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I recently received a copy of the Helmsman Newsletter announcing the 2004 reunion. While I was very proud to serve aboard the Canopus, I am afraid that I will not be able to attend the reunion due to family obligations.

I was a Plank Owner at the Charleston Navy Yard prior to commissioning. The Canopus was the last ship I served on after many years in the Navy as a certified nuclear welder on many other ships including the Proteus, Bushnell, and Yellowstone.

I was glad to see mention in a prior letter of the cofferdam project that took place while the Canopus was stationed in Rota, Spain. It was a great accomplishment in the career of the Canopus that we can all be very proud of. Having been a part of the team that built the cofferdam, I can tell you that it was quite a feat of engineering that took a great deal of commitment and hard work. We could never say much about it at the time since it was classified and we were all sworn to secrecy. Now, many years later, it has been de-classified and even the plot of a Tom Clancy type novel.

Now would be a good time to recognize the guys who made it possible for the project to be the success that it was. (Often while sleeping aboard ship or in the cofferdam itself for extended periods of time). While I cannot remember the names of everyone involved, I have listed below the ones that I can. Those guys, in addition to myself are:

Theron Eugene Nabors  
James Betts  
Harry Johnson  
Jerry Sturgill

Also, who could ever forget our Executive Officer, "Marvelous Marv"?.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Motherwell