



# The Jersey Bounce

## Fall Issue / 2004

### OUR NATIONS CAPITAL STIRS MANY VETERANS MEMORIES



Korean Memorial



Vietnam Memorial



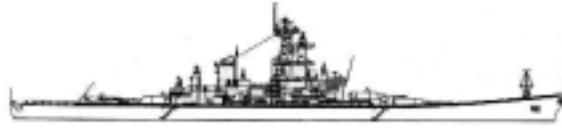
World War II Memorial

I remember walking out of Reagan National Airport on a very bright Wednesday afternoon on 29 September and realizing that I was not only in Washington DC, But I was in our Nations Capital with about 400 fellow shipmates to kickoff our 17th reunion. While as a group, we have met in some amazing places, other than on-board the Big J herself, nothing gave me more pride than being in the place that gives full meaning and understanding to our country. I have been fortunate enough to have visited Washington DC and the surrounding area in the past and have even toured the World War II Memorial. But to see it with a WWII USS New Jersey Veteran on his first visit? Ever talk with a Korean veteran at the Korean Memorial? Will anyone who went with the USS New Jersey Viet Nam Veterans to "The Wall" for the Wreath Ceremony forget the visitors who stopped and thanked the Veterans for their service to our country? There wasn't a dry eye to be found as The Bugler played taps. From the ceremony at The Lone Sailor to touring the Arlington National Cemetery this reunion was a nonstop adventure that will stay in our memories for a long time to come. If you have never joined us at a Reunion, it is more then just reliving a day that has long since past, it is often a chance to explore areas of our country that we would never otherwise experience if not for these events. No matter were we meet, it is always a chance to share another experience with your fellow shipmates. Look at it as a Liberty Call from the every day. I don't know about you, but I never missed a Liberty Call. Start making your plans for Valley Forge, a history lesson and a tour of THE Battleship, "The USS New Jersey BB-62"

### **Next Reunion - On Board The Battleship USS New Jersey**

While the dates are not yet set, the place is. On board our great ship. I asked the question in the last issue; "Do you remember the first time you saw the USS New Jersey." Trust me, when you show it to someone else who has not seen the ship before, your experience is almost the same. The pride of having brought someone to see the greatest Naval ship in the history of the US Navy is a feeling of warmth that will fill all of you. If you have grandchildren, children, spouse, parents or are friends with someone who understands and appreciates Naval History, be sure to bring them with you to our 2005 reunion. The reason for bringing the USS New Jersey to Camden and creating this hands on museum is to share the history and describe the bravery of the ship and her crew. This is a tour that will last in your memories for many years to come. Be a part of what is sure to be one of our best reunions ever.





**2005 USS New Jersey Reunion Information  
September 2005  
Valley Forge, PA**

The hardest part of planning for a reunion is figuring out how many people will be attending. Imagine if you had a guest list of nearly 2000 people for a party in your backyard. If you didn't have at least a rough head count well enough in advance, you could be in for some serious challenges.

Here is what needs to be done even before Reunion Registration form can be made up:

- Hotel Information: Will 1 hotel be enough or do we need to book 2 or 3 hotels in order to have make sure we can keep everyone close to all the activities.
- Meals: Breakfast and or Dinner? How big of a banquet hall do we need?
- Buses: Will we need 10 buses or 50. For that many, they have to be booked very early

While much of the information can wait until we get closer, getting a decent estimate of how many people will be coming home is extremely important.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP!**

Please Call Dick Esser at his office number **440-246-5594** and leave a message with your name and the total number of people in your family that you expect will be joining us on-board. If calling is difficult, you can also e-mail him at [esser3@hotmail.com](mailto:esser3@hotmail.com).

As our association continues to grow each year, we will always be looking for more ways to keep our reunions fresh and an event that is both exciting and looked forward to by all members every year. Please help make our homecoming a successful one by phoning in your intention to join us in Valley Forge.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call Military Reunion Planners at 817-251-3551 between the weekday hours of 9 am. - 4 pm. Central Standard Time or e-mail them at [info@militaryreunionplanners.com](mailto:info@militaryreunionplanners.com)

**Did You Pay Your Dues?**

Please Remember that your annual dues payment is due on October 1st payable to  
USS New Jersey Veterans Association Inc.  
\$20 \$20 \$20 \$20 \$20 \$20 \$20 \$20 \$20 \$20

What Can You Get for \$20?

**XOXO Anais Women's Pump @ Overstock.Com / Agua Teen Hunger Force DVD @ Amazon.com / 2-60 oz. Bags of Chocolate Chips at Sams Club / A Ricky Williams Miami Dolphins Jersey on East Bay / His & Her Christmas Humming HumBugs**

If you haven't sent yours in yet, please do so to:

**USS New Jersey Veterans Inc  
Louis Ashby  
19683 Finney Road  
Girard, IL 62640**

**What do you get for your 20 Bucks?**

2 Great Issues of the Jersey Bounce, Annual Reunion, Scholarship Donations, Incredible Website, Proof of Identity, A Warmer Heart and so much more. If you have paid your dues, Thank You! If not, please do so today.



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### **Clearing Off The Presidents Desk**

Ahoy Shipmates: Another reunion has come and gone, and a good one it was. That was my first trip to our nations capital and I was impressed. And of course my favorite was the Vietnam Wall and the little get together that we Vietnam Vets had there. The one real thing that stood out was while we had our wreath presentation all the other visitors stopped and watched as we went through our little detail and when we finished they started to move through and shook our hands saying "THANK YOU" to each one of us. That was very special to me. All the other sites that my son and I visited were great also. I thought the hotel was a very nice place and all the meals were very good and well presented. Over all I want to thank Ray Casey and his staff for a job well done. BRAVO ZULU. As always there were some chalanges but his staff was able to correct most of them..

As you might notice at the top of the page I am now clearing off a new desk, that of the President. I will try to meet all of the goals we set and then some. If anybody has any ideas, suggestions and gripes please let me know by e-mail, phone, or contact any of our executive board. We all will listen and provide you with and answer as soon as possible. At the end of this note will be a list of all our elected officials. I will make this short and then really load up on much more info in our spring Jersey Bounce. I know by then we will have lots of info on next years reunion In closing I want to thank last years board members for all their years of hard work, for if it was not for their work this organization wouldn't be where it is today. I will rely on their wisdom and direction as we move along. THANK YOU Dick McDowell, Fred Adams, Blackie O'Neil, Erwin Sladewski and my CHIEF Larry "SKI". I would also like to extend a special thanks to Our past President Dick Esser, whose shoes I won't try to fill, as I can't. He did a wonderful job at putting this group on a even keel and setting a straight course for me to follow, Thanks Dick....

To all my shipmates and families, my wife Bonnie and myself would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Happy Holiday and a Healthy New Year.

Fraternally Yours,

Mike Prime  
President  
USS New Jersey Veterans Association; Inc.



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## The Editors Page

As the editor, I have the privilege of attending our reunion with a different perspective. Not only do I attend with the idea of seeing a great many fellow shipmates, but I am also looking for "A Story" to include in The Jersey Bounce. With the reunion in Washington DC, I knew there would be plenty of stories to write about. What I didn't expect was the depth of what I was able to see and experience. I spent an hour talking with Admiral Snyder during breakfast on the last day before the elections. Sitting there listening to this man speak with a couple of former crewman sitting by his side hanging on every word as if he were about to come on the 1MC and announce "Liberty Call". Dedication to their Captain more then 30 years since he commanded them all in battle. That goes beyond just respect and enters the area of love and admiration. I had the opportunity to walk behind Ruth & Paul Mattern as they walked into the World War II memorial for the first time. Mr. Mattern was aboard USS New Jersey in WWII and Mrs. Mattern (Formerly Ruth Avery) was a WWII wave. They met after the war and have been together ever since. Seeing them together that day told me why. I talked with Tom Wallace as he walked the Korean Memorial. Sometimes a persons eyes say more then their words ever could. I won't forget meeting Edie Norton and her son Brian. Edie's husband was a USS New Jersey Veteran from the Viet Nam era who passed away a few years ago. Edie wanted to bring her son to the reunion to maybe give him just a glimps at the people his dad spent so much time talking about before his passing. Listen to Larry Kalakauskis talk about the Viet Nam Veterans memorial wreath ceremony and I can promise you a few tears will flow in you as well.

There was also time for some real adventure as well. Anybody remember the name of Franklin Delonor Rosevelts dog? Reading the words of FDR reminds us that history can and does repeat itself. Isn't it amazing how his words on December 29, 1940 still hold true today; **"We must be the great arsenal of Democracy."** Walking along the walls of the Korean Memorial brings about a phrase we have heard many times of late; **"Freedom Is Not Free"**. Seeing the White House at night with its lights ablaze still hiding all the rats running around the park. Then Marine Corp Memorial brought about a couple of smiles and who will forget driving past The Pentagon and seeing the exact location were terrorists woke a sleeping giant on September 11th, 2001. From Arlington National Cemetery to our Group Dinner at Phillips Seafood Buffet and who could forget some of those moves on the dance floor on our dinner cruise. We were able to enjoyed a week of fellowship as much as a week of living America's History. What could be better than that. To think, we only saw a fraction of all there is to do and experience in the Washington D.C. area.

To Ray Casey and his staff a huge attaboy for a successful gathering. Were there lines and waiting? Come on folks, it was a Navy thing, were all used to that. Seriously, there were so few challenges at this years reunion it is hardly worth talking about. I was very impressed with a conversation later with Ray. We talked about next years event and the idea's he already has for 2005. Fellow Shipmates and Associate Members, we are in for another great reunion in Sept 05. As you look forward to celebrating the Christmas and Holiday Seasons, please find a place in your prayers for those members and their families. If you have the means, I ask that you also make a donation to help those families of fallen service members. For many of the children, they will be spending their very first Christmas without there Mom or Dad. You can help in a very small way to help make this day a little better by showing them that Americans appreciate there parents sacrifice and that they are remembered.

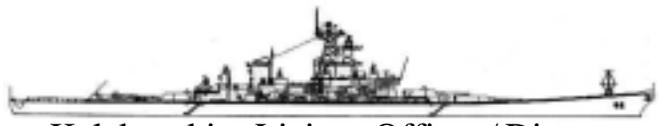
Contact the website listed below or any of the fraternal military organizations. It will make the holidays so much better not only for them, but for you too.

<http://www.operationensuringchristmas.org/>

Thanks,

**Peter V.**





Larry Kalakauskis; Liaison Officer / Director  
 kalskibb62@aol.com (619) 470-3659

Liaison Officer, Larry K's Letter,  
 Fellow New Jersey, Shipmates and Lady Friends,

Another reunion, our 17<sup>th</sup>. In 2004, Washington, DC at Crystal City Hilton Hotel, Arlington, VA, has come and gone leaving behind a great time and keeping some fond memories of shipmates and friends. Thank you Ed Flaherty for sponsoring your long awaited reunion at our Nation's Capital, Washington, DC.

It was great for all to see many old and new friends and acquaintances but sadly we will miss some forever whose names will appear in another segment of the Jersey Bounce, I also want to mention a very important missing member at the Reunion, Richard "Dick" McDowell, Korea Era and Treasurer/Director. Dick, unfortunately had a stroke just a few weeks before the reunion and was fitted with a pacemaker but you all know Mac, he is one tough Bos'on and he is pulling through. Take care Mac and be easy living.

I introduced about 20 new first timers at the Dinner Dance, recognized the attending Era Representatives and Era District Volunteers, awarded plaques for the "farthest, youngest, oldest, first registration, reunion sponsor and hotel. Included also our departing President, Richard Esser, Vice-President, Fred Adams, Treasurer / Membership Chairman, Richard "Dick" McDowell, all of whom, I have had the pleasure of sharing some wonderful times and maybe some hot moments of discussion.

Our Chaplain, Rev. Will Clark, had a moving Invocation and remembrance of passed shipmates at the "Lone Sailor Memorial" with another long awaited church service of thanks and praise Sunday morning in the hospitality room, which we will continue as long as he is available to do so. Thank you Reverend Clark ! I would also like to extend my appreciation to Mrs. Irene Sladewski, singing "Amazing Grace" and Star Spangled Banner."

I had also introduced the wife and son of one of my "strikers", FN Timothy Norton, Mass. of #2 fireroom during the Vietnam Era who had passed away in 1992, Mrs. Edie Norton and Son Brian, thank you for coming to your first reunion to meet some of FN/BT3 Timothy Norton's fellow Boiler Technicians and Shipmates.

The highlight of this reunion for a lot of us Vietnam Era crewmembers, wives, sons, daughters and friends attending was the Memorial Service at the Vietnam War Memorial Wall, with our Commanding Captain, J. Edward Snyder, RAdm, USN Ret. After my opening statement, "It Was Right", BT1 Joe Wozniak's (Viet Nam Era Rep.) Invocation prayed by Mike Prime (Secretary,) Ed Campbell's (Web-Master) reading of the names of our passed on Vietnam Era Crewmembers, the sounding of the single "Clang!" of the bell by James Berry BT3/2 for each member. A memorial wreath dedicated to all the fallen brothers and sisters of the Vietnam War and also our Vietnam Era Shipmates who have passed on since the ship was placed in Commission April 6, 1968 was presented to the "Wall" by Captain Snyder and assisted by Frank La Rosa, Executive Vice-President, Northern California Chapter of Viet Nam Veterans and donated by the attending Viet Nam Veterans. Then our Captain, J. Edward Snyder, RAdm. USN Ret. gave an order to his Viet Nam Era Crew, "**USS New Jersey, Hand Salute**" his first to us since he relinquished command of the USS New Jersey BB-62 at his Change of Command Ceremony, Aug, 1969. (I know to many of us this was a very PROUD moment to be given the opportunity to hear our beloved Skipper giving us these last commands.)

The solemn rendition of "TAPS" was given by the last official ship's (Rating) Bugler, of the Navy, SN Bertrand Trottier, and through teary eyes, Bert played his heart for all Viet Nam Veterans, I know there were a lot of teary eyes attending and for many of us this was a closing of the Viet Nam War and maybe for some of the surrounding visitors to the "Wall" who were courteous enough to await the ending of the Ceremony before continuing their observation of the Names on The Wall.

I also want to thank Mrs. Frances Flora for the loan of the Vase and Rose for the "EMPTY CHAIR" and the help of all who attended this great reunion, "Thank You."

I must also welcome the new voted in members of the Board of Directors for the next four years, as stated below;  
 President, Mike Prime-Viet Nam \* Vice-President - John Hagen - Persian Gulf \* Secretary- Joe Dimaria - Viet Nam  
 Treasurer - Lou Ashby - Viet Nam \* Membership Chairman - John Hayes - Viet Nam  
 Liaison Officer - Larry Kalakauskis - Viet Nam \* W.W.II Rep.- Bob Lavine - WWII Korea Rep. - Need one  
 Viet Nam Rep. - Joe Wozniak - Viet Nam \* Lebanon/Persian Gulf Rep.- Mark Findby Persian Gulf  
 Web Master - Ed Campbell - Viet Nam \* Small Stores - Joe Porambo - Korea \* Veterans' Affairs - Victor Weaver - Korea  
 Jersey Bounce Editor - Peter VandeWalle - Persian Gulf \* Master - at - Arms Edward Flaherty  
 Member - at - Large, Need one, \* U.S. Marine Corp. Rep - Need one

See y'all next year at the Ship's Reunion in 2005.

Respectfully,



Larry Kalakauskis, BTC USN Ret.  
 Liaison Officer, USS New Jersey Vets. Inc.



Shipmates and Families,

There is a theory that when we dream, every face we encounter is a face we have actually seen. We may not recognize it, but the theory proposes that our mind does not invent or make up new images, it searches our memory and fills in new faces with old ones on file. The theory goes on to say that nothing “new” is ever invented. But “new” things are created by changing the way we use existing materials, and changing the way we apply existing knowledge. Take the airplane for example. People saw birds fly and decided they wanted to be able to do that. So they start making things that looked like bird wings. Then someone put it together that if they could match the right wing with an engine strong enough, to move it fast enough across the ground, then the wings should lift off the ground and carry the engine with it. The Wright brothers are credited with being the first ones to put everything together in the right order. But they didn’t invent flight, God did that.

This illustration reminds me that I have much for which to be thankful. Perhaps we take too much credit for our accomplishments. I believe it also reminds us that we are called to make the world a better place. God gives us the resources and opportunities to truly make a difference.

I can witness to you that the relationships built and maintained through this organization and during our annual reunions truly make a difference. We make each other better, in big and small ways. The shared stories and experiences bring joy and sometime healing in a very special way.

However, we should not take all the credit for our successes and good times. Let us give thanks to God for every opportunity to come together in fellowship and remembrance. May next year find us, once again, together in the presence of our Lord.

Blessings Abound,

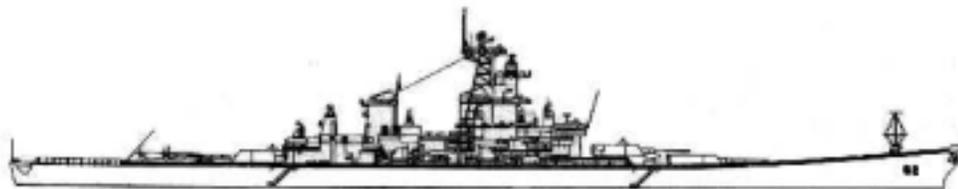
Pastor Will Clark  
*Chaplain, USS New Jersey Vets Inc*  
*RM3, OC Div, '84-'86*  
*ITCS(SW/AW)(Ret '03)*



**Prayer for Today:** Gracious Lord, You are truly a King worthy of my praise. Today I will look for the places in my life that need repair. I will seek your will and with the help of your Spirit “make my path straight.” Acknowledging your saving power I pray. AMEN.  
Pastor Will Clark

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**Are You Attending The Reunion On-Board USS New Jersey in 2005  
Please Call Dick Esser @ (440) 246-5594 And Leave Him A Message**



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## **FROM THE WEBMASTER**

Dear Shipmates,

FOUR MORE YEARS!!!! No, I am not referencing the recent Presidential Election. I am referencing the recent election of the new Board of Directors at our Reunion in Washington, D.C.. Those present were kind enough to re-elect me to the Board of Directors (Director/Webmaster). You need to know that this is the last period I can serve in this capacity. Whether I was re-elected because everybody was satisfied with my work or nobody else wants the job is not relevant. The fact is one of you is going to have to step up sometime soon to enable a smooth transition when the time comes. You know how to reach me.

The Ship's Store is now available on the Web Site. That is to say you can view many of the items available and print the order form to mail to Joe Porambo. There will be improvements from time to time. To find the Small Stores page go to Membership Information and look for the link on the left side of the page.

I personally enjoyed our Reunion this year for several reasons; I'd never been a tourist in D.C., the hotel was in a very convenient location, there were no major malfunctions or challenges, the tours were good and the politics were kept at a minimum.

I said this in my last missive but I'll say it one more time. The ability to post the Jersey Bounce on our Web Site represents a potentially significant saving in our operating budget. However, we will continue to mail it to those of you who do not have computers with internet access and even those of you who do but don't feel ready to trust the computer over the USPS. If you haven't already contacted Pete VandeWalle about your preference, please do so soon.

E-mail address change notification is improving. In the very near future we will probably be updating our Web Site Roster. No mean task that may take several weeks. You could reduce that time if you'd just double check your entry and make any necessary corrections yourself. I know many of you are doing that already and I thank you.

I've received a few photos of the Reunion and haven't had the time to post them yet. If you have some you'd like to share, please e-mail them or mail them.

The Holiday Season is just around the corner so, allow me to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season.





## The Annual Reunion Banquet & Business Meeting

One of the enjoyable parts of our annual reunion banquet is dressing up and having a portrait taken with your wife or family member who attended with you. It is a small token, but does show to the world that yes, A Battleship Sailor can clean up nicely. After our dinner of London Broil or Chicken Picata and a few cups of coffee, it was time for Captain Pennington to speak of his time aboard USS New Jersey. How hard it must have been to be given orders to command the greatest US Naval vessel only to learn that your mission was to place her in mothballs. Somehow, Captain Pennington knew the importance of his responsibility as he wrote the words that would later be repeated by President Ronald Reagan at her recommissioning "Sleep Lightly and hear the call; Fire Power for Freedom" A night of dancing, some called it that and great conversation followed before taps was finally called just after midnight.

The next morning brought about the famous chow line for breakfast and our general meeting. This year included election for officers and directors of USS New Jersey Inc. In a move that speeded up the process significantly, voting was done on a "Hand Vote" as apposed to the written ballot. In the end, We elected a new President in Mike Prime. Mike resides in Fulton, NY and is a retired Deputy Sheriff with 23 years in the Oswego County Department. Mike served aboard the USS New Jersey during the Vietnam Era from Dec 1967 - Dec 1969 before being transferred to the USS Bradley DE-1041. Mike completed his military service in his reserve unit retiring after more then 28 years. He has a wife; Bonnie a 14 year old son Michael and 28 year old daughter Denise as well as a 3 year old grandson Zach. Also elected were our new Vice President; John Hagan, a new Membership Director; John Hayes and new Treasurer; Louis Ashby and a new Secretary; Joe Dimaria. Also reelected by unanimous vote were Director of Veterans Affairs; Vic Weaver, small stores director; Joe Porambo, Master at Arms; Edward Flaherty and Web Master; Ed Campbell. It is great honor that each of these former crewmembers accepted the responsibility of moving our organization forward into the future. After a discussion about holding our 2005 reunion on board the USS New Jersey, it was voted to hold our 2006 reunion in San Antonio, TX. For those of you who have never been to San Antonio, surf the web for the many interesting things there are to do in that great Texas town. You will be surprised. We ended by drawing the winning names of our 50/50 raffle. As you know, the proceeds from our raffle are used to support our scholarship program and to provide scholarship grants to family members of USS New Jersey Inc members in good standing. The prize money, this year totaling \$2,341, was awarded as follows: 4th Place - James Beary \$234.10 / 3rd Place - Elanor Porambo \$468.20 / 2nd Place - Delores Ricker \$702.30 and 1st Place - James Miller \$936.40



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### A Note from One of our Scholarship Winners

Dear USS New Jersey Veterans,

Thank you so much for the monetary contribution to my education at Furman University. The scholarship is greatly appreciated. I am very much enjoying my time here at Furman and am learning so much. I am an anticipated political science major, with a possible double major in either math or business. I am greatly looking forward to the next four years.

I just wanted to let you know how much your contribution is appreciated and well worth it. I am maintaining above average grades in my classes and I have all Ph.D. professors. The education I will leave Furman with will be excellent, and I hope to take that knowledge to a prestigious law school, but I am not sure where yet.

Thanks again,  
Jeannie Tanner  
Grand-daughter of John G. Vance



### *A Note from Edie Norton*

Dear USS New Jersey Veterans,

I would like to thank everyone for there kindness towards my son Brian and I while in Washington D.C. Everyone went out of their way to make us feel welcome and to help us in any way. I was hesitant at first to attend the reunion, thinking I won't know anyone, but everyone came up to us and introduced themselves, made us feel like part of the group. If Tim were alive, I know he would say,"see I told you Edie, the New Jersey guys are a great bunch of guys!"

The memorial at the Vietnam Wall was so touching...it will be with me forever. I cried when they read "It was right", everyone around me cried..even passers by wept. It truly touched everyone's heart! It made my son and I feel so proud of Tim and all those who served on the USS New Jersey .

I felt it a privilege and honor to be with all the vets of the USS New Jersey, they were so proud of serving their country when called to duty. I and many others like me appreciate all that they have done.

Thank you once again for such a memorable experience and for all your kindness. And thank you for honoring my late husband, Timothy Norton...he would be so proud!

Sincerely

Edie Norton



### **Vietnam Veterans at The Memorial Wall**

Top Left to Right: Capelli, Ohlme, ??, Padilla, Al Smith, Admiral Snyder, Mike Prime, ??, Larry K

Bottom Left to Right: Frank LaRosa, ?? Hayes, ??, Trotter, ??, Ed Campbell, Berry, Ashby

Share with me the names of those I have missed for inclusion in the next issue of The Jersey Bounce



The day is Friday October 1, 2004



On this day at 10am a bus carrying USS New Jersey Veterans and their families, left the Hilton in Crystal City Virginia, for a 'Remembrance and Wreath laying Ceremony' at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC. As we traveled, people's conversations and expressions were lighthearted and cheerful.

The bus arrived and we gathered as a group, with different conversations going on about the various memorials. Now for those who had never been there before, the Vietnam Memorial was nowhere in sight, but for those who have had the honor of visiting "The Wall", we knew it could not be seen from the street, because of it's design.



As we led people down the path that took us to the wall, the conversation was still lighthearted and some were sharing memories of the past. We who had been there before, knew that soon all conversation would cease with the unforgettable image. And there it was, the rising wedge of granite with its mirrored black finish, with the names of our fallen heroes etched into it. What a powerful moment that is when you first encounter "The Wall" and come to the realization that all the tens of thousands of names you see, represent our military sons and daughters who spilled their blood and gave their lives for OUR freedom. At this moment in time, I felt great pride, that we had come to honor them.

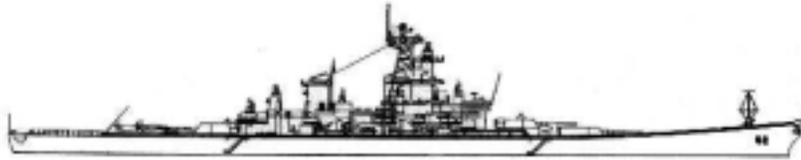
We opened the ceremony with Larry "Ski" Kalakauskis (BTU USN Ret). His first words were "IT WAS RIGHT" reflecting the feelings of all the officers and crew, that our duty, our devotion, and our belief, that **we were right** to be there, serving God and our country.

In our hearts we knew that our fire support missions absolutely reduced casualties and saved the lives of thousands of US and allied troops in Vietnam. And it was the right thing to do.

After the opening remarks, Michael Prime (SH1 USNR Ret) read the Invocation and a prayer, which brought us together spiritually as a family, not just a crew. Then Ed Campbell (ETN3) read "Remembrance", a roll call of all former Vietnam Era BB-62 shipmates, who have passed on but are not forgotten. Now it was time for the "Memorial Wreath Presentation" which was performed by the former Captain of the USS New Jersey BB-62 Vietnam Era, RAdm J Edward Snyder Jr and Frank LaRosa (SN), who assisted with the placement of the Wreath at Vietnam Memorial Wall.



*"...this memorial is for those who have died, and for us to remember them."*  
- Maya Ying Lin, designer, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall



The inscription on the picture in the middle of the wreath reads:

**“On behalf of a grateful nation, the Officers and Crew of the Battleship USS New Jersey BB-62 Vietnam Era, we Remember, Honor and Salute all those whose names are engraved on this memorial and who made the ultimate sacrifice and paid the ultimate price. They gave their lives while serving their country with Honor, Bravery, Heroism, and Pride, in a battle for Liberty and Freedom, for the people of South Vietnam. God Bless You”**

RAdm Snyder then called his former ships company to attention in a ‘Salute of Honor’ and paid their respects to all the fallen heroes, while the ship’s Bugler Bertrand Trottier(QMSN) played TAPS. At the breathtaking ceremony, there wasn’t a face without a tear. RAdm Snyder called us to ‘at-ease’, and with great pride he took over the closing remarks. He spoke of the honor, respect, and gratitude we owe to the men and women who gave their lives in Vietnam and of their great sacrifices. People said it was a beautiful ceremony and was done with a great deal of honor, respect, pride, and dignity.



For many BB-62 Vietnam Era Veterans this was a long overdue ceremony, and we left feeling that it touched our hearts profoundly and it validated our service to the country that we felt honored and proud to be able to serve. It seemed like the beginning of a process that will let us heal old emotional and psychological wounds. I feel that being at the Memorial and having the ceremony was so unforgettable because of all the people who attended, and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I will never forget it.

Liberty and Freedom is never free, the cost for both is priceless, because it’s paid with the blood of the men and women in our military/armed forces. So please, let them know how much they are appreciated for their service to our country.

I wish everyone good health, and happiness. May God bless you all.

Frank A. LaRosa Jr  
USS New Jersey BB-62 Vietnam Era.





## **Were Are They Now? Admiral J. Edward Snyder**

I had only heard talk of Admiral Snyder from the likes of people like Ed Campbell and Larry Kalakauskis, but had never had the honor and privilege of meeting him in person let alone spend any time talking with skipper of the USS New Jersey during the Viet Nam Era. As is the case in most things that we lay claim to as ours; "How could any Captain of such a fine ship every compare with the Captain that guided her during my time on board?" Then I met Admiral Snyder!

We had planned to meet on a couple of different occasions during the week in Washington, DC but something always seem to derail that plan. It wasn't until during breakfast of our last day at the hotel that I had the honor to sit with Admiral Snyder and a couple of crewmen who served under him during the Vietnam era:

Raised in Grand Forks, North Dakota the son of a minister. Senator Gerald P. Nye was a member of his fathers congregation and got him the appointment to the US Naval Academy. Did the future Admiral choose the Navy to get away from the landlocked regions of North Dakota? No, It was a 4 year appointment to the Naval Academy and it was free", besides I was the only one in North Dakota who could spell Navy. He hasn't been back since.

Surviving 2 class "A" offenses at Annapolis for turning apple juice into wine (actually completely by accident) and the other for a hazing offense that even he admits was a mistake. On his midshipman summer cruise on the USS Arkansas , a WWI Battleship he got his first taste of being a battleship sailor. While on leave visiting his mother at Christmas time, he met Mary Louis at the local drug store. Being a sophomore at the Academy, he wasn't allowed to marry. Two years later, he and Mary Louis were married and together had 2 children. His daughter is an artist living in the Washington, D.C. area while his son lives on the west coast.

Talking about and with his crew members brings about the biggest signs of pride. It was during our conversation at this time that I began to understand the difference between the Vietnam Era veterans and the veterans of the Era that I was a part of. "You have to recognize that during Vietnam the USS New Jersey was the only battleship on active duty in the world. The 90's era had a crew of 1556 instead of 3300" We were all by ourselves and could do what ever we wanted, and by that I mean what I wanted" In Vietnam, we were basically an artillery piece. We didn't fight other ships and were really only fired at one time. He didn't hit anything, and we were a big target. Contrary to news reports that came out on a couple of occasions that the ship had come under attack. When Admiral McCain sent out a flash message asking for a damage report, Captain Snyder reported what appeared to be 6 golf balls had gone overhead. Sending that in a manner that blocked all other message traffic from coming or going seems to sum up a great deal of his time on board. Even when some reporter from the New York Times filed a report stating "USS New Jersey Sinks Island". It wasn't long before Captain Snyder received a rather urgent message from General Abrams relaying a message from "The Chairman on Ma Bell" to get out of there. It would seem that then Secretary Henry Kissinger was having a bit of a challenge in peace negotiations with the USS New Jersey blowing the snot out of anything that came in its way. The Admiral is also proud to note that their were no U.S. casualties within 25 miles of the location of his ship. About the crew; They did what ever they wanted to do. When ever you asked them to do something, they already had it done. "They were very proud of the ship and I can understand that." Moral was better then any ship that I had already been on." From joining his crew on the mess decks for meals or making sure the crew got mail. "When any general from shore came onboard, he was required to bring mail with them for the crew. From inviting Marines on board for a hot meal and a shower to setting up a close circuit television network on board ship, it is easy to see why so many of the Vietnam Veterans speak so highly of their former commander. Today, Admiral Snyder resides in Washington DC. I look forward to hearing his stories at the reunion in Valley Forge and on board USS New Jersey.

**Do you have a suggestion for "Were Are They Now?" E-mail me at [peterv\\_bb62@yahoo.com](mailto:peterv_bb62@yahoo.com)**



## The USS New Jersey Story

New Jersey was recommissioned at Bayonne, NJ on 21 November 1950 under the command of Captain David M. Tyree. Sailing from Norfolk, Va on 16 April 1951 she arrived on the east coast of Korea on 21 May. New Jersey opened up it first shore bombardment at Wonsan. During her two tours of duty in Korean waters, she was again and again to play the part of seaborne mobile artillery. However, at Wonsan, she received her only combat casualty of the Korean War. When New Jersey took a hit from a shore battery on her number 1 turret, it also recorded its only casualty of the Korean war and the only on board combat casualty in the elite history of the USS New Jersey. SN Robert H. Osterwind died of wounds received these actions. SNJ.E. Schaniel, SN J.H. Dzekon and SN A.A. Bailey were awarded Purple Hearts for injures that they received in this battle.

Between 23 & 27 May and again on 30 May, 1951, New Jersey pounded targets new Yangyang and Kansong, dispersing troop concentrations, dropping a bridge span and destroying three large ammunition dumps. On 4 June, with Admiral Arthur W. Radford, commander in Chief Pacific Fleet and Vice Admiral C. Turner Joy, Commander Baval Forces Far East aboard, New Jersey bombarded targets at Wonsan and two days later at Kansong she fired her main battery at artillery regiment and truck encampment, with Seventh Fleet aircraft spotting targets and reporting the successes. When again off of Wonsan, she again was under attack from shore batteries. After a few near misses splashed to port, New Jersey's precision fire silenced the enemy and destroyed several gun emplacements. Just over a month later, returning to Wonsan, New Jersey again showed the procession of her crew and her guns by firing a perfect 5 for 5 direct hits on gun emplacements on the beach.

On 1 October 1951, General Omar Bradley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and General Matthew B. Ridgeway, Commander in Chief Far East, came aboard to confer with Admiral Martin. Between 1 and 6 October New Jersey was in action at Kansong, Hambung, Hungnam, Tanchon and Songjin. Supply concentrations, Enemy Bunkers, railroads, tunnels, bridges, shore batteries and an oil refinery were no match for the 16 inch guns of The Battleship. In a combined effort with the British ship HMS Belfast and pilots from the HMAS Sydney completed a 5 hour bombardment leveling 10 artillery positions, smashing trenches and bunkers while inflicting some 500 casualties. As reported by a spotter over Kansong; "beautiful shooting every shot on target-most beautiful shooting I have seen in five years."

Relieved as flagship by the USS Wisconsin, New Jersey cleared Yokosuka for Hawaii, Long Beach and the Panama Canal returning 20 December for a six month overhaul. New Jersey then spent the summer under the flag of Rear Admiral H.R. Thurber during NROTC midshipman training cruise of Cherbourg, Lisbon and the Caribbean. On 5 March 1953 New Jersey set sail from Norfolk on her second tour of duty in Korea.

USS New Jersey relieved the USS Missouri BB-63 as the flagship of Vice Admiral Joseph H. Clark, Commander Seventh Fleet. She wasted no time scoring 7 direct hits in 7 minutes in Chongjin. At Pusan, New Jersey manned the rails for welcome the President of the Republic of Korea and Madame Rhee along with American Ambassador Ellis O. Briggs in celebration of her 10th birthday. *Editors Note: Interesting how when America wants to show its mightiest strength, they show the world "The Battleship"*. Between 23 May and 26 July 1953 continued to blast away at targets in her scope. From Train, coastal guns, bridges, factory's and oil storage tanks New Jersey took out whatever was of danger to American and Republic of Korea solders and marines.

On July 29th, the USS New Jersey learned of the truce in the Korean War. The crew celebrated on 20 August during a seven day visit at Hong Kong. She continued operations around Japan and off of Formosa to complete her tour including a visit to Pusan receiving the Korean Presidential Unit Citation for the Seventh Fleet from President Rhee. Returning to Norfolk 14 November, New Jersey spend the next two summers training Midshipmen and sharpening her skills with maneuvers along the Atlantic Coast and in the Caribbean.

USS New Jersey set sail on 7 September 1955 with her first cruise with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. Completing additional midshipmen training in the summer of 1956. On 27 August she made took on her final tour of duty under Vice Admiral Charles Wellborn participating in NATO exercises off Scotland and paid an official visit to Norway were she hosted Crown Prince Olaf before returning to Norfolk on 15 October.

14 December marked the arrival of the USS New Jersey at New York Naval Shipyard before being decommissioned at Bayoone 21 August 1957.

**A Side Note on SN Robert H Osterwind & The Korean War USS New Jersey Veterans**  
Memorials are often raised in honor of decaasd heros, but too often they are of stone, lifeless objects of little use to the living. In memory of SN Osterwind, YN3 G.A. Innocenti presented a check from ships company of the USS New Jersey to the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Fund. Over 50 years later, this organization is still working strong to fight and find a cure for Cancer. To learn more, go to [www.cancerresearchfund.org](http://www.cancerresearchfund.org).



**Items Presently On Hand in Small Stores**

Golf Shirt (Blue) – Embroidered on front over pocket	\$22.00
Golf Shirt (White) – W/ Pocket Screen Printed Front & Back Available in Large & Extra Large Only	\$19.00
Sweatshirt (Blue) – Embroidered Available in Medium, Large & Extra Large	\$21.00
Satin Baseball Jacket (Royal Blue) – Embroidered on Front / Screen Print of Ship on Back Available in Large & Extra Large Only	\$36.00
Coach Style Jacket (Navy Blue) USS New Jersey Silhouette Embroidered Left Chest / Available in Medium, Large & Extra Large	\$26.00
Hat – USS New Jersey on Front “WWII” on back                      “Plankowner” on back “Korea” on back                      “Vietnam” on back	\$12.00 ea.
Hat – (White) USS New Jersey “WWII” on back                      “Plankowner” on back                      “Korea” on back	\$12.00 ea.
Hat – (Red) – USS New Jersey ALL HATS AVAILABLE IN SMALL, MEDIUM & LARGE	\$12.00 ea.
Socks (White) – USS New Jersey BB-62	\$8.00 pair

<b><u>PINS:</u></b>	\$4.00 ea.
Lone Sailor	USS New Jersey BB-62
Cross Flags Navy	Cross Flags WWII Veterans
Cross Flags Vietnam Veterans	WWII Veteran
Korea Veteran	Vietnam Veteran
USS New Jersey Reunion Lapel Pin	

# USS NEW JERSEY (BB-62) NAME PLATE ORDER FORM

## Section #1

(Complete Section #1 by selecting any desired Plate(s) for both Crew Members and Guests/Spouses)

- Provide Standard Style I 2.0" X 3.0" Crew Member Plate. (White/Blue Letters)

USS NEW JERSEY  
BB-62




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Please print desired text as you wish it displayed on the (3) lines provided. We reserve the right to re-arrange text as required for purposes of clarity and to minimize letter distortion. Enter such data as Name, Rate, Theater of Service, Service Years, etc.

## Select Guest Plate

- Provide Standard Style I 2.0" X 3.0" Guest Member (Navy), (White/Blue Letters)

USS NEW JERSEY  
BB-62




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- Provide Style II 1.0" X 3.0" Guest Member Badge

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(Guest Name)

## Section 2-- Complete Back of Form for any required attachments.

### Section 3--Pricing

	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Ea.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Style I Badges	..... X	\$5.00	= .....
Style II Badges	..... X	\$3.00	= .....
Attachments (From Back of Form)	..... X	\$2.00	= .....
Shipping/Postage			<u>\$2.00</u>
<b>Total</b>			_____

Make Checks/Money Orders Payable to:  
**Joseph Porambo**

### Section 4--Mail Badges to:

(Please Provide Your Address)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail Completed Order Forms To:

**Joseph S. Porambo**  
 1503 Elder Avenue  
 Chesapeake VA 23325



**Mark Your Required History String (s)**

Indicate your required Reunion History Badges by placing an “X” in the appropriate Column next to the Reunion City you attended

**(Note: Each of the Following Strings are \$2.00 Each)**

Attachment Name                      Crew                      Guest

Plankowner                                      \_\_\_\_\_

City:	Year		
Long Beach, CA	'82	_____	_____
Atlantic City, NJ	'84	_____	_____
Indianapolis, IN	'86	_____	_____
New Orleans, LA	'88	_____	_____
Daytona Beach, FL	'90	_____	_____
Nashville, TN	'92	_____	_____
Cherry Hill, NJ	'93	_____	_____
San Diego, CA	'94	_____	_____
Norfolk, VA.	'95	_____	_____
Fort Mitchell, KY.	'96	_____	_____
Danvers, MA.	'97	_____	_____
Colorado Springs, CO	'98	_____	_____
Seattle, WA.	'99	_____	_____
Daytona, FL.	'00	_____	_____
Branson, MO.	'01	_____	_____
Cherry Hill, NJ.	'02	_____	_____
Las Vegas, NV	'03	_____	_____
Washington, DC	'04	_____	_____
Valley Force, VA	'05	_____	_____

If ordering more than (1) Guest String, please make attachment listing Guest Data for Badge and Associated Reunion History Required. Include contents of the attachment in Total Cities / Guest Badge QTY In Pricing.

PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER WITH ALL SMALL STORE ORDERS

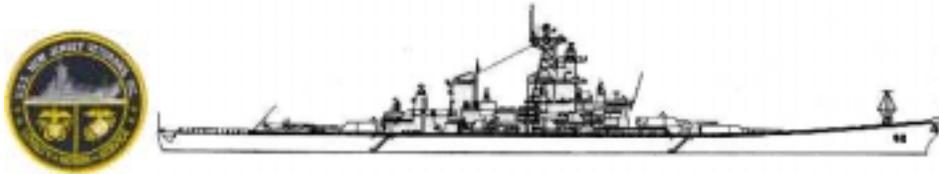
Total Cities Selected \_\_\_\_\_

**The Ship Small Stores**

Available on line at:

<http://www.ussnewjersey.org/store/default.htm>





## **USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS INC. / SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

U.S.S. NEW JERSEY VETERANS, INC. will maintain Scholarship Awards to be given annually. A committee, appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors will make recommendations to the assembled Members at a General Membership Meeting for approval. Applications for the Scholarship Award must be received by the committee not later than July 15, 2005.

Applications postmarked later than July 15, 2005 will not be accepted.

### **GUIDELINES**

1. No committee Member's family or relatives are eligible for an award
2. Scholarships will be awarded to deserving students who have maintained a "B" or 3.0 Grade Point Average
3. Student must be a Graduating Senior, attending an Accredited High School / Vocation Technical Institution. Graduating in the Class of 2005.
4. Applications must be recommended by their High School Counselor.
5. Award must be used at an Accredited Education / Technical Institution for Undergraduate Studies.
6. Awards are Not Available for Graduate Study
7. The Award will be paid directly to the Institution selected.
8. Publicity will be done through the USS New Jersey Veterans Newsletter.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

1. Any son, daughter or grandchild of a member in good standing, includes children of a member in good standing who passed way during the current membership year. (Must be a USS New Jersey Veteran)
2. Must be a High School Senior, Graduating in the Class of 2004.
3. Official Transcripts for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grades, submitted with Application
4. Two (2) Academic References
5. Student's Personal Resume
6. Student's Hand Written Essay
7. Name of Educational / Technical Institution you will attend
8. June 1, 2004 is the last date to request Scholarship Application.
9. Scholarship winners will be notified by phone and a follow-up letter from the President of the USS New Jersey Veterans Inc.

### **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INCLUDED IN NEWSLETTER**

**Submit Application to:**      **Mr. Mike Prime**  
703 Seneca Street  
Fulton, NY 13069









## Touring The Battleship?

I had the occasion to be going to Philadelphia last weekend and took my wife along because I like to. What trip within 100 miles of the Battleship would be worth taking if you didn't stop at home. It's kind of a milk and cookies sorta thing. This would be my wife's first visit on board and I was very much looking forward to showing her around. Particularly because I am from the Lebanon Era, what the ship looks like today is very close to when I was on board. I still know where my rack was and the galley will never change. Coming over the bridge from Philadelphia the first thing I noticed is that there are no signs telling people how to get to the ship. There was a sign for Campbells Field and I knew it was near there, but for those confused on a busy highway, that can easily be missed. Arriving at the parking lot and walking with my wife to the ship was extra special. Remember the first time you saw The Battleship? Of course we all do. Second best to that is seeing her through someone else's eyes for their first time. For some reason, I felt this heart-tugging pride in standing there with my wife next to me as she said nothing but her look said everything. We walked up to the ticket window where I showed my USS New Jersey Veterans Inc. membership card. I was then charged \$8 for the tour. I mentioned that I was a former crewmember and my wife said, "Don't worry about it, they need the money anyway." The young ticket lady; who was behind the register and very busy on the phone talking with someone who had little to do with the USS New Jersey.. (Anyway), she didn't think twice as she handed me our tickets and didn't say a word. Walking up the stairs to the gang plank and walking on to the quarter deck with a salute to the ensign and a salute to the Officer of the Day as I requested permission to come aboard. We were directed to follow the red lines around the ship for the self-guided tour and off we went. From the gun turrets to the galley I don't have to tell you the feelings of being on board again. The Volunteer staff on board is incredible. Ask a question or go around the ship and nobody bothers you at all as long as you don't go below the 2nd deck. Down there, the lights are off and the area closed for safety reasons. Walking up on the bridge, there has been some damage to the Admirals Chair. Other areas have been turned into catering and private areas that are not open to people walking the ship. The fantail is one big tent and closed off. I want to tell you all what a wonderful place this is. The history is amazing and the feel is home. As I walked along the deck, it was interesting to notice the amount of people showing off the old girl to family and friends. I guess over a 60+ year history, there may have been more than a couple of pairs of boots that have walked on her teak decking.

Walk down to where they have constructed the signature wall and you can see the names of all the former crewmembers who have visited since the ship she returned to Camden. As you see the name of a former shipmate, your heart races just a bit more as you wonder how you missed seeing them on board. Seeing the Boy Scouts on board for a tour that day also reminded me as to why it was so important to bring the USS New Jersey back and open her hatches to the public. While not every kid understood the history of the world's greatest battleship, the look in the eyes of those who did, made up for the rest. Read some of the comments in the guest log located next to the gedunk and you will read from both sides. The ones who appreciate and the ones who simply won't understand. Yet!

The volunteers on board are absolutely great. Tell them you are a former crewmember and there is very little they won't do for you. Help you find your bunk area, take you behind the scenes or to your old work station to making sure you get down to the signature wall and add your name for everyone to see.

Are there challenges, absolutely. The souvenir shop is missing key items and I believe that \$60 for a sweater is a bit much. It seems like catering is handled by a contractor who has little understanding about the ship itself and how to handle the teak decking. But in the end, nothing can detract from that smile you'll get and the pride you'll feel from seeing the USS New Jersey tied to the pier at Camden, New Jersey.





# USS New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's BB-62 Memorial Taps List



***"It Was Right!"***

***This was a common phrase during our era. Viet Nam***

***Shipmates,***

***I will not go into the politics of the Vietnam War as it was. I will state however, that we the crew of the USS New Jersey BB-62, in the Republic of Viet Nam waters did "Report For Duty" on 28 September 1968 and departed 1 April 1969 having preformed "Our Duty" as required by honorable sailors at sea on a ship of the line and "It Was Right!"***

***We stand here in front of "The Vietnam Memorial Wall" in the tribute of our fallen brothers and sisters so enshrined here forever. We salute them in honor and also in remembrance of our departed shipmates, USS New Jersey BB-62 Vietnam Era.***

***Although we never sustained any casualties of war, we sustained the condemnation of our fellow Americans and that alone was sufficient to wound our hearts and mind. We are here at the site of "The Healing Wall", hopefully to put aside emotions of the stain placed on us during that war period and reflect with our Captain; retired Admiral J. Edward Snyder, Commanding Officer, USS New Jersey BB-62, Shipmates, Relatives and Friends to do what every Sailor at Sea deserves. "To be remembered and given a final tribute and salute." As we read the names of our departed comrades on this date, 1 October 2004, let us not forget that they "Did Their Duty" in an unpopular war and "It Was Right: Shipmates, we salute you!." BTC Larry Kalakauskis, USN Ted.#@ Fireroom, 1967-1969***

## In Memory

FT3 Armon Baker	FM Division	BT1 William Crocker	B Division
BT1 Jack Davis	B Division	PO3 William Eldridge	B&R Division
CMAA Lyle Chastain		XO James Elfelt	
William Goss	1st Division	IC2 Tom Grogan	E Division
EM3 John Kelso	E Division	MR2 James Gundlach	A Division
SK3 Gregory Haines	S-1 Division	YNC Andrew Lavella	X Division
Ronald Lefferts	D Division	Gerald Littell	1st Division
AVM2 Frank McCance	AV Division	Norris Herbert	N Division
MM3 David Norton	M Division	BT3 Timothy Norton	B Division
Richard Osgood	5th Division	Wesley Owens	
William Stiefel		Fenton Terbush	
Jeffrey Vernallis	Public Affairs	DC1 Carl Weaver	R Division
BT3 Robert Williams	B Division	SK1 Robert Wilson	S-1 Division
Ens Joseph Zajicek	B Division	BT2 Frank Hargrove	B Division







## "A Sailors Like"



I am sitting here and thinking of the days I left behind  
And I think I'll put on paper what is on my mind

People on the outside think a Sailors life is swell  
But I'll let you in on something Bud  
A Sailors life is Hell

But a Sailor has his consolation gather close and I will tell  
When I die I'll get to heaven, cause I've done my hitch in hell

I've scrubbed a million bulkheads and I've chipped ten miles of paint  
A meaner place this side of hell I swear to you there ain't

I've stood for endless hours just waiting for my mail  
I've stood a million watches, been on every special detail

I've shined a million miles of brass and I've scrubbed my dirty duds  
I've swung a million hammocks and I've peeled a million spuds

I've cruised a hundred thousand miles and I've made a thousand ports  
I've spent a night in dirty jails just trying to be a sport

But when the final tap's are sounded and I lay aside lifes cares  
I'll take my final shore leave right up those "Golden Stairs"

Then the angles will welcome me and their harps will sweetly play  
For I signed a thousand pay checks and I've spent them in a day

Then Saint Peter will greet me and loudly he will say  
Take your front seat in Heaven Sailor,  
cause you've done your "Hitch in Hell"

Blair Schetrompf US Navy Retired  
USS New Jersey May 47 - April 48

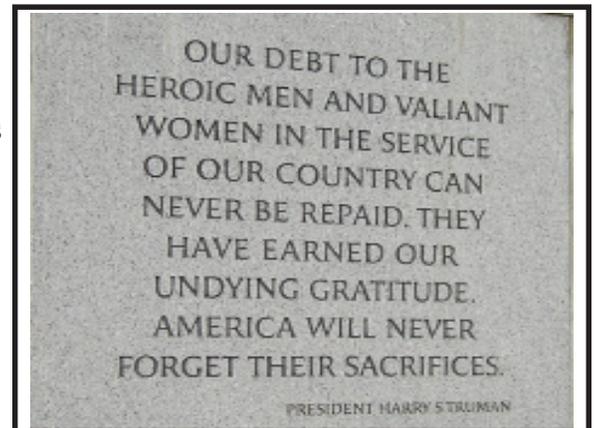
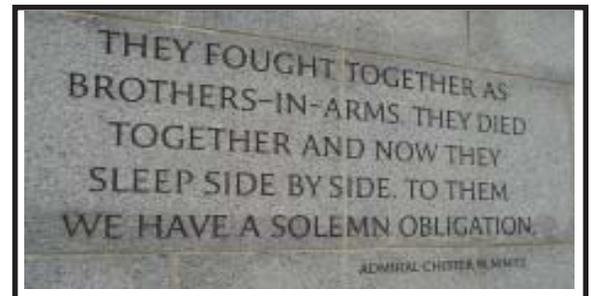
Shared this poem with me dated

USS New Jersey BB-62

August 7, 1947



## From the Walls of the World War II Memorial



## Are You Joining Us On Board in 2005



In 2002, The USS New Jersey Veterans Association held its annual reunion in Cherry Hill, NJ about our home, the USS New Jersey. Well over 1350 fellow members came together for a very successful get-together. For those of you who were in attendance, you know that things got a bit cramped. Better yet, if you were from the Lebanon ERA or in some cases, the Vietnam ERA you were relegated to passageway seating. Kind of reminded me of being a kid again at Grandma's for Thanksgiving. Anyway, in order to help make our gathering a bit more comfortable and pleasant we are asking that any of you who are planning on attending the reunion on board The Big "J" in 2005 to please send Ray Casey an e-mail at [info@militaryreunionplanners.com](mailto:info@militaryreunionplanners.com). or contact Dick Esser at (440) 246-5594 and leave a message. Thank you!



## USS New Jersey Reunion

Webster defines reunion as a state of being reunited. Brilliant, isn't it. But if you give it some thought, what our reunions do is provide for each and everyone of us to relive a time in our lives that is much different than the lives we live now. For those who attend the events, it must be a very special time that can only be explained by we who are there. And yet, for those that are there, no explanation is necessary. To that wonderful end, take a look at a few pictures which in and of themselves help to explain why we come together every year to be... Reunited.

