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May 22, 2007 BILL ZINZOW –Wiley Website <http://web.tampabay.rr.com/usswiley> #147

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## MODEL CHALLENGE

In the 1990's "**Boat**" **Nichols** built a model of the USS Henry A. Wiley and due to health reasons, he was unable to complete it. Fortunately, **Jim Chapman**, a master craftsman, took possession of the model, completed it, and it was first displayed at the Boston reunion and a number of reunions since then. It has 'wandered' around ever since and it was last possessed by **Joe Cush** in New York. Since his death in 2006, we have been looking for a permanent home for this beautiful 4 foot model as shown in the enclosed pictures. It was last offered to Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard, and The Naval Surface Warfare Center in West Bethesda, MD and we are awaiting their reply as to their ability to properly display the model. It has been offered to the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, TX and The Mariners' Museum, Newport News, VA . We have learned that there are many models built by WW II sailors and families and there is not sufficient space for additional models in most museums. If you approach a suitable location for the model, I suggest that you include the information about the ship primarily covered by the Wiley website as noted above.

The thought came to me that should it not be accepted by either of the above centers, perhaps a Wiley family member might have an idea as to where it can be properly displayed; perhaps in one of your local libraries, schools or military institutions near one of you or by a crew member's family. Please give it some serious thought and let me know if you have an idea as to where it might be appropriately displayed. Francoise Cush is in possession of the model now and she lives in east Hampton, NY. If you approach a suitable location for the model, I suggest that you include the

information about the ship primarily covered by the Wiley website as noted above.



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I regret to advise that **Flo Beall** died following her long bout with cancer. She was in the Marine Corp during WW II and was buried with honors at a near by National Cemetery in Delaware. **Flo** and **Jerry** have a very loving and devoted family who continue to look after **Jerry** at this time.

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News of **Wes Clark** from his brother Bob: **Wes'** wife died in '06 and he is not the same. Suffering from Dementia and Alzheimer's, he lives by himself. **Wes** and his dog take rides several times a day.

**Wes** speaks frequently about his Wiley days. His brother Bob and sister look out for him.

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Following our recent 'gathering' in Fredericksburg, TX, **Jack Cokefair** sent me a letter received from his son **Pete Cokefair** that I would like to pass on for your reading.

The letter speaks for itself:

Dear Dad:

Thank you for giving me one of the best weekends I have ever had. Spending "quality time" with you made my trip to San Antonia very special. I returned home with some powerful emotions and memories.



Perhaps the most significant part of the trip for me was the dedication ceremony at the naval museum. As the dedications were given and stories recounted, I swelled with pride and that my father had been so important in the war effort against Japan. Had the Japanese been able to break the US Navy, it is possible that the war would have had a completely different ending. Thank you, Dad, for ensuring my freedom!

Meeting your shipmates was also an extraordinary privilege. You and the men you served with continue to exemplify all that is good about this country. All of you were willing-no, you *wanted-* to make the necessary sacrifices for the good of so many others. You men demonstrated the spirit of generosity that makes the United States the best country in the world. It is not our country's power that makes this country unique, for many other civilizations have had power. It is the genuine and sincere caring of and for others that separates us from the rest of the world.

I hope my generation and the ones that come after do not take for granted what we have. I hope that the politicians on both side of the aisle do not forget that their actions should serve rather than dominate them. I hope that all Americans can serve their country with distinction in a way that brings them dignity and honor, just as the men of the *Wiley* did both in times of war and in the times of peace,

For many years I have been extremely cynical about the actions and motivations of many citizens. I have lamented that too many have acted in a manner that only serves themselves rather than the greater good. I have questioned the need for CEOs to make millions of dollars on the backs of others. I have wondered why some corporations are more concerned about wealth than they are about the stability of our nation. I have lamented that individual and corporate greed has forced mothers out of their homes with their children so that they could work to make ends meet. I have questioned why politicians are more interested in destroying the character of their opponents than working together to solve problems, as the diverse group of men on the *Wiley* did.

Watching the ceremony and talking to your shipmates inspired me. It restored my faith that there is still good and caring people around. I wish more people could see and feel what I was lucky enough to experience in Fredericksburg. I guess that is why tears fill my eyes as I listened to the speakers at the dedication of the whip's plaque and why they are filling up again as I write this note.

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***We have much in common and much to be thankful for.***