

Winter 2010-11

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**Reunion 2011  
May 18-22, 2011  
Washington, D.C.  
Holiday Inn Rosslyn  
More info and  
registration form  
on page eight and nine**

**Remembering Departed  
Shipmates**

**William C. Burgert  
1919-2011**



**Tom Palmer 1942-2010**



# USS PYRO Scuttlebutt



**N**early 50 Pyro sailors, spouses and significant others are signed up for Reunion 2011, *A Capital Bash*, May 18-22 in Washington, D.C., at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn.

But there is still time — and room — for a few more!



This reunion will include some special features: unbelievably-inexpensive-for-pricey-Washington, D.C. hotel rates under \$100 a night (including taxes) at the conveniently located Holiday Inn Rosslyn, balconies for smokers in all rooms, a USS Pyro wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, a visit to the Naval Museum and the services of a professional photographer for individual/group photos to supplement the always excellent work of our volunteer photographer's mates — and much more.

Add to that free adult beverages and snacks in the hospitality room as well as commitments from East Coast Pyro people we haven't seem for years — or ever! — and you have the formula for a reunion to remember.

So what are you waiting for? Make your plans now to be part of *A Capital Bash*, May 18-22, 2011.

## Apply now for Pyro Scholarships

Do you have a child, grandchild or great grandchild heading off to college in 2011? Have you been an association member for more than one year?

If so, the USS Pyro Association may be able to help with a \$1,000 scholarship.

After only a day or two of fundraising, funds are in hand for two Pyro Scholarships to be awarded during 2011 in honor of the late Tom Palmer. (see page seven)

Based on a program developed by John Wichtrich and Larry Shepline (above) scholarships are funded from the association treasury and special contributions by association members. Applications are now open. An application for and



*(Continued on page 7)*

# Membership Matters

## 2011 dues due and past due

OK, it happens every year : Association dues for the new year are due New Year's Day. But — in order to keep dues affordable — the association relies on reminders here in the Scuttlebutt. That makes sense: Mailing out reminders costs big buck these days.

It's a good enough system, but it's only natural that some members overlook this small, but important contribution that helps keep our association reunions, newsletter and other activities funded for the new year. Then at about this time each year when reunion outlays and Scuttlebutt printing bills come in, it's time for March Dues Madness, a full court press for dues.

If you are an annual member, please pay your 2011 dues now — and consider becoming a lifetime member to eliminate the need for a yearly payment. If it's been a couple years since your last payment, no worry: Just send along a check for 2011 and you're back in good standing.

Need more incentive? Well, if you don't pay up, we just might send some grizzled CPO like Bob Hauge to your door to tell you some sea stories, lay guilt, and collect! Want an example of the grief you might get?

Read on!

## Pyro Association scuttled?

During WW II in the South Pacific, no one in US Navy Fleet wanted the USS Pyro AE-1 anchored nearby. I'm certain that the AE-24 suffered the same consequences. Countless times during the war, we would arrive at an island anchorage and drop the hook. As soon as the various combat ships arrived, the signal lights would commence blinking and — lo and behold! — we would be ordered to shift anchorage and move away from the fleet.

This brings us to present times where it seems like our membership is pulling that old fleet maneuver of isolation from the USS Pyro Association by not maintaining their current membership dues.

It's understandable that various individual circumstances might prevent some members from maintaining this financial obligation; however, this doesn't apply to everyone. After all, ya'll receive *The Scuttlebutt* and I'm certain you enjoy this very excellent newsletter.

Don't just take my word: Check out the roster and scan delinquent membership status.

Have these folks simply forgotten or are they willing to SCUTTLE this excellent organization?

If you want to maintain your membership without the bother of annual dues, check out Lifetime Membership details located on the last page of each *Scuttlebutt*.

Don't Give Up the Ship — or the USS Pyro Association!

So please 'Pay Up,' don't ship out and always remember *We Served in the US Navy!* —Bob Hauge



### Do we have your address?

For many members and friends, email is the main way we stay in touch.

Association Secretary Doug Wisher reports that Scuttlebutt copies sent by both e-mail and snail mail are being 'returned to sender, address unknown.' We've even lost some members completely after moves. If your information has changed, please let your shipmates know by writing Doug Wisher!

### Still looking for 2012 reunion ideas

With the goal of giving members more input into possible reunion sites, we are again asking for your advice/suggestions for 2012. Reunions are to be held throughout the country and the next reunion, all other things being equal, should be in the Central time zone. You can do the preliminary research and provide a plan or simply pass on your ideas to [president@ae-24.org](mailto:president@ae-24.org).

# From the president's desk

By Jared Cameron

“We can't all create profiles in courage like Fred and Sharon, but how hard is calling the Holiday Inn to hold a room and signing up for reunion activities? C'mon, let's get it done!”

While the USS Pyro 2011 Capital Bash Reunion is signing up participants at a healthy pace, I can't help contrast Fred Hamlin with folks who really mean to make reservations, but just can't find the time to do so.

Fred — with help from wife Sharon — is fighting a double dose of cancer. Fred's spirit is strong. Despite the ravages of procedures and invasive treatments, the Hamlins are doing everything they can make the trip to see friends and shipmates in Washington during May.

We can't all create profiles in courage like Fred and Sharon, but how hard is calling the Holiday Inn to hold a room and signing up for reunion activities? C'mon, let's get it done!

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**Officer call!** As of this writing, the association president (me), first vice president Eckstine and Secretary Wisher have expressed a willingness to serve for another term unless a new generation of members desires to assume the association conn. The sad death of Tom Palmer means that the association also needs the services of a second vice president. Please contact nomination committee members Jasper Strunk or Gary Golay if you are interested in any of the above offices or know someone who is.




**USS PYRO ASSOCIATION**

**Officers**

*President*

Jared Cameron

*Vice President*

Billy L. Eckstine

*Secretary*

Douglas Wisher

*Treasurer*

Bill Hogan

**Appointed Officers**

*Scuttlebutt Editor*

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*Chaplain*

Vance Worrell

*MAA*

Jasper Strunk

*Historian*

**Tom Moulton**

*Nominating*

*Committee*

Gary Golay

Jasper Strunk

## Pyro People

**Hamlins still hoping to make reunion:** Raymond Gillman celebrated her 80th birthday in February. Fred has beat the throat cancer on his epiglottis, but the thyroid is still up in air. They plan on taking the lobe of the thyroid out April 12, then wait to get the results two weeks later. If it doesn't appear to be bad the surgeon will remove a lobe, wait on the test then, if needed, go back in and remove everything necessary. If the thyroid looks bad, he may remove all of the thyroid that day and not wait to go back in. If the second surgery doesn't have to be done we might — that's might — be able to come to DC. It all depends on Fred, at this time if we had to make a choice to go or not, the 'not' would win out. He just doesn't have any strength to endure long walks or anything else. Watching a movie at the show wears him down but that is what he does for entertainment to get out of the house. Some days he feels like driving, others he doesn't...



**Hauge takes a dive:** You pick which story looks like the best — a) Bob Hauge claims he fell off a curb when he caught sight of his daughter and granddaughter meeting him at the airport on the way to his family Christmas celebration. (See photo on left page.); OR b) Bob has been hanging out at biker bars again and cruising Harley riders' 'Mamas,' promising to take them to the next Pyro reunion.

Regardless of which tale you choose to believe, Bob reports the black eye is gone, the bruises healed and his left arm is restored enough to play 18 holes twice a week in now-tropical San Marcos, TX.

**Happy Birthday to Betty Gillman:** Betty Gillman, wife of the late Chief

# Bill Burgert: The beat goes on and his music lives in our hearts!



*The AE-1 Pyro-Maniacs featuring Clay LaBarr on the drums, Gene Kobar on the trumpet, Bill Neer on base and Bill Burgert on the saxophone.*

Bill Burgert passed away February 28, but the beat goes on and we can still hear Bill playing nightly up yonder.

Many of us still remember Bill playing until the wee hours at the Dubuque and Philadelphia reunions. Once he started playing, Saxie Bill would really get wound up and could not cease his energetic playing. Where he got all that energy...well the age of miracles is not passed! Bill and I were shipmates during WWII on the AE-1. Bill organized the Pyro Band that entertained us and on special occasions as well as on other ships and shore bases in the southwest Pacific. Their colorful custom-made uniforms were indeed a show stopper! I can still remember Bill playing his sax in the Gyro space beneath the ship's bridge to liven up the lonely, weary hours we endured on a ammunition ship. I shall never forget the wailing tone of his lonely sax on dark wartime Pacific nights .



Music remained a big part of Bill's life after the service. Bill participated throughout the years in countless Mummer Parades in Philadelphia and he 'came out of retirement' to liven our 2008 reunion with his sax in a walker as his lovely wife, Jane, cut a rug.



*In Loving Memory of  
William C. Burgert  
February 28, 2011*

**After Glow**

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one, I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when day is done. I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways, Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days. I'd like the tears of those who grieve to dry before the sun, Of happy memories that I leave behind When day is done.

The crews of the AE-1 and AE-24 join in bidding farewell to a shipmate who made life more pleasant through his love for music playing on his ever present sax.

So as we say farewell, play it one more time, Bill. May the ocean tides and waves comfort you forevermore!

—Bob Hauge



**WILLIAM C. BURGERT**

**BURGERT**  
WILLIAM C., age 91 on Feb. 28, 2011. Beloved husband of 67 years to Jane (nee Wizner). Loving father of Barbara A. Pasternak (Joseph) and Susan E. Burgert; also survived by 4 grandchildren and 7 great granddaughters. Bill had been a member of the Polish American String Band for 52 years. Relatives, friends and members of P.A.S.B. are invited to call Sat. from 9:30 to 10:30 A.M., St. Matthew Church, 3000 Cottman Ave. Funeral Mass 10:30 A.M. Interment private. In lieu of flowers the family prefers donations to the Polish American String Band.



# Tom Palmer: shipmate, educator and friend

***“May his death serve as a reminder to the rest of us of what a true friend is. “***



Tom Palmer passed away December 10, 2010 at Mt. Diablo Hospital in Concord, CA with his beloved family at his side.

Tom had been fighting several maladies since September, in and out of the hospital and rehab place, losing a little ground at every stage, but always maintaining the upbeat, optimistic attitude that marked his life.

Tom served in the Navy as an enlisted radarman. After college he was commissioned and served as navigator aboard AE-24 from 1965-68, earning the nickname ‘Magellan.’ He later retired from the Naval Reserve as a commander. He was second vice president of the Pyro Association until his death.

He was the father of four sons, Kent, Joe, Nick and Alex, a doting grandfather and served *in loco parentis* to generations of California kids as



a teacher, activities director and guidance counselor, most recently at Ygnacio Valley High School in Concord, CA, from 1980 until his retirement. Even after retirement, Tom remained active in the California Activities Directors Association and took great joy in attending their annual conventions.

“The world has lost a wonderful person,” wrote John Wichtrich, who served with Magellan on AE-24. “a charming, selfless, funny, smart and interested in helping others. May his death serve as a reminder to the rest of us of what a true friend is.”



Magellan relieved Tom Moulton as AE-24 navigator in the Fall of 1965. He later traveled to Souther California to be part of the Moulton’s wedding party, hoisting one of the swords in the traditional arch of swords for the newlyweds .

“I will mourn Tom’s passing, but more prominently, I will hold him forever in my memory whenever I think of my friends, both past and present.” Moulton wrote. In this busy world, friends and shipmates tend to come and go, but if you were Tom Palmer’s friend, you stayed his friend.

His Facebook page is crammed with correspondence from former students who stayed in touch with Tom for career and life guidance long after the end of their academic careers.

In memory of Tom’s life and his devotion to youth, the Association will award the first USS Pyro Scholarships in his honor at the 2011 reunion.

## **Honor Bill, Tom and all our departed Pyro shipmates May 20, 2011 Tomb of the Unknowns Arlington National Cemetery**



# Charlie Batten's Pyro memories (AE-24)

*Editor's note: Then-LCDR Charles G. Batten became executive officer of AE-24 in 1962. Aboard the Pyro and throughout his naval career, Charlie — as he now decrees we call him — was truly a 'sailor's sailor,' who built an efficient ship through mutual respect while acting, as detailed below, as a buffer — arguably at the expense of his own psyche and, likely, career — between those from the 'frequent flogging' school of leadership and the officers and enlisted men under him. This is the final installment of his recollections.*



From Subic we went to Hong Kong for about a week of R&R. Nothing significant occurred there - just the usual shopping, touring, and dining. I recall that one day two or three of the officers and I went to Tiger Balm Gardens. During our walk up to the gardens, we were approached by a couple of children "hawking" envelopes of photos of the gardens for "x" dollars. None of us were interested but the kids were pretty persistent. I thought I could get rid of them by offering to buy a packet of photos for far less than their asking price so I mentioned how much I'd offer. I thought they would say "No way" and leave but the little girl said "Okay" and handed me the packet I really didn't want. Of course my shipmates jumped on the opportunity to bust me and I wound up buying the unwanted photos.

We returned to Subic for a few more weeks and a few more Fleet replenishments. We were at Subic for both the Christmas and New Year's holidays, but like Thanksgiving, I don't recall any particular festivities. I'm pretty sure, though, that either Bob Hope or Cardinal Spellman or both visited with the troops aboard a carrier tied up at the Naval Air Station pier across the bay.

After leaving Subic on 31 January, 1963 we returned to Sasebo and prepared for our trip back to the States with a stop at Guam for some minor repairs and upkeep.

The ship basin of the Naval Base at Guam is accessed by passing through Apra Harbor. You must first enter the harbor then take a right into the basin. Apra Harbor is protected by a breakwater with a wide entrance which is known to have cross currents that can be tricky. Usually the Navy will furnish a pilot and tug to take a ship through the breakwater and into the basin. However, this time around, the Pilot was delayed in getting to PYRO

and it wasn't too smart to slow down to the point where the effects of the current would be more pronounced. The approach procedure is to line up on a range positioned at the far end of the harbor which marked the middle of the channel. "Lining up" is done while well at sea so as to get settled on the range with a good head of speed while passing through the currents and the breakwater entrance.

I could see the range clearly, Captain Healy could not but he did not waiver one bit. Some CO's might have circled around outside the currents to await the Pilot but Captain Healy chose to go on and relied on my being able to follow the range. We continued our approach adjusting our course as I called out where we were on the range - either to left or to the right of it - until we cleared the breakwater and were out of the cross currents. The Pilot came aboard as we neared the entrance to the Naval Station basin.

When I assumed duties as XO, I initiated weekly (Thursday morning) Planning Board meetings with Department Heads. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss shipboard routines and plan training exercises. Following Captain Healy's suggestion, I introduced the problem-solving outline at one of these weekly meetings and then we developed a plan to implement it. No major adjustments to existing routines were required. The plan was to have Division Officers become more involved in informal discussions with their men by meeting with them for a "bull session" immediately following Wednesday's morning quarters. The Division Officers were instructed to ask their crew members to freely discuss their gripes and if possible recommend their solution to the problems. The Thursday weekly Planning Board meeting was then expanded to include Division Officers who presented the comments they obtained from crew members. These comments were written on a chalkboard and where any comment was repeated by another group a check mark was placed behind that. At the conclusion of listing the comments we separated out those that had validity and among those, the ones that were repeated the most often. From this we established a priority list, selected the top one or two (per week) and then developed possible solutions which hopefully would eliminate the gripes. This new initiative took a while for results to become noticeable but when they did, they were on the positive side. There was no doubt in my mind that we were on the right track and coming together as a

*(Continued on page 7)*

## More AE-24 memories

(Continued from page 6)



ship's crew.

I enjoyed working for and with Captain Healy. I found him to be a person of strong moral character. He was a professional all the way. He knew

what he wanted, but instead of demanding, he always encouraged. I never heard him degrade anyone or anything. He was a "positive" thinker who was very interested in his ship and the welfare of his crew. To this day I still hold a lot of respect for him.

### EPILOGUE

I was detached from USS PYRO 10 July 1964 to an assignment on the Staff of Commander in Chief, US Naval Forces, Europe, London, England. A short while after my reporting aboard, an official letter from Captain James O'Brien via the chain of command along with a congratulatory note was presented to me by our Admiral. The letter informed me that PYRO had been awarded the "E". Included with the letter was a photo of Captain O'Brien "painting" the "E" on the starboard side bridge wing.

Whenever I think back to my days aboard PYRO, I always come up with the same sequence: A ship that was on the bottom of the competitive list with an essentially disgruntled crew and some rough days ahead of me to a ship that moved to the top of the competitive list with a damned good crew and some of the most enjoyable days of sea duty that I ever enjoyed.

Things don't "just" happen; they are "caused" to happen. Every single officer and enlisted man aboard PYRO in those days comprised the "cause". The crew members of those days have every reason to be exceptionally proud of themselves, their ship, and their shipmates.

I feel extremely fortunate to have been part of that team and to have served with and for two outstanding Commanding Officers, Captain Vincent P. Healy and Captain James M. O'Brien.

**STAY TUNED FOR MORE SEA STORIES:** In the next Scuttlebutt, we'll return to Bill Peregrin's journal.

## Pyro scholarships

(Continued from page 1)

the full program details are attached to the electronic Scuttlebutt and are available online at [www.ae-24.org/scholarship.pdf](http://www.ae-24.org/scholarship.pdf).

Applications from the student are submitted to the Scholarship Committee chaired by John Wichtrich for review (two additional members of the committee will be named soon).

Winners will be selected from qualified applicants by drawing at the 2011 reunion Awards Banquet.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be accepted or enrolled as full-time undergraduate students at an accredited college or university. Furthermore, their father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, great grandfather, or great grandmother must be a member of the USS PYRO Association for at least one year prior to the award of the scholarship. The Educational Scholarship Committee may make an exception to the one-year requirement upon written appeal by the applicant. Previous recipients of USS PYRO Association Educational Scholarship are not eligible.

In order to match the Association treasury's contributions, donations large and small are solicited from members by Chairman Wichtrich and his Scholarship Committee members. Due to the draconian nature of IRS regulations governing non-profits, the contributions may not be tax deductible.

Contributions should be made payable to the USS Pyro Association with a memo indicating they are for scholarships and sent to Treasurer Bill Hogan.

More information at: [www.ae-24.org/scholarships.htm](http://www.ae-24.org/scholarships.htm)

### College help for Pyro offspring

#### USS Pyro Scholarships

Tell your shipmates and apply now!



## A Capital Bash Washington, DC:



### Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Arrive at Holiday Inn Rosslyn. Hospitality room opens for check-in at 3 PM.

18:00 —19:00 Welcome reception in hospitality room

### Thursday, May 19, 2011

10:00 — 13:00 Washington City tour

Evening: Optional Potomac dinner cruise

### Friday, May 20, 2011

Morning free

13:00 Military Day tour of Washington and Northern Virginia memorials

15:15 Wreath-laying ceremony at Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery

### Saturday, May 21, 2010

10:00 Membership meeting

18:00 Cocktails, individual and group photos

19:00 Awards Banquet

20:00 Dancing and other misbehavior

## Nuts and bolts

### Airports

Three airports serve the Washington, D.C. area.

- The closest to the hotel and downtown is Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA), located about three miles from the Holiday Inn. If you don't have a lot of baggage, DCA is accessible by Washington's Metro.
- Dulles International Airport (IAD) is in Virginia about 25 miles from the hotel.
- Thurgood Marshall Baltimore Washington International (BWI) is 40 miles from the hotel.

While National is by far the most convenient airport, if you're flying cross-country, Dulles and BWI may have lower fares. Check it out, but remember that saving \$20 on a ticket and spending \$50 for a taxi isn't a great deal.

*This ain't Kansas, Toto:* Unfortunately, the hotel does NOT offer airport shuttle service.

### Extending your stay

If you wish to extend your Holiday Inn reservations past the May 18-22 period, a limited number of rooms may be available at the reunion rate. Call, e-mail or write Jared Cameron with your extension requests and he will do his best to make your wishes come true...but no guarantees.

### Location

The hotel is located in Arlington, VA, which was part of the District of Columbia until the Civil War, and is closer to D.C. attractions than many locations actually in the city. It's a stone's throw from Washington's excellent Metro, which stops at all major tourist and shopping locations and a brisk walk to the Georgetown shopping and entertainment district.

### 2011 Pyro Reunion Checklist

- **Book your room** at the **Holiday Inn** Rosslyn by calling the hotel direct at 703/807-2000. Be sure to mention the 'USS Pyro Reunion.' The room rate is \$89+tax /night and may be extended (see note).
- **Join the Intercontinental Priority Club** to get free breakfast, etc. at: [www.priorityclub.com](http://www.priorityclub.com)
- **Register and book your tours/activities** using the form on the next page.
- **If you're flying to Washington**, make your reservations early to get the best rate. (Washington airport information is in the left column.)
- **Come and have a great reunion!**





**USS PYRO ASSOCIATION**  
**2011 Reunion: *Capital Bash***  
 May 18-22, 2011  
 Holiday Inn Rosslyn, Arlington, Virginia  
**REGISTRATION WORKSHEET**



Name

Spouse/Guest

Address

City  State  Zip

TEL:  E-mail

**REUNION OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Wednesday May 18, 2011**

**6:00 PM Welcome Aboard Reception.** Arrive in Washington, D.C. at your leisure. Log in and get reacquainted with old (and young) shipmates in the hospitality room. Reunion registration, reception and hospitality room membership with unlimited adult refreshments included throughout the reunion.

**Registration and Hospitality Room: \$20.00 per Person**

Number of persons	Times \$20 pp	Registration total

**Thursday May 19, 2011**

• **10:00 am ~ 1:00 pm Washington, DC City Tour.** Cross the Potomac River into Washington D.C. See the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Tidal Basin and famous cherry blossoms, White House, U.S. Capitol, Kennedy Center, World War II Memorial and Navy Memorial. (Minimum: 25 participant; maximum 54 participants.)

• Remainder of the day free to lunch on your own, explore Washington sites in depth, see the Smithsonian Museums, visit the Washington Zoo, shop downtown, check out suburban malls or take a Potomac River cruise.

**Washington, DC City Tour**

Number of persons	Times \$30 pp	City tour total

**Friday May 20, 2011**

• **1:00 PM ~ 5:00 PM Military Memorials and Memorial Service.** This is the one you don't want to miss: Visit the Navy Museum, Air Force Memorial and view the Pentagon exterior. Proceed to Arlington National Cemetery arriving at the Tomb of the Unknowns by 2:40 PM for 3:15 wreath-laying ceremony followed by the internationally famous changing of the guard at the tomb. Explore Lee House, cemetery memorials and visit the Women in Military Service to America Museum. (Minimum: 25 participant; maximum 54 participants.)

**Military Memorials and Memorial Service**

Number of persons	Times \$30 pp	Memorials tour total

**Saturday May 21, 2011**

- 10:00 AM Association business meeting
- Noon ~ 6:00 PM Free to explore Washington – stroll through Georgetown or visit Roosevelt Island
- 6:00 – 7:00 PM Group/individual photos by professional photographer; cash bar for cocktails
- 7:00 **Awards Banquet:** Three entrée buffet
- 8:00 - 10:30 PM Annual dance with disk jockey

**Awards Banquet \$45 per person**

Number of persons	Times \$45 pp	Awards banquet total

**Total** Amount of enclosed check payable to USS Pyro Association \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday May 22, 2011**

Head home like a defeated Congressman, stay on for a few days or head south to see Williamsburg

**To register: Mail this form with total payable to USS Pyro Association to:**

**Bill Hogan, Treasurer, PO Box 40, Farmville, VA 23901**

USS PYRO Scuttlebutt

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
Address Correction Requested

Forwarding and Return Mail Guaranteed

USS PYRO ASSOCIATION  
Douglas Wisher, secretary  
1022 Winding Way  
Covington, KY 41011

Email:  
wisherdj@fuse.net



\*\*\* THE PRIDE AND TRADITION FOREVER \*\*\*

We're on the Web:  
www.usspyro.com

Request permission to  
come onboard!



**USS PYRO AE-1 & AE-24 ASSOCIATION**  
Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Rate/rank(s) aboard Pyro: \_\_\_\_\_ Highest USN rate/rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates aboard USS PYRO (AE1 or AE 24) \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Retired USN?  Separated under honorable conditions? Yes  No

**To join: Send this completed application and a check payable to the USS PYRO Association for either annual dues or the lifetime membership amount appropriate for your age to:**

**Bill Hogan, Treasurer**  
PO Box 40  
Farmville, VA 23901

**Association dues**

<b>Annual:</b>	<b>\$ 20</b>
<b>Lifetime membership</b>	
<b>Age 50 or under</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>51 ~ 55</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>56 ~ 60</b>	<b>\$175</b>
<b>61 ~ 65</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>66 ~ 70</b>	<b>\$125</b>
<b>71 ~ 75</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>76 ~81</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>
<b>82 PLUS</b>	<b>\$ 25</b>

# **USS PYRO Association**

## **Educational Scholarship Program Guidelines**

### **Section 1: Establishment**

The USS PYRO Association, (hereinafter known as the Association) has enacted the Educational Scholarship Program. It is funded by monies raised through the Association's Educational Scholarship Committee and other Association members from contributions, gifts, bequests, Association grants, and other sources. Assets of the Educational Scholarship Fund shall be held separately by the Association Treasurer and shall not be co-mingled with other Association funds. Withdrawals will be limited to awards.

### **Section 2: Eligibility**

Applicants must be accepted or enrolled as full-time undergraduate students at an accredited college or university. Furthermore, their father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, great grandfather, or great grandmother has been a member of the USS PYRO Association for at least one year prior to the award of the scholarship. The Educational Scholarship Committee may make an exception to the one-year requirement upon written appeal by the applicant. Previous recipients of USS PYRO Association Educational Scholarships are not eligible

### **Section 3: Educational Scholarship Committee**

This Committee shall be responsible for raising funds for the scholarships with the help of the full membership of the Association, depositing such funds with the Association Treasurer, tracking the fund balance for awards, publicizing the Educational Scholarship Program to seek candidates, arranging for presentation of the scholarships, and performing other functions appropriate for such an administrative body. Scholarship Fund contributions will not be tax-deductible. The Committee will be composed of no fewer than three members appointed by the Association President for terms of one year, beginning July 1 each year.

#### **Section 4: USS PYRO Association Educational Scholarship Program Award Selection Process**

The Educational Scholarship Committee shall be responsible to review all submitted applications and prepare a list of qualified candidates for the annual scholarship by April 30 or two weeks prior to the Association's annual meeting, whichever is earlier. If a Committee member has a submitting relative, he or she shall be excused from the actual review process.

The Committee will present the names of the qualified finalists and their Association relative during the Association's annual business meeting.

The Committee will prepare the finalists' names and conduct a raffle by randomly drawing the winning name(s) from a hat during the Association's annual awards dinner. The lottery winner(s)' applications including academic achievements and their Association relative's history aboard USS PYRO will be read and included in the next Scuttlebutt newsletter. Any financial data provided by the candidates will be reviewed only by this Committee and will be held confidential.

#### **Section 5: Payment of Scholarships**

Payment of Educational Scholarship Program Award(s) will be made directly to the student's educational institution for crediting to the student's account during the Association's annual meeting.

#### **Section 6: USS PYRO Association Approval**

Scholarship regulations and policies shall be approved by a majority of the Association's three elected officers and publicized to the full Association membership for comment. These officers may change or amend the regulations, as deemed necessary. Based on scholarship award approvals established during the 2010 Association Annual Business Meeting, beginning in 2011 each scholarship award will be \$1,000.00 and two awards will be made providing that sufficient funds have been raised by April 30, 2011 from the informally pledged funds; and at least two qualified candidates have submitted applications.

**USS PYRO Association**  
**Educational Scholarship Program**  
**Application Process**

**After carefully reviewing the enclosed Educational Scholarship Program Guidelines, please submit the following information on the forms provided or on 8-1/2" x 11" size paper. Make certain that your name or signature is on all attached sheets.**

Include the following:

- Completed the two-page Application
- Current Official Grade Transcript or, if not currently enrolled, most recent transcript. Photocopies are acceptable.

Applicants will agree to be interviewed electronically or by telephone, if requested by the Scholarship Committee.

The completed Application Package and grade transcript if mailed separately must be received by **April 10, 2011**. Photocopies should be used wherever necessary, since application packages will not be returned. All applicants will be notified when the candidate selection is announced.

Please mail all materials (except grade transcript, where necessary) in one package, unfolded and unstapled, in a 9" x 12" (or larger) envelope to:

**John Wichtrich**  
**6828 Wimberly Rd.**  
**Willow Spring, NC 27592**

# USS PYRO Association

Date

Dear USS PYRO Association Member,

Enclosed please find the guidelines, application procedures and application forms for our initial annual **Educational Scholarship Program Awards** of \$1,000.

Please direct this material to a member of the family who you believe qualifies.

Many thanks for your support and contributions to fostering this educational effort.

Sincerely,

**John Wichtrich**  
**6828 Wimberly Rd.**  
**Willow Spring, NC 27592**  
**[John.Wichtrich@slli.net](mailto:John.Wichtrich@slli.net)**  
**919-639-5253**

# USS PYRO Association Educational Scholarship Program Application

Page 1 of 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

USS PYRO Relative \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Relative's USS PYRO Duty Period \_\_\_\_\_ Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Relative's History Aboard USS PYRO \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I am currently a High School Senior Attending:**

School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor/Counselor \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted & Enrolled College/University \_\_\_\_\_

**I am currently a College Student attending:**

College/University \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Personal School Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ School E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Current Major \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

# USS PYRO Association Educational Scholarship Program Application

Page 2 of 2

If necessary, use additional 8-½" x 11" paper to provide all appropriate information.

**Scholastic Honors/Awards:**

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**Extracurricular Activities:**

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**Work Experience:**

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**Financial Considerations**

Please clarify on a separate sheet, any unique or special circumstances that you or your family believes will impact your ability to meet your college expenses. This information will be kept strictly confidential and will be reviewed and considered only by the Award Committee in their selection of the final candidate.

**I verify that all the provided information is accurate.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_