

Brief summary of the meeting of 8 Jan 07:

1100: Call to order; Pledge of Allegiance; opening prayer.

Sixteen ships in port, nine regulars listed as MIA due to illness and work demands.

Guest speaker, new member, Mr. Jim Ryan USS Earnest G. Small DDR 838. Jim described his tour on board Earnest G. Small including his participation in operation Wigwam, the underwater testing in 1955 of an atom bomb larger than the one dropped on Nagasaki in WW II. Testing was done about 500 miles southwest of the US west coast. USS Small was not the closest ship to the blast, but was among the closer ones in the line of ships. Little was known of atomic radiation in those times and the risk of illness and early death due to that exposure was very high. Jim, down in the engine room during the test feels he is fortunate to have survived while many of his shipmates did not, making the reunions a dwindling occurrence. Jim is a retired high school history teacher and principal with a son serving as a CDR in the USNR.

The ship's company voted to send \$100.00 from our treasury to the USS Slater Historical Museum in Albany, NY in the name of Irene Butler, mother of our namesake, John C. Butler whose brother Bill is an active member. Henry Hight won the 50/50 draw and donated his \$18.00 winnings to the Slater. An anonymous donor gave \$32.00 to make the donation an even \$150.00, which will be added to our previous donations as published in the Slater Newsletter.

From a tape by Webman, Mel Kowal, Exec Lloyd Brown is making DVD's of the Taffy III "computer enhanced" Battle off Samar Island, OCT 1944 and will be available to the membership. The show will be viewed at the FEB meeting.

Phil Hanson reminded everyone of the veterans informal lunch meeting with the legislators at the state Capitol on Wed 10 FEB. The purpose is to let them know we exist and not be forgotten in legislative matters.

Thanks to our loyal members who, over the months past, have brought snacks, playing cards and over 100 DVD's of a variety of music, which have been sent to the troops in Afghanistan in a care package. Among many other items our last care package contained 60 AA Duracel batteries. Let's continue this program as in the past by bringing in board games, gum, toiletries of all types, stationery, pens, board games, first aid kits, art supplies, AA & AAA batteries etc.

The ship's company was reminded of the meeting of the Tin Can Sailors Bull Session taking place at Embassy Suites, Airport, at 1000 on 20 JAN. Invitations have been extended to all. Coffee at 1000 and dinner at 1800 is free. It's for the BS ya' gotta pay the \$35.00 per person.

NEXT MEETING; 1100, 12 feb 07.....

HOMETOWN BUFFET
1312 N. Scottsdale Rd.
West side of Scottsdale Rd.
just South of McDowell Rd.

Tom Alexander, Skipper