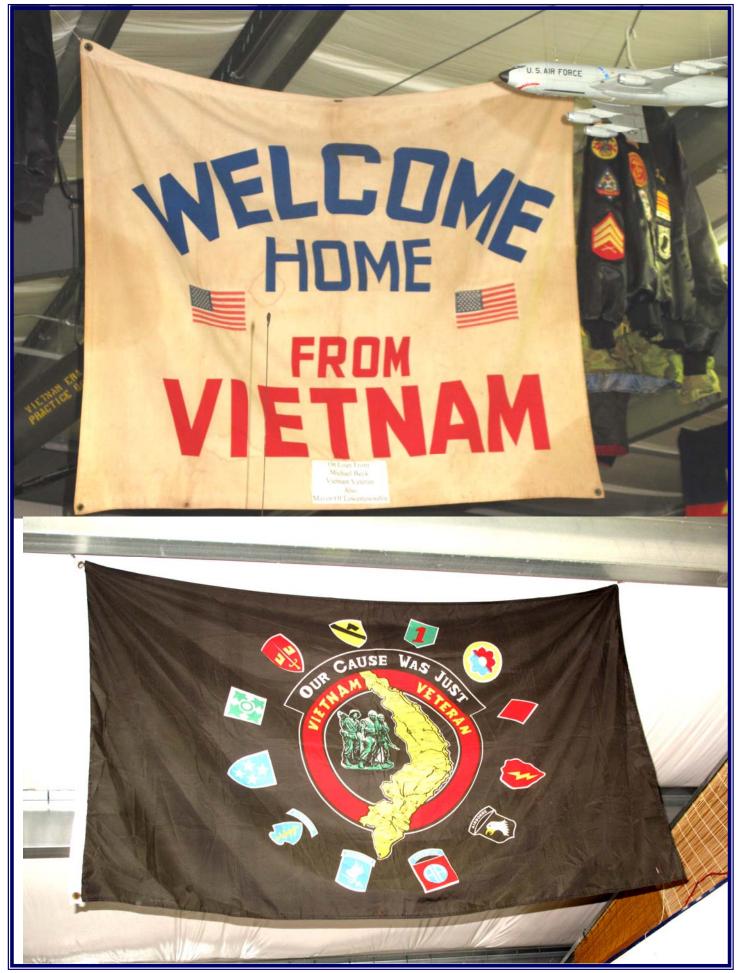






Museum founder and President Thomas Collins greets the Waremen and wives

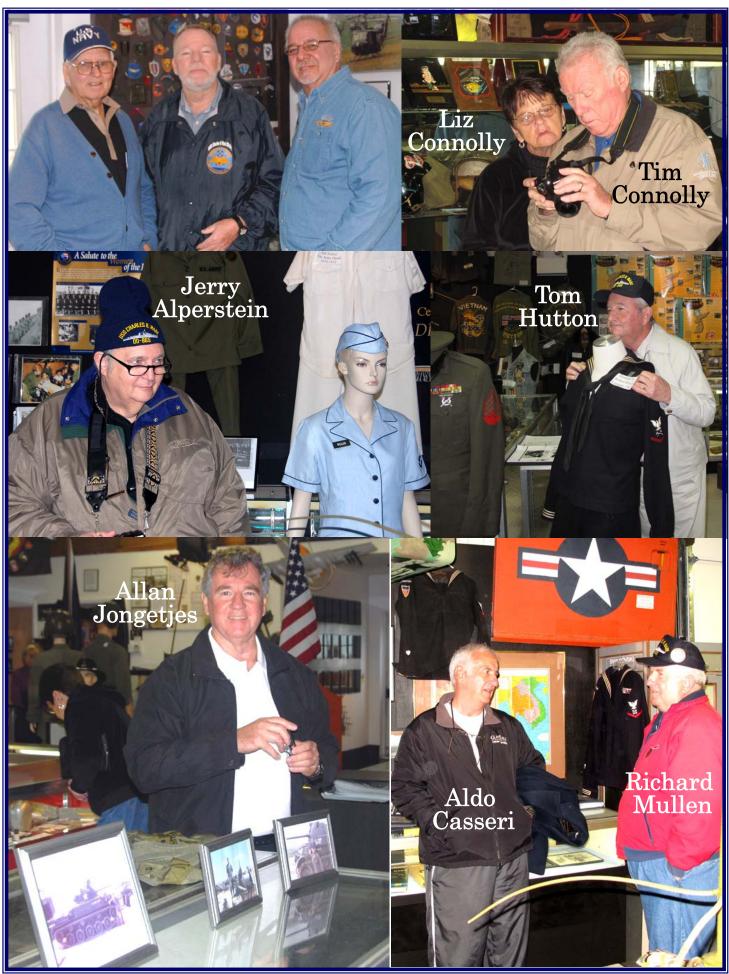












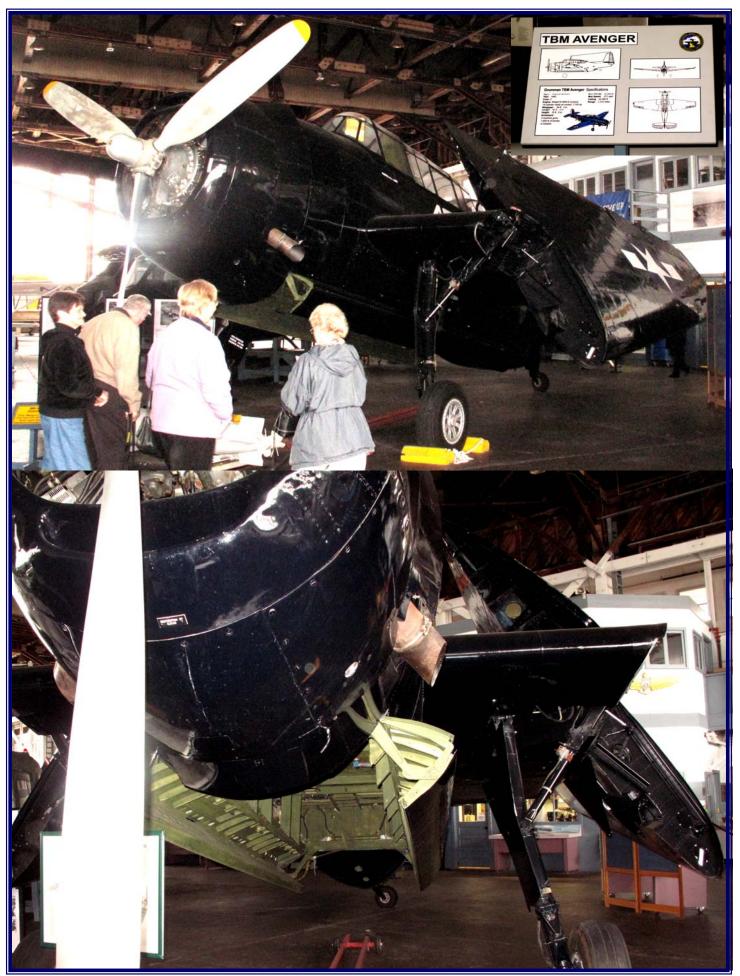
Naval Air Station Wildwood was our last stop on Saturday morning















Then we returned to the hotel for lunch



Saturday afternoon concluded with the Sunset Beach Flag Lowering Ceremony and Ware memorial service

Sunset Beach Flag Ceremony

Since 1973, all flags flown at Sunset Beach have been casket flags of U.S. veterans. The ceremony honors all who have served our country.

The ceremony is held from Memorial Day to October



John Bailey was Master of Ceremonies



A Navy Chaplain led the memorial service

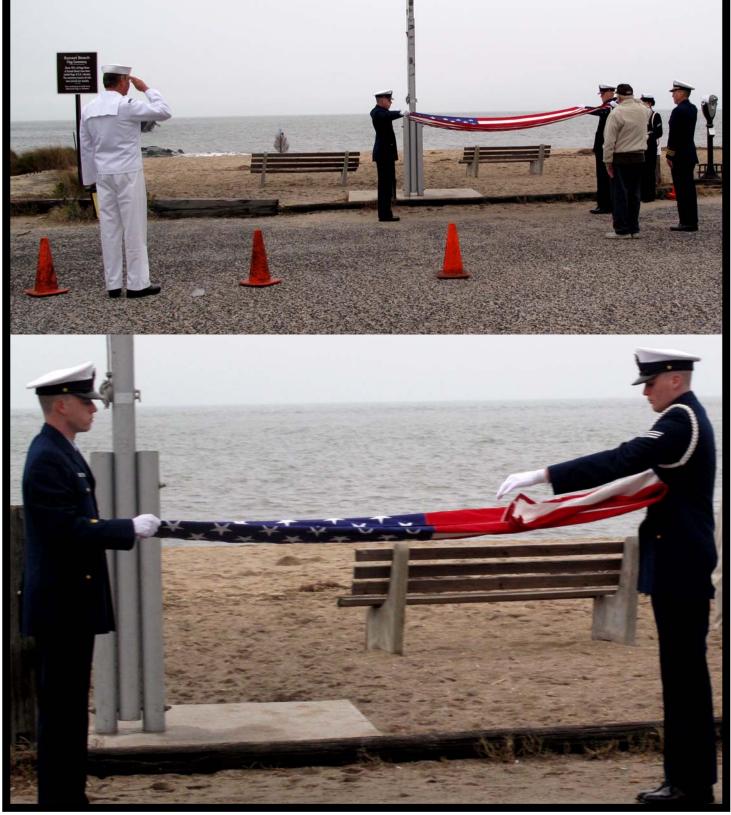


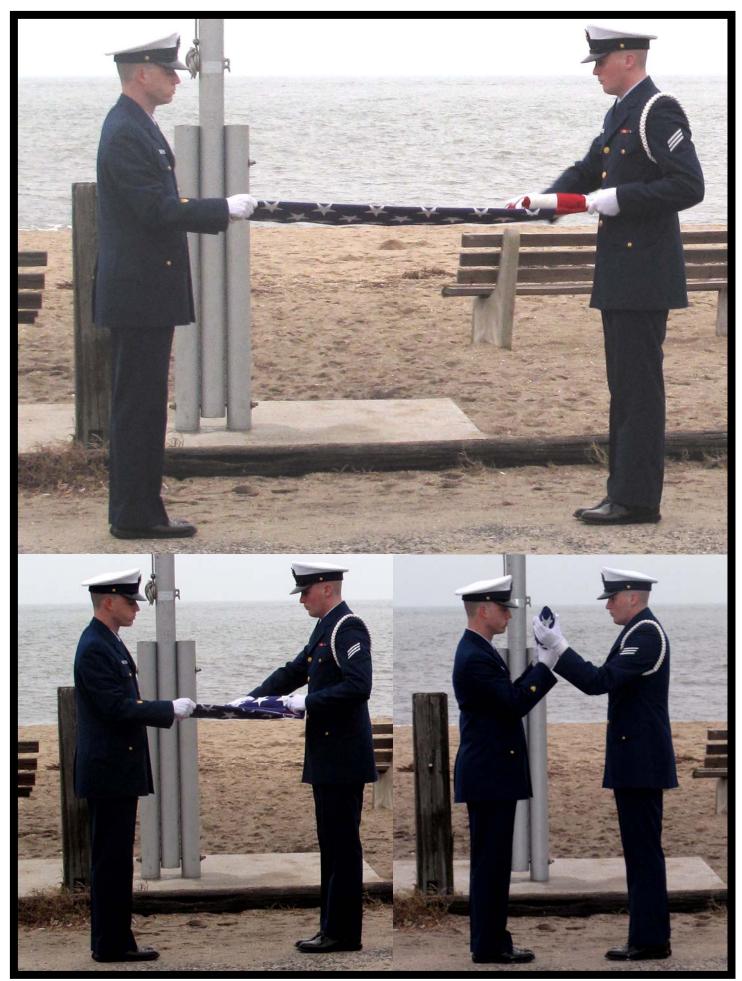
The Ware was recognized by County Commissioner Ralph Bakely



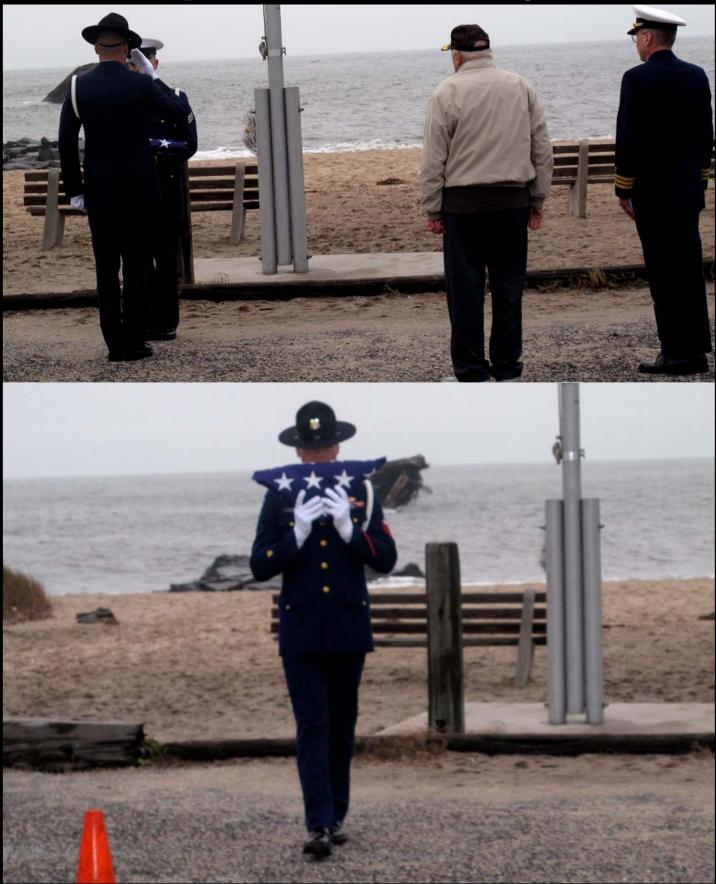


At sunset, the casket flag of shipmate Ralph Siegers was lowered from the staff and folded by a Coast Guard honor guard . . .





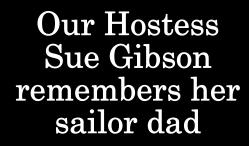
... before being presented to Ralph's widow, Minnie Seigers















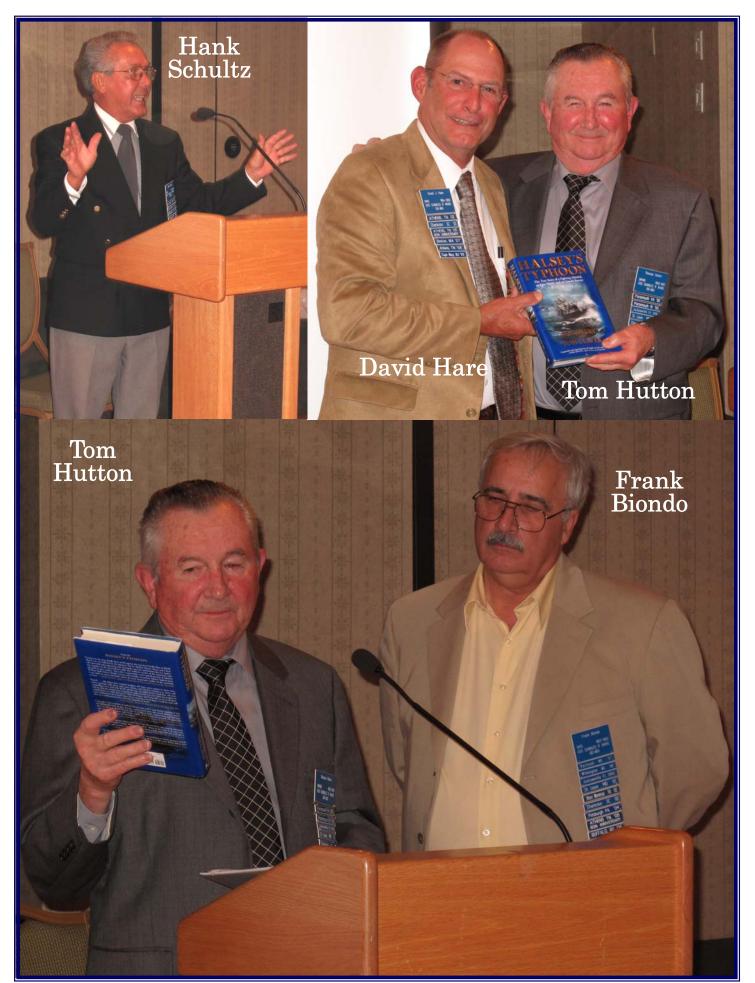
Tom Alvarez

Saturday evening was our third banquet . . .



. . With its share of speakers and honorees





Many of our descendants were recognized





Our annual raffle was a highlight of the Saturday banquet . . .





... especially when your ticket is picked



Sara Alperstein loved her raffle prize





Does the uniform still fit?



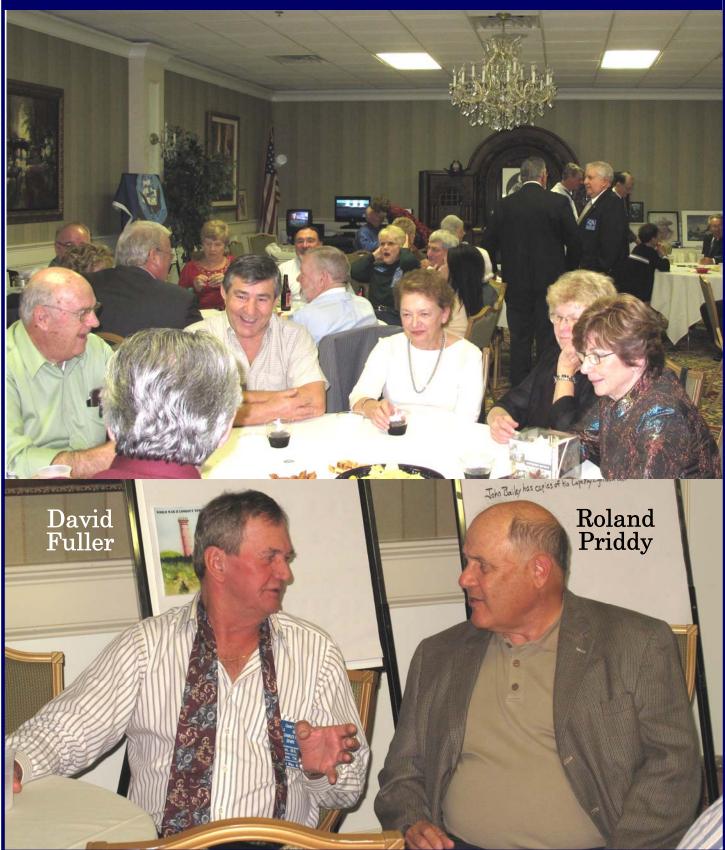








After the banquet ended, some of us went back to the Hospitality Suite to continue our reunion



On Sunday morning we had our farewell breakfast





One last look at the Grand Hotel lobby before departing Cape May, New Jersey



Charles R Ware 2010 Reunion Crew

Last Name	First Name	Years/Rate	Address	City	St	Zip	Spouse/Guest
Alperstein	Jerry	66-67 SN	300 First Ave	New York	NY	10009	
Alvarez	Thomas J.	56-59 SMSN	27 Frances St.	Mechanicsville	NY	12118	Pam
Armao	Sam	53-55 SK1	35887 Mildred St	N. Ridgeville	OH	44039	Marge
Bailey	John	ST1 66-68	239 Windsor Ave	Cape May	NJ	08204	-
Bermingham	Jack	58-61 ETR2	103 Karrigan St	Sebastian	FL	32958	
Biondo	Frank	57-60 SM3	579 Buxton Ave	West Hempstead	NY	11552	
Birmingham	Jim	63-66 BT3	38 Kaman Ct	Middletown	NJ		Barbara
Bohan	Norman	61-63 CDR	152 River Rd	Ulster Park	NY	12487	Frances
Butler	John F.	51-54 ME2	725 Highland St	Stoughton	MA	02072	Elaine
Cameron	John B	61-64 Lt(jg)	12 Cameron Ln	Goshen	NY	10924	
Casseri	Aldo J.	Lt	2128 SaSalle Ave	Gretna	LA	70056	Joan
Cocnavitch	Edward	51-55 BT2	4404 Camellia Rd	Baltimore	MD	21236	Cocnavitch
Connolly	Timothy J	55-57 RM2	206 Mt. View M.H.P.	Stony Point	NY	10980	Elizabeth
Crook	Jo Ann		408 Otter Creek Dr	Venice	FL	34292	
Discoe	Richard E	55-59 BM1	44 Lakewiew St	Pittsfield	MA	01201	Carmella
Doerrmann	Richard	63-65 SFP3	238 S. Poplar St	Gibbstown	NJ	08027	Marilyn
Duhon	Jack	61-66 BT2	445 Newfound Harbor Dr	Merritt Island	FL	32952	Jane
Egged	Richard	61-66 ET1	6911 Colonial	Dearborn Hts	MI	48127	Jim Egged
Evans	Will	57-58 Lt(jg)	826 Plaza Place	Ocean City	NJ	08226	
Falcone	Michael	RM3 49-53	1684 Old Louisquisset Pk	Lincoln	RI	O2865	Joan, Lee Ann
Fonzo	Ricci	61-63 SN	1639 Horton Rd	Mohegan Lake	NY	10547	Donna
Fuller	Charles	49-52 RD2	70 Whittier Ave	Pittsfield	MA	01201	Bonnie
Fulmer	David	66-68 DC3	487 Par Dr	Frostproof	FL	33843	Carmen
Gaeta	Michael R.	51-55 GM2	151 Edgemont Terr	Sanford	NC	27332	Elizabeth
Gates	Thomas	53-57 MM3	43 S. Grant St	Manheim	PA	17545	Jean
Gelenites	Robert	67-71 BM2	19 Windward Dr	Barnegat	NJ	O8005	Kathleen
Glynn	Richard	64-65 EM3	1275 Coolidge Ave	Union	NJ	07083	
Gnorek	Walter	55-57 BT3	291 Terrace Blvd	Depew	NY	14043	Loretta
Hare	David	64-66 RM2	900Stewart Rd	Little Rock	AR	72223	Tina
Hepler	Paul W		11	Shamokin	PA	17872	Kay
Hutton	Thomas V.	59-61 BMSN		Manchester	NJ	08759	Ruth
Jongetjes	Allan			Slidell	LA	70461	Dianne Gillum
Knapp	Bill	57-60 RM3	109 Cartwheel Ct #24	Washingtonville	NY	10992	Marrianne
Kokolski	Harry	62-64 RD3	12 Railsedge Rd	Hillsborough	NJ	08844	Lois Desmond
Kowalczyk	Franklin		13835 Carlisle Dr	Sterling Heights	М	48312	Joanne
Kufall	Gary	69-70 SN	35 Algonquin Ave	Rockaway	NJ	07866	Karen
Lazzaro	Joe	49-53 SH3	1761 81st St	Brooklyn	NY	11214	Ruth
Luberto	Robert			Paramus	NJ C	07652	Joan
Mahoney	Thomas		•	Cincinnati	OH		Paula Mahoney
McGettigan	Edward			Philadelphia	PA	19114	Carl Schneider, Edward McGettigan, Jr.
Mullen	Robert Joseph Jr			Ocala	FL	34476	Irene
Oestreicher	John "Mike"	67-68 ETN2	•	Sparta	WI	54656	
Patullo	Herbert			Martinsville	NJ	O8836	
Priddy	Rowland	66-68 RM3	359 Gallahad Loop Rd	Woodville	ТΧ	75979	Jackie

D ¹							
Ritchie	John	67-69 EN1	500 Buena Vista Dr	Nokomis	FL	34275	Pam
Rolfzen	Neal	EM3	W7812 SR 7318	Hager City	WI	54014	
Salm	Richard	52-54 RD2	33 Collier LN	Morganville	NJ	07751	Salm
Schultz	Henry	52-56 RM2	PO Box 711	Sturgis	MI	49091	
Seigers	Minnie		174 Birch St	Midland Park	NJ	07432	
Sisco	Andy	55-59 BT3	6075 RT #1	Grant	FL	32949	Janet
Slomka	Martin	51-55 SK2	5 Cedar Ave	Pleasantville	NY	10570	
Spicer	Thomas	59-61 SMSN	139 Belcoda Rd	Scottsville	NY	14546	Elaine
Stackhouse	Torrence	53-57 SO2	101 Summit Rd	Butler	PA	16001	Marilyn
Stives	Bob	52-56 SO3	72 Willard Dr	Manahawkin	NJ	O8050	Joanne
Terek	Andrew A	52-53 RD3	690 Amor Dr	Cocoa	FL	32927	Marilyn
Tew	Carl R	61-63 SKCS	2976 Hodgesville Rd	Dothan	AL	36301	Ardyeth
Thompson	Norman	59-60 ET2	494 Castille Dr	Spring Hill	FL	34608	
Tytlar	Ronald	57-58 QMSN	11 Montfort Rd	Wappingers Falls	NY	12590	Lucille
Vinglas	William	63-64 YNCS	299 Allen LN	Warminster	PA	18974	Marv
Watt	Ron	62-65 BT3	178 Goetsch Rd	Greenville	PA	16125	Mary
Williams	Everett	56-58 FP2	17 Silver Lake Dr	Middletown	DE	19709	Ena
Yelton	Chuck	46-50 FC3	725 Fore Ave	Columbia	SC		Eddie Yelton
Yoder	Dennis A.	58-61 PN3	225 Montgomery Ave	Reading	PA	19606	
Britton	Jake	51-54 BMSN	• •	New Holland	PA		Anne
Schneider	Cark	59-61 EN2	2823 Tremont St	Philadelphia	PA	19136	

Next year in

Washington, DC/ Crystal City, VA

September 28 to October 3, 2010