



USS COWPENS REUNION ASSOCIATION
MATT SIVERD, SECRETARY
9 LAKEVIEW TERRACE
EASTAMPTON, NJ 08060

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



USS COWPENS (CVL 25)
WWII LIGHT AIRCRAFT CARRIER
"THE MIGHTY MOO"
FIRST CARRIER IN SOUTH CHINA SEA
FIRST CARRIER IN TOKYO BAY
FIRST PLANES TO LAND ON JAPAN SOIL
TWELVE BATTLE STARS
NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION

USS COWPENS (CG 63)
AEGIS GUIDED MISSILE CRUISER
SHIP: "THE MIGHTY MOO"
CREW: "THE THUNDERING HERD"
AWARDED SIX CONSECUTIVE BATTLE E'S
AWARDED SPOKANE TROPHY TWICE
SERVING IN 7TH FLEET BASED IN YOKOSUKA

USS COWPENS REUNION AND MIGHTY MOO FESTIVAL; COWPENS SC, JUNE 15-18, 2011

CLARION HOTEL (FORMERLY RADISSON)
NEXT TO CRACKER BARREL

NOTE: The Clarion Hotel was closed for renovation, but should now be taking reservations. Reservations need to be made by June 1. Call (864) 574-2111 to make your reservation. Ask for the Mighty Moo Festival Discount. The room rate (2 Queens or 1 King) \$65 per night + taxes. Includes coffee pot, hair dryer, ironing board, small refrigerator.

USS COWPENS MIGHTY MOO FESTIVAL

WHEN: Wednesday, June 15 2001 – Saturday, June 18

WHERE: Clarion Hotel (formerly Radisson) At the intersection of Bus. I-85 & I-26; Exit 2C off Bus. I-85
9027 Fairforest Rd, Next to Cracker Barrel
Spartanburg, SC 29301 GPS units work well to locate

ALL VETERANS AND CREWMEMBERS OF CVL 25 AND CG 63 ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE COWPENS REUNION!

Arriving in Spartanburg... going South on Bus. I-85 Exit 2C. At stop sign, turn left; go just past the Cracker Barrel, turn right and follow sign to hotel.

Going North on Bus. I-85 Exit 2C; Turn right at stop light, go past Cracker Barrel, turn right and follow sign to the hotel.

Going East on I-26; Exit North onto Bus. I-85 and immediately turn on Exit 2C. Turn right at the light, go past Cracker Barrel and follow sign to the hotel.

Going West on I-26; Exit North onto Bus. I-85 and immediately turn on Exit 2C. Turn right at the light, go past Cracker Barrel and follow sign to the hotel.



USS COWPENS REUNION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER – 15 MARCH 2011

JUNE 15, 16, 17, 18, 2011

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NOTE: This schedule may change. Check the bulletin board at the desk daily.

SUNDAY 12TH, MONDAY 13TH, TUESDAY 14TH

Early arrivals; Pre-registration

WEDNESDAY 15TH

9:00-11:30AM – Registration and pay dues (\$10)

1:00pm – Men's and Ladies' Executive Committee Meeting (combined)

3:30-5:30pm – Registration and pay dues

6:30pm – Gospel Sing at Veterans Park

THURSDAY 16TH

8:30-11:00am – Free time; shopping, visit museum, visit battlefield, your choice

9:00-11:30am – Registration and pay dues

10:00am-2:00pm – Cowpens Depot, Civic Center and Museum open

1:00-2:30pm – Men's and Ladies' General Meetings (separate)

3:00pm – Memorial service

Ladies craft auction immediately following memorial service

5:00pm – Tall Tales Fish Camp at Mayo (optional)

6:00pm – No host cocktail hour in the lounge

7:00pm – Carnival rides at the depot/museum

7:30pm – Miss Cowpens Mighty Moo Pageant – Cowpens Elementary

FRIDAY 17TH

9:00am – Mighty Moo Golf Tournament @ Oak Creek Golf Club – Call (864)463-3505 or (864)706-1165 (form on pg. 6)

9:00am – Crew and Cowpens Little League Baseball Game – Red Moore Field

10:30am – Brunch at Mrs. Bailey's home – 5550 Cannon's Campground Rd.

12:00-4:00pm – Tour Cowpens Battlefield and Museum

6:30pm – Adopt-a-Crew Dinner – Cowpens Elementary, Foster St.

7:00pm – Carnival rides at the depot

8:00pm – Live entertainment at the Depot

SATURDAY 18TH

7:30-9:00am – Breakfast at the Methodist Church in Cowpens (donations accepted)

9:00am – Crew and spouse group picture at Bogan's Auto Parts in Cowpens (Please be on time!)

9:30am – Assemble for the parade at the parade starting point. (look for details on page # for parking/locations)

10:00am – Mighty Moo Parade begins – Golf cart will transport vets from the parade end to the Memorial Walk.

(Immediately following the parade, all veterans (all branches), retired or active military report to the stage area at the park to participate in the Veteran's Walk and Recognition Service)

10:30am – Lunch at the Hospitality House (Brenda and Bobby Dowis) on Palmetto Dr. in Cowpens.

7:00pm – Banquet dinner in the Ball Room. Announcements, picture taking, door prizes, 50/50 drawing, and socializing.

SUNDAY 19TH

Pack up and head for home!

INTRODUCTIONS:

My apologies for the tardiness of the March newsletter. I delayed sending it out while I kept an anxious eye out for USS Cowpens (CG 63) in the news about the disaster in Japan. I did receive some early news from Capt. Rob Marin. Word from the Captain was that they weren't to get started on relief efforts for a few days (as of March 16th), but he did send some news stories about recent events on Cowpens. Look for them in "The Captain's Corner" later in this newsletter. Since things are still unfolding in Japan, I've decided to delay no longer and get the newsletter out.

Greetings from the USS Cowpens Reunion Association. This newsletter will hopefully keep you well informed about this year's upcoming Mighty Moo Festival and Reunion, to be held Father's Day weekend in Cowpens, SC.

I recently took over the duties of Secretary of the Reunion Association from Carswell Wynne, a CVL 25 veteran who, for many years, has done an outstanding job as Secretary keeping things organized at the festival, keeping track of veterans from both ships, and keeping everyone informed about events and information surrounding our annual reunion. Many thanks, Carswell, for your years of service to the Cowpens community. I hope to do the job half as well.

About myself, I am a CG 63 veteran. I served on Cowpens as a Fire Controlman 2nd Class from 11/89 until 5/94. I also maintain a web site for Cowpens Veterans at <http://www.cowpensvets.org/> where you can always find this and future newsletters, as well as information about both ships.

If you have any questions, comments or contributions for the newsletter, please feel free to contact me.

Matt Siverd
Secretary, USS Cowpens Reunion Association
9 Lakeview Terrace
Eastampton, NJ 08060
(609)845-0877
matt@cowpensvets.org

Thoughts and Prayers... go out to those who were injured in the amusement park miniature train ride accident in Spartanburg, SC, on March 19th, which resulted in the death of a 6-year old boy and 12 injuries.

20 Years Ago...

March 9th 1991, I stood in the lower deck of a concrete pier at Charleston Navy Base, wishing I could see parts of the ceremony. USS COWPENS CG 63 sat in Charleston Harbor at the naval base as dignitaries such as Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC), Chief of Naval Operations ADM William Ball, and others spoke about the history of the Battle of Cowpens and what it meant to the ship bear its name. Then COWPENS Executive Officer, LCDR Mark Wahlstrom, called out, "COWPENS crewmen, man your warship!!" We responded at the tops of our lungs "Aye Aye, sir!!" and charged aboard our newly commissioned AEGIS Guided Missile Cruiser. The ship's chief engineer, LCDR Kirk Michelson ran up the brow with his ceremonial officer sword held in the charge position with the crew right behind him. I charged up a minute later to the 03 level by the star-board PHALANX Close-in Weapon System mount and looked down at the crowd as other crewmembers inside the ship demonstrated the ship's weapons, alarms, and even the ship's helicopter. I can honestly say that it was one of my proudest days during my 6-years in the US Navy.



It was a beautiful, sunny day in Charleston, SC when the ship's Navigation officer, LT Chuck Ellsworth, marched the starboard weatherdeck, looking smart in a Revolutionary War-era uniform, to relieve the watch symbolically held for 44 years by the crew of the first USS COWPENS CVL 25, represented by Mr. Harold Dahl (pictured). LT Ellsworth saluted and stated "Ready to relieve you, sir!" to which Mr. Dahl replied "I am ready to be relieved. The ship is in a cold-iron status and requires to be manned." Mr. Dahl passed the ceremonial looking glass to LT Ellsworth, thereby passing the torch from the CVL crew to the CG crew. The ship was then brought to life. The four main engines were lit and their power gas-turbine engines, capable of generating 80,000 shaft horsepower, whistled to life. The Forward VLS missile launcher demonstrated the opening of one of 122 hatches, each carrying a missile that could reach out for miles to bring

down an enemy aircraft, engage an enemy ship, or launch a TOMAHAWK cruise missile to strike land targets hundreds of miles away. The torpedo tubes fired 3000-psi bursts of air, called "air slugs", which caused the entire audience to jump about 3 inches out of their chairs. The ship's helicopter backed out of its hangar, unfolding its main rotor and its gas turbine engines spooling up to life. The 5-inch gun rotated and elevated its barrel, and the PHALANX Close-In Weapon System did likewise while also spinning its 6-barrel, 20-mm Gatling gun. The audience was left with a definite sense that the navy's massive firepower capability was well represented by the vessel only a few feet in front of them.

As I type this, I can scarcely believe it's been 20 years already. Were you there at commissioning? You can share your story for a future newsletter. Just send it to me at one of the contact methods shown on page 4.





Photo: Engineers of the USS COWPENS (CVL 25)



Who's this?

This is Sammy, the ship's mascot on CVL 25. He was bought overseas by Bob Dale and one of Bob's shipmates for \$5.00 (\$2.50 each). At first, the captain said that Sammy had to go, but the chaplain intervened and convinced the captain to allow Sammy to stay on board. Sammy was the cause of some consternation among the crew, however, when they found some of their personal possessions missing and there were a few accusations thrown around until they found out the culprit was Sammy. Unfortunately, Sammy was not allowed to come back to the U.S. mainland and Bob was forced to leave Sammy behind. However, Bob found a buyer and was able to sell him for \$25, a tidy profit. 😊

Do you know this officer?

This is Vice Admiral (VADM) Edward Moore Jr., Cowpens' first commanding officer. VADM Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Moore, Sr., attended high school in Little Rock, Arkansas, prior to enlisting in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1963 and subsequent commissioning as an Ensign after graduating from Southern Illinois University in June 1968. In August 1974, he earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Naval Postgraduate School.

Vice Admiral Moore assumed duties as Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet on 7 August 1998. Previous shore assignments included Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Plans, Policy, and Operations, OPNAV; Director, Strategy and Policy Division, OPNAV; Commandant, Naval District Washington; Assistant Chief of Staff for Manpower and Personnel on the staff of Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Operations Analyst on the staff of Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command; Department Head Course at the Surface Warfare Officers School Command, and Junior Officer Assignment Officer (Detailer) and Shore Assignments Coordinator in the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

Vice Admiral Moore's sea tours included Commander, CARL VINSON Task Group and Cruiser-Destroyer Group THREE which conducted successful TOMAHAWK missile strikes against military sites in Iraq in September 1996 (Operation Desert Strike); first Commanding Officer of USS COWPENS (CG 63), which led a successful four ship TOMAHAWK missile strike against a nuclear production facility in Iraq in January 1993; and Commanding Officer, USS LEWIS B PULLER (FFG 23). Additional sea tours included Executive Officer, USS BUCHANAN (DDG 14); and Weapons Officer in USS STERETT (CG 31). Assigned to the Precommissioning Unit LANG, he reported as Communications Officer in USS LANG (DE 1060) and subsequently served a complete tour as Operations Officer. His initial sea duty tour as an officer was in USS SEVERN (AO 61) where he served as a Gunnery Officer, Communications Officer and Navigator. Enlisted service included a brief tour on USS HYMAN (DD 732).

Vice Admiral Moore was designated a Joint Specialty Officer in 1988. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit Medal with four gold stars, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and other service and campaign ribbons including the Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon. He is a life member of KAPPA ALPHA PSI Fraternity Inc. and the National Naval Officers Association.

Vice Admiral Moore is married and has four children.



Next Newsletter: Cowpens' second CO, Capt. Dallas Bethea

THE CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Word from the Captain

The very recent earthquake and subsequent tsunami that ravaged Japan had many of us worried with Cowpens being stationed in Yokosuka. However, Jan Humphries sent an email to Capt. Marin asking if everyone on Cowpens was ok. Here's the word from the Captain. "All is well onboard COWPENS. We are in port, but had one heck of a ride. We did have one of our mooring lines snap, but we replaced it and everything is back to normal." Cowpens will likely take part in the relief efforts along with other ships being sent to render aid to the Japanese.



Photo: Japan Tsunami

Meet the CO:

Captain Rob Marin was born in Los Angeles, California. He started his Naval career in June 1983 as a Constructionman Recruit. After being selected for an ROTC Scholarship, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1987 and was commissioned as an Ensign.

His sea duty assignments include tours of duty in USS JOSEPH STRAUSS (DDG-16) as the First Lieutenant, USS JOHN YOUNG (DD-973) as the Combat Information Center Officer, USS CROMMELIN (FFG-37) as the Combat Systems Officer, Commander Destroyer Squadron ONE as the Combat Systems Officer, Executive Officer, USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48) and Commanding Officer, USS GARY (FFG-51).

His shore assignments include Flag Lieutenant for Commander, Naval Surface Reserve Force; Appropriations Congressional Liaison in Washington DC; student at the Naval Postgraduate School and the Naval War College.

In November 2006 Captain Marin returned to Washington to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Surface Warfare Directorate (OPNAV N86) and assumed duties as the Financial Branch Head.

Captain Marin became the 11th Commanding Officer of USS COWPENS on 13 January 2010.

Captain Marin has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with 1 gold star, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with 3 gold stars, and Navy Achievement Medal with 1 gold star.



THE CAPTAIN'S CORNER (continued)

The following news stories were provided by Capt. Marin.



USS COWPENS – Sailors Show Kids Navy Life

February 25, 2011 **YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan (February 25, 2011)** – The USS Cowpens (CG 63) hosted 120 sixth grade students from Yokosuka Middle School for a look in to the life of a Sailor. Cowpens is a Ticonderoga Class guided missile cruiser assigned to the George Washington Strike Group and currently undergoing maintenance in Yokosuka, Japan. (U.S. Navy photo by FC3 Tamala Baker, USN, USS Cowpens)

A New Born is Introduced to Naval Tradition

By ENS Christopher Lowe, USS Cowpens Public Affairs

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan (March 02, 2011) – USS Cowpens (CG 63) Sailors witnessed one of the Navy's oldest traditions when they gathered in the ship's pilot house on March 2, to celebrate the baptism of the daughter of one of their shipmates.

Presiding over the ceremony for Amira Pearl Lenerville was LT Kim, Command Chaplain for USS Cowpens. The Rite of Baptism was performed by LCDR Vaughan, with mother, Kristian Lenerville, and father, QM2 Matthew Lenerville, present. Also in attendance were Amira's grandparents, who flew in from the United States for the event.

Bells have a centuries-long tradition of varied use in the navies and merchant fleets of the world. Signaling, keeping time, and sounding alarms are important in a ship's routine and readiness. Their functional and ceremonial uses have made them a symbol of considerable significance to the United States Navy.

The bell's connection to religious origins is longstanding. Originating in the British Royal Navy, it is a custom to baptize a child under the ship's bell or to use the bell as a christening bowl, filled with water for the ceremony. Once the baptism is completed, the child's name may be inscribed in the ship's bell.

"It was a very, very good ceremony. I'd like to thank the Chaplains and my chain of command. It was a very traditional ceremony, and I'm glad we could have it for Amira," said QM2 Lenerville.

Bells remain the permanent property of the US Government and the Department of the Navy, even after the decommissioning of the Navy vessel. In this way, a tangible tie is created between the country, the ship and its citizens.

Cowpens' Commanding Officer, Captain R.G. Marin commented on the ceremony. "It is an honor to be the Commanding Officer when ceremonies like this happen, as they are somewhat rare and yet they help to remind us of our long standing Navy traditions."

Cowpens, a forward deployed Ticonderoga Class Cruiser, is part of the George Washington Strike group and is currently undergoing maintenance in Yokosuka, Japan.



USS COWPENS VETERANS ASSOCIATION

ORDER FORMS

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Please print all information

Dues/mailling list form: Please send dues to: Bill Kuntz, 352 Owasso Ave., Fairlawn, OH 44333. Make checks payable to the USS COWPENS REUNION ASSOCIATION.

_____ I wish to be removed from the mailing list

_____ I cannot afford the \$10 annual dues. I want to remain on the list.

_____ \$10 Membership dues enclosed.

Please check one of the above and send it in. We need to keep our mailing list up to date. We also need your dues. If you are behind in your dues, please get caught up. We are trying to keep from raising dues. Thanks from your reunion officers.

Baseball cap order form: Send to Bill Kuntz, 352 Owasso Ave., Fairlawn, OH 44333. Make checks payable to the USS COWPENS REUNION ASSOCIATION.

_____ ea. Navy caps with Cowpens logo, \$10 each	\$ _____
Postage and packaging	\$ <u>2.50</u>
Total	\$ _____

Group Picture Order Form: Please make checks payable to Carswell Wynne, 107 Mary Lane, Warner Robbins, GA 31088

2010 Crew Pictures _____ ea. @ \$6.00 ea. = \$ _____

2010 Wives Pictures _____ ea. @ \$6.00 ea. = \$ _____ additional copies, \$5.00 ea.

2010 Crew & Wives _____ set of two for \$11.00 = \$ _____

Dinner/Banquet Buffet

Saturday evening, 6:00pm (cocktails), 7:00-9:00pm (dinner)

1st floor ballroom (by the pool)

Menu TBA.

Cost: \$30 per adult, \$15 per child age 10 and under. Price includes tax and gratuity.

Make dinner reservation early. Deadline is June 1, 2011. We cannot guarantee a place after June 1.

Make checks payable to USS COWPENS REUNION ASSOCIATION and mail to: Matt Siverd, 9 Lakeview Terrace, Eastampton, NJ 08060. I will give you your tickets at the reunion.

**2011 ADOPT-A-CREW DINNER
FRIDAY JUNE 17 @ COWPENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – 6:30 PM**

From Jan Humphries:

That time of year we look forward to is quickly heading our way. You know folks in Cowpens are already anticipating June. We can't wait for the Mighty Moo and our moo family & friends to get here. Whether our visitors come to us originally from the USS Cowpens CVL 25 or CG 63 – each one and every one of you are precious to us.

Be prepared to celebrate a great evening of food, fellowship and fun with our ongoing theme of "RED, WHITE AND BLUE". For our friends coming for the first time, just let me know your attendance plans. There is no cost involved – this is a treat from the community of Cowpens where we provide you with a great meal and even greater camaraderie.

COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND MAIL IN. MAKE SURE TO SEND YOUR RETURN ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER.

****PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE WITH US****

MAIL TO: JAN HUMPHRIES, ADOPT-A-CREW, PO BOX 801, COWPENS SC 29330
PHONE # (864)474-2868 – AFTER 6:00 PM ON WEEKNIGHTS
EMAIL: cowntownjan@bellsouth.net

_____ YES – I PLAN TO ATTEND THE ADOPT-A-CREW DINNER & NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: _____

_____ YES – I PLAN TO PLAY IN THE MIGHTY MOO GOLF TOURNAMENT FRIDAY THE 17TH
(Send \$45.00 check made payable to MIGHTY MOO GOLF, along with this form

CREWMAN'S NAME: _____ SHIP: CVL-25 / CG-63 (circle one)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____ TELEPHONE #: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAMES OF ALL ATTENDING THE ADOPT-A-CREW DINNER: _____
