

## **Hugh Purvis 2010 Memorial Service St. Louis, MO**

By David Lee Chichester

My fellow Shipmates, Ladies, Friends and Honored Guests, welcome to the 2010 Reunion Memorial Service.

It is hoped that your attendance here today, will be remembered always. Our hallowed task then, is to give pause to remember our departed shipmates in this all too brief ceremony.

By their very nature, Reunions are occasions that provide us the opportunity to revisit our past. For we here! Our Navy days, and indeed to enjoy the reminiscing of the many fond memories, the cruises, the comradery, yes, in the days when we were Sailors. To embrace those special friendships, yet once of again.

As I stand here today, I cannot help but remember the many faces of former shipmates, some of whose names are all too difficult to recall.

It would seem obvious then, that those of you who continue to attend our reunions are similarly infatuated with your past and the years we shared aboard the "Huey P" , for indeed she was a grand ship, a true leader in the fleet. She gave quarter to no other ship in her class. She was manned by a stalwart, seaworthy and indeed a tenacious crew, and without question, commanded by the best "Tin Can" skippers in the entire U.S. Navy.

Each of us savor those wonderful memories of our past cruises and of those with whom we sailed.

This afternoon then, becomes especially important to each of us, as we take momentary leave from the pleasure of our annual gathering to pay respects to our brothers of the sea, who have fallen asleep in the arms of our Heavenly Father, who have set sail on their final voyage. Men, whose faces, funny quirks and habits are all too vividly etched in our minds. Men who helped make the Purvis a home, away from home, where adventure was the order of the day, a ship and crew we will remember always.

A list all of these shipmates will be posted later in our Hospitality Room for your remembrance. I ask that you also add the many men and women of our Armed forces who are this very moment in Harm's Way, the men and women in Blue of our Police and Fire Service who risk and yes, sometimes give their lives daily to protect us

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Lastly, I cannot think of any place more fitting for this final tribute, than here at this beautiful National Cemetery, where many of our nation's former hero's are interred.

At this time please join me in a moment of silent prayer.

Now, with your indulgence, please welcome our president, Mr. George Baker and shipmate Steve Singlar, who will lay the Ceremonial Wreath of Good Fortune, followed by a rendition of taps, played by Bugler – Gordon Fraley.

Mates, ladies and guests, thank you for coming. This concludes our memorial service.

David Lee Chichester – (Presented by David Barter)