

USS New Jersey Veterans, Inc.



## ***“THE JERSEY BOUNCE”***

VOLUME XXX NO. 2

Fall 2015

[WWW.USSNEWJERSEY.ORG](http://WWW.USSNEWJERSEY.ORG)

President: Steve Sheehan

News Editor: Nick Rasch



***Our Mighty Lady Rests Peacefully On The Delaware River  
Her Weapons Have Been Silenced, Not By Enemy Action, But By Changing Times***

It is difficult to conceive that one of the most feared warships ever commissioned is now a museum dedicated to helping the younger generations understand the trials and tribulations crew members encountered from WW II, through to the Persian Gulf Conflict.

### **HOW DID THIS HAPPEN**

The *USS New Jersey* was towed by the tug ‘*Sea Victory*’ from Bremerton, Washington to Philadelphia, for restoration work in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard prior to the planned donation for use as a museum.

On 20 January 2000 the Secretary of the Navy, Richard Danzig, made the official announcement and 15 October 2000 the ship was moved to her final resting place on the Camden waterfront.

Shortly after her arrival the ship was opened to the public, officially beginning her new career as a museum with the official name ‘*Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial.*’



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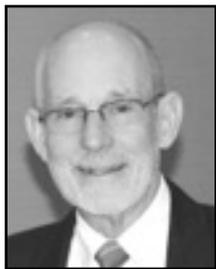
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# OFFICERS, USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS ORGANIZATION, INC.



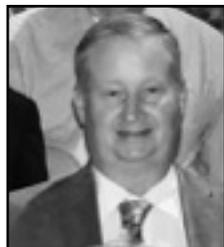
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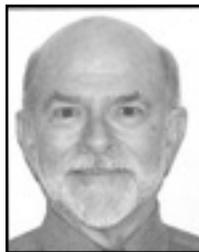
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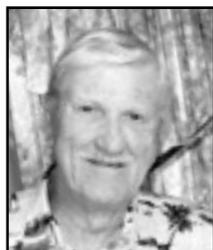
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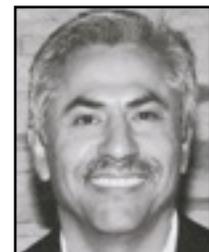
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# Minutes USS New Jersey Veterans Inc.

Business Meeting Saturday 8/23/15 10:00am

Officers Present: President-Steve Sheehan, Vice President-Bob Dingman  
Treasurer Elect-Phil Tasker, Secretary Elect-Danny Fielder  
Membership Chairman-Garry Blaylock, Master at Arms Ray Kehoe  
Editor-Nick Rasch

Opening:Steve Sheehan- Thanks to all attending followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Phil Tasker : Read of past minutes dated 8/23/14. Motion to accept Ray Kehoe, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ralph Millimum, Motion carried.

Steve Sheehan brought up few things in regards to the 2016 reunion. We will not be staying at Crowne Plaza in Cherry Hill, as we have received a better deal at the Embassy Suites in Philadelphia. Free shuttle, free breakfast and all rooms are suites.

Treasurer Report:Phil Tasker beginning balance \$44,127.58 Receipts \$24,897.00 as of 8/12/15. Disbursements \$24,012.82 .

Current balance:\$45,020.59  
52% from reunion registration  
22% from dues  
10% from donations

Reunion expenses paid out 64% from account as of this meeting approximately. 95% of reunion expenses have been paid. 17% will go to scholarships. The next Bounce issue will cost approx.\$4000.00. Motion to accept report Jim Barnett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Meyer.Motion carried.

Membership Report: Gary Blaylock: Current 840 members, 27 deaths this year and 18 new members. Garry made a point of information to the Vietnam Veterans about Agent Orange and that the USS New Jersey was exposed. There are a long list of symptoms to go with this. He encourages everyone to get a VA card and have this checked out.

Motion to accept membership report made by Ernie Dalton and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ralph Millimum. Motion carried.

Old Business: None to report.

## New Business:

Steve Sheehan: USS New Jersey Memorial Plaque was dedicated December 7<sup>th</sup> 2014. There was a very good representation from the organization. Plaque cost \$3,000.00.

Point of information to go along with Agent Orange, is to have an asbestos screening. You should go through an advocate group. Check VA website.

**Scholarships:** Steve Sheehan said 11 applied 3 were accepted.  
Recipients are: Tim Breckel-Hembred, CT., Brooke Roberson-Westfield High School,Chantilly,VA., and Rachel Stager -Fort Loramie,Ohio.

All are very outstanding students.

Officers voted on to finish remaining terms

Treasurer: Phil Tasker nominated, Motion to accept Eddie Dalton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ralph Millimum - Motion carried.  
Secretary: Danny Fielder nominated, Motion to accept Bill Meyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ralph Millimum - Motion carried.

**Welcome aboard gentlemen**

Lifetime membership possibilities, look at brackets and sliding scale for 2016 reunion  
Ray Kehoe made motion to look into possibilities, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ralph Millimum - Motion carried.

Michael Schappaugh had a few topics for discussion, they are as follows:

Membership applications should be provided in Bounce, along with addressed envelope. Various points of discussion were made on this.

Advertisement: Bumper stickers, window decals etc...

List of members: It was pointed out for security reasons and protection against I.D. theft we could not provide this info. Maybe able to come up with other means to provide communication.

When dues are due: Consolidate into bounce, possibility of online payment, maybe have a choice on how to pay.

Promote organization : Maybe put into other military magazines, find out about other reunions and have those organizations help promote and we could do the same thing for other groups. Bob Dingman pointed out that he was taking care of the New Jersey's Facebook's page. a lot of points and discussion on use of Facebook.

Group pictures should be dated in order to keep up with each reunion.

Bob Dingman pointed out that we did not have a photographer this year, we would do pictures ourselves.

Garry Blaylock pointed out that if anybody needed new membership cards because of wear let him know and he would send a new one.

Bob Dingman brought up new business related to the USS Iowa Memorial at Iowa Point. He has a friend that served on the Iowa during Korea. The USS Iowa organization is trying to raise funds to have a 16" barrel moved to Iowa point in memory of the 47 sailors who lost their lives. They will need to raise approx. \$150,000.00 total. They have raised a little over \$30,000.00. They would like to know if we could help out. This money is not going to the ship, it is stickily to help out with the memorial at Iowa Point. Motion by Joe Cusumano to donate \$1000.00 to go towards this. A-lot of discussion was brought up in regards to this matter, with some hesitation. It was pointed out to look at this in a Christian perspective, when others help one another there could be return in the future, but no guaranteed. We should give willingly. No further discussion, a 2<sup>nd</sup> was made by Morris Van Fleet, motion carried.

Steve Sheehan brought up the 2017 reunion. Looking at New Orleans, La. as well as Chicago/Great Lakes. Ray Kehoe mentioned how nice it would be to see a recruit review. He mentioned that there was plenty to do in that area, also mentioned for future to have a reunion on a cruise. This would be costly and possibly eliminate several people. No further discussion. Motion made by Ralph Millimum for the Chicago/Great Lakes area, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich Koehnen. Motion carried.

Kenneth Rodgers was a Plank Owner in WWII and passed away earlier this year. His family has bought one admission for the various events at this years reunion and wanted to donate the proceeds to be raffled off . We as an organization would like to send our heart felt thanks and gratitude for this wonderful gesture. Thank you, this family will be in all our thoughts. The winners from the raffle are as follows:

Welcome Aboard Dinner-Jim Wood  
Gorge Expedition-Rich Koehnen  
City of Roses Tour-Bob Williams  
Banquet-Ray Kehoe

Leon Tucker offered a gift to whoever wanted DVD's on New Jersey and Missouri. The one DVD is on birth of the New Jersey to final decommission. Thank you Leon.

This concluded the business meeting. The 2015 business meeting adjourned.

Recorded Minutes  
Danny Fielder: Secretary  
USS New Jersey Veterans Inc.



**‘ E ‘ Division Vietnam Members At The Reunion**

**This represented the largest group at the reunion**

**It took a concentrated effort to get this many members from a single Division to attend the reunion**

**Congratulations**



**USS New Jersey Veterans Association  
2015 Financials  
Summary**

		<u>Operating Account</u>	<u>Savings Account</u>
Adjusted Bank Balances at January 1, 2015		\$6,012.44	\$38,115.14
<u>2015 Receipts:</u>			
Dues	5,440.00		
Ship Deck Restoration Contributions	2,470.00		
Reunion Registrations	12,982.00		
50/50 Proceeds	1,844.00		
Small Stores Sales	780.00		
Bank Interest	8.83		
Miscellaneous	1,381.00		
Total Receipts	24,905.83	24,897.00	8.83
<u>2015 Disbursements:</u>			
Reunion Expenses	15,466.19		
Jersey Bounce	4,130.84		
Web Hosting	0.00		
Small Stores Inventory	1,026.38		
Postage	296.33		
Scholarships	3,000.00		
Miscellaneous	93.08		
Total Disbursements	24,012.82	(24,012.82)	
Bank Balances at August 12, 2015		\$6,896.62	\$38,123.97

**Financial Summary Furnished By Phillip Tasker, Treasurer**



### **Kenneth Rodger Memorial Donation**

USS New Jersey Veterans Inc.  
Phillip Tasker, Treasurer  
470 Greystone Court SW  
Vero Beach, FL 32967

Kenneth Rodgers was a World War II Plank Owner. Kenneth passed away April 19<sup>th</sup> and was a very proud battleship sailor. His friends donated \$300 to the Deck Restoration Fund in memory of Ken and also purchased one admittance to each event at the Portland Reunion to be given away to a deserving New Jersey Sailor. We held a drawing at the business meeting to reimburse one participant in each event in accordance with the wishes of this donation. This was a magnanimous gesture by good friends of an old shipmate.

#### **Welcome Aboard Dinner (\$35.00)**

Jim Wood  
PO Box 5392  
Shasta Lake, CA 96089

#### **Columbia Gorge Adventure Tour (\$53.00)**

Richard Koehnen  
392 Lemire Court  
Chula Vista, CA 91910

#### **City of Roses Tour (\$39.00)**

Robert Williams  
PO Box 280  
Newton Jet, NH 03859

#### **Banquet Dinner (\$47.00)**

Ray Kehoe  
1022 Pin Oak Drive  
Warren, MO 63383

## Synopsis Of The 29 th Reunion Held In Portland, Oregon,

**The 29th Reunion was held at the Airport Holiday Inn, Portland, Oregon August 19 - 23, 2015 and provided our West Coast shipmates the opportunity to attend with minimal travel. The reunion committee did another outstanding job by providing excellent tours, great food, and an environment for shipmates to relax, unwind, and become reacquainted.**

### WEDNESDAY

Wednesday afternoon most of our members checked into the Holiday Inn Hotel and proceeded to the USS New Jersey Veterans registration table to be greeted by several of the charming members of our Registration Committee.

The reunion commenced with the Welcome Aboard Dinner. President Steve Sheehan greeted everyone at the door.

Vice-President Dingman talked about the tours planned for the next two days. He reiterated that he was pleasantly surprised that the tours were over booked and that he had to order a second bus to accommodate everyone.

Immediately prior to the dinner Danny Fielder gave the invocation.

The dinner was excellent. Didn't matter what you ordered everyone got to taste a pork chop. It was the biggest pork chop I had ever seen. I'm sure that nobody went hungry.

The event started off great, good food, and outstanding companionship, provided us an opportunity to revisit old times with friends and shipmates that we haven't seen in over a year.

After a few hours most of the members drifted off to get some well needed rest.

### THURSDAY

After a great FREE breakfast we all drifted out to the parking lot to get on the tour busses. We were going to tour the Columbia Gorge. Several of us that traveled by land to



**Registration Committee**



**Just Hanging Around The Registration Desk**



**Members Enjoying The Dinner**

the reunion had traveled on this route. However, this tour was like nothing I had ever experienced. We didn't travel up the Interstate Highway, NO we traveled at the top of the cliffs. It would take unbelievable skills to drive an automobile on these roads and here we were in a 43 foot long bus. (I have a 36 foot RV and when ask what impressed me the most about the tour, I replied, "the skill of the drivers.")

The scenery on the tour was unbelievable. If you ever have an opportunity to travel the Columbia Gorge don't pass it up.

We visited four water falls and the Bonneville Dam. Had a great lunch at the Multnomah Fall Lodge.

After the tour most of us crashed until dinner time.



**Our Bus**



**Columbia River Gorge Separating Washington State From Oregon**



**Multnomah Falls**



**Pittock Mansion  
Located approximately 1000 ft. above the city**

## FRIDAY

Friday morning started with a FREE breakfast. After breakfast we attended the Memorial Service reference page 16.

At the completion of the Memorial service we boarded the busses again for a tour of Portland. The tour guide explained various areas and highlights throughout the city. The tour continue to the Pittock Mansion. The tour climaxed with a visit to the International Rose Test Garden. This was unique as it featured several acres of roses in all shapes, colors, and sizes.

## SATURDAY

After the free breakfast we went to the Bridal Veil Room for the General Membership Business Meeting. Details of this meeting are found on page 3.

At 1800 we drifted to the Latourell-Multnomah Room for the Banquet.

Danny Fielder gave the invocation commencing an outstanding evening.

The food was excellent and everyone enjoyed the event. Immediately after the meal Pictures were taken in according to the Era.

The Era pictures are on pages 12 through 15. In addition, pictures of our members attending the banquet are on the cover of this booklet.

President Sheehan gave a short dissertation on the ritual and meaning of the Lone Sailor Table.

### LONE SAILOR TABLE

- The TABLE is small, and set for one --
- The TABLECLOTH is white -- Symbolizing purity of intention in responding to the nation's call to arms.
- The SINGLE RED ROSE: in the vase, signifies the

blood that many have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America.

- The CHAIR is empty, for the sailor is not here.
- The WINE GLASS is inverted -- he cannot toast with us this night.
- The SLICE OF LEMON-- Reminding us of his bitter suffering.



### LONE SAILOR TABLE

The GRAIN OF SALT -- Representing the countless tears of his family.

- The BURNING CANDLE and yellow ribbon -- Symbolizing everlasting hope of a reunion with the missing sailor.
- **Remember! -- All who have served alongside them; we who have donned the same proud uniform, being sworn to the same faith and allegiance -- We will never forget their sacrifice.**

**After dinner Steve Sheehan and Bob Dingman held the 50/50 raffle.**

### **The Winners Were:**

Garry Blaylock	\$504.00
Morris Van Fleet	\$302.00
A. M. Zahlaway	\$202.00
Ernie Dalton	\$205.00
Ray Kehoe	\$47.00

Garry Blaylock donated \$504.00 to the Deck Restoration.

Ernie Dalton donated \$205.00 to the Deck Restoration.

Ray Kehoe donated \$47.00 to the Deck Restoration.

**Gentlemen, thanks for your generous donation.**



### **President Sheehan presents a Plaque of Excellence to Deborah Rogers of The Holiday Inn**

Phil Rowen, the CEO of the USS New Jersey Battleship Museum and Memorial, was the guest speaker.

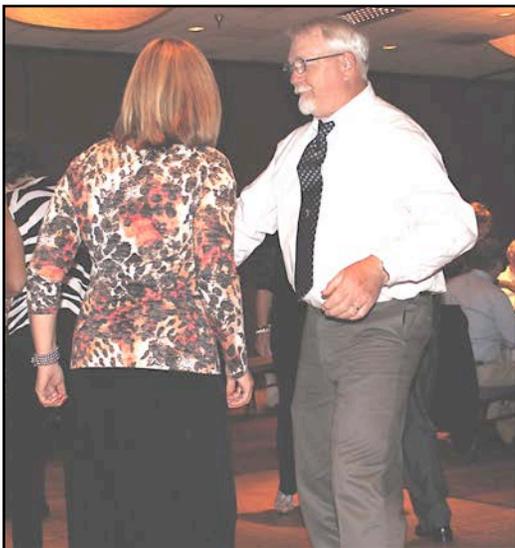
Phil provided an excellent dissertation of the status of the ship which including future plans. It appears that our ship is in good hands for many years to come.

## Plaque Award Ceremony

Plaques were awarded for the oldest member in attendance, member that traveled the furthest, youngest member, and a Plaque to the Holiday Inn for excellence.

After the Plaque award ceremony the DJ commenced a great evening of music which motivated our guys and girls to get out on the floor and dance.

YES!!! Danny Fielder stepped up to fill the vacancy left by Ellie Porambo. Danny had everyone (yes everyone) on their feet and dancing until the music stopped.



**Could That Be  
Ginger Rodgers and Fred Astaire ?**



**President Sheehan and Mr. Dance (Danny Fielder)  
Cutting Up On The Dance Floor**



**Members Enjoying The Welcome Aboard Dinner**



**WW II VETERANS**



**KOREAN WAR VETERANS**



**VIETNAM VETERANS**



**LEBANON & PERSIAN GULF VETERANS**

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
**Conducted By Steve Sheehan and Bob Dingman**

**Friday Morning**

After breakfast we strolled down to the Bridal Veil Room to attend the Memorial Service directed by President Sheehan and assisted by Vice-President Dingman and Secretary Danny Fielder.

The Memorial Service was very well attended and commenced with President Sheehan directing the Pledge Of Allegiance. Sec. Fielder gave the invocation and read several verses of "Remember Me But Let Me Go."

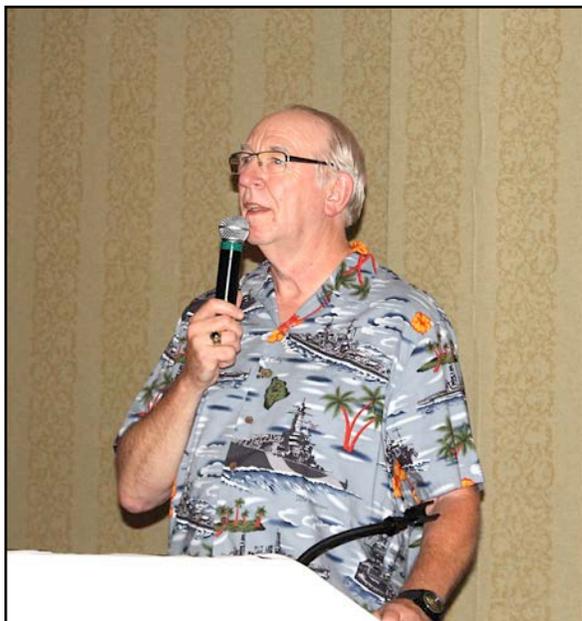
President Sheehan then read the 32 names of the recently deceased, with Ray Kehoe tolling the ship's bell as each crew member's name was announced (reference page 47).

The Memorial Wreath was then moved from one side of the room to the other symbolizing throwing the wreath into the ocean.

At the conclusion of the reading of the names of the deceased Mr. Philippe Chantreau (B.A.A.) from Vancouver, Washington played taps.



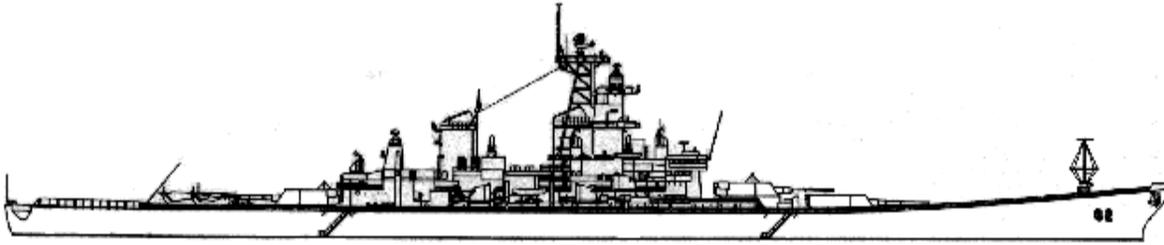
**President Sheehan Conducting the Memorial Service**



**Vice-Pres. Dingman Assisting**



**Bugler  
Philippe Chantreau**



**USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS, INC.  
30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REUNION**

- WHERE:** Embassy Suites Philadelphia Airport  
9000 Bartram Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19153
- WHEN:** August 10th thru 14th, 2016
- COST:** **Two room Suite** (king w/sofa bed or 2 double beds w/sofa bed)  
**1-4 guests per suite \$119.00 plus tax**  
Check-in Time: 4:00 PM / Check-out Time: 11:00PM
- RESERVATIONS:** 1-215-365-4500 (Hotel Direct - suggested telephone method)  
1-800-362-2779 (Embassy Suites Reservations, toll free)  
Mention the: USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS 30<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

Online reservations can be made at the  
**Embassy Suites Philadelphia Airport** website  
In the Group Code box, enter text: CESUSS  
(If you have a problem, there is a link on our website)

**Reservations received after July 12, 2016, may not qualify for the group rate and rooms may not be available. Book early!**

Special group rates are available for reservations between  
Aug. 7th (Check-in) thru Aug. 16th (Check-out)  
Handicapped rooms available. Free parking. (Normal fee \$7/day)  
Cancellation Policy - requires notification 72 hours prior to your scheduled arrival date.

**Free made-to-order breakfast buffet for those who stay at the Embassy Suites.**

Your room key card is your ticket for breakfast.

**Complimentary drinks daily at the hotels evening reception for guests**



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Greetings Shipmates

As you may know I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the Battleship New Jersey. As such I would like to give you some news about events on the ship.

In September Philadelphia hosted the Conference of World Meeting of Families, which Pope Francis attended. In anticipation of this event the Battleship opened the Overnight Encampment Program to out of town visitors. The response was overwhelming and sold out instantly. The ship offered a Mass on the fantail by a former Battleship Chaplain to those who did not have tickets to the Papal Mass.

Also in September the Battleship and a local radio station hosted the annual Beer Blast. This is an opportunity to tour the ship, sample a variety of beer, food, and enjoy live music. We made sure the tour was first, we don't want intoxicated people stumbling through the ship. We have done enough of that to last a lifetime! Beer distributors provided samples of local craft beers, local restaurants provided food for the event and the radio station's "house band" provided the

music. Beer, brats, bands and bombs, what a combination! The event was a sellout. Naturally, your President and First Lady were on board.

On September 28<sup>th</sup> the Battleship sponsored a Golf tournament, "Sink Some for the Battleship" is the name of the fund raiser. I plan to participate. Results may follow depending on what those results are.

One of our local TV stations featured the USS New Jersey on "6ABC Loves Museums". They filmed a tour of the ship given by Jason Hall, our ship's historian. The show aired on August 12<sup>th</sup> after the ship was named "The Best Tour You Have Not Taken". Hopefully now there are fewer people who have not taken the tour.

The Battleship was able to take possession of a twenty foot long brass model of the ship. It was in the Visitors' Center in Philadelphia for visitors to the World Meeting of Families to view and hopefully inspire a visit to the ship. The plan is to relocate the model to Trenton to inspire the politicians to raise our 1.4 million dollar a year funding. I

will see if we can get it back for our reunion next summer.

The Battleship is now on better financial footing. We have received a few substantial donations, the State of New Jersey funding is now in its third year and looks like it will continue. Both short term and long term loans at good interest rates have been secured. This funding will allow capital improvements to the gangway and mooring lines, a gas fired heater, the continuation of the restoration of the deck and other ongoing projects. It is still vitally important that our membership continues to help financially whenever possible. To give you some idea of the day to day expenses of the ship, just the utility bill for the first half of this year was over \$300,000.00. Every little bit helps.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. We had a terrific time at the reunion in Portland Oregon and are looking forward to seeing many of you in Philadelphia in August.

Steve Sheehan

President



8th Reunion  
1995  
Norfolk  
20 years ago



## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Hello Shipmates,

I hope that this issue of the Bounce finds you and yours in good health. It seems like the summer flew by this year.

Everyone I talked with had a great time in Portland. We enjoyed visiting the impressive Columbia River Gorge on the Thursday tour and the City of Roses tour of Portland on Friday, which included a stop at the spectacular Portland International Test Rose Garden.

Despite the ongoing drought and forest fires in the region, the Oregonians were fun and friendly and the area, scenic and beautiful. I want to thank everyone who helped out with the reunion planning and day to day operations in Portland. You know who you are and I thank you deeply for your help.

Looking forward to 2016, we will be returning to the ship for the fifth time since 2002. We will be staying at the Embassy Suites - Philadelphia Airport, next August 10-14. We researched staying in Philadelphia, but the cost of the rooms and the daily parking fees for those who drive, made it too expensive for many of our members who are on a fixed income. The Embassy Suites offers very easy access to the airport, via a free hotel shuttle, free made-to-order breakfast buffet, all guests rooms are two room suites for 1-4 guests, free parking and a complimentary happy hour each evening. Please see the hotel reservations information in THIS ISSUE of the Bounce. If you have

ANY problems with making hotel reservations, please call me at 603-528-4436. If you don't call, I can't help.

At the general meeting, the membership in attendance voted to hold the 2017 reunion in the Chicago/Great Lakes area. I'm preparing the request for proposals to send to hotels in that area. We are planning on including a trip to a navy recruit graduation, at Great Lakes Recruit Training Command, on the Friday of our reunion.

In August, our Storekeeper, John Chase, had to resign due to a medical issue. We pray that he has a speedy recovery and is back at the reunions in the very near future.

Since I live a half hour from John, he and his son brought all the small stores inventory to my house and I have taken over his duties....on a temporary basis.

We are looking for a member to take over the Storekeeper position. If you are willing to take over the small stores, until the 2016 reunion, please call me.

If you live in the Northeast, I'll deliver the inventory and save substantial shipping costs, but this is not a requirement for the job!

The duties of planning the 2016 reunion and the 2017 reunion in Chicago/Great Lakes is more than enough to keep me busy for the next year. Helping with the store would be deeply appreciated.

I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a great

holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

### In closing

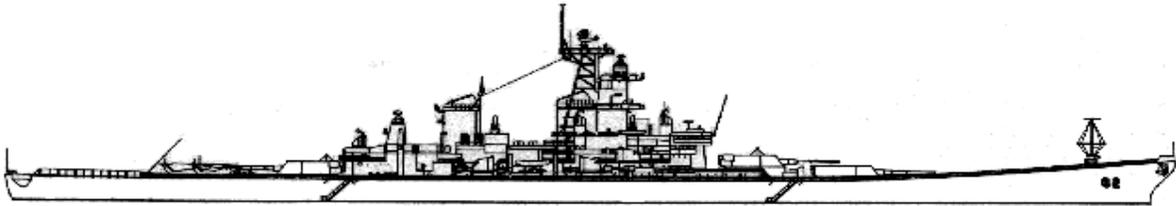
Thank you for all the support and encouragement you have given the Board of Directors.

We really appreciate it.

Thanks,  
Bob (EM2, '67-'69)

603-528-4436





## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Well let me begin with saying hello to everyone from my new position. Since the passing of our Treasurer Pete Vance, Phil Tasker had both the treasurer and Secretary positions. I was approached at this years reunion in Portland to finish out the term as Secretary. Phil was asked to serve as the new Treasurer. we both voted in to serve these positions until the election in 2016.

I will have a lot of growing to do in this position, but I'm willing to help out the organization to the best of my ability. The organization could really use some more support from the Lebanon/Gulf group. Please really consider and think about helping out the USS New Jersey

Veterans Inc. Sheila, my wife, after my beating, said she would support me and the organization as well.

There will be some challenges for me in the upcoming year, but I am looking forward to the reunion next year, and interact with more of the members. At every reunion we have various prizes that are given away. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the winners. Garry Blaylock won first prize in the master 50/50 and he donated all \$504.00 in proceeds to the ships deck restoration project.

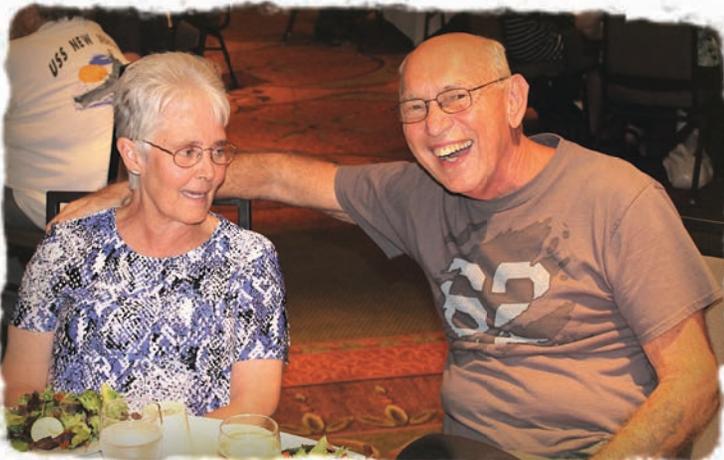
Ernie Dalton won the separate Banquet 50/50 and donated the \$205.00 proceeds to deck

restoration and to the scholarships-\$102.50 to each.

Ray Kehoe won reimbursement of one banquet dinner contributed by the Kenneth Rogers donation and those proceeds of \$47.00 were donated to the deck restoration. A hearty well done and thank you to these men.

Hope to see you next year as we go back to the ship. God Bless and have a great year.

Danny Fielder  
Secretary





## MESSAGE FROM THE LIAISON DIRECTOR

### Shipmates

New burial regulations in effect now will allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to automatically pay the maximum amount allowable under law to most eligible surviving spouses more quickly and efficiently, without the need for a written application.

Under former regulations, the VA paid burial benefits on a reimbursement basis, which required survivors to submit receipts for relatively small one-time payments that VA generally paid at the maximum amount permitted by law.

“VA is committed to improving the speed and ease of delivery of monetary burial benefits to Veterans’ survivors during their time of need,” said Acting VA Secretary Sloan Gibson. “The recent changes allow VA to help these survivors bear the cost of funerals by changing regulations to get them the benefits more quickly.”

This automation enables the VA to pay a non-service-connected or service-connected burial allowance to an estimated 62,000 eligible surviving spouses out of a projected 140,000 claimants for burial benefits in 2014. Surviving spouses will be paid upon notice of the Veteran’s death using information

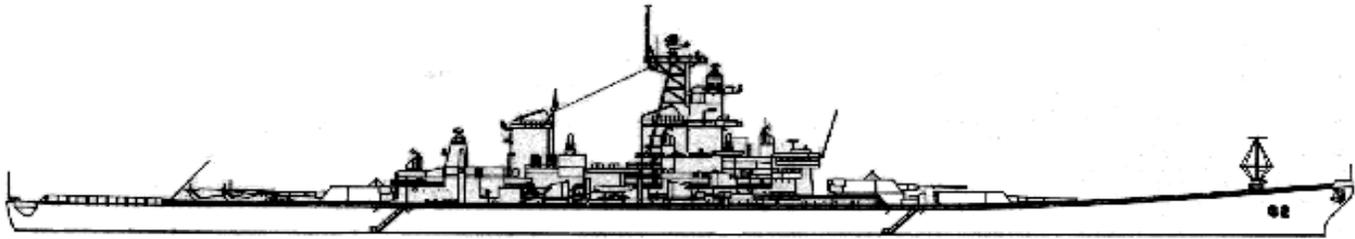
already in VA systems. The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300, and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service.

This revised regulation will further expedite the delivery of these benefits to surviving spouses, reduce the volume of claims requiring manual processing, and potentially make available resources for other activities that benefit Veterans and their survivors.

For more information on monetary burial benefits, call 1-800-827-1000 or contact your VSO.

Enjoy the day!





## MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

### Hi Shipmates

I hope all of you and your families are doing as well as possible.

Louise and I had a wonderful time in Portland. It was a great reunion and everything was so beautiful out there. What a great country we live in! I missed the ones of you that weren't able to be there.

We are in the process of reaching out to members that are more than two years behind in their dues and we're not getting many responses.

I urge you to keep good records of when you send your checks in for your dues and let us know when you have a change of address.

Thank you so much for the help and support that I get from you guys. If you need information about anything concerning your membership status, feel free to contact me anytime. Please see my contact information below.

Cell # 931-797-4744

Home # 423-710-3838

Email address:  
[gblaylockbb62@gmail.com](mailto:gblaylockbb62@gmail.com)

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you next year in Philadelphia for the 2016 reunion when we go back to the Ship if you are able to make the trip!!!

Sincerely,

Garry Blaylock

## WE VISITED THE BONNEVILLE LOCK AND DAM

### What is a NAVIGATION LOCK, what does it do, and how does it work?

The Bonneville Lock is a *POUND LOCK*. A *pound lock* is a type of lock that is used almost exclusively nowadays on canals and rivers. A *pound lock* has a chamber (the pound) with gates at both ends that

control the level of water in the pound.

18 meters (60 feet) higher than that of the water downstream.

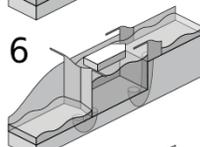
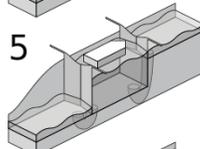
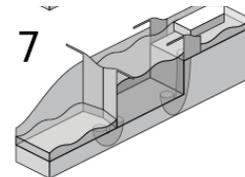
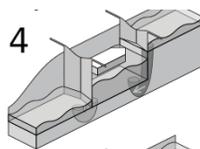
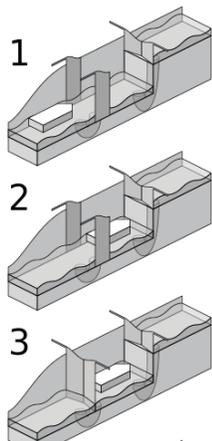
At Bonneville the level of the water upstream of the dam is usually about

#### What Does It Do

Locks are used to make a river more easily navigable, or to allow a canal to take a reasonably direct line across land that is not level.

**The Navigation Lock permits vessels to pass from one level to the other.**

#### How Does It Work



1. Boat going upstream, (upper gate closed)
2. boat enters the chamber (upper gate closed)
3. Both gates closed
4. Both gates closed, valve open permitting upstream water to enter chamber
5. Both gates closed, water level in chamber at upstream level
6. Top gate opens, bottom gate remains closed
7. boat proceeds

## TRAVELING TO THE 29th USS NEW JERSEY REUNION by NICK & SYLVIA RASCH

Sylvia and I realized that traveling to a union being held in Portland Oregon provided many opportunities. There are several different methods to travel, by air, car, boat, motorcycle. Greyhound Bus, bike, or walk. We chose a completely different mode, our RV.

First traveling by airline would be the fastest and most economical.

Second traveling by auto would be too exhausting and very expensive, by boat, motorcycle, bike, or foot impractical.

Third, traveling by RV would be one of the most expensive, slowest and most exhausting but would provide opportunities to visit friends, relatives, and unique places.

Hell, you only live once, so we decided to fuel up the old RV and plan the trip of our lifetime. We also fully understood that it would take us at least 2 days to travel the same distance air travelers would cover in less than one hour.

It was approximately 3000 miles from Triangle Virginia to Portland Oregon. A long trip but we were anxious to make the journey. Did I say that our RV was not new but 18 years old? Here we are, two senior citizens in a very mature RV going across the country.

After having the tires checked we started planning and planning and more planning.

Well on July 11th we were on our way. Stayed several days in the Camden, New Jersey area which provided an opportunity to visit our ship.

In addition, we were able to attend Nick's granddaughter's engagement party held at the Camden Marina adjacent to the ship. This was a fine affair and extremely well attended. We had the chance to visit with most

of our friends that resided in Southern New Jersey.

From Camden we were off to New York City. This turned out to be quite an experience for Nick. Unfortunately he made a wrong turn and we found ourself crossing the Tapen Zee bridge. After several hours we were finally going in the right direction to an RV site (close to New York City). Did I say close? It was 67 miles from the city. The next day we traveled into the city to visit Nick's granddaughter. What do

you do when with your car when you arrive in New York city? This is when you would like to fold it up and put it into your pocket. I knew that every car had a horn but this was the first time I discovered that every driver continuously used the horn. Also I learned some new curse words that it appeared every driver in New Your City uses.

After a very brief stay we were off to western New York to visit with our daughter that had recently moved to the Lake Ontario area.



**With The New Coat Of Paint She Looks Beautiful  
She Appears Ready To Raise The Anchor And Cruise Down The  
Delaware River And Back Out To Sea**



**Sure Glad The Shark Was On the Other Side Of The Glass  
Camden Aquarium**

Much to my surprise I found out that mosquitos loved the area and were especially fond of me. We were able to visit several small villages in the area and have dinner on the pier adjacent to their boat.

All to quickly we were on our way to Niagara Falls, Honeymoon Heaven.

I had visited the falls several times in the past but had never had the opportunity to ride the Maid of the Mist. This was an item on my bucket list so I left Sylvia in the Visitors Center and away I went. After standing in line for a little over 2 hours I had my ticket. The line slowly went down to the dock and I learned that I was not going to ride the Maid Of The Mist but instead it was going to be Horneblower II. They provided me with a high quality raincoat (something like a trash bag). I had requested permission to pilot the boat up the Niagara River to the Falls but much to my dismay, the Captain denied my request. Yes, I really enjoyed the cruise and Yes I got soaked.

Departing the Horneblower II, in good nature the Captain and several members of the crew chatted with me and explained why I couldn't pilot the boat. They knew that I was only joking and wished me a bon fair well.

We were really burning up the highway. At this point in the trip we were averaging 75 miles per day. I calculated that it would take over 40 days to arrive in Portland, sometime around August 21st.

We traveled from Niagara Falls to Mununee State Park (outside Dayton, Ohio). If you ever have a chance to get to Ohio this is a great State Park located along the southern side of Lake Erie. From there we traveled on to Wisconsin.

This was the worst day of the entire trip. The Interstate took us through Chicago. Fortunately we were



**Niagara Fall Up Close**

ahead of the rush hour traffic and it still took us 2 hour and 45 minutes to get across Chicago. Small matter when you are on vacation and traveling across the country. Would have liked to divert to Milwaukee and sample a few of their brews. We experienced one of the most beautiful sunsets while camping in a field in Minnesota.

We were really rolling along now. Looks like we were going to make our target date of August 18 for the reunion.



**Minnesota Sunset**

Traveling through South Dakota we bypassed the Mitchell Corn Palace and headed directly to Wall. Wall, South Dakota is a very interesting place. It is located just outside the Badlands and is a great place to relax and enjoy the shops.

Wall is a very small town but has everything, Dinosaurs, bikers, two RV Parks and many shops and an excellent area for youngsters which includes a full sized fire breathing



**Nick Found a New Girlfriend**



**Dinosaur at Wall, South Dakota**

Tyrannosaurus Rex. Nick found his ideal girlfriend there. She just sat silently and never said a word.

Staying at Wall provided us the opportunity to visit the Badlands. Adjacent to the Badlands were Sylvia's favorite animals, Prairie Dogs. We traveled over one of the worst dirt roads to get to the Prairie Dog Village only to find they had moved. Departing the village we found they had moved about a mile west and yes there they were, hundreds of Prairie Dogs. Did I



**Badlands Live Up To It's Name**



mention Rattlesnakes? Yes, they were there also.

Moving West we arrived in Rapid City. There is much to do in this area but we were limited in time.

First we visited Custer State Park housing the largest Public Buffalo herds in the world. The state regulates the size of the herd from 950 to 1250 depending on the available food. The state provides start up herds for various localities throughout the world.

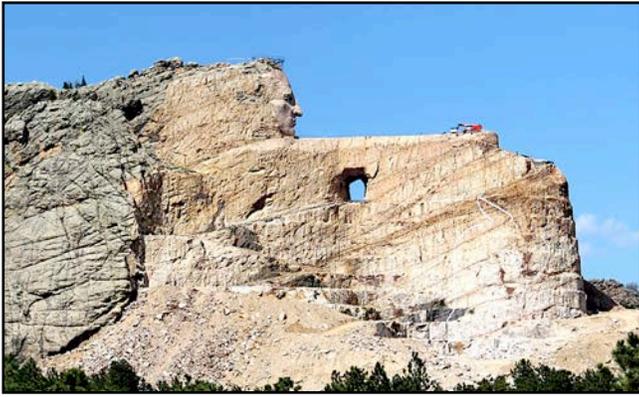
Next we searched out the Begging Burros. These animals are unique as they will put their heads into your car hoping for a carrot or apple.

No visit to Rapid City would be complete without visiting both Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Monument.

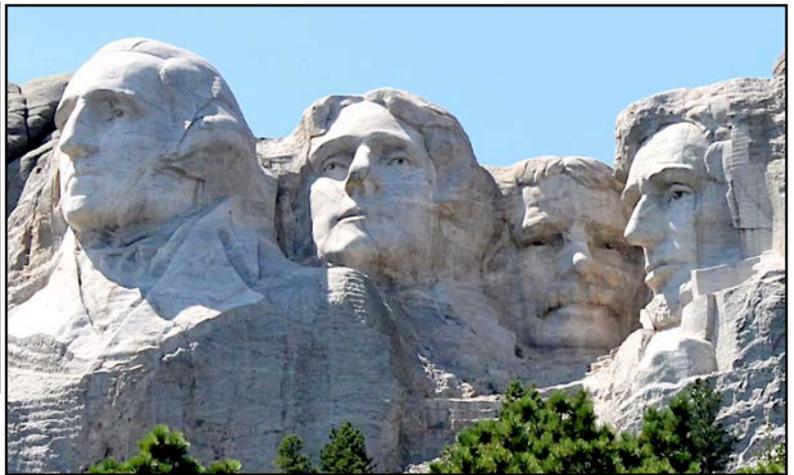


**Begging Burro**

Fortunately or unfortunately this was the 75th anniversary for Sturgis. There were over 1 million in attendance which meant there were approximately 1 million motorcycles.

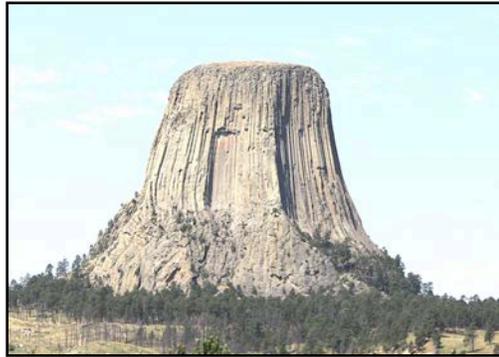


**Crazy Horse Monument, South Dakota**



**Mount Rushmore, South Dakota**

After departing Rapid City we (and about 100,000 motorcyclist) went to Devil's Tower. In the past we were able to camp in the Devil's Tower National Monument facilities but the motorcyclists had all the camp sites filled. Nick was amazed to see three men free climbing the south side of the Monument. This takes a special permit and a total lack of brain power.

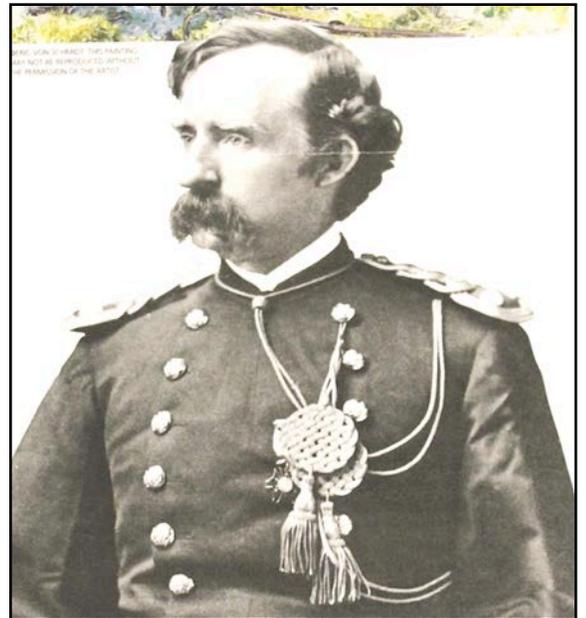


**Devil's Tower Wyoming**

We then traveled into Montana and visited the Little Bighorn Monument where Crazy Horse defeated Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer.



**Crazy Horse**



**Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer**

Reckon being in the Navy I couldn't understand Army strategy where about 240 army troops of the 7th Cavalry attack over 2000 Indian warriors. This battle wasn't anything like the movies where the Indians circled the wagons. The Indians quickly annihilated the troops with the battle lasting only a very few minutes and the 7th Cavalry losing 240 troops.

Departing the Little Bighorn battlefield we traveled on to

Yellowstone National Park where I learned never to visit during the summer months. Did the normal visitor's tour and watched Old Faithful erupt. Every time I visit



Yellowstone, I'm amazed at the Old Faithful Lodge.

Departing Yellowstone we visited with Nick's family in Idaho Falls for a few days. Oh did I say I had an opportunity to take a short flight in a Cessna 172 with my son?

Then it was on to Portland Oregon for the reunion. Unfortunately we saw several large forest fires in both Idaho and Oregon.

Traveling on I-90 in Oregon we entered the Columbia Gorge. This was the most beautiful and scenic highway I had ever seen. There were cliffs, and mountains on the south side and the Columbia River to the north. I have traveled throughout 49 states and never saw anything like the Columbia Gorge.

It was ironic that at a KOA in Oregon we met up with Ernie Dalton and his wife.

The trip took us 38 days but was worth every penny we spent on fuel and RV parks.

We still have the exciting return trip which will start with a visit to Camp Pendleton Marine Corp Base to visit with Sylvia's Granddaughter and Great Grandchildren. Then across the country - Grand Canyon - Painted Desert - Prettified Forest - Branson - Nashville - Dollywood - who knows what lies ahead!



**Old Faithful Lodge**



**Cessna 172 at the Idaho Falls Airport**





## MESSAGE FROM THE SEATING COORDINATOR

The Portland Reunion is now in the books and we are making preparations for next year in Philadelphia, where we will once again walk the decks of our beloved ship.

This year Portland was a little warmer and drier than usual due to the drought that is plaguing much of the West. On several days the air was quite hazy and filled with smoke from the wildfires in Washington. Everyone still had a good time.

For me the highlight was the Columbia River Gorge Tour. After a couple of scenic stops we arrived at Multnomah Falls where we experienced the beauty and grandeur of the 4th highest waterfall in the United States. After viewing the falls we had an excellent lunch at the Multnomah Falls Lodge before starting our return to Portland. Next

we stopped at the Bonneville Dam where we enjoyed some time at the visitor center. We were able to view fish migrating through underwater fishways and learned about the dam's operations, navigational history and fish migration.

As usual our Reunion Committee did a superb job setting up enjoyable tours, delicious menus and everything that is involved with a successful reunion. They should be commended.

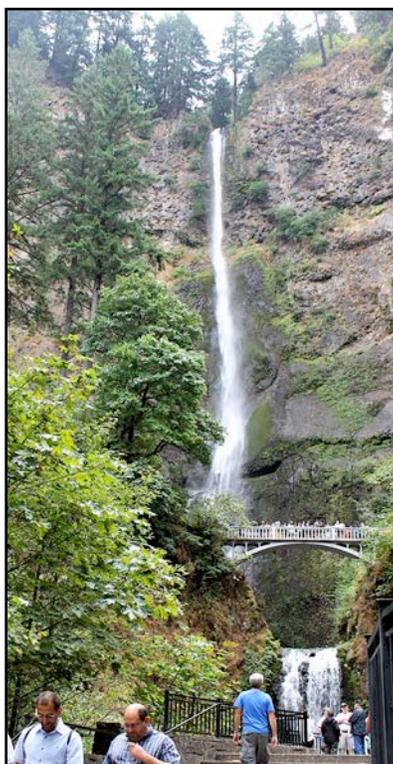
We had several first timers in attendance this year. We even had a WWII Vet who was attending his first reunion. We had a few new ones from the Vietnam era and several from the Lebanon era. It is always good seeing these younger generation Vets at the reunion as they are the future of our organization.

Next year finds us returning to Philadelphia and a return to our ship. This will also be election year and all offices are open. If you feel as if you want to be part of the future of this great organization, step forward and throw your hat in the ring. I am still undecided as to whether I will accept another 4 year term, as next year will be my 8th year in this position. So if any of you would be interested in taking it over, step up.

I hope to see you in Philadelphia next year and I am looking forward to serving you with your seating needs.

Bill Myers

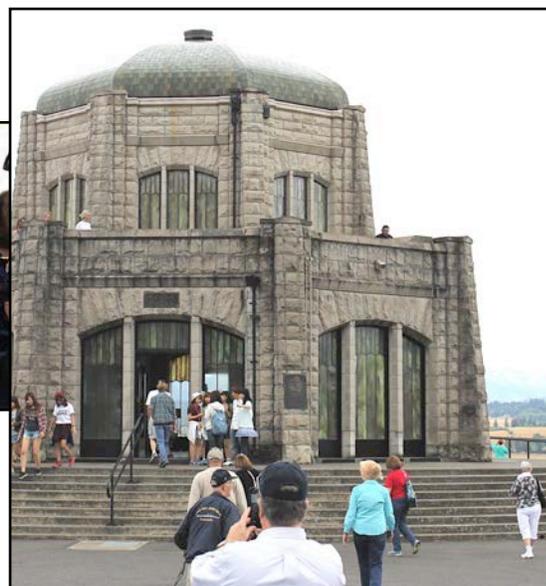
Seating Coordinator



**Multnomah Falls**



**Full Bus Load**



**Bus Stop on The Tour**

**Vista House at Crown Point**



## MESSAGE FROM THE SMALL STORES ADVISOR

It comes with much regret that I'm resigning my position as Small Stores Advisor. It has been a great ride to be able to run the store. I have met and talked with a lot of great people in that time. That I will surely miss.

The reason that I am resigning is that I have stage 3 prostate cancer. I will be seeing a Oncologist at Dana Farber Cancer Center in Boston. What the future holds,I don't know. I am optimistic.

I have talked with Bob Dingman and he will do what needs to get

done.

Again I am sorry to be leaving this position but I will still be active when I can.

Thank you all.

John



## CORPSMAN HITLER, US NAVY

**Adolf Hitler's own nephew ended up in the US Navy in WW II, waging war against his Uncle's Reich**

Of all the family names you could have during World War II, the one that was especially bad in the Allied world was Hitler.

William Patrick Hitler's name wasn't the worst part, being the actual nephew of Adolf Hitler, Chancellor and Fuhrer of Nazi Germany was. Grappling with that reality would launch him on a zigzag path leading him from England to Germany, back to England and finally to America where he would join the US Navy and fight against his Uncle's regime.



William Patrick Hitler served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a Pharmacist's Mate (a designation later changed to Hospital Corpsman) until he was discharged in 1947.

He had been wounded in action during the war and was awarded a Purple Heart medal.

After leaving the Navy, William Hitler changed his surname to Stuart-Houston. Stuart-Houston married, moved to Patchogue, Long Island and used his medical training to establish a business that analyzed blood samples for hospitals. His laboratory, which he called Brookhaven Laboratories, was located in his home, a two-story clapboard house at 71 Silver Street, Patchogue

**William Patrick Hitler US Navy (WWII)  
March 12, 1911 - July 14, 1987**



**January 1933 Adolf Hitler  
Newly Elected Chancellor of Germany pays respects to  
President Paul von Hindenburg in Berlin**



**William Patrick Hitler receives discharge papers**



# Capt. Katie Higgins, USMC

## First Female Blue Angels Pilot

**Captain Katie Higgins flew into history on May 30, 2015 as she took to the skies as the first female pilot in the 69 year history of the Blue Angels! At the Beaufort Air Show in South Carolina, she flew publicly for the first time as an official member of the US Navy's elite flight squadron.**

**This elite group provides spectacular air demonstrations for over 11 million spectators each year.**



## The Oscar

In 1944, the Motion Picture Academy presented the Marine Corps this Oscar for its gritty documentary *With the Marines at Tarawa*. Graphic and shocking to American audiences, it was filmed by Marines of the 2d Photographic Division and released on the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

1978.531.1

**NEW JERSEY**

JERSEY CITY

# Navy's attack submarine to be named for New Jersey

By **Matthew Spelser**  
*Jersey Journal*

The state of New Jersey will be represented in the United States Navy once more.

U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus joined New Jersey Sen. Robert Menendez, U.S. Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen and New Jersey Brigadier General Michael Cunniff at Liberty State Park Sunday morning to announce that a new Virginia Class attack submarine will be commissioned as the USS New Jersey.

"New Jersey has a long history in the creation of the modern day

submarine," Menendez said to a crowd of Navy seamen, referencing John Philip Holland, the Irish engineer who designed and built the first submarines in Elizabeth. "I felt that as we are creating a new class of submarines it was time New Jersey got recognition."

Menendez, a Democrat, and Frelinghuysen, a Republican, advocated to Mabus to have the newest addition to the Navy's submarine fleet named after the Garden State.

The vessel itself will be seaworthy by 2021, Mabus estimated. It will be built in two halves in

Groton, Conn., and Newport, Va. It is a nuclear-powered vessel that will never need refueling and should serve in the fleet for 40 years, Mabus said.

The Navy secretary also said that the Virginia Class attack sub is the most advanced submarine in the world, "by far."

Mabus explained these vessels are used for a variety of missions, including delivery of special forces, surveillance, and anti-surface and anti-submarine missions.

"We own the undersea domain thanks to submarines like these," Mabus said.

The USS New Jersey will likely be the 13th Virginia Class attack submarine in the Navy's arsenal.

"When the USS New Jersey is commissioned, it will be a source of pride for everyone in our state for decades," said Frelinghuysen, who represents a congressional district that takes in parts of Morris, Essex, Sussex and Passaic counties.

The commissioning of the USS New Jersey is the first time a Naval vessel has been named after the Garden State in 72 years.

Mabus said the last vessel named after the state — the

Battleship New Jersey — served in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and in Lebanon. The ship received 19 battle stars and is now on display in Camden as a museum.

Overall, the submarine will be the third naval vessel to be named after New Jersey.

When asked why it took 72 years to get another Naval vessel named after New Jersey, Mabus laughed and said, "I guess (Menendez and Frelinghuysen) were just waiting for the right secretary of the Navy to come along."

HERALD NEWS A3

## Sub will be next USS New Jersey

JERSEY CITY — A submarine will become the third Navy vessel named the USS New Jersey.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus announced Sunday that a submarine being built will get that name when it's completed and commissioned in about five years.

U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez had been pushing for a ship to be named after his state.

The Democrat appeared with Mabus on Sunday at the announcement in Jersey City. "This is a great day for the Navy and a great day for New Jersey," Menendez said. "We are honored to have our state's name added to the proud fleet of Virginia Class submarines."

Two battleships had been named the USS New Jersey. The latest one was decommissioned in 1999 and is now docked in Camden and open for tours.



Virginia Class Submarine

Information Furnished by

Mr. Joseph Rodgers  
USS New Jersey 1950 - 1952  
Toms River, New Jersey



### **Help the Battleship Add More Guns!**

The Battleship is trying to raise \$14,000 to get two more M2 Browning 50 caliber heavy machine guns for the fantail. So far we have raised \$2,875 (21% of goal). We have raised enough to get two tripod mounts, but we still need \$11,125 to get the cradles, armor, and the guns themselves. Please give what you can - even \$1 helps - and share the M2 page with family and friends.



Donate by check, or by credit card.

Make Check Payable To: Battleship New Jersey/Guns

Send check to Jack Willard, 62 Battleship Place, Camden, New Jersey, 08103

Credit Card: phone at 856-966-1652 ext. 127, or Email: [www.battleshipnewjersey.org/M2](http://www.battleshipnewjersey.org/M2)

*The Veteran's Association of the USS Iowa (BB-61) is Seeking Your Help*

**Help save the remaining historic 16-inch/50 barrel from the USS Iowa and at the same time enhance our memorial for the 47 sailors of Turret Two**  
Barrel #270 needs a new home soon or may be scrapped

The Veteran's Association of the USS IOWA (BB-61) is seeking your help to raise funds to move the remaining USS Iowa 16-inch/50 Mark 7 barrel, located at St. Juliens Creek Naval Annex in Chesapeake, VA or the barrel will be cut into eight feet sections and scrapped. The US Navy is purging all the USS Iowa class materials in their inventory including the 16-inch/50 reserve barrels that have been in storage for the last 60 years. The US Navy is allowing qualified organizations to adopt these barrels for free, but those organizations need to pay for the transportation to move them to new homes. While the cost of moving a 70-foot long object weighing about 120-tons is large, several groups have already organized and funded the movement of four of these 16-inch/50 barrels to new homes. The US Navy has believes that they have given enough time for interested parties to claim a barrel, so they want to liquidate them (as they did for 14 similar barrels in storage at Hawthorne, NV in 2011) this year. One of the barrels at St. Juliens Creek saw wartime service during World War II and Korea on the USS Iowa. This 16-inch/50 Mark 7 barrel #270 was installed in Turret One (Left) when the ship was built in 1942 and remained on the ship throughout WWII and the Korean War until it was replaced in 1955. The barrel was relined and placed in storage at St. Juliens Creek for the last 60 years.

The Executive Board of the Veteran's Association of the USS Iowa wants to save this historic barrel for its dozen years of service on the USS Iowa during its most important battles. Barrel #270 also happens to be the lead gun for entire 16-inch/50 Mark 7 production for the USS Iowa class of battleship. The Board believes the best home for this barrel is the USS Iowa Memorial at Iowa Point onboard the Norfolk Naval Station, Virginia. The USS Iowa Memorial is dedicated to the 47 sailors that died during an explosion that occurred in Turret Two as its center barrel was being loaded. Displaying this massive barrel at this site will allow future generations to better understand the size and scale of this terrible explosion. The Board has set up a Gun Barrel Committee (currently Ken Leff and Jeff Bolander) to save this barrel and to raise funds to hire a contractor to move the barrel to the Memorial site. The Committee has received permission from the US Navy to move the barrel to the Memorial site, but the US Navy has only given us a limited time to raise funds to do so. The estimated cost of moving the barrel and constructing a cradle is about \$150,000. This is where your help is needed. The committee needs volunteers to help fundraise, but even more importantly we need you to donate funds for this effort as soon as possible. For more information please contact: Ken Leff at 5812 Naples Drive, Zephyrhills, FL 33540 – 813-778-6952 and [ken1636@hotmail.com](mailto:ken1636@hotmail.com) [www.SaveBB61Barrel270.org](http://www.SaveBB61Barrel270.org)

Please donate today to save the USS Iowa 16-inch rifle barrel and to enhance the Memorial to the 47 USS Iowa Sailors. Please complete the form below and make your payment today!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donate: \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ Other Volunteer for this project?: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pledge: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_ Make check out to "Veteran's Assn of USS Iowa"

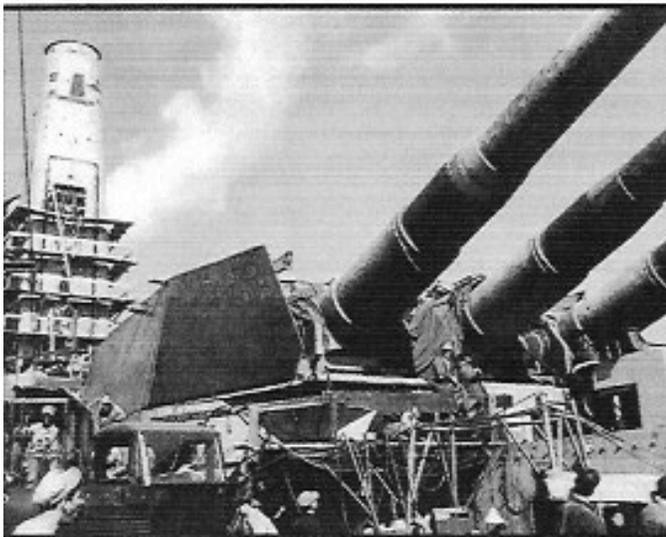
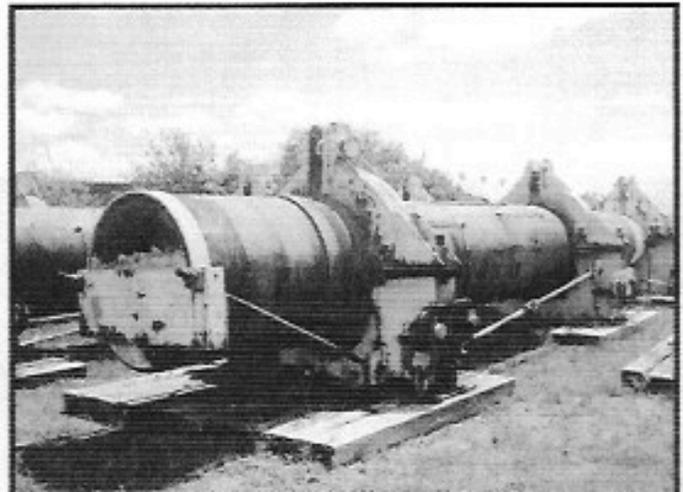
Send payment to: Veteran's Association of the USS Iowa c/o Pacific Battleship Center, 250 S. Harbor Blvd, San Pedro, CA 90731. Please designate your donation as "restricted for use by Iowa Veteran's Association – Gun #270 Project. Donations may be tax deductible, please contact your tax professional

## SAVE GUN BARREL #270

In 1999, several members worked to beautify Iowa Point and it has been maintained as reminder of our lost 47 shipmates since. Through the years several improvements have been added to increase the beauty and significance of the Point. These included the cement sidewalk, landscape curbing and four 16 inch shells. I have always wanted to add a gun barrel and have approached the Naval Station's Commanding Officers through the years about moving one from the St. Juliens Creek facility in Chesapeake, VA. Most of them were very enthusiastic about the idea but there was never any funding available in their budget. Recently the Veterans Association of the USS Iowa was notified by the Coast Defense Study Group that the U.S. Navy is purging the supply of Iowa Class materials.

CDSG is trying to save the numerous gun barrels in the system from being scrapped and find homes for them. They have succeeded relocating several. We are now trying to save another! Number 270 is an actual USS Iowa veteran having been placed in Turret one left gun position during her construction in 1942 and is a veteran of WWII and Korea. #270 has been lying in the mud at St. J's since 1955. It is time to give her a proper home where generations to come can appreciate the sacrifice of the men named on the memorial and marvel at the incredible size of #270 and the massive power USS Iowa presented.

This is the biggest project our membership has ever attempted and we need the help of all our shipmates, families, friends, coworkers and corporations; anyone and everyone you can think of that wants to help preserve an important piece of our ship's life.



# Old friends help 'Big J' mark 72 years

By Greg Adomaitis  
For The Star-Ledger

A lot has changed over the past 72 years and it's no exaggeration to say the Battleship New Jersey played a pivotal role in many of those changes — World War II, combating communism in Korea and Vietnam and putting an end to overseas conflicts.

Commissioned on May 23, 1943, the U.S.S. New Jersey celebrated her seventh decade and then some on Saturday with former sailors, airmen and others who worked with the "Big J" in combat.

"It's time to allow it to rest," said Ed Auble, who flew over the battleship during Vietnam as a U.S. Navy pilot, adding that it was strange to see her sitting peacefully in the dock instead of lobbing compact car-sized shells at enemy positions.

The ship, which was launched one year after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, saw action all across the Pacific Theater during World War II; bombarded Korea during the conflict that flared up in 1950; gave Vietnam the same treatment nearly two decades later, and was sent to Lebanon and Beirut in the 1980s before being decommissioned in 1991.

She was mothballed and put back on the shelf between conflicts, military liaison officer Capt. Walter Urban said, as military minds at the time thought the day of the battleship had gone.

Each time duty called, however, she was dusted off, refitted, rearmed and sent into harm's way.

Her mere presence was such a threat, speakers on



Guests aboard the Battleship New Jersey listen to speakers Saturday as part of the ship's 72nd commissioning anniversary on Saturday.

Saturday noted that peace talks with North Vietnam were at a stand-still because the battleship was positioned off the coast of the Asian nation.

Her enemies today aren't foreign, but domestic — rot and rust, said ship President and CEO Philip Rowan.

Volunteers helped last fall with repainting the visible parts of the hull, but the "marvelous" teak wood deck is looking very worse for wear, Rowan said.

That's why battleship

boosters are working toward an \$8 million, 5-year campaign to help restore the signature deck that was unique to only the most important ships in the Navy's fleet.

Ross Collins, a Palmyra man who was born and raised in Camden, served aboard the battleship from 1943 to 1946.

"When I left the ship in 1946, I thought I'll never see you again in my life," said Collins.

Following

decommissioning and a dispute over which half of New Jersey the battleship would end up in, Collins was reunited in 2001 with his former floating home.

He still volunteers here twice a week.

Before grabbing a slice of cake to celebrate Big J's big day, Collins said he'll reach a milestone of his own tomorrow — his 90th birthday.

Greg Adomaitis, NJ  
Advance Media, gadomaitis@njadvancemedia.com

## Challenge For Lebanon & Persian Gulf Veterans



**Reveille! Reveille!** all hands heave out and trice up, we haven't heard those words in a while. Come on 80's era from Lebanon/Gulf. The USS New Jersey Veterans Inc. could use your help.

The reunion in Portland this year was a blast. We need more new members especially from our era.

This past year we had 27 deaths and 18 new members, we are losing members. I have a challenge for you, I am not loaded with money but if we get at least 30 new members from our era by the 2016 reunion back at the ship, I will donate \$300.00 to the deck restoration on the ship, **so take my challenge** and I will be happy to

pay. Garry Blaylock our membership chairman will keep me posted. Some of you E-Division guys may remember Petty Officer Plank, he and his wife along with his daughter and her husband were at the Portland reunion. They had a great time.

I can not make anybody join or come to the reunions. The men before our time calmed the seas before we got there. We owe them our gratitude for what they had done in the past. The sailors of our time had it easy compared to what they had to face, at past reunions I heard them talk about crammed quarters, and duty on board during wartime, unbelievable. Let us not let this part of history pass away, eventually it

will but it does not have to happen for a long time.

I have been aboard the USS Alabama several times, no one now left with its legacy, lets keep ours going for a long time to come.

As the beginning of this article started lets wake up and get to work. Hope to see you next year back at the ship.

### God Bless All

MM3 Daniel(Danny)Fielder  
e-mail [dfielder@gsengr.com](mailto:dfielder@gsengr.com)  
(601)955-8233 or (601)892-2469  
22011 Hwy 51  
Crystal Springs,Ms.39059



**President Sheehan  
at  
USS New Jersey  
2015  
Golf Tournament**



**Our WW II Couple  
Enjoying The Welcome Aboard Dinner**



## **SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES, ELIGIBILITY, AND APPLICATION INFORMATION**

The organization will continue to award two \$1000.00 scholarships in addition to the \$1000.00 Dick Esser Scholarship. A committee appointed by the President will review the applications and make the selection. This listing will then be forwarded to the Board of Directors for approval. These selections will then be forwarded for final approval by the members at the formal business meeting.

**Applications for the Scholarship must be received by the President NO later than June 1, 2016**

### **GUIDELINES:**

- a. No Committee member's family or relative is eligible for the award.
- b. Scholarships will be awarded to deserving students who have maintained a 'B' or '3.0' GPA
- c. Students must be a graduating senior, attending an accredited high school/vocational technical institution graduating in the class of 2016.
- d. Applicants must be recommended by their high school guidance counselor.
- e. Awards must be used at an accredited educational/technical institution for undergraduate studies.
- f. Awards are not available for graduate studies.
- g. The award will be paid directly to the institution selected.

**Additional information and forms are only available on the Internet (reference) [WWW.USSNEWJERSEY.ORG](http://WWW.USSNEWJERSEY.ORG)**

**Notification to the Membership, of the Scholarship winners, will be accomplished through the Bounce and the aforementioned Home Page.**

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- a. Any child, or grandchild of a member in good standing, including children of a member in good standing who passed away during the current membership year is eligible.
- b. Must be a high school senior graduating in the class of 2016.
- c. Official transcripts for the 11th grade and the marking periods of 12th grades completed by June 1, 2016 must be submitted with the applications.
- d. Must have two (2) academic references.
- e. Student's personal resume.
- f. Student's complete essay.
- g. Name and address of educational/technical institution to be attended.
- h. Graduation picture.

### **APPLICATION SUBMISSION:**

Eligibility requirements b, c, d, e, f, g, and h must be received by Steve Sheehan, President, by June 1, 2016.  
Steve Sheehan, 1209 Cumberland Rd., Abington, PA 19001

**THE PRESIDENT WILL NOTIFY THE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS BY PHONE  
AND A LETTER OF CONFIRMATION.**

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Scholarship Committee selected three outstanding candidates for the USS New Jersey Veterans Inc. award this year.

The applicants represented a broad cross-section of the Class of 2015.

The organization annually awards two outstanding high school students a scholarship valued at \$1000.00 each. In addition, a Dick Esser scholarship of \$1000.00 is also awarded each year.

The Board of Directors and the General Membership approved each of these three scholars to receive a \$1000.00 scholarship.

The organization is very proud to be able to provide scholarship funds to outstanding students each year.

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### RACHEL STAGER

Rachel is the granddaughter of Mathias Zimmerman from Fort Loramie, Ohio. Mathias served aboard the USS New Jersey in 'M' Division during the Korea War Era.

Rachel is the daughter of Scott and Mary Stager of Fort Loramie, Ohio.

Rachel achieved extremely high grade point averages in High School and exceptionally high college entrance scores.

She graduated from Fort Loramie High School and is attending the University of Toledo where she is studying Medical Technology and Pathology.

During High School she was an honor roll student and received the academic letter, and scholastic athletic award all four years. In addition, she received the Science Olympiad Honor in 2014 and 2015 and was the State of Ohio Honor Graduate.

During her high school studies she always challenged herself and was there to help fellow classmates. She set very high standards and continuously strived to meet them. She had a positive impact with those around her.



### CONGRATULATIONS

**RACHEL**

## **TIM BRECKEL**

Tim Breckel is the Grandson of William Breckel from West Palm Beach, Florida. William served aboard the USS New Jersey in 'C' Division during the Korean War.

Tim is the son of Denise and Paul Breckel of Hebron, Connecticut.

Tim earned extremely high grades in high school and exceptionally high college admission test scores.

Tim graduated from Rham High School in Hebron, Connecticut as an Honor Student and is attending Boston College where he is pursuing a Business Degree. Tim was accepted in the Boston College Honors Program

Several of his high school advisors stated that he was one of the most gifted and talented students they have had the privilege to teach. His Latin teacher said that he had, "the highest ability and best work ethic that he has seen in his 30 years of teaching."

In addition to being awarded high honors in Economics, Latin, and Chemistry, he was the winner of the Connecticut State Science Fair Award. He also participated as a teacher assistant for gifted k-8 students at the Manchester Community College program.

He was a class officer for 4 years.



**CONGRATULATION**

**TIM**

## **BROOKE ROBERSON**

Brooke is the granddaughter of Ward Odom from Martinsville, West Virginia. Ward served aboard the USS New Jersey in 'Q' during the Korean War Era.

Division

Brooke is the daughter of Catherine and Jeff Roberson from Centreville, Virginia and attended Westfield High School in the same city.

Brooke is presently attending South Carolina University where she is majoring in International Business and Accounting. Provided everything goes as planned she wants to continue with graduate studies in accounting.

While in high school she completed 18 advanced placement and honor level courses. She attained an extremely high grade point average and SAT score.

In 2013 she received the Student of the Year award in Personal Finances and Economics.

In 2014 she received the Student of the Year Accounting Award. She was a member of the Math Honor Society, Business Honor Society, and Spanish Honor Society

During the summers she worked as a life guard at her local Country Club. In this position she progressed rapidly to Pool Manager and finally in her senior year she was promoted to the position of Assistant Country Club Manager.



**CONGRATULATIONS**

**BROOKE**

## REUNION NAME PLATE ORDER FORM

Complete this section by selecting the designated Name Plate for Crew Member,, Associate, Spouse, or Guest.

Crew Member Plate 2.0 X 3.0 inches (white with blue letters)

Associate Member, Spouse, or Guest Plate 1.0 X 3.0 inches (white with blue letters)

### Pricing

At This time prices have not been finalized.  
Contact Bob Dingman for prices.

Mail the complete order form and check to:

**Bob Dingman**

1215 Old North Main Street  
Laconia, NH 03246

Make check payable to

**USS New Jersey Veterans, Org.**



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please print desired text as you wish it displayed on the lines above. We reserve the right to rearrange text for clarity and to minimize disorder.

**NOTE:** Name Plate will be attached to your envelope at the Welcome Aboard Table

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### IMPORTATION INFORMATION

In an effort to provide our members information concerning available merchandise in the small store the information will only be available on our web page ([WWW.USSNEWJERSEY.ORG](http://WWW.USSNEWJERSEY.ORG)). This change provides our members the latest information on all items handled in the store. In addition, this change provides the Small Store Manager the opportunity to make new items available at any time throughout the year, minimizing delays in providing information on these items to our members.

Items can be purchase via Email, regular mail or telephone:

Email: [bdingman@metrocast.net](mailto:bdingman@metrocast.net)

regular mail: Mr. Bob Dingman, 1215 Old North Main Street, Laconia, NH 03246,  
telephone: 603-455-4441 603-630-1941



**REUNION CITY HISTORY STRING**

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

Indicate your required reunion history badge by placing an 'X' in the appropriate column next to the Reunion City

<u>CITY</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CREW</u>	<u>ASSOCIATE</u>	<u>GUEST</u>	<u>PLANK-OWNER</u>
Long Beach, CA	1982	_____	_____	_____	_____
Atlantic City, NJ	1984	_____	_____	_____	_____
Indianapolis, IN	1986	_____	_____	_____	_____
New Orleans, LA	1988	_____	_____	_____	_____
Dayton, OH	1990	_____	_____	_____	_____
Nashville, TN	1992	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cherry Hill, NJ	1993	_____	_____	_____	_____
San Diego, CA	1994	_____	_____	_____	_____
Norfolk, VA	1995	_____	_____	_____	_____
Fort Mitchell, KY	1996	_____	_____	_____	_____
Danvers, MA	1997	_____	_____	_____	_____
Colorado Springs, CO	1998	_____	_____	_____	_____
Seattle, WA	1999	_____	_____	_____	_____
Daytona Beach, FL	2000	_____	_____	_____	_____
Branson, MO	2001	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cherry Hill, NJ	2002	_____	_____	_____	_____
Las Vegas, NV	2003	_____	_____	_____	_____
Washington, DC	2004	_____	_____	_____	_____
Valley Forge, PA	2005	_____	_____	_____	_____
San Antonio, TX	2006	_____	_____	_____	_____
San Diego, CA	2007	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cherry Hill, NJ	2008	_____	_____	_____	_____
Jacksonville, FL	2009	_____	_____	_____	_____
Nashville, TN	2010	_____	_____	_____	_____
Hilton Head, SC	2011	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cherry Hill, NJ	2012	_____	_____	_____	_____
Virginia Beach, VA	2013	_____	_____	_____	_____
St. Louis, MO	2014	_____	_____	_____	_____
Portland, OR	2015	_____	_____	_____	_____
Philadelphia, PA	2016	_____	_____	_____	_____

**NOTE; Prices are not final at this time, Contact John Chase for prices.**

**Total Badges Selected \_\_\_\_\_ X Cost = Total Cost**

**Make checks to USS New Jersey Veterans, Org. and send form and check to:  
Bob Dingman, 1215 Old North Main St., Laconia NH, 03246**

**Telephone # 603-455-4441 Email: [bdingman@metrocast.net](mailto:bdingman@metrocast.net)**

## NEW CHALLENGE COINS NOW AVAILABLE FORM OUR SMALL STORE

This beautifully crafted challenge coin depicts the *USS New Jersey* firing her 16 -inch guns on the front side. The stars within the band represent the 19 battle Stars awarded to the ship.

On the reverse side, the ship is depicted as she sits today, as a museum and memorial, on the Delaware River in the Camden, New Jersey Waterfront. the four star represent the ships four periods of combat.

The Challenge Coin is available for a \$10.00 donation plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. (NOTE: If purchasing more than one coin the Shipping and Handling is only \$3.00 per order.



**CHALLENGE COIN**

A challenge coin is a small coin or medallion (usually military, bearing an organization's insignia or emblem) carried by the organization's members.

Traditionally, they are given to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale. In addition, they are also collected by service members.



In practice, challenge coins are normally presented by unit commanders in recognition of special achievement by a member of the unit. The coins are also exchanged in recognition of visits to an organization.

### Challenge Coin History

According to the most common story, challenge coins originated during World War I. American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. Some were wealthy, attending colleges such as Yale and Harvard, who quit college in mid-term to join the war.

In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck in solid bronze and presented them to his unit.

One young pilot placed the medallion in a small leather pouch that he wore about his neck. Shortly after acquiring the medallion, the pilots' aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines

and was immediately captured by a German patrol.

In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck. In the meantime, he was taken to a small French town near the front. Taking advantage of a bombardment that night, he escaped.

However, he was without personal identification. He succeeded in avoiding German patrols by donning civilian attire and reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land. Eventually, he stumbled onto a French outpost. Unfortunately,

saboteurs had plagued the French in the sector. They sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance, but he did have his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners and one of his French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion. They delayed his execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

Challenge Coins are available by contacting:  
Bob Dingman: 1215 Old North Main St., Laconia, NH 03246, Phone 603-455-4441,  
or Email: [bdingman@metrocast.net](mailto:bdingman@metrocast.net)

# John "Pete" Vance Our Treasurer

1935 - 2015



John "Pete" Vance Sr., 79, died peacefully Tuesday June 2, 2015 surrounded by his loving family. Pete fought a long and courageous battle to the very end, and now is in a much better place.

He was born December 14, 1935 in Nyack, NY, the son of Joseph J. and Gladys E. Vance. Following high school graduation Pete joined the Navy and served five years (January 1954 - January 1959). During his Navy time he was most proud of time serving aboard the battleship *USS New Jersey* (BB-62).

Pete is survived by his wife, Jean C. (Linguanti) Vance, son John Vance Jr., daughter Vicki (Vance) Tanner and her husband James, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at St. Peter Catholic Church in DeLand, Florida on June 30.

Pete was a long time member of the *USS New Jersey Veterans Organization* and served as the Treasurer from September 2008 until his passing. Pete took the duties of Treasurer very serious and through his dedication and efforts was able to save the organization valuable resources. Pete and his wife, Jean, worked extremely long hours prior to and at every reunion to make sure everything was correct. We all want to thank him for his effort and we all will miss him.

- o Pete was very dedicated to the organization
- o He was conscious of his duties and honest to a fault
- o Through his knowledge, skills, and dedication he saved the organization many thousands of dollars
- o He was always cheerful and upbeat
- o He continued to perform the duties of the treasurer through declining health
- o Most of all he was a true friend



*PETE*

*As We All Knew Him at The 2013  
Reunion in Virginia Beach*

*The Organization, All Of His  
Friends, And Family Will Miss  
Him*

## USS New Jersey BB 62 Taps Listing



<u>Name</u>			<u>Address</u>
<i>Hampton Almasion</i>	<i>7 th</i>	<i>WW II</i>	<i>Allen Park, MI.</i>
<i>John Anaya</i>	<i>1 st</i>	<i>WW II</i>	<i>Cascade Park, NM.</i>
<i>Robert Baughman</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
<i>Valerie Buckley</i>	<i>Associate</i>		<i>Unknown</i>
<i>Vincent Carbone</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>WW II</i>	<i>Sussex County, DE.</i>
<i>Victor Clough</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Pulssbo, WA.</i>
<i>Robert Davis</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Livingston, NJ.</i>
<i>Daniel Demeo</i>	<i>M &amp; O</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Margate City, NJ.</i>
<i>Joseph Dicorcia</i>	<i>Q</i>	<i>WW II &amp; Korea</i>	<i>Ocean City, NJ.</i>
<i>J. E. Donnelly</i>	<i>Associate</i>		<i>Mount Laurel, NJ.</i>
<i>Vincent Falso</i>	<i>S 1</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Mountainside, NJ.</i>
<i>William Franklin</i>	<i>5 th</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Bronson, FL.</i>
<i>Darrell Greenlee</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>Vietnam</i>	<i>Dayton, OH.</i>
<i>Raymond Hammond</i>	<i>1 st</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Tuscaloosa, AL.</i>
<i>Gerald Hannon</i>	<i>5 th</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Ocean View, NJ.</i>
<i>William Hathorn</i>	<i>CR</i>	<i>WW II</i>	<i>Baton Rouge, LA.</i>
<i>Robert Hicks</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>WW II</i>	<i>Columbus, OH.</i>
<i>Victor Karaway</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Tucson, AZ.</i>
<i>Ken Kirchmeyer</i>	<i>2 nd</i>	<i>Vietnam</i>	<i>Niagara, NY.</i>
<i>Chester Larwinski</i>	<i>4 th</i>	<i>WW II</i>	<i>Royalton, IL.</i>
<i>Donald Lauder</i>	<i>1 st</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Fairfield, IA.</i>
<i>Robert Lowe</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>80's</i>	<i>Ocean Springs, MS.</i>
<i>Joseph Moreno</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Las Vegas, NV.</i>
<i>Gordon Morrison</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>WW II</i>	<i>Conneaut, OH.</i>
<i>Kenneth Rodgers</i>	<i>4 th</i>	<i>WW II</i>	<i>Las Vegas, NV.</i>
<i>Freddie Scaggs</i>	<i>S 3</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Salem, VA.</i>
<i>John Schieicher</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>WW II</i>	<i>Nokomis, FL.</i>
<i>John Vance</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Deland, FL.</i>
<i>Calvin Weber</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Shrub Oak, NY.</i>
<i>Paul Westphal</i>	<i>2 nd</i>	<i>WW II</i>	<i>Lawrenceville, GA,</i>
<i>Frank Wilson</i>	<i>3 rd</i>	<i>WW II</i>	<i>Cameron, MO.</i>
<i>Lawrence Zipp</i>	<i>FA</i>	<i>WW II</i>	<i>Charlevoix, MI.</i>

**WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS**

*to the*

**USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS ORGANIZATION, INC.**



***Join the Navy and Party All The Time  
Or As We Gain Maturity***

***Join the USS New Jersey Veterans Organization and Party At The Annual Reunions***

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Division</i></b>	<b><i>ERA</i></b>	<b><i>Home Town</i></b>
<i>Daniell Aiello</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>80 ies</i>	<i>Gilbert, AZ</i>
<i>Robert Beringer</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>80 ies</i>	<i>New Holstein, WI</i>
<i>James Bradley</i>	<i>4 th</i>	<i>Vietnam</i>	<i>Ellensburg, WA</i>
<i>Dale Burgener</i>	<i>3 rd</i>	<i>Vietnam</i>	<i>Bremerton, WA</i>
<i>Ronnie Chavez</i>	<i>6 th</i>	<i>80 ies</i>	<i>Castle Rock CO</i>
<i>Rene Couleman</i>	<i>Adm. Staff</i>	<i>WW II</i>	<i>Lusby, MD</i>
<i>Emma Jo Doton</i>	<i>Associate</i>		<i>West Union, WV</i>
<i>Raymond Howard</i>	<i>S-4</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Aan Antonio, TX</i>
<i>Robert James</i>	<i>3 rd</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Philadelphia, PA</i>
<i>Thomas Kelsay</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>Vietnam</i>	<i>Norfolk, VA</i>
<i>Bruce Marx</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>80 ies</i>	<i>Las Vegas, NV</i>
<i>Arthur Ott</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Las Vegas, NV</i>
<i>Clark Perks</i>	<i>Museum Staff</i>		<i>Camden, NJ</i>
<i>Rodger Petsky</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Elmira, NY</i>
<i>John Porter</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Vietnam</i>	<i>Springfield, IL</i>
<i>David Pupo</i>	<i>3 rd</i>	<i>80 ies</i>	<i>Humble, TX</i>
<i>Phil Rowan</i>	<i>Museum Staff</i>		<i>Cherry Hill, NJ</i>
<i>Larry Ruble</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Vietnam</i>	<i>Pittsfield, IL</i>
<i>Michael Skinner</i>	<i>OC</i>	<i>80 ies</i>	<i>St. Jacob, IL</i>
<i>Leon Tucker</i>	<i>G 1</i>	<i>80 ies</i>	<i>Jersey City, NJ</i>
<i>Rosemary Ward</i>	<i>Associate</i>		<i>Pearlman, TX</i>



