

## **ROD WILBURN**

**USCGC POINT CAUTION (WPB-82301) – Jul68 to Mar69 – Relieved Schwartz  
Presidential Unit Citation – 18 Oct 68 to 5 Dec 68  
Navy Unit Commendation – 1 Jun 68 to 31 Dec 68**

**USCGC POINT GARNET (WPB-82310) – Apr69 to May69 – as Turnover CO**

### **May 8, 2021 – Rod Wilburn E-mail to Bill Carr**

I didn't take command of PT CAUTION until May, 1968. I'm not at all certain, but may have relieved John Schwartz. I had a good crew, and believe we were "boat of the quarter" once for the Cat Lo division.

### **May 5, 2021 – Rod Wilburn E-mail to Roger Rufe**

I'm uncertain about specific dates, but the gist of the transition and attendant activities, as noted by Walt, seem reasonable. I've not reviewed the Ship's Logs or my DD-214...As memory serves, PT GARNET was pretty active during my short time with her crew.

### **May 4, 2021 – Roger Rufe E-mail to Bill Carr**

...I departed Vietnam on May 1, 1969...as best I can remember, Rod relieved me a few days prior to that and turned over PT GARNET in Saigon on 16 May...

### **June 30, 2016 – Walt Viglienzzone E-mail**

Rod was one of the three 65ers who turned over the first WPBs to the South Vietnamese Navy.

NOTE: Rog Rufe and Bill Norris were the other two.

### **February 4, 2016 – Rod Wilburn E-mail to Howard Newhoff**

Hello all! Just returned home and checked the few things I have. Was on PT CAUTION from shortly after arrival in Cat Lo from May 68 to March or so 69. Then took PT GARNET from Rog.

Initially half Vietnamese crew, then all Vietnamese until turnover to Vietnamese Navy in Saigon on 16 May 1969. Turnover date per medal citation. Seem to recall that Rog shifted to Division

staff and I was logical choice since entire time had been on boats and was leaving active duty on return to States. Didi wa from Saigon to Alameda day after turnover. Seems to match Rog's recollections.

Above not based on logs, military info, or letters home! And, undoubtedly fogged by 4+ decades of beer, Italian and Spanish wine, Gentleman Jack, and women (cancel last ---- old sailor's musings)!

### **Golden Journeys Booklet – 2015**

...my final year in Vietnam serving as CO of the PT CAUTION and then PT GARNET which was turned over to the South Vietnamese Navy in May 1969 after my return home honed my appreciation for the full meaning of “crew.”

I also realized that service at sea, and in line positions, was what I liked most. While not really knowledgeable about promotion “tracks,” and with a family anxious to see me home more, I made the difficult decision to leave the service. So many Classmates are indelibly printed in my memories of those Coast Guard years. I look forward to telling them that again when I next see them!

### **Coast Guard Awards and Medals Board – List of CG Units Coming Under Hostile Fire August 30, 2004**

**Encl. (16) to COMDTINST 650.25b MEDALS AND AWARDS MANUAL**

**POINT CAUTION – 24 Sep 68, 2 Oct 68, 3 Oct 68, 11 Nov 68, 12 Nov 68, 4 Dec 68 and 7 Mar 69**

### **October 1968 - Coast Guard Division Thirteen Newsletter**

The POINT CAUTION while patrolling one evening received an urgent call for help from an Army group under attack. The CAUTION went to General Quarters immediately and went to max speed to head for their position. The CAUTION fired her 81mm mortar providing NGFS and illumination for the Army. The enemy broke off the attack shortly after CAUTION's responding. The Army later said, “It was the CAUTION's quick response that stopped the VC attack.

## Bill Carr

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**From:** Bill Carr [bill@getrain.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2018 9:13 PM  
**To:** 'James R "Rod" Wilburn'  
**Subject:** FW: CGA65 November 3rd Mini-Reunion and small town Annual Manchester, Georgia Veterans Day with Rod Wilburn and company  
**Attachments:** Manchester Veteran's Parade.pdf

Here is the invitation I sent to Dick Walton. All the others are basically the same with the first names of each used....Bill

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**From:** Bill Carr [<mailto:bill@getrain.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2018 9:02 PM  
**To:** 'dwalton0865@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** CGA65 November 3rd Mini-Reunion and small town Annual Manchester, Georgia Veterans Day with Rod Wilburn and company

Dick and Maryann - Rod and Linda Wilburn are inviting you to attend a Veterans Day and class mini-reunion culminating around a Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> small town veterans parade starting at 11:00 am EST. The Coast Guard is taking center stage as the Grand Marshal for this parade and Rod thinks that is reason enough for him to have a party.

Could you please respond to Rod by direct e-mail or by telephone (404-386-1327 office or 706-672-4593 home) regarding what your potential attendance would be – yes/maybe/no. Besides the article at the end of this e-mail, Rod asked me to attaché an information sheet that hopefully will entice you to join him and the festivities.

Thank you in advance for responding to Rod directly....Bill Carr (563-529-3982 cell)

**From:** James R "Rod" Wilburn [<mailto:jrwilburn4593@bellsouth.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 6:43 PM

**Subject:** Veterans Day in Small Town Georgia!

Our Meriwether County Veterans Day event will have "Coast Guard front and center" this year! Walt has graciously agreed to help me and a retired CG CPO (and Meriwether County native) assemble the honoree/speaker contingent (CG retirees or active duty?) for the event on Saturday, November 3.

Walt and I would also like to host an informal, casual, impromptu gathering of CGA 65 (and other so inclined graduates and other Coasties who might be in attendance). We plan to schedule something for Friday evening and/or Saturday afternoon (November 2-3).

**Could you please let me know with a**

- YES
- MAYBE
- NO

**whether or not you could join us?**

Meriwether County, only about 22K population, is a historic and scenic tourism destination with ample lodging available. It is located between Atlanta and Columbus, less than an hour drive from Fort Benning.

I hope you will consider coming to this celebration even with the short notice!....Rod Wilburn

**Bill Carr**

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**From:** James R "Rod" Wilburn [jrwilburn4593@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2018 6:38 PM  
**To:** bill@getrain.com  
**Cc:** Walt Viglienzone; Carla  
**Subject:** Fwd: cga65 audience Re: Manchester Vets Parade

Bill,

Walt sent a suggested change to Carla, but she may have moved on to other assignments. If you can incorporate Walt's suggestion without undue delay or difficulty, great, Otherwise, please proceed with what you sent me as "ready for email distribution"!

Thank you! Let me know what I can do to ease travel arrangement changes here if you're able to add Meriwether County to your Charleston trip!

Rod

James R.(Rod) Wilburn  
J. R. Wilburn and Associates, Inc.  
404-386-1327

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [viglie@aol.com](mailto:viglie@aol.com)  
**Date:** October 1, 2018 at 5:42:49 PM EDT  
**To:** [bamatraf@comcast.net](mailto:bamatraf@comcast.net), [jrwilburn4593@bellsouth.net](mailto:jrwilburn4593@bellsouth.net)  
**Subject:** cga65 audience Re: Manchester Vets Parade

As i proposed in sep email  
for this CGA 65 audience

wouldn't it be better to to have this order...?

**Rod Wilburn invites you to attend a VETERANS day class Mini REUNION  
Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> ....  
Manchester, Georgia's Annual Veteran's Day Celebration will be held on  
Saturday,  
November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 a.m.  
The Coast Guard will take center stage as Grand Marshal of this year's parade.  
We're taking this opportunity to hold a mini-reunion, including an informal, no-  
cost reception for  
Coast Guard Academy grads and veterans.  
Especially encouraged to attend are Class of 65, spouses and Viet Nam Vets.**

Walt Vi home 850 492-5634 cel 850 206-3522

-----Original Message-----

From: Carla Bamatraf <[bamatraf@comcast.net](mailto:bamatraf@comcast.net)>

To: James R \Rod\ Wilburn <[jrwilburn4593@bellsouth.net](mailto:jrwilburn4593@bellsouth.net)>; Bill Carr <[bill@getrain.com](mailto:bill@getrain.com)>; viglie <[viglie@aol.com](mailto:viglie@aol.com)>

Sent: Mon, Oct 1, 2018 2:11 pm

Subject: Manchester Vets Parade

Think this is what you needed.

Let me know if you need anything further.

**Carla Bamatraf, AICP**

**J. R. Wilburn and Associates, Inc.**

**404.307.0605 (cell)**

## Bill Carr

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**From:** Bill Carr [bill@getrain.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2018 4:55 PM  
**To:** 'James R "Rod" Wilburn'  
**Subject:** Invitation to Veterans Day in small town Georgia with Rod Wilburn and company  
**Attachments:** Manchester Veteran's Parade.pdf

Rod – Does this measure up to what you were looking for? I plan on sending these out one-by-one with the first name of each classmate and their wife/significant other as per the latest class contact list.

Please call me with changes pronto so I can get this out tonight..... ☺ ...thanks.....Bill (563-529-3982 cell)

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FIRST NAME - Rod Wilburn asked me to forward this invitation to all classmates within a reasonable driving distance. Could you respond to Rod by direct e-mail or by telephone (404-386-1327 office or 706-672-4593 home) regarding what your potential attendance would be – yes/maybe/no. Besides the article at the end of this e-mail, Rod asked me to attaché an information sheet that hopefully will entice you to join him and the festivities.

Thank you in advance for responding to Rod directly....Bill Carr (563-529-3982 cell)

**From:** James R "Rod" Wilburn [<mailto:jrwilburn4593@bellsouth.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018 6:43 PM

**Subject:** Veterans Day in Small Town Georgia!

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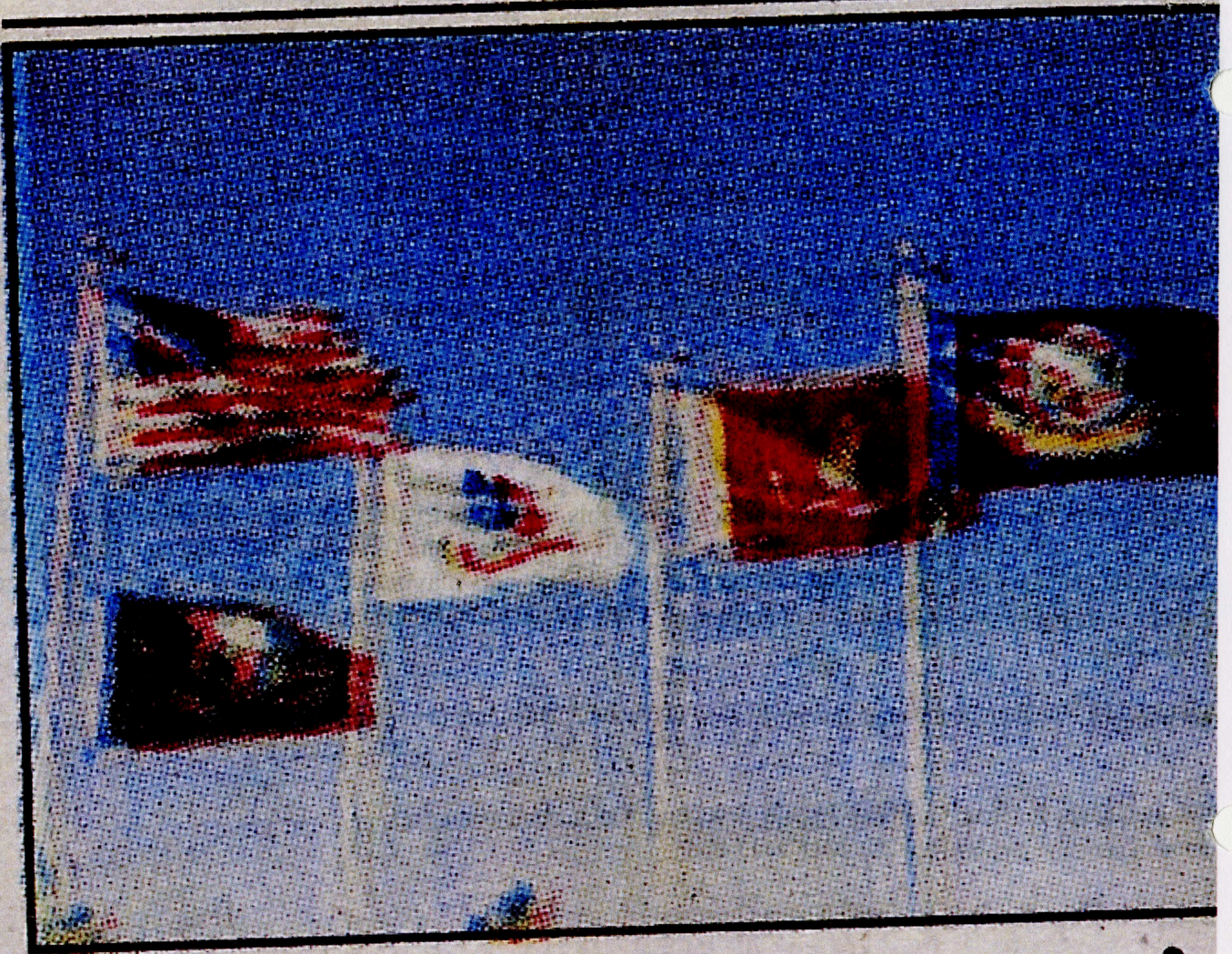
**Could you please let me know with a**

- YES
- MAYBE
- NO

**whether or not you could join us?**

Meriwether County, only about 22K population, is a historic and scenic tourism destination with ample lodging available. It is located between Atlanta and Columbus, less than an hour drive from Fort Benning.

I hope you will consider coming to this celebration even with the short notice!....Rod Wilburn



# Manchester Veteran's

Submitted to the *Vindicator*

Save the date!

The annual Manchester Vete  
Saturday, November 3, beginning a

In conjunction with the parade  
set up at the gym at Manchester Hig

**Bill Carr**

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**From:** Bill Carr [bill@getrain.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2018 2:36 PM  
**To:** 'James R "Rod" Wilburn'; 'viglie@aol.com'  
**Subject:** RE: Manchester Vets Parade

Rod/Walt - All set. I've got what I need. I'll send you the e-mail I plan to send out here shortly for your approval.

I will be sending to classmates with home addresses in the following states:

Alabama |  
Delaware |  
Florida ~~|||||~~ || -17  
Georgia |||| -4  
Kentucky  
Maryland ~~||||~~ -6  
Mississippi  
North Carolina ||| -3  
South Carolina ||| -3  
Tennessee  
Virginia ~~||||~~ |||| -14  
West Virginia  
WASHINGTON, DC |

50!

Did I leave out any states or individuals in other states that you wanted covered?

Bill (563-529-3982 cell)

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**From:** Carla Bamatraf [<mailto:bamatraf@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2018 2:11 PM  
**To:** James R "Rod" Wilburn; Bill Carr; [viglie@aol.com](mailto:viglie@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Manchester Vets Parade

Think this is what you needed.

Let me know if you need anything further.

**Carla Bamatraf, AICP**  
**J. R. Wilburn and Associates, Inc.**  
404.307.0605 (cell)



Bill Carr &lt;bill@getrain.com&gt;

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**Veterans Day in Georgia**

1 message

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**James R "Rod" Wilburn** <jrwilburn4593@bellsouth.net>

Sat, Sep 29, 2018 at 1:28 PM

To: bill@getrain.com

Cc: lgwilburn4593@gmail.com, Carla &lt;bamatraf@comcast.net&gt;

Bill,

Thanks for the call and discussion!

I've copied Linda so she will have your email address. She will try to get a decent scanned file of the Vindicator newspaper article for use in your email notice to CGA 65 in southeast/DC area.

I've also copied Carla, who I will ask to email you a brief info sheet about lodging, attractions, etc. in our area. Probably best to send that sheet along with this next email. The final email to "yes or maybe" responses will be focused on the schedule of activities for the gathering and any last minute details.

Enjoy your time in Canada, and safe travels home!

Rod

**James R.(Rod) Wilburn**

J. R. Wilburn and Associates, Inc.

404-386-1327

Sent from my iPhone



Bill Carr &lt;bill@getrain.com&gt;

## Vietnam Research Info

1 message

**dwalton0865** <dwalton0865@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 20, 2017 at 10:10 AM

To: Bart Hennessey <bjth44@hotmail.com>, Bill Blanchard <blan.consult.serv@gmail.com>, Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>, Bill Norris <whnorris65@hotmail.com>, Bob Christiansen <robertchristiansen41@hotmail.com>, Bob Offutt <boboffutt@aol.com>, Bob Storch <np17.67@verizon.net>, Carl Helman <helman@msn.com>, Carl Josephson <floridajozy@hotmail.com>, Dick Chapman <chap65@verizon.net>, Dick Walton <dwalton0865@gmail.com>, Gene Bowen <genebowen@charter.net>, Gerry McGill <gmcgill@thejonesact.com>, Howard Newhoff <caphowardn@gmail.com>, Jim Morgan <morganjlex@aol.com>, John Schwartz <johnschwartz65@aol.com>, Kent Williams <wflagman@aol.com>, Rod Wilburn <jrwilburn4593@bellsouth.net>, Roger Rufe <rogrufe@gmail.com>, Ron Fritz <refritz@verizon.net>, Tom Livingston <dtlivingstoniii@aol.com>, Tom Pennington <thomasrpenn@gmail.com>, Walt Viglienzone <viglie@aol.com>

I'm sending this email out to Class of 65 82 footer COs in case you might be interested in researching events that occurred in Vietnam while we were there. (I have sent this email less Walter's input to 5-6 of you earlier; my apologies for a partial repeat) I did some research for Bill Carr and wrote an article on what I experienced as CO during a trawler incident. Additionally, I wrote up the story/background on all of the 82's and 255's involved in the trawler incidents the night of 29 February - 1 March 1968. While writing these documents, I found the attached sources of information most helpful. Also, as I think you know, Bill is interested in any Vietnam events that you may have participated in.

Now I'm working with Tom Livingston on the 82 footer CO reunion in Charleston, November 2018. During that time, we'll be chatting about events that are 50+ years old. (Must admit that I'm doing better with some things 50+ years old than 50+ minutes old these days.) Anyway, I told Bill and Tom that I would share my research information with the other 82' COs. Attached is what I found. If you have found other research sources, please let me know. Like to keep a record of these.

I asked Walter Viglienzone for input and he added:

1- Alex Larzelere (Retired Coast Guard Captain, is cga gra, and in the annual directory,

He'd probably welcome inquiries ...

2- Paul Scotti, CWO, Ret, is active in CG Combat Vets and a willing correspondent at [psuscg@aol.com](mailto:psuscg@aol.com),

he was a TAD gunners mate when G McG stopped the trawler...

3- Other website - segregated by vessel class and other specialties / groups at

..... <http://community.coastguardchannel.com/main>

e.g. 82 foot sailores ,, ,,,,,,



Vietnam Veterans 156 members

Latest Activity: Aug 7

**USCGA Class of 1966 27 members**

Latest Activity: Jan 9, 2012 - Classmates from the USCGA class of 1966

**OCS Grads 15 members**

Latest Activity: Nov 7, 2016

Graduates of the Coast Guard OCS program whether former enlisted or from civilian life.

**Coast Guard Combat Veterans 233 members**

Latest Activity: Sep 18 For all Coasties who served in combat service world wide and all wars declared or otherwise.

4- And also CGCombat Vets at **Coast Guard Combat Veterans**

[www.coastguardcombatvets.org](http://www.coastguardcombatvets.org) Open to those who served in, or provided direct support to combat situations recognized by an appropriate military award while serving as a member of the United ...

join \$40 for 2 years,, but most willing to help with research or connect with shipmates & Viet Nam events...

If you have any questions, please email or call. Hope to see you in November 2018.

Thanks,

Dick (AKA Bullwinkle) Walton

Cell: (843) 830-0088



**RESEARCH TOOLS FOR COAST GUARD VIETNAM EXPERIENCES (3).docx**

15K



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Dear Captain & Mrs. High,

I thank you for the  
Christmas greeting. We had a very  
nice Christmas, including a visit  
to our home in Florida, and  
hope you and your family were  
able to be together for the holidays.

I suspect my separating  
from the service was a surprise,  
especially as I had previously  
decided against getting out. Due to  
my separating right after my  
return from Vietnam, I was not  
able to see and talk with many  
people I had been fortunate  
enough to be associated with  
during the past year.

Thank you, I want to express  
to you my thanks for all the  
assistance you gave me while in  
the service. I also want you to  
know that you were, and have  
been, a fine example for myself  
and others in the class. Thank  
you!

Enough about the past. I  
am now going to graduate  
School at Georgia Institute of  
Technology. I was fortunate  
enough to receive a fellowship,  
which, combined with my G.I.  
education benefits, has meant  
that Sheri has been able to  
stay home with Kathy (our  
daughter). I will be here at Tech

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for two years. I am studying  
City Planning and Transportation  
Engineering and will receive a  
Master of City Planning and a  
Master of Science (Transportation)  
degree. Needless to say, I am the  
only CAH grad. in the program or,  
in all probability, on the campus.  
That gets me some ribbing at times!

Best wishes for you and  
your family for the year and  
for the future.

Sincerely,

Rod Wilburn

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