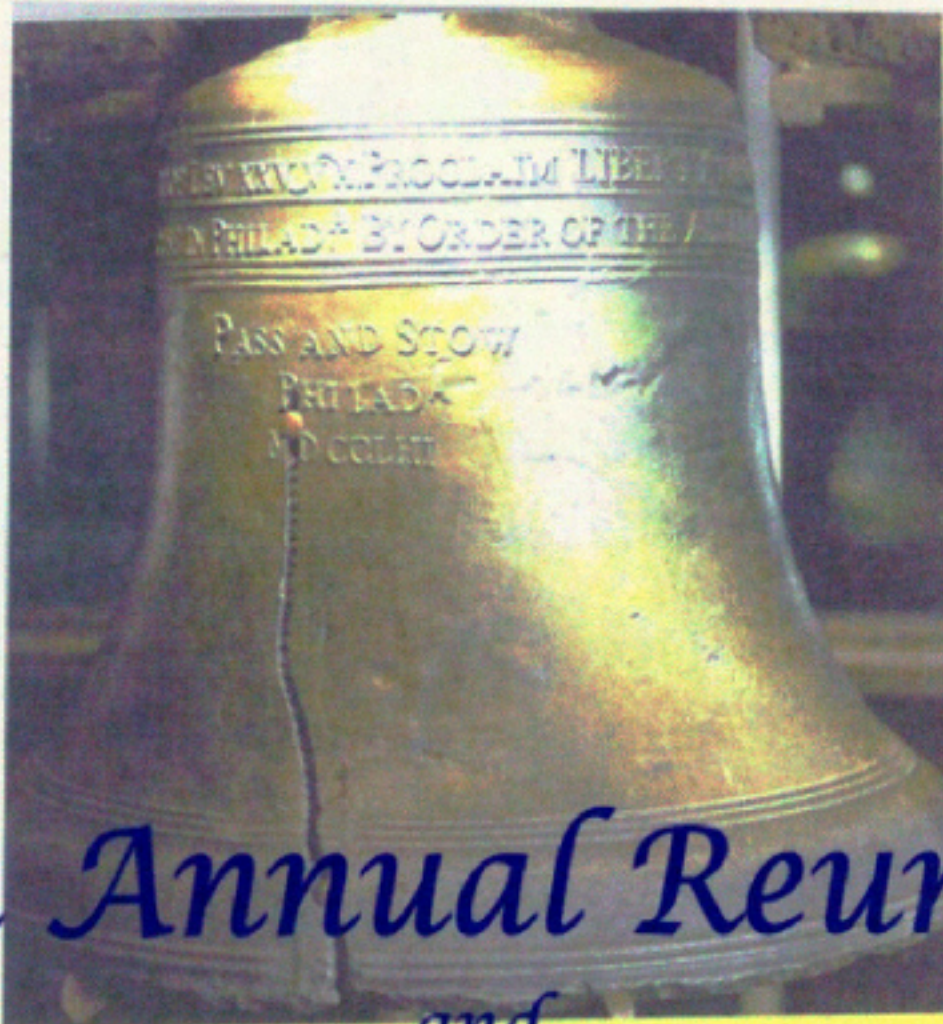


USS Conyngham Association
DD 371 DDG 17



17th Annual Reunion

and

History of the Liberty Bell
40th Anniversary of DDG-17

Adams Mark Hotel

Philadelphia, PA

June 11 - 15, 2003

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Welcome

Gustavus Conyngham, a name known to students of the American Revolution, was a renowned privateering captain, capturing sixty British merchant ships in less than two years, many literally under the noses of Royal Navy escorts. He later served as a commissioned captain in the Continental Navy and was instrumental in the defense of Philadelphia during the War of 1812. Capt. Conyngham died in 1819 and was buried in Philadelphia. In recognition of his service, three proud ships of the U. S. Navy have carried the name of U.S.S. Conyngham – the first in World War I, the second, the DD-371, was one of the most decorated destroyers in the Pacific during World War II, and the third, the DDG 17, commissioned in 1963 in Camden, New Jersey, and removed from service in the early 1990's.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, USS CONYNGHAM (DD-371) was undergoing an overhaul in Pearl Harbor when the Japanese air attack took place. Surviving, CONYNGHAM blasted away at the attackers. Afterwards, DD-371 covered convoys from the West Coast on the vital supply line to Australia, before being reassigned to the Seventh Amphibious Force in a role seldom performed by a destroyer. For almost a year, USS CONYNGHAM was Vice-Admiral Daniel E. Barbey's flagship for landing operations. Often the largest ship off some of the smaller beachheads in General MacArthur's drive to the Philippines, DD-371 hosted a command staff of both Army and Navy planners and expanded communications. It was a role normally reserved for a battlewagon or a cruiser, or, later in the war, a specially-dedicated command vessel many times the size of a destroyer, but CONYNGHAM filled the role so well that no one, except perhaps her crew, noticed that she was somewhat small for the task.

In one of the most remarkable incidents of the war, CONYNGHAM led a convoy of thirty-six ships in a feint toward a preexisting beachhead, then deftly maneuvered toward Arawe. Japanese reconnaissance aircraft overflew the strike force as low as four hundred feet, but the blacked-out destroyer led the way to the beaches. By daybreak, the troops were ashore, the harbor taken, and all of the support and transport craft had left. Only CONYNGHAM and a subchaser remained to search for survivors. An enemy attack of thirty-three dive-bombers and torpedo bombers was detected. CONYNGHAM was the biggest target in the harbor, and drew the aircrafts' fire like a magnet, but no enemy succeeded in hitting the skillfully handled ship. After several minutes, the attackers flew off; both the destroyer and the subchaser came through unscathed.

By May, 1944, DD-371 was assigned to screen battleships through the Marianas, appearing off many a beachhead in the American drive through the Philippines, serving in a more "traditional" destroyer role and remaining actively engaged in the Philippine campaign into 1945. The Japanese surrender found the veteran destroyer undergoing an overhaul at the American naval base at Subic Bay, northwest of Manila. USS CONYNGHAM earned fourteen battle stars for her service in World War II. USS CONYNGHAM was decommissioned on December 20, 1946. Employed as a target in the Bikini Atomic Bomb test in 1946, the ship was finally sunk in 1948.

Surviving veterans of the U.S.S. Conyngham DD371 and DDG17 will gather in Philadelphia from June 11 through 15, 2003 for their annual reunion, including a special reunion dinner on Saturday, June 14.

THEREFORE, I, John F. Street, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, do hereby official Welcome to our great city the U.S. Navy veterans of the

U.S.S. CONYNGHAM

and respectfully salute them for their incomparable service to their countrymen and our great country.



JOHN F. STREET,
Mayor



*Early Arrivals !
A view of the City, dinner, and the
Battleship!*

Wednesday

New Historical Display, Good Stories, Ship Store Items and Great Food
Enjoyed by all



Some more shots from Wednesday Evening

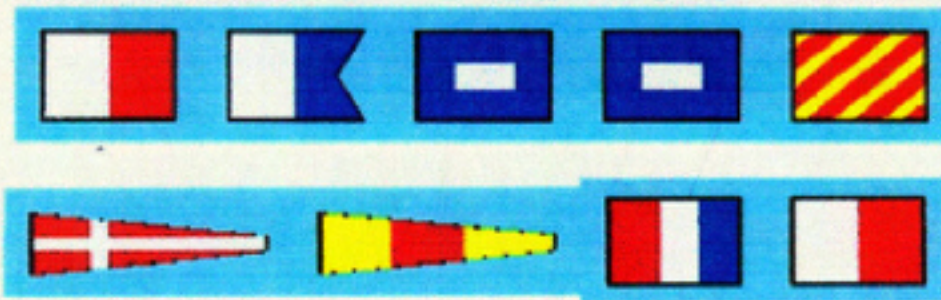
Night view of city from our room in back ground



Hospitality Room



Plank Owners Dinner



Atlantic City NJ

*Lots of fun,
not enough time to site see,
But, plenty of time to leave some funds !!*



Money quarters Please

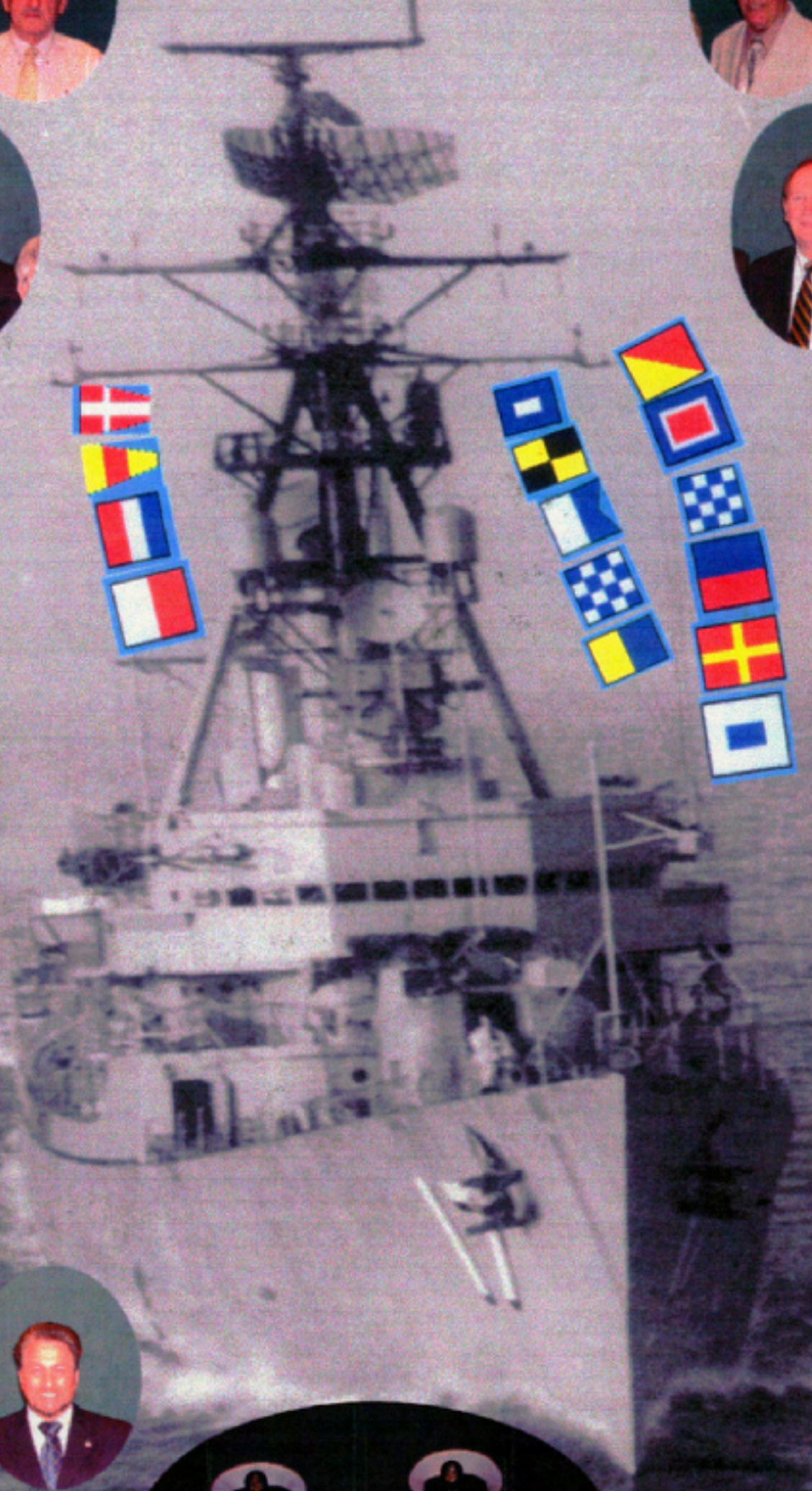


Saturday Evening

*Picture taking, The pledge of Allegiance, Tribute to those no longer among us,
A story from Capt. Brown Taylor
Dinner, Awards, Raffle, and Birthday Cake*



Plank Owners



Business Meeting *Saturday Morning*



*Our Founder and
Emeritus President
Jack Dawson*

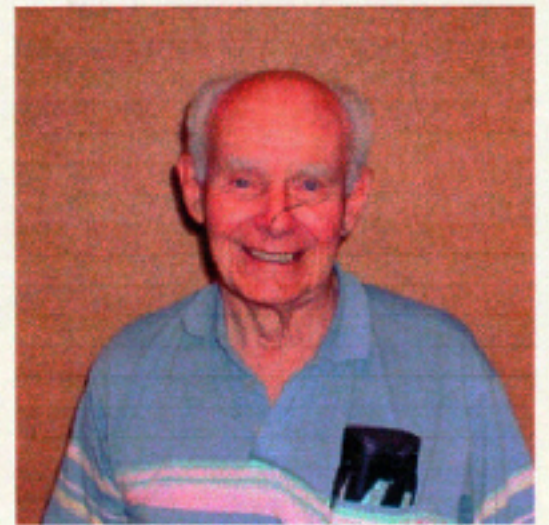
Meet Your New Officers



*Past President
Dick Shafer*



*President
Bob Ogden*



*Vice President DD371
Willard Williams*



*Vice President DDG17
Rich Greene*



*Secretary
Dave Suckow*

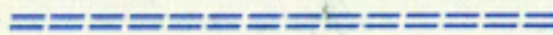


*Treasurer
John Barone*



*Editor, "The Privater"
Len Gordon
Chairman, 2003 Reunion*

*Historical Officer
and
Chairman 2004 Reunion
Dave Suckow*



*Chaplin
Neil Picquet (Hines)*

Appointed Officers



*Ships Store Operator
Bill Dawe*

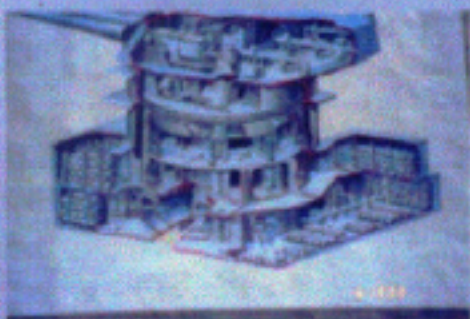
Gravesite of Gustavus Conyngham

Family members attending
(left to right)

Frank Conyngham, Jessie Conyngham Anzalone (Maid of Honor at DDG17 Christening),
Richard H Henry, and George Conyngham
and shipmates and quests from DD 371 & DDG 17



More of the great BB-62



USS NEW JERSEY BB-62

A Grand Tour of a Grand Ship





All those Who Attended



*DD-371 Shipmates
and Guests*



*DDG-17
Plank Owners*



DDG17 Men



DDG17 Ladies



*Engineering Plank Owners
From upper left
Dave Suckow, Rodney Bohl,
Larry Karpowicz, Frank Darlea,
Mike Glass, Frank Nyerges,
George Sprinkles, Bob Ogden,
Daniel Wonder*



*Operations, Plank Owners
From upper left
Ken Kelly, Jim Dolan,
Tom Heaney, Roger Lacoste,
Herb Dinns
and
lower left, Gil Giles*



*1968 - 1971
From upper left
George Columbo, Roger Ashley,
Duane Miller, Rich Greene,
Warren Wilde, Dick Shafer,
Darrell Delaney*



Snipes from the 1980's
left to right
Bob Ostrander, John Burkhard
Vito Calmita, Karl Van Bueren,
Andy Stevens



1960's
David Fantz, Bruno Ambrose,
Chuck Davis, Richard Fetterman,
Charles Hawn, George Sprinkles,
Dan Wonder



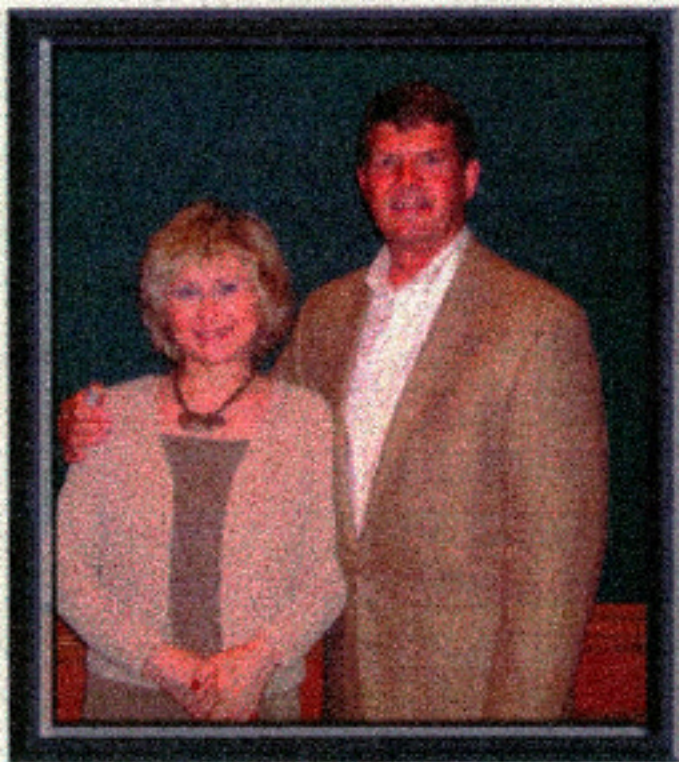
You Name Them!!
To many shipmates to name here.
I think everyone is here except the
Plank Owners

Until Next Year

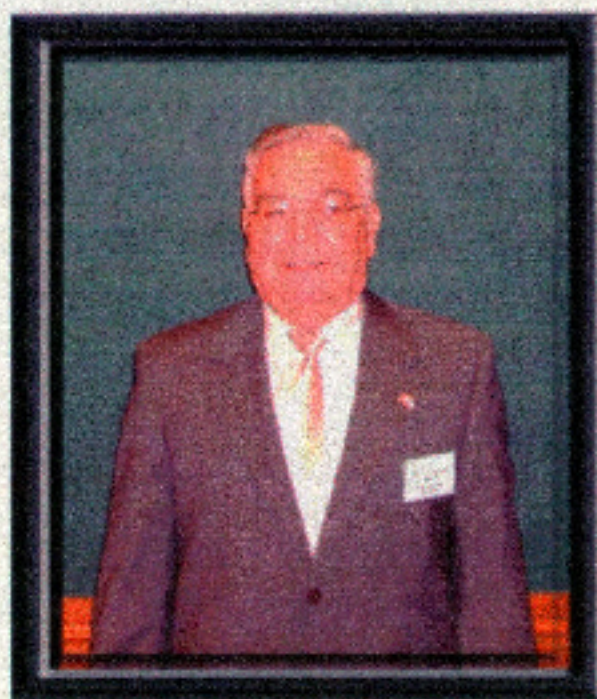
Farewell

Breakfast





Dick And Carol Allendorf



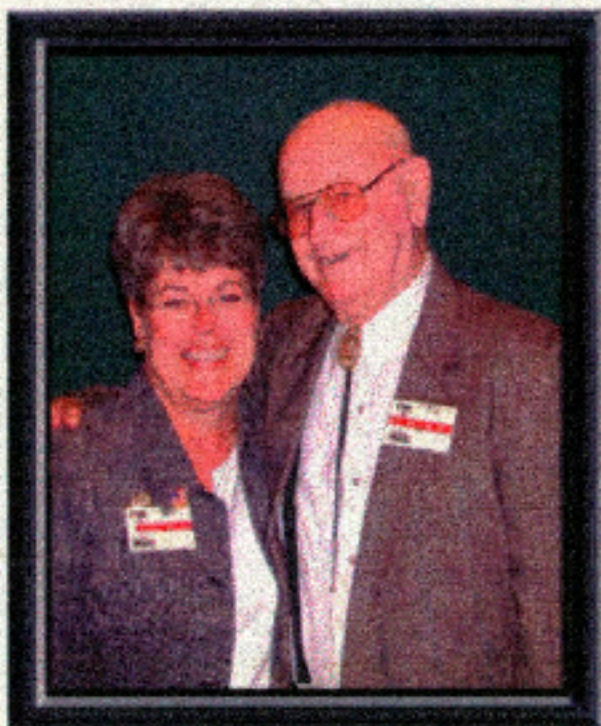
Bruno Ambrose



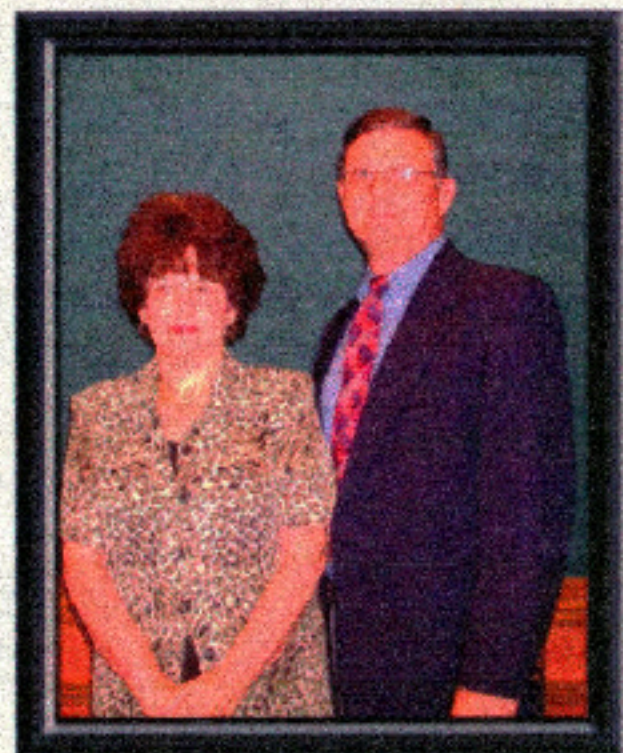
Roger and Caryl Ashley



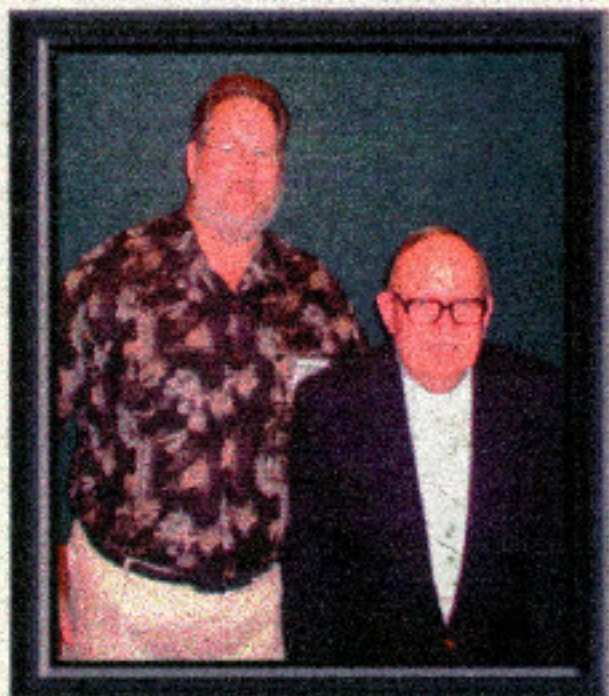
Leon and Jean Anderson



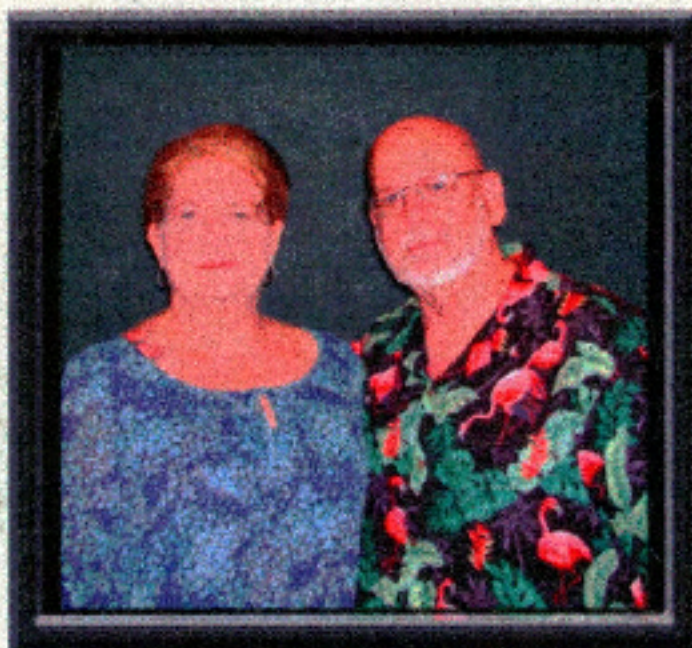
*Ray Bailie and Daughter
Rayma McLean*



John and Sherry Barone



*Joel Beck and Son
Buck Pointer*



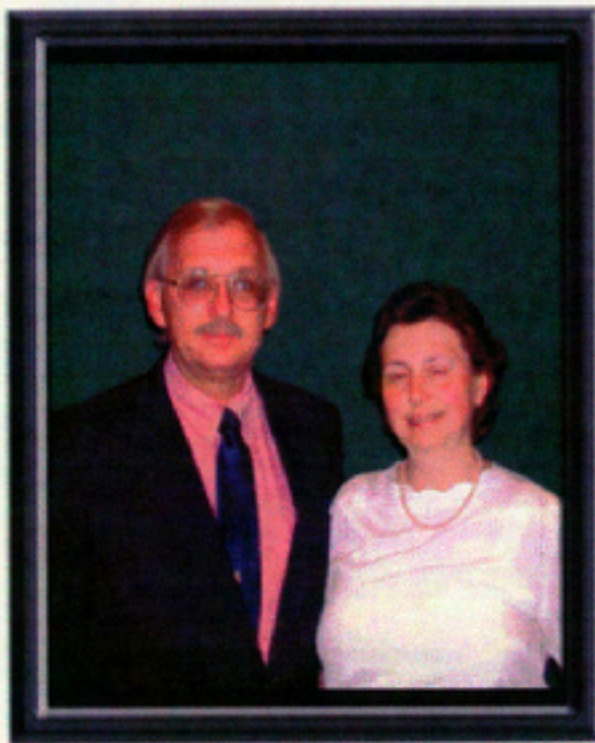
Rodney Bohl and Donna Brandon



John Burkhard



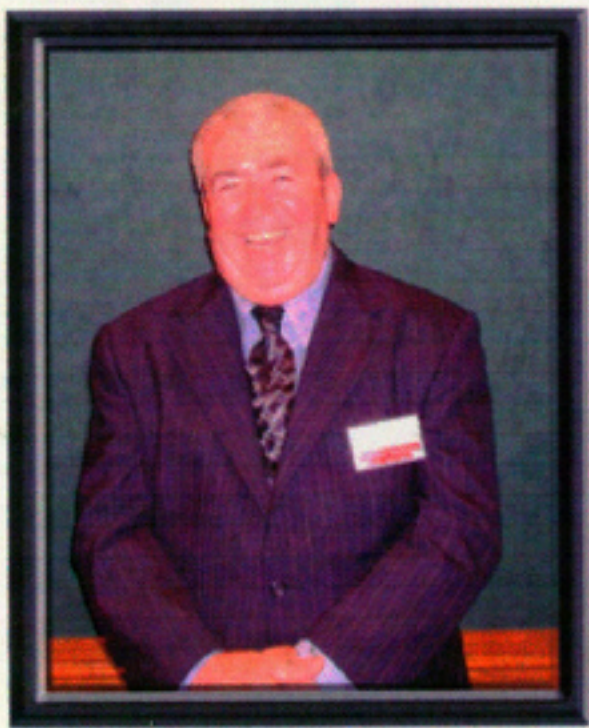
Vito Calamita



Nicholas and Susan Choroshylw



George and Rebecca Columbo



Frank Darlea



Chuck and Sussie Davis



Bill and Carolann Dawe



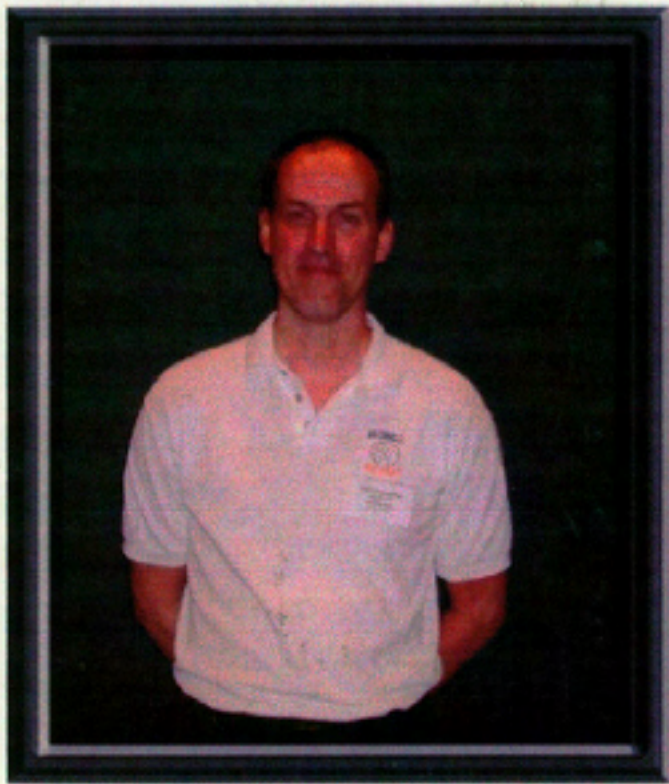
Darrel and Trudy Delaney



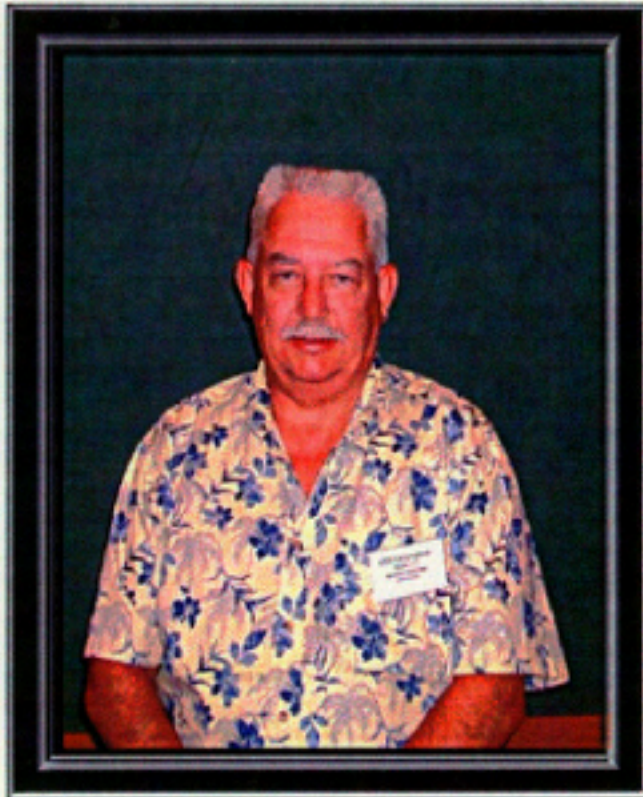
Herb Dins



Jim and Libby Dolan



John Ericsson



Richard Fetterman



Jasper Forbes



David and Joan Frantz



Gilbert and Barbara Giles



Ed and Donna Gingras



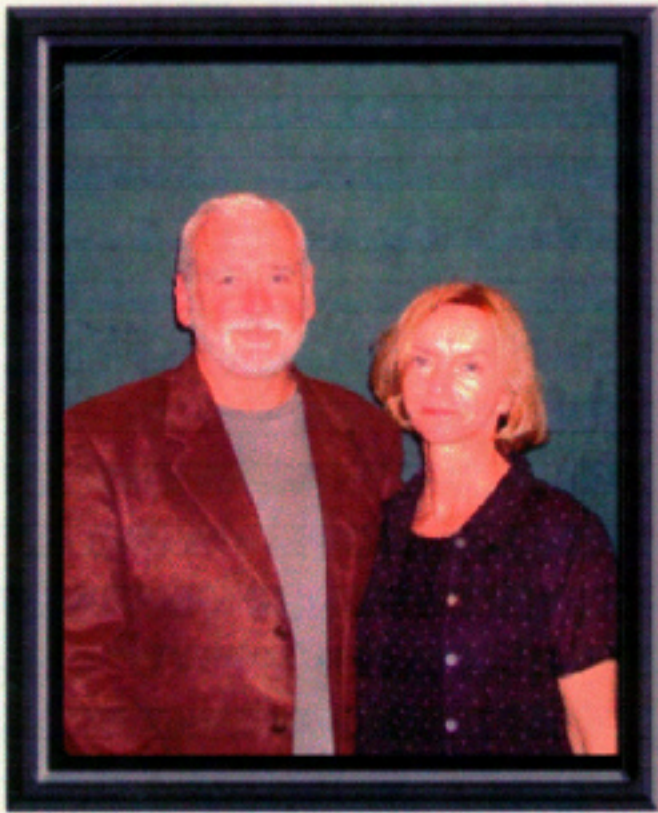
Mike and Diane Glass



Len Gordon



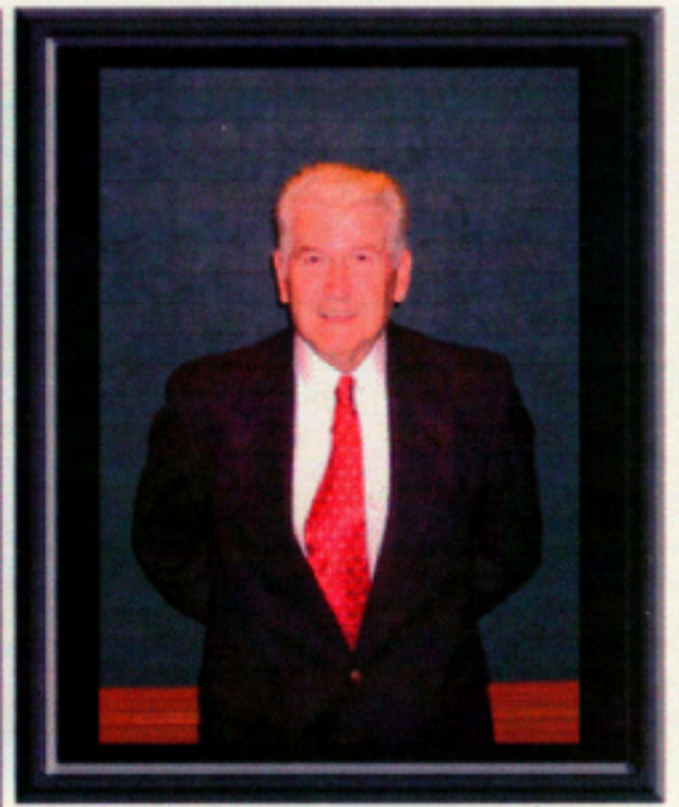
Richard and Mary Ann Greene



Charles and Erika Hawn



Tom and Kathy Heaney



Roger Hunter



Alan Kalish



*Larry and Son Christopher
Karpowicz*



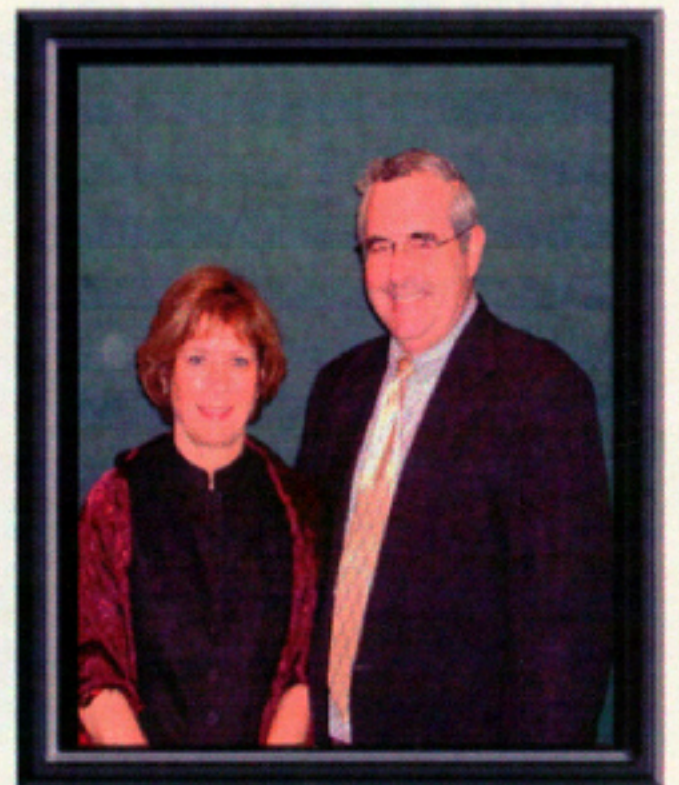
Ken and Judy Kelly



Roger and Lucille LaCoste



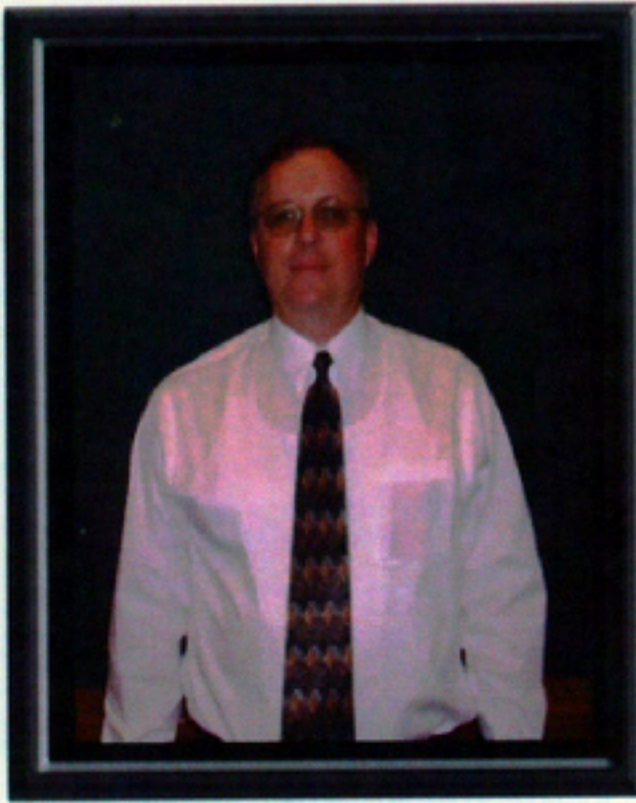
Larry and Diane Larkins



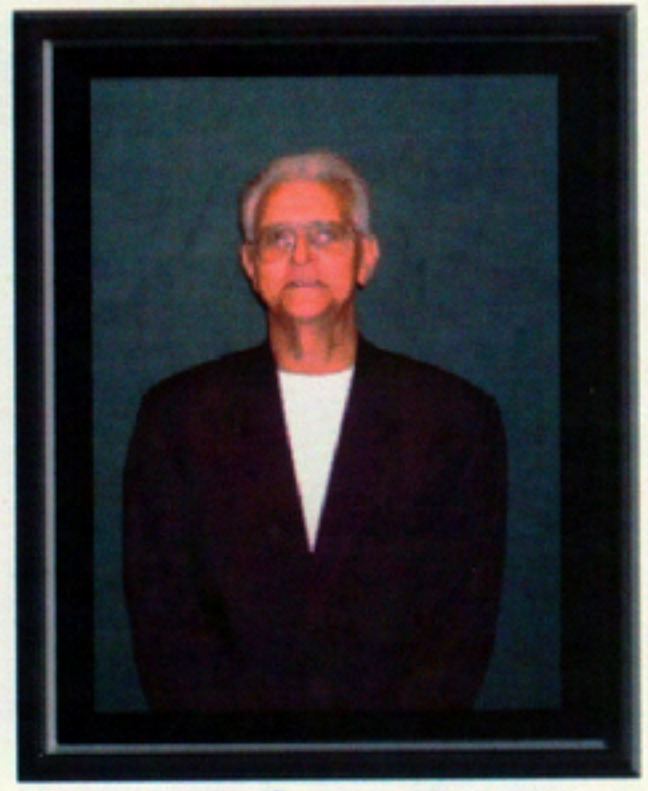
Miles and Sally Libby



Duane and Gloria Miller



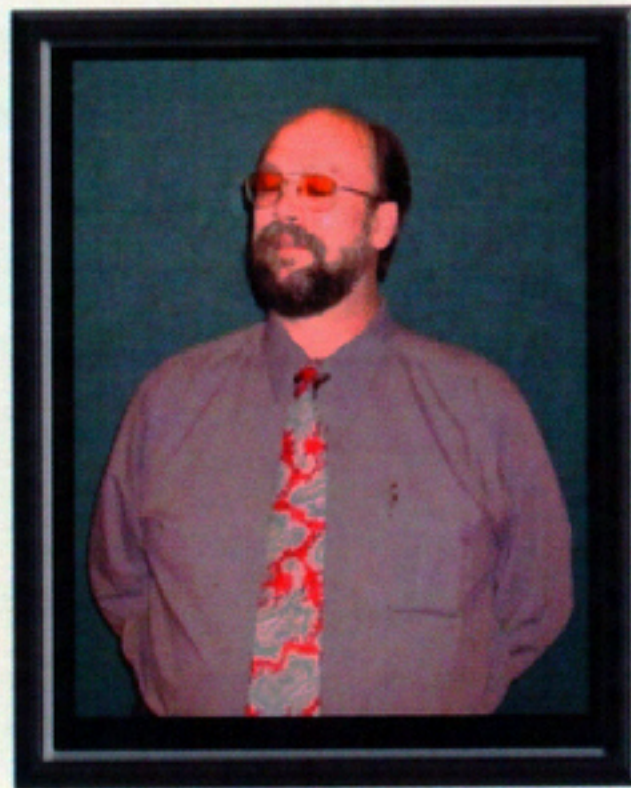
Charles Miska



Frank Nyerges



Bob Ogdon



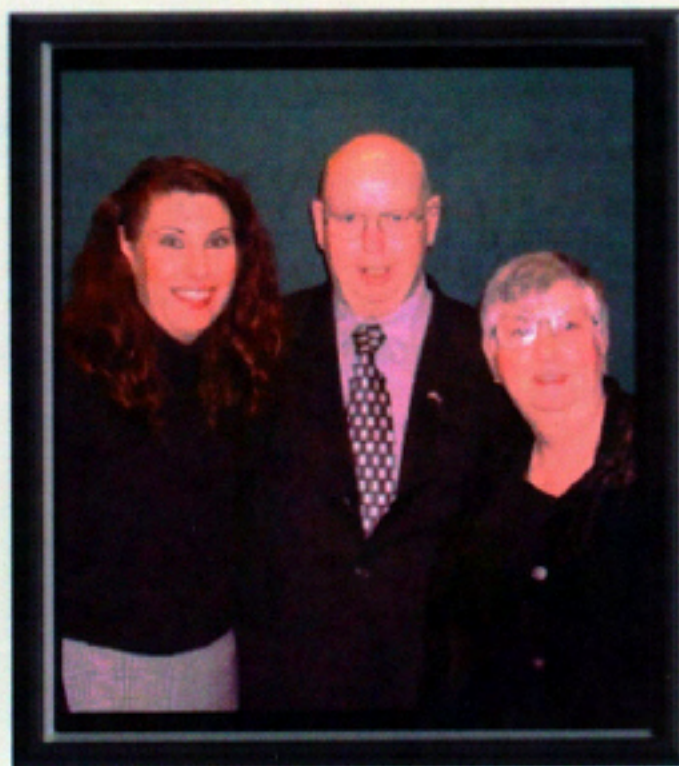
Bob Ostrander



Dick and Jo Shafer



Don and Sally Smith



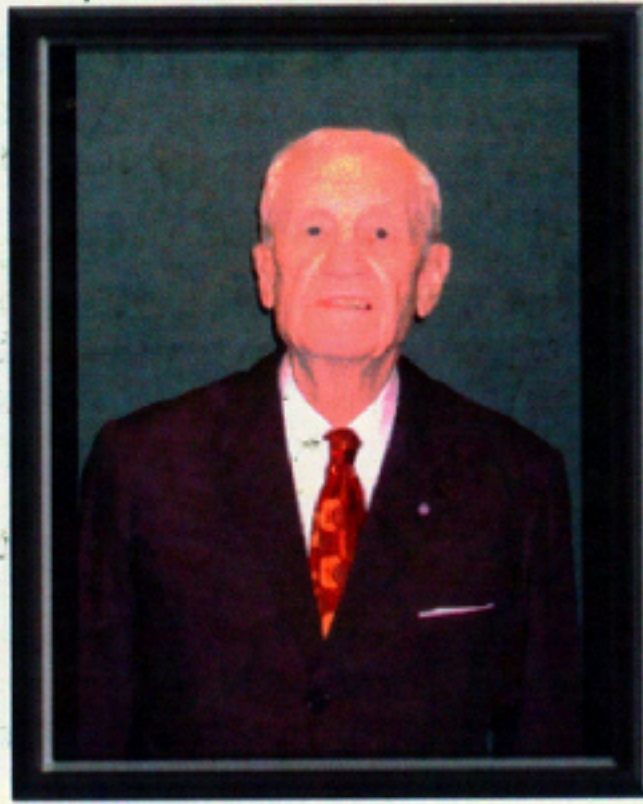
*George, Sharon,
and Daughter Ruth Sprinkles*



Andrew Stevens



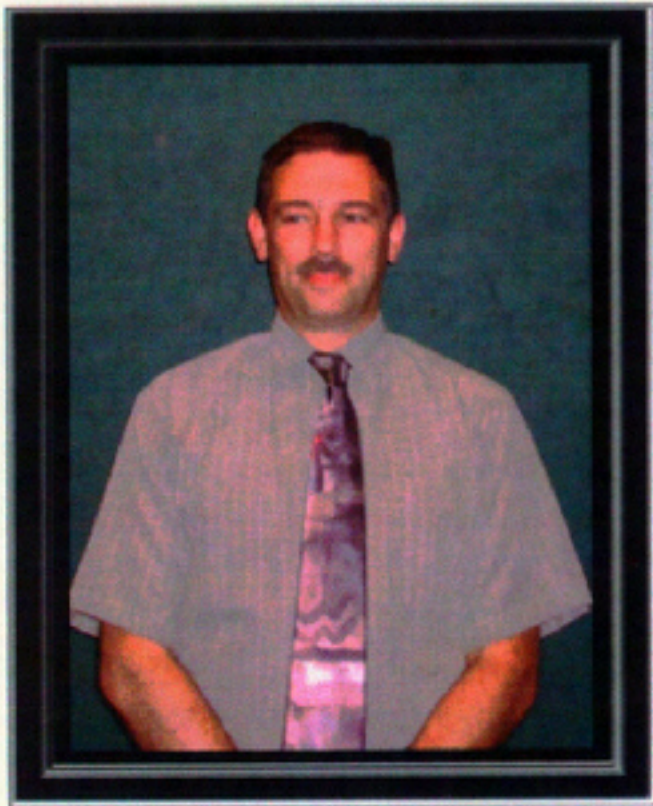
David Suckow and Eileen Olson



Taylor, Brown



Douglas Thompson



Karl Von Bueren



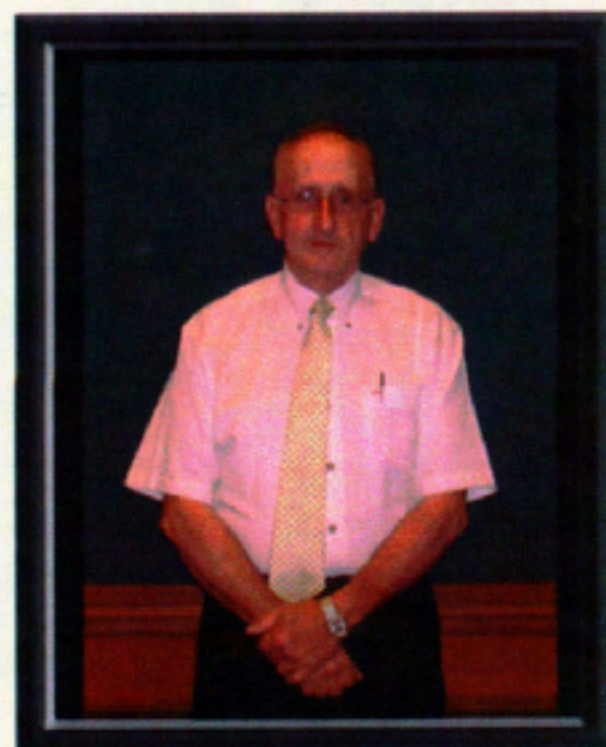
Warren Wilde



Willard and Winnie Williams



Gary and Gail Williamson



Dan Wonder

MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATION

Greetings,

A quick note to let you all know that all went well, on June 16th for the plaque dedication ceremony at the Navy memorial, Dick & Jo Shafer, plus grandson, Chris and Gil & Barbara Giles attended. It was an excellent affair, the Navy memorial personnel were very helpful and the presentation on their part was quite good.

At the 2001 reunion, it was decided that the Navy Memorial & Heritage Center in Washington, DC was a fitting location for a permanent tribute to all shipmates who served in the three ships which have borne the proud name CONYNGHAM. It was agreed that the Association would conduct a donation drive to raise the required \$2500 to have a memorial plaque mounted on the Commemorative Wall of the Naval Heritage Center. Through the generous contributions of many of our CONYNGHAM shipmates, that was achieved.

The Dedication Ceremony was held Monday 16 June 2003 in the Heritage Center. The movie "At Sea" was presented prior to the Dedication.

The Ceremony opened with the playing of the National Anthem.

Gil Giles, Plank Owner of DDG 17, gave the following Invocation:

Dear Lord - our Eternal Father. We are gathered here today to honor and recognize the service and sacrifice of the men who have had the privilege to serve aboard the three ships named after Captain Gustavus Conyngham. They are the DD 58, the DD 371 and last but not least, the DDG 17. Thank you Lord for this opportunity to have this ceremony today to dedicate a plaque to these fine ships and shipmates, as well as their families. For this enduring legacy and honor - we thank you dear Lord.

Amen. **Gil Giles, RM3, 63-65**

Jim Ives, LCDR, US Navy, Retired, welcomed the attendees and spoke of the mission and purpose of the Navy Memorial and Heritage Center to honor, preserve and celebrate America's enduring naval heritage.

Past president Dick Shafer outlined the life and accomplishments of Gustavus Conyngham and gave a brief history of the three ships that bore his name. In the name of the USS CONYNGHAM Association, he dedicated the Memorial Plaque to "Captain Gustavus Conyngham, Continental Navy, DD 58, DD 371, DDG 17 and all who have served in these ships with pride and honor."

The ceremony closed with the playing of Taps in special honor to those Shipmates of the three ships that have passed on to their great reward.

