

JOHN C. BUTLER ARIZONA DE SAILORS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of 10 SEP 07 meeting Hometown Buffet, Scottsdale, Arizona

1100: Call to order, opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of a number of guests;

1115: Guest speaker Mr. Joseph Johnson author of the book *Baby of Bataan*, which is Mr. Johnson's personal account of being a POW of the Japanese in the Philippines during WW II. Mr. Johnson enlisted in the US Army in 1940 at age 14, was ordered to surrender on Corregidor at age 16 and was repatriated at age 18 years. He was a top bugler in the 31st Infantry Division and after surviving the privations of being a POW and the sinking of two Japanese POW "Hell Ships" enlisted in the US Army Force in JAN 1946. Mr. Johnson presently lives in Arizona. He can be contacted at bataan@cox.net.

A Salute to our loyal Shipmates who donated mightily

The membership contributions to our ongoing "Care Packages for the Troops" program netted a trunk full and half the back seat full of a full size car of snacks, toiletries, games and writing materials. They then very generously collected \$61.00 to defray postal expenses, (which does not come out of our treasury), to get the packages to our adopted army unit, The Sharana Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan, which includes several sailors. Those packages will soon be finding their way to our troops, 13 boxes so far and more on the way. A tip for those sending packages to the troops overseas. The cost of postage has sky-rocketed and probably the best way to ship is by FLAT RATE, unless a better way is known. The PO provides the boxes free, though not large they can hold a lot of useful items if thoughtfully packed.

The group was represented at the Memorial Day Ceremony held at the National Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix by Al Guier DDE 719; Jim Ryan DDR 838 and "Skipper" Tom Alexander, DE 365. The Skipper laid the wreath with several other veterans groups represented in commemoration of those who gave their lives in defense of our country.

XO Lloyd Brown DE 365 gave the treasurer's report. Nominations for '08 officers will be held at the OCT meet.

The 232nd USN birthday Ball will be held at Luke AFB 13 OCT 07. Bar open at 1800 dinner at 1900. Call LT. Patrick Callan @ wk: 602 353 3001 or patrick.callan@navy.mil. See www.navyballonline.com.

Ed Klemm DD 847 won the 50/50 draw and donated his \$37.00 share to the treasury. THANKS ED, we appreciate your generosity very much

1230: Closing prayer; adjourn. "Fair winds and calm seas to all."

Tom Alexander, "Skipper"

