

Swift Current

Volume 3, Issue 3

Official Website: www.swiftboats.org

July—September 2002

President's Corner

Tommy "Trees" Forrest

Greetings Crews

It is with my deepest sorrow that I announce the tragic loss of our Treasurer, Ralph Singleton and his wife Sherida in an act of the utmost violence. To date, no charges have been formally filed.

This issue of Swift Current is dedicated to the memory of Ralph and Sherida Singleton.

Ralph joined the SBSA in October 1997. He later became Manager of the Ship's Store where he excelled at his position. His wife Sherida was Ralph's staying power. When Wey Symmes, the former Treasurer for the SBSA retired, he highly recommended Ralph for the position of Treasurer. This was not due to being aquatinted, it was due to the meticulous hard work the Singleton's performed both during reunions and the in between years.

In 1999, Ralph assumed the duties of the Treasurer of the SBSA. As an Officer, he worked closely with the Secretary, the President and other Board members on various projects of the association. Ralph had a keen sense of responsibility which reflected in his book keeping. As a team, we worked together on the goals of our association and in that closeness, we all became good friends. We not only lost a Treasurer, we lost family.

Ralph served his country honorably on board PCF-28 from June '69 until June '70 where he was responsible for the boat's engines. He was a survivor of the "Cambodian Run." Ralph and Sherida returned to civilian life on April 7, 1972.

Ralph and Sherida left this life on Sunday, August 18th, 2002.

May God grant them ever-lasting peace.

Transition, With a murder investigation in progress, all SBSA records and financial records were in containment. Member Robert Shirley, who lives only twenty minutes from the Singleton's home, stepped up and became the OSC and liaison with the police and Michael Singleton (Ralph's brother) who came in from Indiana to handle family arrangements. Due to the quick response of the staff and the participation of Robert Shirley, all records and banking accounts have been recovered.

Manny Peña, also from the Dallas area, assisted Bob Shirley by making tentative arrangements with a local Veteran's organization to provide Military Colors. Regrettably, Color Guard and

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In Memory Of Ralph Singleton, Treasurer SBSA



BORN: AUGUST 12, 1947

DIED: AUGUST 18, 2002

Swift Boat Sailors Association Eulogy

(NOTE: this eulogy was held at the same time as the funeral for Ralph and Sherida.)

Swift Boat Sailors Association Eulogy:

We are sure Ralph and Sherry would wonder what all the fuss is about. But they certainly earned our respect and love in life, and should receive no less as they pass on to a better world. Their shipmates ... and Sherry was as much a shipmate to us as Ralph ... referred to them as the Quiet Patriots. We think this is very fitting. Both Sherry and Ralph didn't expound their beliefs by standing on a soap-box. They just lived them every day for all to see

Engineman Petty Officer Ralph Singleton's Duty Station:

Ralph served as the "Chief Engineer" on a Swift Boat patrol craft operating out of Coastal Division Thirteen at Cat Lo. His exemplary actions while the Boat patrolled the coast line and rivers of Vietnam and Cambodia were in the

best traditions of the US Navy and the country he loved and served with pride. Sherry supported Ralph with her prayers and hope for his safe return

Continuing their sense of patriotism, both of them became an important part of the organization devoted to making sure that every returning Swift Boat sailor was "welcomed home" and acknowledged for a "job well done" Together they performed positions on the Board of Directors of the Swift Boat Sailors Association and maintained the offices of Membership Management, Treasurer, and Ship's Store Proprietor. Every member of our organization knew both Ralph and Sherry intimately as they gave out their own feelings and received ours in return as part of the long road to understanding a very important period in our lives and that of our country.

Fair winds and a following seas Dear Friends.



At 1200, 28 August 2002 a memorial service was held at the Memorial site at CISM field for Ralph and Sheri. It was officiated by Chaplain Pat Sturm Lcdr./USN the Base Chaplain. Following the opening prayer and reading by the Chaplain, Captain Ken McGhee read the SBSA's eulogy for Ralph. I read the poem written by Larry Dunn entitled "Brothers." Neil Geis, Carl Hanker and Dan Reynolds filled in with remembrances and past experiences. Dolores Hanker Carl's wife was also present during the ceremony. The ceremony concluded with the final prayer and holding of the hands in a circle. Photos to be posted on the My Family site. The flags on the boat and the memorial site were displayed.

Son Finds Parents Slain in South Dallas

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS. (As it appeared in the 19 August 2002 edition.)

By MATT STILES

The Dallas Morning News

Police are investigating the slayings of a husband and wife whose bodies were found Sunday in their Rylie home in southern Dallas.

The victims were identified as Ralph Singleton, 55, and Sherida Singleton, 53. Their 26-year-old son, who had returned after being away with friends for the weekend, found the couple about 4 p.m. in the 12000 block of Rim Rock Road, police said.

The husband and wife, described by neighbors as reserved but friendly, were found close together in the home and died of multiple wounds inflicted with a sharp instrument, said Sgt. Gary Kirkpatrick of the Dallas homicide unit.

"There was probably some sort of struggle," he said, adding that the slayings were probably not committed by a stranger. "It's a very violent, very bloody scene."

Witnesses on the quiet street lined with brick homes told police that they last saw the couple about midnight Friday, Sgt. Kirkpatrick said.

No weapon was found at the scene, and police did not immediately identify any suspects, but were seeking a second son, James Singleton, 21, who lives at the home, to determine whether he has any information about the deaths.

"We don't know where he is, at this point," Sgt. Kirkpatrick said.

Police found Mrs. Singleton's 1996 four-door black Chrysler Concord, which had been missing from the crime scene, in downtown Dallas early Monday morning.

Police, who released few details about the victims, were interviewing the elder son, Eric, who also lived at the home, to learn more about the family.

Witnesses said Eric Singleton ran from the home screaming before police arrived.

"He came out yelling," said Kasey Sexton, who was outside a friend's home a few houses away when she heard the commotion. She said the son hit himself on the head with a wireless phone and collapsed in the yard before returning inside.

"He was crying and yelling, 'They're dead, they're dead,'" she said.

Melissa Garrett, who lives down the street and says she

knows the family well, said Eric Singleton called her immediately after his discovery.

She entered through the garage, looked inside the home and briefly saw the father, who was covered in blood from many wounds, police said.

"When you see [Mr. Singleton], you see ... [the killer] did it out of pure anger," she said.

People who live near the family's one-story home said Ralph and Sherida Singleton rarely interacted with neighbors. But on the occasions when they did, they were friendly and helpful, offering to run errands or fix household items.

Neighbors said Mr. Singleton worked for an insurance company. Mrs. Singleton was a homemaker. The pair often attended a local Catholic church, neighbors said.

"They're nice people, respectable," said Jerry Shiplett, who moved in next door about a year ago with his wife, Kristen.

Marcia Seaton, who had lived across the street for six years, said Mrs. Singleton had diabetes and often used a motorized cart to get around.

Neighbor Carol Bazan said Mrs. Singleton enjoyed arts and crafts as a hobby.

"She was a real nice lady," Ms. Bazan said. "She used to do stained-glass windows."

Mr. Singleton, who fought in Vietnam as a Navy seaman, was heavily involved with the Swift Boat Sailors Association Inc. Memorabilia from his war missions adorned the walls of the home, police said.

Richard Spelbring, who recently moved in two houses down, said he hadn't heard disturbances coming from the home. He said he chose the area because it seemed safe.

"This is unbelievable," he said. "This is not something that happens in your neighborhood."

Police reports dating back more than a decade show several incidents in which police were called to the home, officials said.

According to police reports, one of Mr. Singleton's sons was arrested in September 1996 in an assault at the home. Mr. Singleton told police at the time that he and the son, who is not identified in the report, had argued. The son struck Mr. Singleton on the left ear with his hand and knocked him to the ground, the report said.

The family also called police about criminal mischief and burglaries at the home. They made more than one call reporting a runaway from the home during the last 10 years, according to police records.

(Continued on page 5)

Son Finds Parents Slain in South Dallas (Cont)

(Continued from page 4)

Dallas News Staff Writer Jennifer Packer contributed to this report.

"They've had their problems, definitely," Mr. Shiplett said. "But seeing this - it's a shocker. I was blown away."

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Mass Held in Dallas (submitted by Bob Shirley)

A Catholic Mass Service for Ralph and Sheri was held at Saint Michael of the Archangel Church in Garland, Texas, a suburb of Dallas, on Thursday August 22

A floral arrangement provided by the SBSA was used as the main center piece in front of the altar.

A local chapter of the Knights of Columbus provided the Honor Guard and processional lead.

Attendance from Dallas friends, co-workers, and fellow church members was significant.

Manny Pena and Bob Shirley from the SBSA were also there to represent our organization.

The remains of Ralph and Sheri were enroute to their home town of Washington, Indiana.

The public viewing will be made on Tuesday, August 27 at the Lee Funeral home in Washington, with the burial service to be held at Saint Simons Catholic Church, also in Washington, at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, August 28.

Two pictures: of the KOC Honor Guard and of the Alter have been posted to the Swiftee web site.

Ralph and Sherida (Sheri's) Obituaries

The following obituaries were published in the Henderson Gleaner Newspaper. Henderson is a suburb of Evansville Indiana which is the closest major city to the Singleton home in Washington.

Ralph Singleton

WASHINGTON - Ralph T. Singleton, 55, of Dallas, formerly of Washington, died Sunday, Aug. 18, 2002, at his home. He worked for Liberty International Ins Co. and he was a Navy veteran, serving in Vietnam.

Surviving are two sons, Eric and James; his mother, Esther Singleton; and three brothers, William L., Michael J. and Paul L.

Services 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Simon Catholic Church, burial in Oak Grove Cemetery in Reeve Township. Visitation is 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Ed Lee Mortuary.

Sherida Singleton

WASHINGTON - Sherida "Sheri" (Conklin) Singleton, 53, of Dallas, formerly of Washington, died Sunday, Aug. 18, 2002, at home.

Surviving are two sons, Eric and James; her father, Harry Conklin; and a sister, Leah Tripp.

Services 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Simon Catholic Church, burial in Oak Grove Cemetery in Reeve Township. Visitation is 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Ed Lee Mortuary.

If I Knew

(Submitted by Terry Boone)

*If I knew it would be the last time
That I'd see you fall asleep,
I would tuck you in more tightly
and pray the Lord, your soul to keep.*

*If I knew it would be the last time
that I see you walk out the door,
I would give you a hug and kiss
and call you back for one more.*

*If I knew it would be the last time
I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise,
I would video tape each action and word,
so I could play them back day after day.*

*If I knew it would be the last time,
I could spare an extra minute
to stop and say "I love you,"
instead of assuming you would KNOW I do.*

*If I knew it would be the last time
I would be there to share your day,
Well I'm sure you'll have so many more,
so I can let just this one slip away.*

*For surely there's always tomorrow
to make up for an oversight,
and we always get a second chance
to make everything just right.*

*There will always be another day
to say "I love you,"*

*And certainly there's another chance
to say our "Anything I can do?"*

*But just in case I might be wrong,
and today is all I get,
I'd like to say how much I love you
and I hope we never forget.*

*Tomorrow is not promised to anyone,
young or old alike,
And today may be the last chance
you get to hold your loved one tight.*

*So if you're waiting for tomorrow,
why not do it today?
For if tomorrow never comes,
you'll surely regret the day,*

*That you didn't take that extra time
for a smile, a hug, or a kiss
and you were too busy to grant someone,
what turned out to be their one last wish.*

*So hold your loved ones close today,
and whisper in their ear,
Tell them how much you love them
and that you'll always hold them dear*

*Take time to say "I'm sorry,"
"Please forgive me," "Thank you," or "It's okay."
And if tomorrow never comes,
you'll have no regrets about today.*

Funeral Report

I returned late last night. The SBSA was represented by Larry Waz (looked dashing in whites) Terry B. and myself. There was a prominent arrangement of red roses from the SBSA (good job Marguerite!). The funeral home was resplendent in arrangements from all the board members.

Dave requested I check his to make sure there wasn't any hanky panky from the florist. I guess in the heartland they are all honest, not like the big cities. At any rate, all the arrangements were there, most with nautical wishes.

The wake was with a closed American flag draped coffin. I spoke at length with his mother, brothers and Sheri's sister. They were very appreciative of the SBSA and ask that I get them pictures of the PCF-104. I told them at the time of the funeral mass and interment, that a memorial service was being held aboard for Ralph and Sheri. I also told them his picture would be in a prominent place (as going on patrol) facing our fallen comrades (still on patrol). Gene, please forward this message to John Branca for dissemination to those in Coronado. I also need some e-mail pictures to forward to the family of the 104.

The church service was held in a catholic church (over one hundred attendees), with a backdrop of one of the most beautiful stained glass windows (various shades of blue) I have ever seen. After the service we went to a cemetery (estab. 1873) located a long distance from town adjacent to a wildlife management area. Ralph has a prominent spot next to his father (Msgt. Singleton Korean War vet.) on a high hill

overlooking the wildlife management area. A navy Chief and First Class did the honors and presented the flag to the mother. I had to leave immediately after the interment to drive back to Evansville to catch my flight. I was unable to to attend the lunch planned by the family.

In summary, we were well represented and appreciated by the family. The brothers may call on us to assist them in some unfinished matters in the near future. I have the name of Ralph's boss and will call him this week to see if any additional SBSA records were left at the office.

--Ed

Editor's Note

The SBSA has truly suffered a huge loss with the untimely deaths of Ralph and Sherida Singleton. This issue is dedicated to their memory. When I obtained permission from the Dallas Morning News I inquired as to any update at the time. I received the following reply from the reporter who wrote the original article reprinted in this issue.

From MATT STILES (Dallas Morning News Reporter)

Not much has changed. Police are eager to speak with the youngest son about the case. They aren't calling him an "official" suspect. Right now he is just wanted on a probation violation and for information about the murder. I had a homicide detective tell me last night that they received a report that he might be in Montana. No sign of him, though.

When we write the next story, I'll try to remember to send you a link. Feel free to write again if you have questions about the case. I'm not exactly sure about our reprint policy. It should be no problem, though. I've forwarded your letter to Lois Reed in our news management department. She handles reprints. You should hear from her soon.

What happened to Mr. and Mrs. Singleton is such a tragedy. I'm sorry for your loss.

p.s. I wish I could have included more about the SBSA in the story. We had a tight deadline. But, from what homicide detectives told me about mementos in the home, it was an association he seemed very proud to be a part of.

An additional note: as always, I am seeking inputs for future issues of the Swift Current. If you send something that has been printed, please ensure you obtain permission from the copyright holder and forward that also.

If something doesn't appear that you submitted, please resubmit, my computer has a tendency (as well as my email) of making items "disappear" better than any magician. If something doesn't appear it could be that it was deleted, misplaced, or lurking in the cyberspace of my computer out of my sight. My memory isn't what it was (not that it was ever all that great) and I am unable to remember all submissions for upcoming newsletters.

Honoring Those Who Served

(by John Branca)

Shipmates,

As of today we are starting to keep a log on board the 104 with at least one photo (Not a KIA) of any Swift sailor that has left us for smoother sailing. We would like anyone who has a photo (no larger than 3x5) of a departed shipmate to send it to an address soon to be announced. If there are dates or areas that he served in country or what area or boat/s served on that are available they would be appreciated. Being that is a new feature that is being added to the 104 Carl and Dolores Hanker volunteered to undertake

this project. Again it calls for an all hands cooperative effort to insure the success of this event. It is because of our associations leadership that this avenue to honor those who served on Swifts without detracting from those who paid the ultimate price in Country. Anyone who may have any ideas to streamline this project, feel free to give us your input. Again, the book/log/album will be kept aboard for all to see.

John in IB

History Channel Info

Swifties,

The History Channel never bought the documentary Swift Boats-Brave Sailors, nor two other very pertinent films by Gene Frederickson. I personally feel that this part of our history needs and deserves to be shown as much, if not more so, than everything else that this network programs. With the blessings of the three Presidents of the pertinent associations listed, I sent this letter to the History Channel and they sent back the inclosed return.

Hello,

My name is Steve Renfro, a Vietnam Combat Veteran and I'm a member of the Swift Boat Sailors Assoc. and the Mobile Riverine Force Assoc.

First off, let me say my family and I all enjoy The History Channel and A & E and have since their inception. Your pertinent, responsible and professional programming is not only entertaining, but educational and thought provoking. You are welcome in our house, any time.

In this vein, I'd like to bring to your attention a valuable piece of

history that should be brought before your viewing public. I am referring

to three documentary films created by Mr. Gene Frederickson. Those film titles being, "Swift Boats - Brave Sailors", "River Patrol" and "Force Afloat"-U.S. 9th Infantry and The Great Green Fleet of Vietnam. Though I have never met Mr. Frederickson personally, I do know of his thoughtful, responsible dedication to the preservation of history.

History is what the History Channel is about and history is what Gene Frederickson is about and the twain should meet. These are films of dedicated front line combat troops, waging a successful war against communism with an unprecedented Army/Navy team concept. This is history!

I don't know a thing about viewer ratings, but I do know that you will have viewers. You're going to have the orphans of the 9th. Inf. Platoon Sgt., KIA on those muddy Mekong River banks, those of the Brownwater Sailor caught in a B-40/AK-47 ambush on the Song Bo De and those of the Leading Petty Officer of a Market Time Patrol Boat gunned down while trying to win the hearts and minds of the enemy. These men are on eternal patrol, now under a heavenly command. What does a single Brownwater Sailor/GI represent as far as viewers are concerned? Well, you've got that Vet that made it back, his spouse, maybe one surviving parent, average of three children, four grandchildren, brothers and sisters and their children, say five close personal friends and their

spouses, say twenty-five fellow members each of the VFW, AL, AMVETS, etc.. Now multiply that times the many thousands that served with that Army/Navy team. The MRFA, Gamewardens of Vietnam Assoc. and the SBSA combined, represent over 10,800 people. Not to mention, many other smaller vet associations that were involved. You are going to have viewers!

If it would help in making a decision on this matter, I can call on my brothers and sisters who served before me, with me and after me in that historic time of selfless dedication and sacrifice, who believe in the cause this letter represents, to write, e-mail or call you in support of preserving OUR history. Please don't let it be shelved and never experienced. Thank you from a Vet who lived history and the head of a devoted History Channel watching family,

Steven A. Renfro RD3Dear Steve,

Thank you for your recent e-mail regarding programming on The History Channel. We are pleased to learn that you find our programming so enjoyable and worthwhile.

We also appreciate your suggestion to air the three documentary films by Gene Frederickson. We will certainly keep your ideas in mind as we acquire future programming for The History Channel. Viewer correspondence is the best way for us to know what subjects interest our viewers. Be assured that we will continue to try and acquire comparable material, especially those programs likely to attract viewers as appreciative as you.

Cordially,

Viewer Relations

view1@199.184.165.9

A&E Networks

235 East 45th Street

New York, New York 10017

www.AandE.com

www.HistoryChannel.com

www.Biography.com

Got Skills? Talent? Time?

The SBSA is always in need of a few good men (and definitely the women behind them!) to help the association. The needs run the gamut from lawyers & sophisticated investment advisors, to guys who can paint & scrape a boat's hull, to folks who have the time to make a couple phone calls each week, to building & maintaining a web site, and on & on...

One of the problems we seem to run into constantly is finding people who have the skills we need for a specific project. To address this, the Board of Directors has decided to assemble a database of folks who want to help the association – and make this info available to committee heads or others in the association who need help from time-to-time.

If you are interested in helping out (strictly on the basis of what's convenient to you and when a suitable project comes over the horizon) please contact me, Dave Wallace, at eg65@mindspring.com or 770-395-9547. I need to know:

Your name*

Where you are *(this may make a difference!)*

How to contact you *(phone or email work best)*

What skill or talent you're offering *(more than one is great!)*

How much time you can spare

*** NOTE: The association doesn't ever sell or distribute this information to outsiders and we try our best not to harass our members when they politely say, "No thanks on this project, but call me next time!"**

Got Pictures from Viet Nam? Want to share them? Here's how.

HEY, ya got pictures from your tour in the Nam? Share them with others who have compiled over 60 pages of their SWIFT experience. Ask to be let into this pass word protected site, you may see yourself or some guys ya know already posted there. Contact Steve Renfro at SWIFT47@cox.net, for the pass word to get in.

MOVING??

KEEP YOUR ISSUES COMING.

If you move, don't forget to notify the Swift Boat Sailors Association of your new location. This will keep the newsletter coming and reduce mailing costs for misdirected mail. It will also allow you to continue to receive those rare special bulletins that sometimes are mailed. The reunion is coming and information may be mailed. Don't miss out!

Email notification is available.

Email addresses:

Gene Hart (Secretary) ghart@lynx.usf.edu

Barbara Babb (Editor) swiftcurrenteditor@hotmail.com

Swift Prints



RIVERINE VERSION

Description: California artist Ian Hall did this print and the one of the 78 Boat in Coastal Version. These prints are for sale with your own customized boat # and Div. patches. They'd be beautiful hanging on your "I love me wall", at home or the office. Ian will return money back to the SBSA

general fund on each print ordered from a SBSA member. Help the SBSA and yourself with a print of YOUR BOAT! You'll find Ian's address in this page's address book to place your orders and visit with him about a print of Your Fleet Ship.

For an additional \$5.00 on the purchase price I will add a printed inscription (for example, Name, Rank and Dates of Service or a dedication to a family member or old shipmate). The typical arrangement is with the inscription placed between the ship and the ship's name, but I can place the inscription anywhere to suit your requirements.

My prints are normally made on Bristol Vellum cover stock; a heavy drawing paper which produces a print similar to the original pencil drawing. I have found that some prints, particularly black submarines or ships with large areas of solid color camouflage come out particularly well on premium

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Swift Models

I have been working with Al Ross, a professional boat modeler, for the past several years to produce a model of the Swiftboat. Earlier this year, Al contacted me to let me know that he has found a manufacturer/retailer who might be interested in the project.

The proposed model would be 1/35 scale, this is the scale used for most military models. The Swift would be just over 17 inches long. The hull would be solid basswood with a laser-cut superstructure, photo-etched brass and cast Britannia (white metal) fittings. It would be a kit, but in a size that would not strain the eyes.

The hull would be machine carved from a hand carved master. Typically 24 pieces are produced at a time. All of the laser work and metal casting is done on site, while the photo-etching is done off site. The actual production run would be based on demand.

A kit development project takes about 6-12 months to complete, depending on the complexity of the model. Al suspects the PCF would take less than a year, as he already has drawn the plans and can easily modify them to a boat other than 94 (which had the non-standard hood over the

aft hatch). The most complex fitting will be the 81mm mortar, which will be a combination of castings and photo-etch brass.

In order to convince the manufacturer that there is a market for the kit, we need help from the SBSA membership. If you are interested in a model of a Swiftboat, that is authentic, write to the manufacturer, either snail mail or e-mail will work.

Contact Jeff Marger at BlueJacket Shipcrafters,

e-mail at: jam@bluejacketinc.com.

snail mail at: BlueJacket Shipcrafters

Attn: Jeff Marger

160 East Main St

Searsport, ME 04974

If you visit their website (www.bluejacketinc.com), take a look at some of the kits that Al has developed for them previously, 80' Elco PT boat, USS Gambier Bay (CVE 73) and a few others.

Swift Boat Sailors Association, Inc.

Officers

Thomas G. Forrest, President

Raul Herrera, Vice-president * Ralph Singleton, Treasurer * Gene Hart, Secretary

Directors

Edward J. Bergin, Chair

Robert Brant * Bob Franson * Jim Schneider* David B. Wallace * Larry Wasikowski

Barbara Babb, Editor *Swift Current*

September 5, 2002

Swift Boat Sailor's Association

Application for the position of Treasurer

Due to the sudden loss of our Treasurer, Ralph Singleton, the office of Treasurer has become available to any member of the Swift Boat Sailor's Association who fills the below criteria:

Candidate must be a regular paid up member of the SBSA.

Candidate must have strong accounting skills.

Candidate must have a home computer and be on the internet.

Job Description

The Treasurer will be responsible for all financial business of the SBSA and maintain accurate records of all transactions.

The Treasurer will supply a quarterly financial report to all Officer's and Director's.

The Treasurer will supply a financial report to all members attending the SBSA by annual business meeting.

The Treasurer will generate dues notices annually and collect those proceeds.

The Treasurer will work with (to be created) Ship's Store Manager on financial matter's regarding sales and purchase of material's funds.

The Treasurer will work with the Secretary and the President on keeping the SBSA data base and the Swift Current master mailing list updated.

Please submit your resume to Gene Hart, Secretary of the Swift Boat Sailors Association, 3941 Laurelwood Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32257-8926.

Swift Prints (Cont)

(Continued from page 11)

glossy photo paper, so I am now offering glossy paper as an option for all prints for an additional \$2.00 per print.

COASTAL VERSION

Contact Ian Hall at:

<http://hometown.aol.com/woodblox/myhomepage/index.htm>

or Steve Renfro at: SWIFT47@cox.net or 316-322-9607 for more info.



President's Corner (cont)

(Continued from page 1)

Manny's personal solemn Native American flute tribute to the Singleton's was not permitted.

Gretchen Hart will oversee the Treasury records and assist Vice-president, Raul Herrera with our Ship's Store stock until a new permanent Treasurer and Ship's Store Manager is appointed by the Board of Directors. At the same time, the Finance Committee, under the direction of Board Director Dave Wallace, will be looking at recommendations to change our current procedures for the Treasury.

Vice-president Herrera will also mail out the dues invoices to our members. All dues will be received by Temporary Treasurer Gretchen Hart.

Treasurer, Included in this issue is an application for the position of Treasurer. We ask any member interested in the job to please fill out the application and mail it to our Secretary, Gene Hart, at 3941 Laurelwood Dr. Jacksonville, Florida 32257-8926.

Special Warfare Combat Crew Insignia, In our last issue of the Swift Current, we published the letter presented to the Chief of Naval Operations, which was part of a document package.

There were months of research put into the document requesting the Navy to make retroactive the

SWCC insignia to TF-115, TF-116 and TF-117. I want to thank the following members who provided information to me for this worthy project: James Will, Bud Skuce, Buddy Berman, Raul Herrera, Dave Wallace, James Barrett, Vice Admiral Alex Kreckich USN (ret), Vice Admiral James Amerault USN (ret), Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Tad McCall, Rear Admiral Roy Hoffman USN (ret), Captain Kenneth McGhee USN (ret) and Congressman Jim Kolbe. If I have missed anyone, please excuse my over site.

Reunion, There is an update on reunion information included for all to review.

Dues, Dues are coming due. Please make sure to note the address change on your return correspondence. Gretchen Hart, Temp SBSA Treasurer will collect dues.

Thomas G. Forrest
President

Swift Boat Sailors Association, Inc.

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Thomas G. Forrest, President

Raul Herrera, Vice-president * Gretchen Hart, Treasurer * Gene Hart, Secretary

Directors

Edward J. Bergin, Chair

Robert Brant * Bob Franson * Jim Schneider* David B. Wallace * Larry Wasikowski

Barbara Babb, Editor *Swift Current*

Dear Valued Member,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing for a special reason: I want to provide additional information concerning our reunion next spring at Norfolk, Virginia, and request your assistance in a very personal way. The reunion dates remain March 21, 22 and 23 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday).

We are trying something new for the reunion that we anticipate will defray the cost of attendance, enabling broader participation among our less fortunate members. We are launching a fundraising campaign. The campaign has three facets:

- One is among our members
- Another is among our members' employers
- A third is among the manufacturers of various Swift boat components. Cummins International, manufacturer of the Onan generator, is an example of a "target" for this facet

To ensure that our fundraising is a success, I request your assistance in two important ways:

- Reflect on how important that your association with the Swift boats has been in your life and "stroke" the association a check to assist with the reunion. You have my personal assurance that your contribution will not be diverted to other use
- Ask your employer to assist. To this end, consider providing a copy of this letter and a copy of the latest *Swift Current* to your employer so that they can learn more about our fine organization

As the Swift Boat Sailors' Association is an Internal Revenue Service-approved 501(c)(19) <veteran's organization> non-profit corporation, your generous contribution may be tax deductible. We will recognize your generosity and that of your employer in the program that will be prepared for our Saturday evening banquet, the central reunion event. There will be sufficient space there for corporate logos, should your employer desire such publicity. If you cannot attend the reunion, we will ensure that you and your employer receive a copy of the program. Levels of contribution for members and their employers:

<u>Level</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
Gold	\$1,000.00 or greater
Silver	\$500.00 to \$999.99
Bronze	\$1.00 to \$499.99

The cost of reunion events must soon be provided to our membership and is dependent upon the success of this fund raising campaign; thus, I would appreciate it if you would act on my request soonest. Your contribution and that of your employer should be sent to:

Gretchen Hart
Treasurer
Swift Boat Sailors Association
3941 Laurelwood Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32257-8926

If you or your employer desires additional information to support a contribution, please contact Keith Evans at 757.449.6780 or at o.keith@cox.net. He resides in the Norfolk area and is a member of the local committee arranging the reunion. I appreciate your assistance and look forward to seeing you in March at Norfolk. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Thomas G. Forrest
President

"LEAST WE FORGET"