



Sea Service Family, Consulting

Michael Joseph Little, PO2 (AW/SW)
United States Navy (IRR)
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

02 November 2016

Command Master Chief
Expeditionary Strike Group 2



Good Afternoon Master Chief;

I am writing you today, because I would like to request your assistance in being able to have my son baptized on board the USS Wasp (LHD 1), inside the bell that was originally aboard the USS Wasp (CV 7), a ship you are about to learn I have deep ties with.

September 15th 1942, is a day that has always been a time of mourning and remembrance in my family. You see that is the day we lost my Great Grandfather Archie Clark Burlingame, when his ship the USS Wasp (CV 7) was struck by Japanese submarine I-19, following the invasion of Guadalcanal. Archie was a S1c and worked on the flight deck, specializing in Aviation Fuels below deck, and as a qualified director on the flight deck. Per eye witness accounts from his shipmates, Archie, was below decks checking the fuel levels for the current refuel operation that was happening on the flight deck, when 1 of the 3 three torpedoes that came crashing into the ships side, hit the exact location he was working. It was suspected he died instantly.

My grandfather Robert Burlingame (Bobby) was just 8 years old when he found out he had lost his father at the hands of the Japanese Imperial Navy, something he would never forget, or take lightly. He would spend the rest of his life, wanting to serve his country, and help Veterans when they returned from war.

My Grandfather and his older brother Jimmy wrote a letter to President Roosevelt, requesting that he name the next ship to be commissioned in honor of their father's ship. Several months later the Navy announced the launch of the USS Wasp (CV 18). The ship had originally been ordered to be named the USS Oriskany, but was renamed after construction was underway. My grandfather, his brother and mother, were all named ship sponsors of the ship and were present at the launching and commissioning of the ship. My Grandfather was very proud to be considered a Plank Owner of this great ship. He was a part of the ships life until she was taken out of service in 1972. He had collected so many items from the battles she served in WWII and the missions she supported to the space program. He was very involved in the life of the Sailors for many years until she came out of service.

After lobbying for 11 years to get the Navy to name its 10th warship after "Wasp", in honor of the men who had been lost in WWII, my grandpa was given a great distraction, when his daughter gave birth to his first grandchild. I was born in September of 1983, and in February of 1984 the Navy notified my Grandfather they had decided to name the next class of Amphibious Assault ships after the "Wasp". My Grandfather was present for the Keel Laying, Launching and Commissioning. We were all made Plank-owners of the LHD 1, but only my Aunt and Grandfather could be at the

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"There are no great men. Just great challenges which ordinary men, out of necessity, are forced by circumstance to meet." ~William Frederick "Bull Halsey, FADM, USN(ret)

Commissioning. My plank owner certificate was lost when I was a child, I never knew how to get it replaced.

For my entire life, my Grandfather would tell me stories of his father, and share with me Letters he had written to my great grandma. Two stories would stick in my mind for the rest of my life. 1.) After serving on Destroyers in the 20s, he had a great love for his commanding officer Captain William Frederick Halsey. After leaving the Navy he would move to Pensacola and learn about aircraft, while working at Naval Air Station Pensacola he would often see and work with his former CO and later work for him again when Admiral Halsey commanded NAS Pensacola. They would stay friends until the war. After his death Admiral Halsey sent a sympathy letter to my Great Grandma, and would stay in communication yearly for the rest of his life. 2.) After the attack on Pearl Harbor Great Grandpa lost a lot of friends, and enlisted back into the Navy at the age of 42. He would go on to do the job we consider today as an ABF and ABH.

Prior to 9/11 I had been accepted to attend the USCG Academy, but following 9/11, I made the decision to enlist into the Navy and try and live up to the legacy of Archie, by becoming an ABH. This is something my grandfather and I would talk about daily. While in Norfolk 2003-2004, I tried like to get on board the Wasp, but my ship, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), always sent me TAD to Carriers, which makes more sense. In 2004, I was transferred to the USS Tarawa (LHA 1) where I became fully qualified as a Director and Launch Officer.

My Grandfather died in 2007, and left me a whole slew of Naval History to dig through. I served my Navy proud and volunteered for 2 IA's and was sent to guard Detainees in Iraq and Afghanistan. I have been found UNFIT for continued Naval Service by 11 Medical and Mental Health Professionals at Walter Reed, following a medical review, after being injured in Afghanistan, as a result of multiple blast exposures. While the MEB suggested the Navy retire me as per SECNAV Instructions, the PEB felt compelled to retain me, despite suffering from Severe PTSD and a mTBI, all resulting from my tours as an IA. I am honored to be a member of the Navy's Wounded Warrior Safe Harbor Program, and am under weekly treatment at Walter Reed for PTSD, TBI, and a few other issues that have been determined to be a result of Toxic Exposure to Burn Pits, and improper disposal of ordnance in Iraq. While not being able to fulfill my mission in the Reserves, the Navy decided to transfer me to the IRR, while I appeal to the Federal Courts to be Retired because of combat related stress and injuries.

In 2013, I married my best friend and Active Duty Coast Guard Corpsman, Elizabeth Leretsis, a Navy Veteran and one of my Shipmates from the Reagan on the flight deck. On September 2, 2016, she gave birth to our first child, a son we named after Fleet Admiral Halsey, William Frederick Little. He was due on my Great Grandfather's birthday, which was also the same day we lost him in WWII, but decided to come two weeks early.

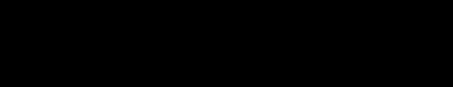
As I am sure you are Navy tradition says a baptism on a ship is performed inside the ship's bell. The bell is tuned upside down filled with water and then poured out, and the initial of the individual is stamped inside. While I have a lot of memories and history with the Navy I proudly served and loved, this Bell is the only Navy connection my family has to Archie. The Purple Heart that sits in my office was not there the day he died, but the ship's bell was.

As a Catholic, I would need a Catholic Chaplain to perform the ceremony, and a Saturday ceremony would work best due to our families traveling from out of state. We will also be bringing my Boss, RADM Garry E. Hall, USN(ret), who was the former ESG2.

I love my Navy and hope this is possible, so I can share this bond and piece of family history with my son for the rest of his life! Maybe it will even encourage him to also enlist in the Navy or apply for the US Naval Academy.



Thanks for taking the time to read this. I have attached just some of the many pictures I could find to give this story of mine life.

Very Respectfully,



Michael Joseph Little
Owner / Independent Consultant

Elizabeth Ann Little, HS2
United States Coast Guard

CC: RADM(ret) 
Fleet Master Chief 
USS Wasp Association
USS Wasp Stinger Club



This is a scrap book my grandfather saved in memory of his father, as well as a coin that has his father's name engraved on the back.

SON TO HELP AVENGE LOST WESTERNER

...Bethalto lad, whose father is our first war fatality, will attend Wasp launching by President's order.

WHEN the new aircraft carrier Wasp slides down the ways of a Quincy, Mass., shipyard some day early this Summer, a ten-year-old boy, who one day hopes to become a Naval officer, will be present at the invitation of President Roosevelt.

The boy is Jimmy Burlingame, and he'll be at the shipyard for only one reason—to see the launching of the boat that was built to avenge the first aircraft carrier named the Wasp, sunk by a Jap submarine off Guadalcanal last September 15th, with Jimmy's father on board.

Jimmy is the oldest son of Archie C. Burlingame, the first of more than 2,000 Western Cartridge Company employees in military service who has been reported lost in this war.

When a shipmate of Jimmy's father told Jimmy the Navy was building another aircraft carrier to be called Wasp, Jimmy remembered something his Daddy had told him. Jimmy had always wanted to go to sea like his Daddy who had served four years in the Navy from 1923 to 1927.

"The Navy's a good place to be when you fight for your country," his Daddy told him just before he left. "When you grow up, Jimmy, I want you to become a Naval officer."

So, when Jimmy heard that there was to be a new Wasp, he told his mother he wanted to see it christened.

"I think I'll write the President and ask him if I can go," said Jimmy, and sat down and wrote a letter. A few days later Jimmy received the following reply:

April 23, 1943.

My Dear James:

The President of the United States has sent your letter to us and asked that we consider your request.

We will be glad to grant your wish. You will be pleased to know that a new Wasp will soon go to sea to take the place of the old Wasp which was lost.

The new Wasp, like the old one, is an aircraft carrier and it is building in Quincy, Mass., at the plant of the Bethlehem Steel Co. We have written the Supervisor of Shipbuilding at that plant and asked him to invite you and your mother and little brother to be present when the new Wasp is christened. That will be sometime this Summer and we hope you can be there.

When you grow up we know you will want to be a navy man and serve your country like your father. No boy could have a finer ambition. Good luck to you.

Sincerely yours,
RANDALL JACOBS,
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.,
The Chief of Naval Personnel
C. C. Raupman,
Captain, U.S.N.,
Director of Special Activities.
By Direction

A few days after he received the above letter, Jimmy received an invitation from the builders of the new Wasp. No wonder that every Cub Scout of Den No. 5 in Bethalto, where Jimmy lives, is rightfully envious of him.

Jimmy's mother is Mrs. Carmen Burlingame, who worked at Western before she was married, and would work here again if she could find someone to stay with her children, Jimmy, Robert, and Louise.

Jimmy's father worked here from 1929 to 1941 in the Target department. When he



JIMMY'S Dad always loved children.



This is the letter which will make JIMMY BURLINGAME a guest of honor at the Wasp launching.



JIMMY BURLINGAME re-reads his precious letter from ADMIRAL JACOBS.



JIMMY and his Mother—who would work for Western if someone could care for her children.

heard that one of his closest friends, a former shipmate, had been lost at Pearl Harbor, Mr. Burlingame re-enlisted in the Navy. In spite of his age—he was 46 years old—he was accepted as a first class seaman. Three months and four days later he was reported missing.

It is for his Daddy, who thought more of the Navy than anything else in life, that Jimmy Burlingame is going to attend the christening of the new Wasp. Who knows but that some day Jimmy, with gold braid

on his sleeves, may be walking the deck of the proud and mighty ship whose entrance into the service of our country he will witness?

rah, rah, rah

This is an excerpt from Boys Life Magazine discussing the letter written to the President.

JIMMY'S BIG DAY

Son of Westerner Lost on Aircraft Carrier Wasp, and His Brother, Bobby, See New Carrier Slide Down The Ways



A 10-year-old East Alton boy, who was just a "little scared," still is wide-eyed over his experiences at the launching of the new aircraft carrier Wasp.

He is Jimmy Burlingame whose father, Archie, was lost last September when the first Wasp was sunk off Guadalcanal by the Japs. Jimmy's father was a gunner's mate on the carrier, and was the first former employee of Western Cartridge Company to make the supreme sacrifice for his country.

With his mother and his brother, Bobby, Jimmy attended the launching of the new vessel in Quincy, Mass., on August 17.

The trip was sponsored by Western Cartridge Company because Jimmy's father worked here as a member of the Protection department before he went to war, and because his mother worked for Equitable Powder Manufacturing Company after his father's death.

There was so much excitement for Jimmy and his brother that Jimmy admits he has forgotten some things about the trip. But there's still enough left in his memory to last him a lifetime.

Seated in the living room of the Burlingame home soon after his return, Jimmy told the story of his trip in his own words:

"At the launching we were on a platform way up in the air. The ship was right there in front of us and we could touch it with our hands. The way the platform was built it outlined the ship in sort of a 'V'."

Things Moved Fast

"Things moved awful fast up there. When it was time for the women to smash the bottle on the Wasp, she didn't swing hard enough and the bottle didn't break.

"A man on the platform grabbed the bottle real quick and smashed it. Another second and he would have missed, too, and you know that's supposed to be bad luck. The ship was moving toward the water when the man finally hit it.

"I guess I must have been a little scared because I don't remember anything about the launching. My brother, Bobby, fainted just after the ship was in the water. I guess we were pretty excited.

"Above us were the newestest men taking movies of the launching. I haven't seen the pictures yet but I hear they are pretty good.

"I sure saw a lot of photographers. It seemed like they were taking our pictures every time we turned around.

"I got kinda mad one day when they kept us changing our clothes and posing in the hotel for almost four hours."

The almost-continuous presence of the newspaper photographers, both in Massachusetts and in New York City, left a deep impression on Jimmy and his brother. They mentioned them several times and laughed when they related how photographers were threatened with a net while taking their pictures at Hull, Mass.

"Shooed" By Guards

"We were at Jackie Shea's house in Hull the day before the launching and the photographers took us down to the beach," Jimmy said. "A guard came along and was going to arrest them for taking pictures. A big crowd gathered around and finally they took us out on a pier and finished."

"Jackie's father was a commander on the Wasp and was lost like my Dad."



Just before the launching of the new aircraft carrier, Wasp, JIMMY BURLINGAME, left, and his brother, BOBBY, right, pose with JACKIE SHEA. The Burlingame boys lost their father, Gunner's Mate ARCHIE BURLINGAME, when the first Wasp was lost. JACKIE'S father, Commander JOHN SHEA, also went down on the aircraft carrier. In the rear row are, left to right, Mrs. CARMEN BURLINGAME, Senator DAVID I. WALSH, chairman of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee, Mrs. TULIA WALSH, sister of the senator and sponsor of the new Wasp, and Mrs. SHEA.

This page 1 of an article about the Ships Launching

Jimmy said they reached London on August 14 and went to the Copley-Plaza Hotel there.

"We were too tired to do anything that night but the next day was Sunday and we went lots of places," he said. "We went to the Navy Yard where we saw a destroyer being commissioned and saw lots of other ships.

"They took us over where the Wasp was and let us climb around. "We saw Bunker Hill, the Old North Church, Old Ironsides and lots of other things that day. We were tired that night.

"After going out to Jackie's Monday we saw a movie that night. It was 'Behind the Rising Sun' and it sure was swell. We went to the zoo that day, too.

Tuesday was the day of the launching. We saw some more sights before we went to the shipyard.

Attend Reception

There was another platform up near ours but we were on the main one. After the launching we went to a party where I met a lot of commanders and admirals. I told them I was going to join the Navy when I grew up and they told me I was 'Navy all over.'

"We had fun in New York on the way back. We met Mayor LaGuardia and had our pictures taken with him. They stopped traffic for us at the City Hall.

"We saw the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building. We



saw an exhibit there where they had bombers like those Doolittle used to bomb Japan. They had jeeps, too. They let us climb in the planes and jeeps and handle the guns and everything.

"My brother was sick so we didn't get to see the Statue of Liberty. I sure wish we could have.

"On the way back to St. Louis we saw a train wreck.

"I'll never, never forget that trip."

Major General MILES, of the First Service Command, makes friends with three youngsters whose hero fathers were lost on the aircraft carrier Wasp. The boys were guests at the launching of the new Wasp at Quincy, Mass. They are, left to right, JACKIE SHEA, whose father, Commander JOHN SHEA, lost his life with his ship, and JIMMY and BOBBY BURLINGAME, of East Alton, Ill., whose father, Gunner's Mate ARCHIE BURLINGAME, also was lost.

Victory Drive Committees Organize and Set Objectives

ALTHOUGH twelve committees of the Western Victory Drive have held their organization meetings, established objectives, and are all set for the special work assigned to them, according to O. G. Nichols, secretary of the Victory Drive.

Ten of the twelve committees have completed their permanent organization by electing their co-chairmen and establishing immediate objectives. Because of the absence of some members on business assignments, the Advertising and Distribution committees of the Publicity Division have not elected their co-chairmen, but already are functioning in their capacity of advisory groups.

Two of the committees—those in Attendance and Special Events—voted to establish sub-committees throughout departments on a plant-wide basis. The Special Events Committee, charged with conducting the Third War Loan solicitation within the plant, had to move rapidly to complete its organization in time to distribute instructions to committees throughout the different zones.

In the October issue, THE WESTERNER will present a summary of the objectives of each committee, with a tabulation of results accomplished by employee-management co-operation in the first two months of activity by the various groups. Following are the

co-chairmen elected by the ten committees which have organized on a permanent basis:

Attendance
Mrs. Marjorie Crosby
Mrs. Mabel Williamson

Production
Harold F. Schaefer
Mrs. Elfrida Unterbrink

Salvage-Scrap
LeRoy Conham
Joseph Boedicker

Housekeeping
F. M. Case
Ervin P. Dawson

Suggestion
Delbert R. Jones
Julia Rex Hubbard

Transportation
Karl Deterding
Mrs. Evelyn Wiemers

Safety
F. R. Seavey
Mrs. Elsa H. Meyer

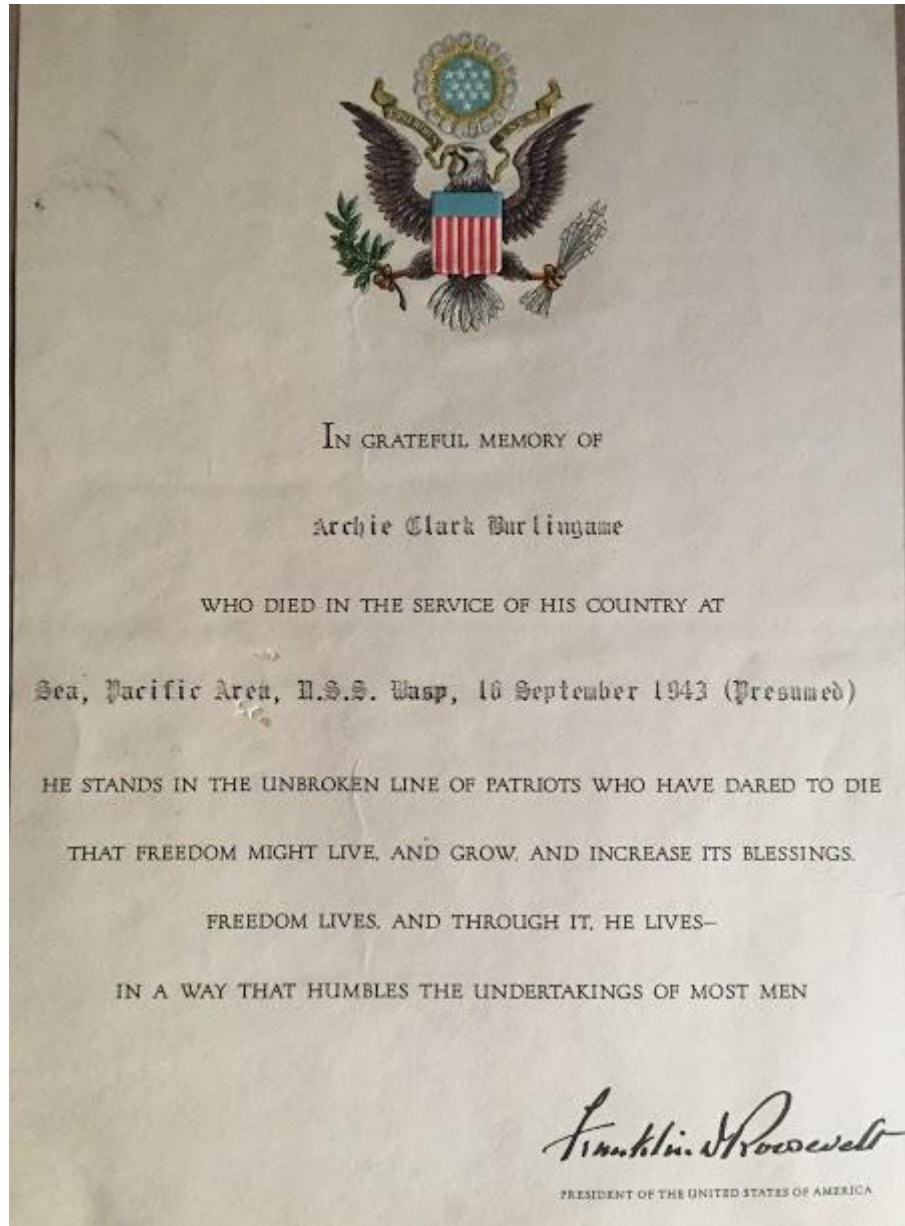
Special Events
Dan Hallahan
Curtis Robertson

Publicity-Slogans
Carl Roberts
Miss Pearl Brown

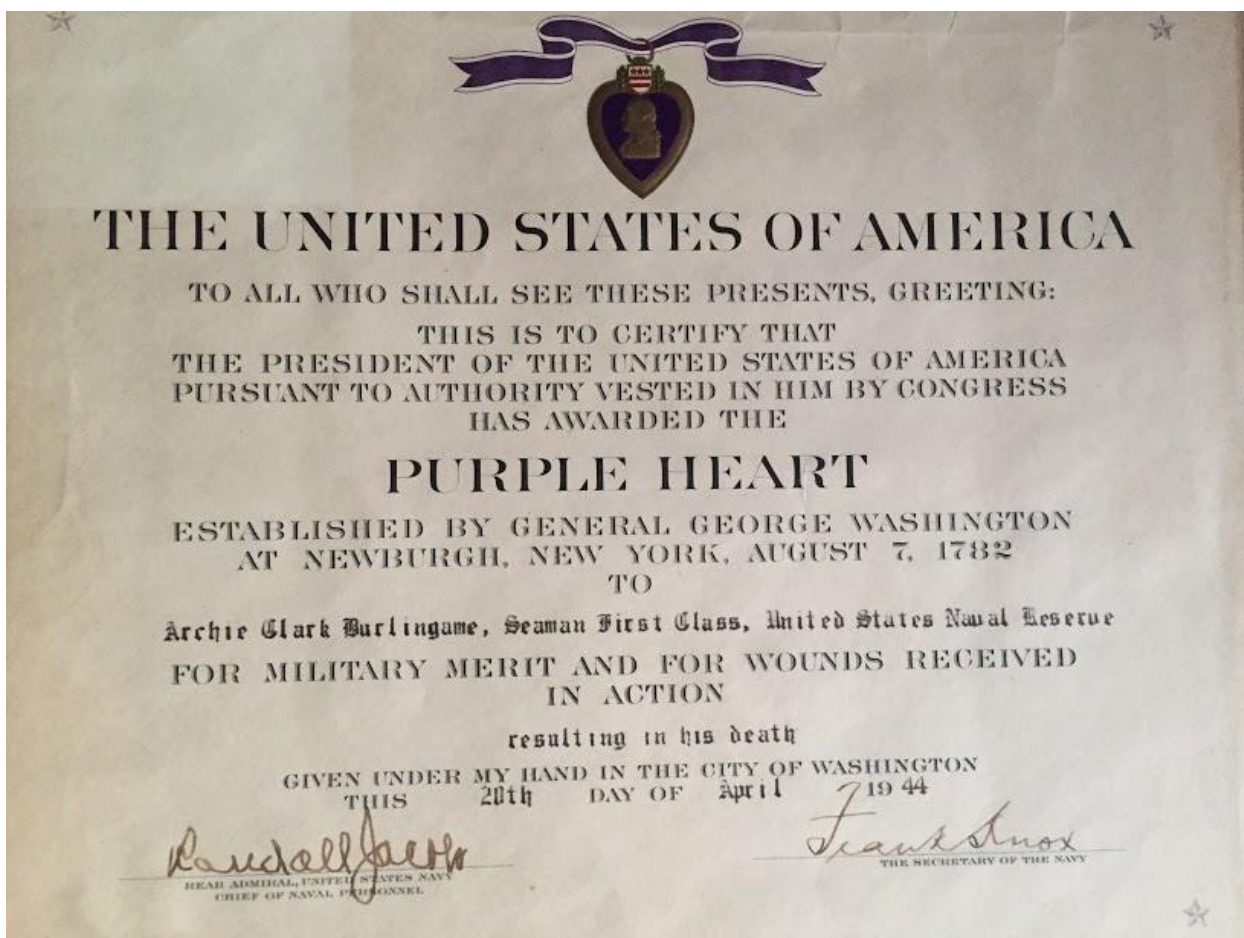
Radio-Public Address
Merle H. Hanes
Arthur A. Smith




On their way back to Tim Alton after the launching of the Wasp, JIMMY and BOBBY BURLINGAME and their mother, Mrs. CARMEN BURLINGAME, visited Mayor LaGuardia of New York City. Photo shows the mayor with his arms around the boys.



Letter from the President on the death of Archie C. Burlingame



Purple Heart Citation for Archie Burlingame

	
United States of America Certification of Military Service	
<i>This certifies that</i>	Archie C. Burlingame 2994101
<i>was a member of the</i>	United States Naval Reserve
<i>from</i>	June 11, 1942
<i>to</i>	September 16, 1943
<i>Service was terminated by</i>	Death
<i>Last Grade, Rank, or Rating</i>	S1
<i>Active Service Dates</i>	Same as above
.....	
<i>Given at St. Louis, Missouri, on</i>	March 13, 1990
National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records) National Archives and Records Administration	
THE ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES IS THE PHYSICAL CUSTODIAN OF THIS PERSON'S MILITARY RECORD. (This form not valid without official seal.)	
NA FORM 1303B (REV. 1-88)	

Discharge Papers for Archie Burlingame



Plank Owner Certificate for Robert Burlingame for USS Wasp CV 18



Picture of my Grandpa, Great Uncle and Great Grandmother at the Launching of the USS Wasp (CV 18) with Senator and Mrs. Walsh, and Mrs. Shea and her son Jackie (who had also lost their father and husband aboard Wasp).



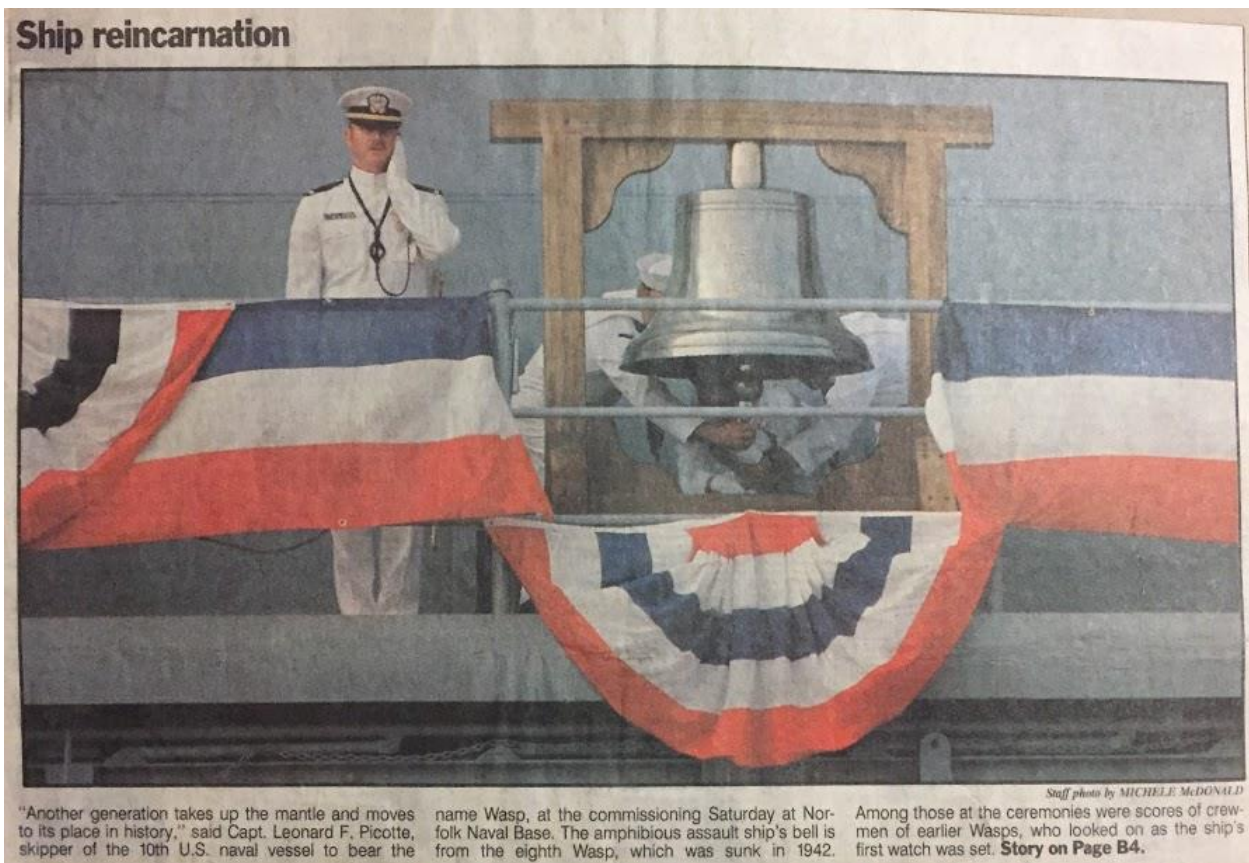
Invitation for the LHD 1 Commissioning



My Grandfather Robert Burlingame with my Aunt Lana Burlingame at the Commissioning of the
USS Wasp (LHD 1)



Plank Owner Certificate for Robert Burlingame for USS Wasp CV 18



USS Wasp Ship's Bell that has been taken from CV7 prior to being scuttled, served the entire life of the CV 18, and has been aboard the LHD 1 since bringing her to life in 1989.

From R. W. "ROBERT" BURLINGAME (Son of Archie, Seal/c, 1st Division, Lost on USS WASP CV-7)
11-23-02

Here is \$125.00 for Associate Life Membership for my grandson, Michael J. Little. When he joined the Navy in January of this year, I told him about his Great Grandfather going down with the USS WASP CV-7 in World War II.

I also told him that my brother Jim and I were Plank Owners of the USS WASP CV-18 in 1943 at Boston, Mass. In 1988 my daughter and I became Plank Owners of the USS WASP LHD-1 in Norfolk, Virginia. I donated some money to help build the Model of USS WASP CV-7 now in Pensacola, Florida and received a Plank Owners model certificate.

My grandson Michael is so gun-ho on the Navy that he wants to make it a career and in time serve on the USS WASP LHD-1. He had seen the model of the USS WASP CV-7 when he was in training. I spent 12 years in the U.S. Army and do not know the Navy jargon but what Mike does is to assist jet planes in landings and takeoffs. He was so glad and proud to be assigned to the USS Ronald Reagan CVN-76.

He got to see the WASP LHD-1 last week. His CPO took him over to it and the CO of the WASP LHD-1 had him go get his blues on and the Navy took pictures of him standing by the ships' bell that they took off the USS WASP CV-7 in 1942 when the ship was getting ready to go to the war zone in the South Pacific.

My grandson is so thrilled that he might be able to serve on the WASP LHD-1 and pick up where his Great Grandfather died in WW II. I hope the Navy fulfills his dream and transfer him to it. He would be so proud.

The other \$25.00 is for the Seed Fund. If the USS WASP CV-7 group ever has a reunion in Phoenix, Arizona, I will go to it. I went to one in San Diego, CA in the 70's and just got checked in when I received a call to return to Phoenix as my brother had a stroke. A year later he had another stroke and that one got him.

Mike's ship Address: ABH-AA Little, Michael J.
AIR SEPT-R-1-PLY 3
USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76)
FPO AE 09542-2876

E-MAIL ADDRESS: littlenj@reagan.navy.mil

* * * * *

From Robert W. Burlingame, PLN 740 2/13/04


Here is a picture of my grandson Mike at Boot Camp and a picture of my Dad taken in East Alton, IL.

Mike is either in Al Manazrah, Bahrain or Kuwait training with the Marines on air to ground rescue. The Marines will go into Iraq as the Army troops pull out. He will have a short tour of duty as he will go back to the USS Ronald Reagan when it leaves for Norfolk and goes around South America to San Diego, CA to its duty station in June or July.


I hope this gets to you in time for the next issue of the Stinger. Mike is so glad to be a member of the Stinger Club. Thanks again for taking an interest in Mike.

All the best, BOB BURLINGAME

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Michael Little, Great Grandson of Archie Burlingame
Proud new member of the USS Wasp CV-7 Stinger Club



Archie Burlingame (lost on the Wasp CV-7) with son Robert on his lap. Robert's brother Jim & cousin Dona are seated on ledge. Circa 1938

* * * * *

While serving aboard the USS Ronald Reagan, my Grandfather, made me a life member of the Wasp Stinger Club, A club that was made up of Families and Survivors of the USS Wasp CV 7. He wrote a letter to their organization once I joined the Navy. Unfortunately, the association seems to have dissolved as membership grew older and families not knowing the history they shared with this Ship. I am looking to try and join the USS Wasp Association.



This was my wife and I in 2014, when we laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in honor of all those Sailors who never returned home. This was the first and last time I ever wore my Dress Blues with Medals and Ribbons.



This is my “Little Admiral” William Frederick Little