

THE JERSEY BOUNCE

USS New Jersey Veterans, Inc.
WWW.USSNEWJERSEY.ORG

Volume XXXVIII No. 2 Fall 2023

President: Bob Dingman Vice President: Leon Tucker



36TH REUNION SEPTEMBER 18 - 22, 2023

36th Reunion Held in Charleston, South Carolina



Charleston, the South Carolina port city founded in 1670, is defined by its cobblestone streets, horse-drawn carriages, and pastel antebellum houses, particularly in the elegant French Quarter and Battery districts. The Battery promenade and Waterfront Park both overlook Charleston Harbor, while Fort Sumter, a federal stronghold where the first shots of the Civil War rang out, lies across the water.



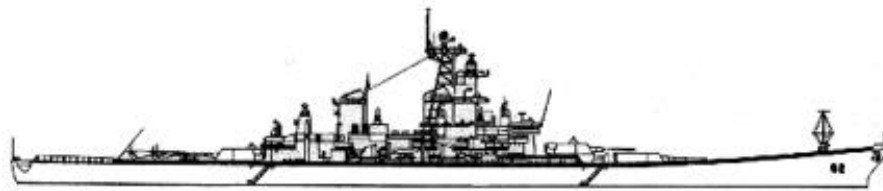


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OFFICERS
USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS ORGANIZATION INC.

PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR
Bob Dingman (Judy)
(603) 455-4441
bdingman62@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR
Leon Tucker Jr. (Hilda)
(201) 369-0843
ltucker0104@gmail.com

TREASURER/DIRECTOR
Phillip Tasker (Helen)
(772) 321-2237
bb62treasurer@gmail.com

SECRETARY/DIRECTOR
Danny Fielder (Sheila)
(601) 955-8233
dfielder@gsengr.com

LIAISON COORD/DIRECTOR
Bob Williams (Mirth)
(603) 819-9808
bb621967@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP/DIRECTOR
Chuck Oehme (Elaine)
(281) 910-6808
chelaine@comcast.net

REUNION COORD/DIRECTOR
Dave Wasmer (Norma)
(920) 901-2388
dewa@charter.net

SMALL STORES/ADVISOR
Mike Schappaugh (Beverly)
(727) 415-5798

WEB MASTER/ADVISOR
Bob Williams (Mirth)
(603) 819-9808
bb621967@comcast.net

MASTER AT ARMS/ADVISOR
Ray Kehoe (Rita)
(540) 750-3050
rjk428@yahoo.com

CHAPLAIN/ADVISOR
Felix Bautista (Kay)
(214) 771-7585
fkhollyrollers@gmail.com

VETERANS COORD/ADVISOR
Joe Dimaria (Maureen)
(757) 846-1398
joedimaria@msn.com

SEATING COORD/ADVISOR
Marvin Williams (Jackie)
(931) 237-3823
mpwbb62@charter.net

BOUNCE EDITOR/ADVISOR
Phillip Tasker (Helen)
(772) 321-2237
phillip@phtasker.net

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greetings,

Charleston, SC was a wonderful location for the 36th reunion. It was great to see so many of you once again. I was a little worried about the possibility of a hurricane, but it stayed at sea and didn't affect the South Carolina coast. The weather was nice and it appeared that everyone had a good time. Charleston is a beautiful and historic city. At the general meeting, the members in attendance voted to hold the 2025 reunion in San Antonio, TX., with Branson, MO as a backup location. The organization has previously held a reunion in each of these cities, San Antonio in 2006 and Branson in 2001.

This year is Mike Schappaugh's last as Storekeeper for our Ships Store. Mike started as storekeeper in September 2016. In the past 7 years he has taken the store to a new level. The product line offers something for everyone. If you've been to any of our reunions, you know what I mean. We typically need eight to ten 8' tables to display all the items he brings. Mike has taken the store inventory home to Florida and will not be bringing it back to the reunion in Cherry Hill! We will either have to arrange for someone to pick it up, or we'll have to have it shipped. Mike has officially resigned, actually he submitted his resignation letter over a year ago. We presented him with his "Appreciation" plaque at this year's banquet. We are in serious need of a new storekeeper. If you are interested in helping out the organization, please contact me. My contact information is on the officers page at the beginning of this issue.

The 2024 reunion hotel is scheduled to be the DoubleTree Hotel in Cherry Hill. When we contracted with the hotel, we were told it would be undergoing renovations and they would be done by the time we held our 2024 reunion. Prior to the 2023 reunion, Dave called the hotel sales staff to find out how the renovations were progressing. At the Board meeting, Dave reported that the renovations were substantially behind schedule, and they could not guarantee that they would be completed by the start of our reunion. This was obviously concerning to all. On our way back to NH, Judy and I stopped at the DoubleTree. We met Steve Sheehan at the hotel, where we talked with the sales staff. There is currently one floor of guest rooms completed and a second floor is almost finished. They have a new general contractor and are now shutting down one floor at a time to complete the guest room renovations per floor. As with all construction projects, lack of materials, due to supply chain issues, is a constant problem. On a positive note, as part of the overall

renovations, all 400+ guest rooms have received new beds, mattresses and linens. All the rooms with 2 beds now have queen beds in place of the double beds. During our 2022 reunion, there was a problem with the air conditioning in our hospitality/ship storerooms (Plaza Rooms I, II & III). These rooms now have new A/C equipment installed. Although they can't make any promises, they are hopeful that a majority of the renovations will be completed by next September. There is nothing in our contract that allows us to cancel because the renovations are not complete, without incurring a financial penalty. Canceling now would result in our organization having to pay liquidated damages in the amount of \$32,977.50. We obviously can't afford that, so all we can do is have faith that the DoubleTree will be working hard to get the renovations completed as soon as possible. It's also obvious that the completion of the renovations is in the best interest of the hotel and that they want them to be completed as much as we do. There will be an update in the 2024 Spring issue.

Stay safe and healthy this coming winter,

Bob Dingman, President
EM2, E Division, Sept '67 - Dec '69



THANK YOU

To all who helped make the 2023 Charleston, SC Reunion special and enjoyable. Many were seen by everyone, but many more helped behind the scenes doing small tasks. You all added so much to the success of the event. I apologize if I missed naming anyone who helped in any way. Thank you, Bob Dingman!

Felix and Kay Bautista
Wayne and Suzanne Bendelow
Randy Bergman
Joe and Carol Cusumano
Judy Dingman
Danny and Shelia Fielder
Ray and Rita Kehoe
John King
Don Lowery
Chuck and Elaine Oehme
Paul and Jack Robbins
Bill and Carolyn Romer
Larry Ruble
Steve Sheehan
Ryan Szimanski
Phil and Helen Tasker
Mike Schappaugh and Beverly Langford
Leon and Hilda Tucker
Dave and Norma Wasmer
Dan and Virginia Whitney
Marvin Williams
and
All the Auction Item
Donors and Bidders

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greetings Jerseymen,

I hope everyone is doing well. Hilda and I had a wonderful experience at the reunion in Charleston and meeting up with all our shipmates again.

Hoping to see you all at the 2024 reunion back at the ship in Camden/Cherry Hill. Peace!

Fraternally,

Leon Tucker Jr. GMG1(SW)

G1 Division 87-90

SECRETARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Hello shipmates.

Hello again everyone, yes, it's time for another issue of the Bounce. This year's reunion was great, and a good time was had by all. Charleston was really a great place to visit. My wife Sheila and I look forward to this every year. We are starting to get even more of the 80's era shipmates, I hope this number keeps rising. This is really a great organization, and we need to keep it going as long as possible. The era's before the 80's have laid out all the groundwork, and we should take pride in that. Next year we are going back to Camden, and it is also voting year for new officers. 80's shipmates this could be your time. The sea stories that are heard and friendships that are made are wonderful. When you read in this issue you will see how many of our members we are losing each year from the other era's. We all need to work hard on membership retention and acquisition.

The Business Meeting minutes are included in this issue. If you see a mistake just let me know, I am subject to mistakes. Until next year "Fair Winds and Following Sea's".

Danny Fielder/MM3 Lebanon, Secretary

E- mail address: dfielder@gsengr.com

(601) 955-8233 Cell

22011 Hwy 51 Crystal Springs,Ms.39059

SHIP'S STORE ADVISOR'S REPORT

SHIPS STORE REPORT:

Returned home from Charleston without incident.

Everything has been sorted, counted and ready for reordering and storage.

As I explained in Charleston, I need to step back from running the Store due to other personal responsibilities. However, for anyone, with an interest in taking over management of the store, I will always be available to assist in the transition and to help with sales at the reunions.



I would like to thank everyone that has visited and purchased from the store and look forward to seeing all in the future.

I also would like to thank my crew, Beverly, Larry, and Mary for all their assistance and hard work in making the store a success.

Plans for the Christmas season are underway with more SALE ITEMS to make room for new merchandise.

For next year, I will only be bringing the event shirts, name badges and reunion tags.

I would like to give a big **SHOUT OUT** to Dave Wasmer for all he has done for USS New Jersey Veterans now and in the future. **WELL DONE!!!**

We are looking forward to Cherry Hill September 2024.

Mike Schappaugh - Ship's Store Advisor

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Hello fellow Shipmates,

Elaine and I had a great time at the Charleston reunion. I got to talk with members that I hadn't really met before, like Command Master Chief James Davy. I just recently found out what a CMDCM was when I noticed at the 2022 Camden dinner dance that Command Master Chief Joe Di Maria had an extra star on his rating badge, and a star where his BT insignia once was. During the Vietnam Era when I was aboard New Jersey, the rating didn't exist and was implemented later. Jim explained in more detail what the position is all about. BTW, Marvin Williams

was the Command Master Chief on the "World's Greatest Battleship" in 1990 - 91.

In the U.S. Navy, the command master chief petty officer is the senior enlisted advisor at a command and as such works as a liaison between the commanding officer and the enlisted ranks, serving as the senior enlisted leader. In this capacity, the CMDCM assists the commanding officer in issues of quality of life, discipline, training, and morale. Collectively, the CMDCM, Commanding Officer, and Executive Officer are referred to as the "Big Three"

Yorktown Tour

We enjoyed our time on USS Yorktown and the USS Laffey. At the Memorial Service on the Yorktown, Vice President Leon Tucker read the names of our shipmates that we recently learned had passed away. When we were touring the Laffey, Elaine and I had the good fortune to meet up with Paul Robbins and his son Jack. When leaving the Laffey, we ran into Drew Barrett, Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum Volunteer Coordinator, who took an immediate interest in 98-year-old, World War II vet, Paul. Drew took us back aboard Yorktown and showed us some of the more intimate parts of the ship. You should see Paul go up and down the gangway and ladders. Drew also explained to us about the ship and the projects they were working on. Thanks Drew, for making the day a little extra special.

Drew is a good friend of Ryan Szimanski, Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial, VP, Education & Curatorial Affairs. We promised to say hi to Ryan when we see him on the ship in September.

A word to the wise, hang with Paul Robbins and good things happen.



Reunion Golf

Vietnam Vets RD2 Jeremiah Early, RD2 John McClure and I found some time to sneak off and play some golf while our wives had lunch and went shopping. John found a course about a half an hour away in Summerville. The course was in great shape, nice, plateaued greens and a forgiving rough. There were enough water hazards to make it interesting, but since we all finally admitted that we were old, we decided to play from senior tees. The water wasn't as big a factor as if we played from the whites. We had great weather and had a good time. So, we played again on Friday after checkout. Our green fees were \$32, including carts. Good job, John.

We plan on playing again at next year's reunion. If you would like to join us, let me know.

Getting New Members

I received an email from 1980's Era member coordinator Mike Murphy when we returned home after the reunion. When Mike and Jody were at the airport, a man came up to him after seeing Mike's New Jersey ball cap and said that he was on the ship in the 80's. Mike gave him all the necessary info and it looks like we may get a new member.

A couple of years ago, a lady followed Elaine for a few miles after seeing our USS New Jersey license plate bracket. When she finally caught up to Elaine, she said that her husband FT3 Mike Svegliato had served on New Jersey during Korea War Era. Mike and I talked a number of times but sadly his wife Judy called and said he passed away.

If you want to help recruit new members, you can get your ball caps, license plate brackets, shirts, and decals from Mike Schappaugh at our Ship's Store.

I'm surprised how many shipmates don't even know that the USS New Jersey Veterans even exist.

Dues

By the time you receive your USS New Jersey Bounce, you should have already received your 2024 dues invoice with a return mail envelope enclosed. It can't get much easier than that. If you send it back right away, Phil Tasker can have the books squared away by the year's end.

The Membership Report shows the last three years because Mike Murphy asked at the membership meeting to show the numbers from year to year.

Thanks, and I'll see you in September.

Chuck Oehme - Membership Chairman

ETR2, OE Division, 67-69

chelaine@comcast.net





USS New Jersey BB-62 World's Greatest Battleship

USS New Jersey Veterans, Inc.
Membership Report
5 October 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Members In Good Standing	402	439	403
WWII Era Members	11	15	17
Korean Era Members	77	96	105
Vietnam Era Members	153	155	140
Vietnam & 1980's Era Members	2	2	2
1980's Era Members	102	108	87
Associate Members	57	63	52

Since the 2022 Reunion, we have 13 new members and 4 attended the 2023 Reunion in Charleston, SC.

Respectfully,

Chuck Oehme
Membership Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

I hope everyone is in good health and doing well.

We experienced a wonderful reunion in Charleston, South Carolina. When we hold our reunions at the ship, they are extremely well attended. When we hold reunions at other venues, they are not as robustly attended as it is hard to compete with the most decorated battleship in US Navy history, but our Charleston reunion was the second-best attended non-ship reunion in the last twelve years. I think everyone in attendance had a wonderful time. Visiting the USS Yorktown, CVA-10 was a moving experience as we conducted our memorial service on another historical US Navy ship.



Financially there is not much to report currently as our accounting year does not end until December 31st and due to several timing differences involving various revenues and expenses, it is hard to even give a comparative analysis. However, we have excellent liquidity and no outstanding liabilities.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the ship next year.

Phil Tasker - Treasurer

ETR2, OE Division, Sept '67 - Dec '69

2023 Reunion 50/50 Winners

First Place: \$400.00

**Fred Tayman
Brandywine, MD**

Second Place: \$300.00

**John McClure
St Augustine, FL**

Third Place: \$200.00

**Richard Richardson
Randleman, NC**

Fourth Place: \$100.00

**James Davy (Proceeds Donated to the Ship Restoration
Murrieta, CA)**

REUNION COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Hello Shipmates

The 36th annual reunion in Charleston is over and hopefully everyone had a great time taking in the city and seeing old friends and meeting and making new friends. We had a very successful scholarship auction, and I am hopeful it will continue to get bigger and better in the future.

I am checking off my to do list for the 37th reunion which will be held back at the ship as well as back to the Wednesday through Sunday schedule. The reunion will be 9/18/2024 - 09/22/2024 and hotel accommodation will be at the Double Tree by Hilton at Cherry Hill, NJ.



The hotel is going through complete renovations and hopefully will be completed before our reunion. All rooms will be king or double queens. I am working on an affordable tour for the group and hope to have that finalized soon. The Memorial Service is scheduled on Friday, September 20th on the USS New Jersey.

The 38th annual reunion in 2025 will be in San Antonio, Texas. Will start working on the reunion hotel and tour for the group very soon. More details to follow before our next reunion.

Dave Wasmer - Reunion Coordinator

LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT



Shipmates,

Well, the reunion in Charleston, SC, was lots and lots of fun, by the time you receive this bounce there should be many pictures posted on the web page. To those who went to the reunion and have pictures that aren't already on our web page please send them to me by email.

I work with our membership director on keeping the roster up to date. If you know of anyone who has passed away, if you have changed your address, email address or phone number please contact me so our data base can be updated.

If you know of anyone who served on the USS New Jersey that isn't a member, any era, please contact me with their name and info. I keep a list of all USS *New Jersey* crew members that I'm aware of. Sadly, we also need to know if any member or crew member has passed away, please let us know.

Finally, next year we will be back to the ship, please try to attend and see what going on with our organization and our great ship, both need your support to keep going!

Note: I'm in process of converting our existing web page to a html format, our existing web page is in the old Front Page which is now obsolete I'm in need of a member who knows webpage design to help me fix an issue with the new web page. I have created a new temporary site at www.ussnewjersey.us, carried over from the old site are "pop-ups" that I can't figure how to get rid of. Your help would be appreciated!

Stay well,

Bob Williams, Liaison Officer/Web Master

ERA REPRESENTATIVES

WW II - 1940's

Paul Robbins 1942-44
402-334-9042
Wizoz22@aol.com

KOREA - 1950's

Ernest Dalton
210-275-7886
ps159soc@gmail.com

VIETNAM - 1960's

Thomas Gallucci
609-220-5590
tomgallucci4049@yahoo.com

LEBANON/PERSIAN GULF - 1980'S

Michael Murphy
541-754-6395
midsommardagen@comcast.com

US MARINE CORP REP

Michael Goins
310-497-5742
usmcmg@aol.com

SEATING COORDINATOR'S REPORT



Greetings,

Greetings from your Seating Coordinator, I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our next reunion in September aboard the greatest naval ship. I will do my best to accommodate all your seating requests just make sure that you include a copy your request along with your payment, as I cannot fill any request until I receive word of your payment. There is no guarantee that any request received after the deadline will be accepted, so please get your requests and payment in on time.

***Marvin Williams - Seating Coordinator
OI/Admin Division, 82-83 & 89-91***

BOUNCE EDITOR'S REPORT

Helen and I have again assumed responsibility for the Bounce. Creating a quality Bounce is a considerable amount effort as Tim Flynn discovered and sometimes work commitments reduce the time available to devote to the Bounce as Tim discovered. He reluctantly decided to give up this responsibility, at least until retirement may offer a bit more discretionary schedule.



Having produced the Bounce previously and talked with prior editors, one continuing issue is obtaining relevant content. We encourage all members to contribute whatever they think may be relevant and interesting to our membership. As Editor I can format, organize, and incorporate any worthwhile material. I just need the source information.

One area that I have previously been fortunate to receive assistance with is photography submissions. This issued is no exceptions as Bill Romer generously provided a memory stick full of Charleston activity photos. Thanks Bill!!!!

Lastly, while I comment on the effort required to produce the Bounce, it is not particularly onerous. It just takes a bit of time to coordinate submissions from a number of contributors. Somethings like stuffing and mailing is pretty much a chore but only take a couple of days. Most of the time is spent more piecemeal spread out over a period of time, gathering information, formatting etc. I would encourage anyone interested to consider taking over as Editor. I also serve as Treasurer and the organization really wants to increase the involvement of the membership.

Phil Tasker - Bounce Editor

ETR2, OE Division, Sept '67 - Dec '69

Minutes USS New Jersey Veterans Inc.

Business Meeting Saturday 9/21/23 9:00 am.
Town & Country Inn & Suites Charleston, SC

Officers and Advisor's Present:

President-Bob Dingman
Vice President- Leon Tucker
Treasurer- Phil Tasker
Secretary- Danny Fielder
Membership Chairman- Chuck Oehme
Small Stores-Mike Schappaugh
Master at Arms Ray Kehoe
Reunion Coordinator- Dave Wasmer
VA Coordinator-Joe DiMaria
Chaplin- Felix Bautista
Seating Coordinator- Marvin Williams

Meeting Opening and Pledge of Allegiance: Bob Dingman

Opening Prayer: Felix Bautista

The minutes of the past business meeting were published in 2022 Fall issue of the Bounce. A motion was made to dispense with the reading of those minutes was made by Tim Flynn and seconded by Steve Sheehan. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Phil Tasker reported that 2022 financials were included in the Spring Bounce and provided a summary of those numbers. He stated that he would be glad to entertain any questions the membership might have. There being none, he said that the organization currently had total cash funds of \$58,559.65 which included restricted Funds of \$14,199.50 (Restricted Funds are those monies set aside For Scholarship, Ships restoration etc.) Leaving available funds of \$44,360.15. Phil is estimating that approximately \$12,000.00 will come out of available funds to complete paying for this reunion. Ray Kehoe moved to accept the Treasurer's Report which was seconded by Marvin Williams. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Chuck Oehme reported that we currently have 401 last year we had 439 members. 10 are WWII members, 76 Korean era members, 154 Vietnam members, 102 80's members and 57 Associate members. We have 13 new members and 4 are at this reunion. A general discussion was held on how to increase membership. Motion to accept by Joe DiMaria seconded by Tim Flynn. Motion carried.

VA Report: Joe DiMaria explained that not much has changed in the past year, this is not in a negative way just on current updates. If not using VA, you should at least sign up to get things in motion. Joe brought up the Camp Lejeune lawsuit that is currently going on. Be careful when dealing with Attorney's in this case. You can be awarded money but can put VA Benefits on hold until that money has been recovered then VA Benefits would pick back up. Make use of benefits they can provide you with glasses, hearing aids and very good price on prescription drugs. Joe did inform that all the states have a VA location and will work with you, you just have to get the process started. General discussion and comments from the floor. Motion to accept by Steve Sheehan 2nd by Marvin Williams. Motion carried.

Reunion Coordinator's Report: Dave Wasmer reported that This reunion has gone well and coming to an end at the Banquet tonight. The 2024 reunion will be back at the ship; however, the Double Tree Hotel is under renovation, Dave talked to Dawn the hotel manager earlier this week and she informed him that the renovations will probably not be complete by the reunion. By cancelling this contract, we could possibly be out a lot of money, Bob Dingman said he will check with other hotels this is really up in the air right now. The tours we would have taken in 2020 to Ground Zero and 911 Museum would have been \$100.00 per person it is now \$150.00 per person. The tour to Constitution Hall and USS Mint would have been \$80.00 per person and now over \$100.00 per person. The buses to and from ship have gone up by \$500.00 and that is with the same company. Dave asked in general what was too much per person for tours. Currently there are no tours set up for next year. General discussion from the floor. Dave made note that the plaques in ship store that he is making he will make for any members just fill out a form he will make you one, the cost is \$25.00 and that includes shipping. Motion to accept by Steve Sheehan 2nd by Joe Cusumono. Motion carried.

Small Stores: Mike Schappaugh reported that the store is selling things and that sales are good. Mike really wanted to stress that he needs someone to take over this position. He said if nobody takes over by next reunion he will not be bringing items back. Motion to accept made by Tim Flynn with second by Joe Cusumono. Motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Scholarship Recipients for 2023: The organization received 7 applications and gave out 3 scholarships this year:

Emily Cook, Poway, CA.

Emily is the daughter of Neal and Michelle Cook and granddaughter of shipmate Wayne Bendelow (Vietnam, E Division). Emily has started her college career at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville. She will be majoring in Finance.

Sarah Melvin, Warrenton, Mo.

Sarah is the daughter of John and Susan Melvin and granddaughter of shipmate Ray Kehoe (Vietnam, E Division). Sarah is attending St. Charles Community College. She will be studying in a career in Occupational Therapy.

Wesley Thornton, Crystal Springs, MS.

Wesley is the son of Warren and Rebecca Thornton and grandson of shipmate Danny Fielder (1980's, M Division). Wesley is attending Mississippi University for Women. He is majoring in Kinesiology.

Please read the complete write up of each of these recipients in this issue of the Bounce.

Bob Dingman reported that next year we will be back at ship and also that it is election year for new officers. Bob would like some members to volunteer to be on nominating committee.

Points of information:

Randy Bergman brought up the cost of the Bounce and wanted to know if we could do electronically. Bob Dingman said this is option, but majority of members and associate members prefer to have a copy of Bounce. Phil Tasker said cost for Bounce is between \$5.00 and \$7.50 per copy.

Phil Tasker said it would be good to follow up on scholarship recipients, to see how the are doing after college and for information to add into the Bounce. Phil mentioned that the success of the Bounce is about content and interesting articles.

Bob brought up about commissioning of Submarine USS New Jersey which will be April 2024. Will check on how to go to commissioning for those that may be interested.

Bob Dingman said that we lose about \$3000.00 per reunion for various reasons. Ray Kehoe asked about charging a registration fee and Bob brought up about charging a late registration fee as well. Both of these fees would be nonrefundable. There started to be a lot of discussion. Ray Kehoe said we need a motion and then a second before discussion could take place.

Ray Kehoe made a motion to charge a \$20.00 registration fee and a \$25.00 late registration fee. Both of which would be per person. The motion was seconded by Don Lowery. Discussion from the floor. A lot of different scenarios that came about from this discussion, ranging from military members paying nonmilitary not paying to military paying one amount and non-military paying a lesser amount. After a tremendous amount of discussion from the floor the on the original motion from Ray Kehoe it was brought to a vote. Motion carried.

Bob Dingman made a motion to give Dave Wasmer \$1000.00 for the trips he has made to Camden to pick up the teak wood to make the plaques. Motion seconded by Joe Cusumano. Motion carried.

Bob Dingman said we need nominations for the 2025 Reunion venue. Here are the following nominations and number of votes for each:

San Antonio, Texas	14
Rapid City, South Dakota	5
Louisville, Kentucky	10
Branson, Missouri	10

Since no venue received at least fifty percent of the vote there was a revote with Rapid City as the lowest vote getter being taken off. Results as follows:

San Antonio, Texas	21 (54%)
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There was some further discussion from floor so it was decided to vote for alternate location in the event the Reunion Committee could not find acceptable vendors at the first choice. Results as follows:

Louisville, Kentucky	15
Branson, Missouri	17

San Antonio, Texas won for the 2025 reunion, if this were to fall through the alternate will be Branson, Missouri.

This concludes the 2023 business meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Danny Fielder and seconded by Joe Cusumano, meeting adjourned.

Recorded Minutes

Danny Fielder, Secretary, USS New Jersey Veterans Inc.

REUNION REGISTRATION FEES

During the 2023 Business Meeting held in Charleston, South Carolina in conjunction with our 35th Reunion there was significant discussion held about the losses incurred in hosting our annual reunions. After those discussions the attendees voted unanimously to introduce a registration or participation fee to help reduce future deficiencies.

Our losses over the past five reunions held (not including 2023 as final numbers were not available at the time of this writing but will continue to be significant) have totaled \$14,323, an average of \$2,865 a year:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Deficiency</u>	<u>Venue</u>
2017	\$1,886	Deerfield. IL
2018	\$4,853	New Orleans, LA
2019	\$2,180	San Diego, CA
2020	No Reunion Held	
2021	\$2,554	Oklahoma City, OK
2022	\$2,850	Cherry Hill, NJ
2023	Pending	Charleston, SC

When pricing events at each reunion the Reunion Coordinator has traditionally looked at unit costs of the event and marked up the unit cost modestly to contribute to overhead. The theory being the attendees of an event should cover the cost of the specific event.

However, there are a number of costs associated with the Reunion that are not event specific. First, we have Reunion Planning. To have a successful reunion it is essential that that Reunion Committee preliminarily visits the venue, and reviews lodging facilities, tour opportunities and transportation sources. We do not want any surprises either financially or with the quality of the services. Reunion Committees have made preliminary site visits the year before a scheduled Reunion for at least the previous twenty years. Yet the costs of these site visits do not normally get factored into event costs.

A second unrecovered cost is the hospitality room. We have always had a venue hotel area dedicated to our Reunion attendees where members could meet and socialize. The hospitality room has always been well stocked with coffee, soft drinks, bottled water, and gedunks. The cost of stocking the hospitality room has also not been factored into individual event pricing.

The \$20 per person Participation Fee was proposed as a means of trying to cover some of these extraneous costs and reduce the burden on non-attendee membership fees.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM VETERANS COMMEMORATION LAPEL PIN AND CERTIFICATE CEREMONY



Presented by Wayne Bendelow and Robert Dingman

This year's Reunion in Charleston resulted in 5 members receiving their United States of America Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Lapel Pin and Certificate. This Commemoration honors everyone who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. No distinction is being made between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. All were called to serve, none could self-determine where they were stationed, and all were seen in the same way by a country that could not separate the war from the warrior. Each person who served during this period earned and rightly deserves our profound thanks. The recipients were:

Randy Bergman
John Bragg
Mike Murphy
Joe Snoddy

The ceremony was held at Patriots Park on the USS Yorktown. Robert Dingman and myself were honored to present them with their Certificate and Lapel Pin.



Next year's reunion is scheduled to be held on the USS NEW JERSEY BB62 in Camden, New Jersey. The Commemoration Committee, which we are partnered with, will be sunset in 2025. Therefore, next year is important to recognize our USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS Inc. members who are eligible and have not received their Pin and Certificate. I know it is early to make plans for next year's reunion, but if you are eligible for this recognition, please email me at wbendelow@gmail.com with the correct spelling of your name and any middle name or initial. I have a list then which I will compare against those that sign up

for the reunion and will be able to order some supplies in anticipation prior to your making a commitment.



State of the Museum Report

Shipmates,

I regret not being able to attend the crew reunion in September. It fell on the same week as the annual Historic Naval Ships Association conference. 2023 has been a busy year for the museum. We have moved forward with major restoration projects, like redecking the ship, and preparing for dry-dock. We have seen a boost in our visitation numbers, especially over our pandemic numbers but even over some of our best pre-pandemic years. We have also found new artifacts of the ship, that had been hidden on board for decades.

2023 is set to be the best year for the museum in the last decade. Throughout the year our visitation numbers have been neck and neck with 2019, the museum's previous best year. Over the winter we were as much as 20% ahead of 2019's visitation up to the same date, but during the summer we occasionally fell below 2019's numbers. As we move into the fall, our numbers are higher once again. This shows that our move to being open all 12 months out of the year instead of being closed over winter is bearing fruit. Not only are the numbers going up, but the visitation is being spread out over the whole year instead of overwhelming us for a couple of months over the summer.

2024's visitation will likely be lower due to some closures; however, we are expecting big numbers in 2025 and 2026. The closures will be the result of dry-docking the ship, more information on that below. 2025 is the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Navy and Marine Corps which happened in Philadelphia in October and November 1775, respectively. This year the city is hosting, and we are participating in, the first ever combined Navy and Marine Corps week from October 9-15. This will be a dry run for the much larger celebrations happening in two years. The battleship will be a centerpiece of these celebrations.

We are still working on getting a date for when the ship will be in the yard, but it will likely be for two months, maybe as early as this winter. The approximate dates may already be released by the time this is published so be sure to check the museum's website and various social media accounts. We are posting updates on dry-dock every Wednesday night at 7pm EST on the YouTube channel. We will be putting the ship back in Dry-Dock 3 at the

former Philadelphia Navy Yard. This is where the ship had her rudders and propellers fitted when she was being built and where she was reactivated for the Vietnam War, so it is an entirely fitting location for her to receive her first yard period as a museum ship.



State of the Museum Report

We plan on only doing work in the yard that can't be easily done pier side. This will include the big three projects of painting, sealing through-hull openings, and replacing anodes. For painting we will be giving her a "shave and a haircut": blasting and painting from the waterline down. We will be inspecting the 158 through hull openings including repacking the stern tubes for the propellers and patching the discharge from number two main condenser that was temporarily repaired about seven years ago. For the 1,204 23# zinc anodes bolted to the hull, our dive survey reported little deterioration because the zincs are less effective in freshwater like the ship's current berth, so we will be replacing these with aluminum anodes. This roughly \$10 million project will make sure that the ship is with us for many years to come. The state of New Jersey generously supported the project with \$5 million but there is still a long way to go for fundraising for this project.

Before dry-docking the ship, we will likely complete redecking the main deck of the ship. The fantail and both the port and starboard sides have been completed up to the turn in the superstructure. Over the summer our maintenance team started from the bow and completed everything forward of the breakwater. They are currently working on the port sides of turrets one and two before transitioning to the starboard side where the gangway is. There will still be some much smaller areas of the superstructure to redeck next year, but we are excited to be this far along in the project.

The coolest finds we have made in terms of artifacts related to the ship are more original keys and an 80's flag. Last time I mentioned that we had found about 20 pounds of weapons and engineering department keys in a box, including the various missile launch keys and keys to the reduction gears. The two boxes we just found seem to be more supply department keys, but we have not had a chance to go through them all yet. The flag is huge, made of nylon, probably constructed on board in the sail locker, and is bright yellow. It reads "Firepower for Freedom Battleship New Jersey BB-62 WETSU". WETSU was Captain, later Admiral Tucker's favorite slogan so we can date the flag pretty conclusively to 1990, just before the ship was decommissioned.



State of the Museum Report

Finally, the Secretary of the Navy just announced the new USS *New Jersey*, SSN-796 will be commissioned on April 6, 2024 at Naval Weapons Station Earle, New Jersey. The crew of 796 has been regularly visiting the battleship and the museum's staff frequently remind the crew that the battleship and her crew are their heritage, but the submariners are this ship's legacy, and one day they will join us at these New Jersey reunions. If you want to stay up to date on what is happening at the museum be sure to check out

[YouTube.com/BattleshipNewJersey](https://www.youtube.com/BattleshipNewJersey) for daily updates. In the last year, 25 million people have tuned in to learn about your ship.

I will see you all on board soon,

Ryan

*Ryan Szimanski
Director of Curatorial and Educational Affairs
Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial
R.Szimanski@BattleshipNewJersey.org*

USS New Jersey SSN 796 Commissioning Information

The Commissioning of the USS New Jersey SSN 796 will take place on April 6, 2024, at Naval Weapons Station Earle in Monmouth County, NJ. I am waiting on further information on how we can get tickets. In the meantime, I will be making a list of our members who are interested in attending. If you are interested, please email, call, or text me your full name and the full name of each of your guests. At this time, I don't know how many guests will be allowed, but I'll put them on the list.

Send your information to

Bob Dingman

6 Butternut Ln., Laconia, NH 03246

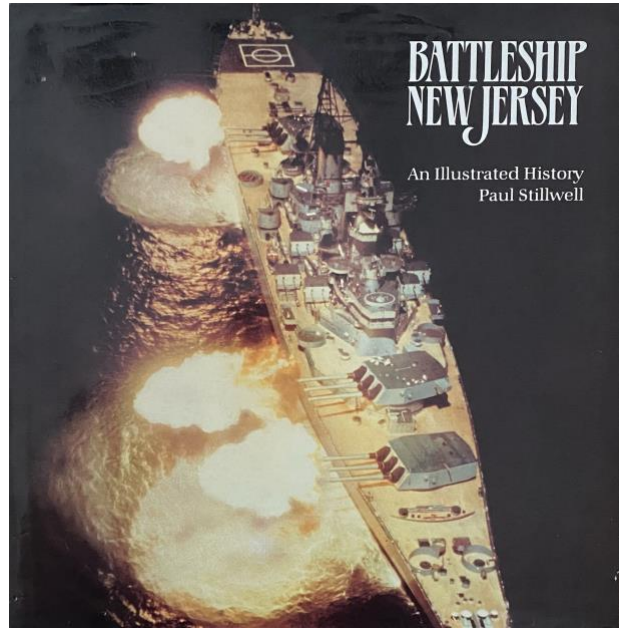
bdingman62@gmail.com, 603-455-4441 (C), 603-528-4436 (H)



Author's Request

Did you serve on the USS New Jersey during the 1980's?

Paul Stillwell is an independent historian and retired naval officer. From 1962 to 1992, he was in the Naval Reserve, including active duty from 1966 to 1969; he served in the tank-landing ship, USS Washoe County LST-1165 and the USS New Jersey BB-62. He was an Officer aboard NEW JERSEY in 1969. He worked for thirty years at the U.S. Naval Institute as an oral historian and editor of Naval History magazine. He is the author or editor of thirteen books, including four on battleships. Among his publications is *Battleship New Jersey: An Illustrated History*.



The book is the history of the USS NEW JERSEY beginning with the laying of the keel in 1940. The text covers events up to the Spring of 1986. Paul is now writing an updated edition to the book, covering her history from when the first edition ended, through to her 1991 decommissioning, her time in mothballs, and the conversion to her present status as the Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial in Camden, NJ.

Paul and his wife Karen attended the 2023 reunion in Charleston. As part of his research for the update, he interviewed a number of our members in attendance who were part of the crew during her final years in service. Paul is looking to interview more of the 1986-1991 crew. If you would like to share your memories of your time aboard the Battleship, please contact Paul.

Paul Stillwell
262 Waycross Way
Arnold, Maryland 21012-2200
410-544-5592 (Home)
E-mail: paulstillwell@starpower.net

USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS INC.

36th Reunion

Charleston, South Carolina

WELCOME ABOARD DINNER



USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS INC.

36th Reunion

Charleston, South Carolina

WELCOME ABOARD DINNER



The Auction raised \$3,629 for the Scholarship Fund primarily through the efforts of auctioneer Ray Kehoe and the exceptional woodworking artifacts crafted by Reunion Coordinator Dave Wasmer.



USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS INC.
36th Reunion
Charleston, South Carolina



USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS INC.

36th Reunion

Charleston, South Carolina



USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS INC.

36th Reunion

Charleston, South Carolina



USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS INC.
36th Reunion
Charleston, South Carolina



USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS INC.
36th Reunion
Charleston, South Carolina



USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS INC.
36th Reunion
Charleston, South Carolina



USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS INC.

36th Reunion
Charleston, South Carolina



USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS INC.
36th Reunion
Charleston, South Carolina



2023 USS New Jersey Veterans Scholarship Recipients

Emily Cook, Poway, CA

Emily is the daughter of Neal and Michelle Cook and the granddaughter of shipmate, Wayne Bendelow (Vietnam, E Division). Emily graduated this past Spring from Poway High School. She was recognized by the University of California ELC program as one of the top 9% of her graduating class based on academic performance. She served in the leadership rolls: Freshman Council, Commissioner of Clubs, Commissioner of Activities, and ASB Executive of Activities. Emily volunteered for Feeding San Diego, packaging, and distributing food those in need, and Soroptimist International of San Diego, a global organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. She was a member of Poway HS Varsity Soccer, Varsity Soccer Captain, and selected for All Palomar League Second Team. Emily is recently beginning her college career at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville, where she will be majoring in Finance.



Sarah Melvin, Warrenton, MO

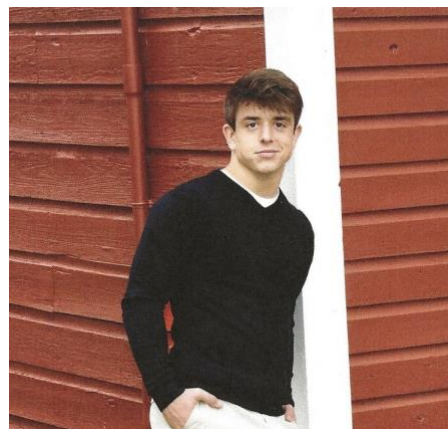
Sarah is the daughter of John and Susan Melvin and the granddaughter of shipmate Ray Kehoe (Vietnam, E Division). Sarah is our first ever homeschooled student to apply for our scholarship program. She was homeschooled from kindergarten thru 12th grade. She attended homeschool classes with Saint Charles Christian Home Educators for the last 6 years and dual enrolled at St. Charles Community College for three semesters. Her extracurricular activities include both Concert and Chamber Choir, Jazz, Tap and Ballet dance and 5 years of Theatre. Sarah also volunteered at her local food pantry.

Sarah is attending St. Charles Community College, where she will be studying for a career in Occupational Therapy.

2023 USS New Jersey Veterans Scholarship Recipients

Wesley Thornton, Crystal Springs, MS

Wesley is the son of Warren and Rebecca Thornton and the grandson of shipmate Danny Fielder (1980's, M Division). Wes graduated this past May from Copiah Academy, Gallman, MS. His scholastic honors include Honor Roll, Senior Class Hall of Fame, Biblical Worldwide Academic Excellence. Colonel Pride Award, Most School Spirit 2019-2023 and voted by his peers "Most Likely to be Famous!" He was the baseball team starting catcher, a starting member of the football and soccer teams. Wes volunteers RAD (Radically Against Dystrophy) Camp and Mississippi's Toughest Kids Foundation at Camp Kamassa. Wes is attending Mississippi University for Women, where he's majoring in Kinesiology and is continuing his love of baseball on the university team.



We wish to congratulate all seven of our applicants who applied for the USS New Jersey Veterans scholarships.



USS New Jersey BB-62 Taps Listing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Clifford L. Abramson	B	WWII	Dubuque, IA
Gregory P. Adams	OE	80's	Leavenworth, KS
Capt. Paul M. Allen	S-4	WWII	Mission, TX
William B, Anderson	Unknown	WWII	Okeechobee, FL
Frederick M. Andrews	3 rd /R	Korea	Port Arthur, TX
Lester A. Atkins	Unknown	WWII	Gadsden, AL
Nathan W. Baker	FM	Vietnam	Cedar Creek, TX
William L. Balfour	K	Korea	New Baltimore, MI
Richard H. Bedard	4 th	Vietnam	Sugar Run, PA
Adrien P. Belcourt	Unknown	WWII	Maxbass, ND
David A. Bendtschneider	OC	80's	Katy, TX
Ernest W. Blazejak	FM	Korea	Denton, MD
Marvin M. Borkenhagen	Unknown	WWII	Amboy, MN
William C. Brady	5/S2	Vietnam	Kingston, NY
Robert J. Brien	1 st	WWII	Green Bay, WI
Albert R. Briggs	M	WWII	Elmwood, IL
Wilmont S. Brink	EX	WWII	Washington, NJ
George W. Brown	Unknown	Korea	Lewiston, ID
Nicholas Cagnino	B	Korea	Conway, SC
Gusto O. Caluza	M	Korea	Indianapolis, IN
Lloyd D. Carter	Unknown	80's	North Little Rock, AR
James F. Cavavaugh	C	Korea	Providence, RI
Dwain A. Clay	B	WWII	Duluth, MN
Harold "Gene" Crumley	R	Korea	East Peoria, IL



USS New Jersey BB-62 Taps Listing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Samuel J. Cusimano	Unknown	Korea	Trussville, AL
Roland J. Daigle	FM	WWII	Baton Rouge, LA
Richard De Vries	Unknown	WWII	Grand Rapids, MI
Harry A. DeCrispino	Unknown	Korea	Eldersburg, MD
John L. Denby	H	Vietnam	Carlinville, IL
Norman L. Denger	Unknown	WWII	South Amherst, OH
Joseph D. Denton	Unknown	80's	Shelbyville, IL
Joseph V. DeSantis	FM	WWII	Lorain, OH
William W. Dolan	7 th	Korea	Hardyston Township, NJ
Brendan W. Donahue	3 rd	WWII	Simsbury, CT
Thomas R. Donald	Unknown	WWII	Fairport Harbor, OH
Charles W. Drish	5 th	Vietnam	Neville Island, PA
Thomas R. Duncan	N	Korea	Wilmington, DE
Frank K. Duncan	E	Vietnam	Frederick, MD
Randolph A. Elliott	S	Korea	Annapolis, MA
James C. Ellison	FA	Korea	East Haven, CT
Theodore H. Erck	HD	Korea	Brookfield, WI
Donald I. Emhout	Unknown	Korea	Reno, NV
Thomas L. Farmer	FA	Korea	Marshfield, MA
Bill J. Ferguson	8/A	WWII	Mobile, AL
Francis J. Flynn	Q	WWII	Lowell, MA
John L. Gafford	R	WWII	Waco, TX
Michael Gaitley	X	Vietnam	Cypress, CA
Eldon E. Garnett	Unknown	80's	Wichita, KS



USS New Jersey BB-62 Taps Listing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Harold A. Geldbach	Unknown	WWII	Sun City Center, FL
Leslie K. Gnagy	E	WWII	Madison, OH
Philip J. Graham	CS	WWII	Wellesley, MA
Bruce F. Greer	S	Korea	Nashville, TN
Edward Hagelgans	Unknown	WWII	Audubon, PA
Martin W. Harley	5 th	WWII	Louisville, KY
Noble C. Harris	Unknown	WWII	Savannah, GA
William P. Hart	FA	Korea	Rochester, NY
Capt. Charles C. Hartigan Jr.	XO	Korea	Washington, DC
Steve W. Hasty	M & S	WWII	Tarpon Springs, FL
Kenneth C. Hays	Unknown	WWII	Troy, MT
Colonel Michael K. Hicks	USMC	80's	Dallas, TX
George Hill	S	WWII	Annapolis, MA
David L. Hobbs	Unknown	Vietnam	Collins, IA
Stanford G. Holsonback	E	WWII	Augusta, GA
Charles S. Holton	Unknown	80's	West Manchester, OH
Robert D. Howell	B	Korea	Fair Haven, NY
Leon J. Jackson	EX	Korea	Shelby, NC
Donald P. Jestings	R	Korea	Portsmouth, RI
Lester E. Kenady	M	Korea	Barry, IL
Michael J. Klopff	USMC	80's	Tucson, AZ
Robert G. Knoll	2 nd	WWII	Lake Forest, IL
Clifford H. Knudsen	B	Korea	Alligerville, NY
Robert T. Kosker	Unknown	Korea	Hampton, VA



USS New Jersey BB-62 Taps Listing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Harold Krasnick	L	WWII	Pottstown, PA
Douglas D. Kruger	Unknown	Korea	Clear Lake, WI
Clyde E. Kunce	Unknown	Korea	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Nevin L. Lantry	X	Korea	Melbourne, FL
Joseph G. Lehning	M	Korea	Dunnellon, FL
Robert Leister	USMC	Korea	Dover, NH
Robert S. Long	B	Korea	Webster City, IA
James F. Louise	Unknown	Korea	Solvay, NY
Thomas F. Loveland	R	Vietnam	Media, PA
John R. Maes	B	Korea	Lakewood, NJ
William H. Marriott	V	WWII	Clearfield, PA
John W. McCallister	Unknown	WWII	Williamsburg, IA
Marvin F. McConnell	Unknown	Korea	Long Beach, WA
Thomas F. McCormick	FA	Vietnam	Tampa, FL
Clifton McDonald	Unknown	WWII	Alamogordo, NM
James W. McFarland	7 th	WWII	Catonsville, MD
John McKenna	E	Korea	Winthrop, MA
Henry F. Micas	R	WWII	Metairie, LA
Arnold H. Millman	R	Korea	Guilford, CT
Melvin M. Miner	EX	Korea	Belpre, OH
Dale R. Mitcheltree	N	Vietnam	Forest Grove, OR
Adalbert J. Moczarnik	E	Korea	Madison, IN
Russell J. Monica	G1	80's	Theresa, NY
Wayland P. Moore	Unknown	Korea	Midland, TX
Robert J. Murray	R	Korea	Wall, NJ



USS New Jersey BB-62 Taps Listing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Harvey K. Nevalls Jr.	Unknown	WWII	Cranford, NJ
John W. Newell	Unknown	WWII	Newport News, VA
Dale C. Palm	B	WWII	Bloomington, MN
Loyd A. Peters	Unknown	WWII	Richmond, KS
Frank V. Pishioneri	EX	Korea	Center Township, PA
Ronald B. Platt	H	WWII	Saratoga Springs, NY
Peter L. Post	B	WWII	Grand Rapids, MI
John Ragnoni	Unknown	WWII	Garfield, NJ
Gary R. Rickert	OE	Vietnam	La Mirada, CA
Alan Riebel	Unknown	WWII	Salem, OR
VADM Bernard F. Roeder	Unknown	WWII	San Diego, CA
Robert L. Rudd	Unknown	WWII	Hunt, TX
Richard B. Rudd	Unknown	WWII	Esteros, FL
James A. Ryan	5 th	Vietnam	East Greenbush, NY
LCDR James F. Sabin	Navigator	Vietnam	Jacksonville, FL
Kenneth R. Sauers	E	Korea	Riverview, FL
Philip E. Sauerwald	2 nd	Korea	Sparrows Point, MD
Blair Schetrompf	S3	WWII	Peabody, MA
Robert E. Scott	M	WWII	Accokeek, MD
Aznor "Steve" Shaw	Unknown	WWII	Sandusky, OH
Joseph D. Silvio	6 th	Korea	Peabody, MA
Terry Lee Smay	E	Vietnam	Littleton, CO
Stanley R. Smith	Unknown	WWII	Virginia Beach, VA



USS New Jersey BB-62 Taps Listing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Raymond A. Souchet Sr.	Unknown	Korea	North Miami Beach, FL
Ronald J. Sousa	OE	Vietnam	Dover, NH
Sammy Spears	5 th	WWII	Plano, TX
Fred H. Stockton	OE	Vietnam	Jackson, MO
Stanley L. Stosel	E	Korea	Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
Joe Don Taylor	Unknown	Korea	Odessa, TX
Donald F. Townsend	N	Korea	Madison, WI
CDR Allen L. Trecartin	AV	WWII	Imperial Beach, CA
John Trombetta	S-3	Korea	Pittston Township, PA
James F. Vinette	L	Korea	Pittsfield, MA
Robert J. Walsh	Unknown	Korea	Allamuchy, NJ
Charles R. Westphal	2 nd	WWII	Lawrenceville, GA
Clarence E. Whipp	GMG	WWII	Breaux Bridge, LA
Howard C. Wiegand	Unknown	WWII	Easton, PA
James M. Zubert	1 st	WWII	Pitman, NJ



USS New Jersey BB-62 Welcome Aboard New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Andrew Adams	R	Korea	Ingleside, TX
Theresa Andryszcak		Associate Member	Kearny, NJ
Denis Gruver		Associate Member	Tacoma, WA
Mark Kullberg	FA	80's	Bedford, TX
Paul Kapferer	FM	80's	Midlothian, TX
James Watkins		Associate Member	Jersey City, NJ

Alternative Payment Options

The organization has worked to expand payment options for Ship's Store purchases, Reunion registrations and Membership Dues. We can now accept payment through PayPal, Zelle, and by credit card, Apple Pay, And Google Pay.

You can make payment through PayPal or Zelle by e-mailing the payment to

bb62veterans@gmail.com

Credit card, Apple Pay and Google Pay remittances can be made by requesting to be invoiced. We will send an invoice that can be paid securely through *Square*, a national payment processor.

***REGARDLESS OF METHOD, PLEASE NOTE WHETHER THE PAYMENT IS FOR
SHIP'S STORE, REUNION, OR MEMBERSHIP.***

USS Yorktown CV-5



We just completed our 36th Reunion in Charleston South Carolina. Our Memorial Service was held on the USS Yorktown (CV-10) which was named in honor of an earlier ship that was sunk during the Battle of Midway in World War II.

USS *Yorktown* (CV-5), commissioned in 1937 was the lead ship of the Yorktown class, which was designed on the basis of lessons learned from operations with the converted battlecruisers of the Lexington class and the smaller purpose-built USS *Ranger*.

Yorktown was at port in Norfolk during the attack on Pearl Harbor, having just completed a patrol of the Atlantic Ocean. She then sailed to San Diego in late December 1941 and was incorporated as the flagship of Task Force 17. Together with the carrier Lexington, she successfully attacked Japanese shipping off the east coast of New Guinea in early March 1942. Her aircraft sank or damaged several warships supporting the invasion of Tulagi in early May. Yorktown rendezvoused with Lexington in the Coral Sea and attempted to stop the invasion of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. They sank the light aircraft carrier Shōhō on 7 May during the Battle of the Coral Sea, but did not encounter the main Japanese force of the carriers Shōkaku and Zuikaku until the next day. Aircraft from Lexington and Yorktown badly damaged Shōkaku, but the Japanese aircraft critically damaged Lexington (which was later scuttled), and damaged Yorktown.

Despite the damage suffered, Yorktown was able to return to Hawaii. Although estimates were that the damage would take two weeks to repair, Yorktown put to sea only 72 hours after entering drydock at Pearl Harbor, which meant that she was available for the next confrontation with the Japanese. *Yorktown* played an important part in the Battle of Midway in early June. *Yorktown's* aircraft played crucial roles in sinking two Japanese fleet carriers. *Yorktown* also absorbed both Japanese aerial counterattacks at Midway which otherwise would have been directed at the carriers USS *Enterprise* and *Hornet*.^[2] On 4 June, during the Battle of Midway, Japanese aircraft crippled *Yorktown*. She lost all power and developed a 23-degree list to port. Salvage efforts on *Yorktown* were encouraging, and she was taken in tow by USS *Vireo*. In the late afternoon of 6 June, the Japanese submarine *I-168* fired a salvo of torpedoes, two of which struck *Yorktown*, and a third sinking the destroyer USS *Hammann*, which had been providing auxiliary power to *Yorktown*. With further salvage efforts deemed hopeless, the remaining repair crews were evacuated from *Yorktown*, which sank on the morning of 7 June.



A Note from the SSN 796 Submarine Skipper



Greetings NEW JERSEY Veterans,

I thank you for your service and support of USS NEW JERSEY (BB-62) as it continues to bring rich history to every person that steps onboard!

I am writing to you to provide a short update on the final delivery stages of the newest Virginia-Class Submarine, USS NEW JERSEY (SSN 796). The major construction milestones are all complete and testing is in the final stages to support getting underway in the coming weeks. Our crew has completed several rigorous certifications over the last couple of months validating our readiness to conduct sea-trials. The team has ongoing training in the simulators that allow us to operate navigation, sonar, and depth control systems as if the ship were alive at-sea. We are also operating the shipboard systems to validate all equipment functions as designed before we cast off lines. And as with any ship, we are also focusing the crew on emergency responses and how to work as a team to combat fires, flooding, and other damage control situations. Overall, the team has impressed me with their eagerness to learn their watch-station and improve their ability to operate one of the most complicated vessels ever constructed.

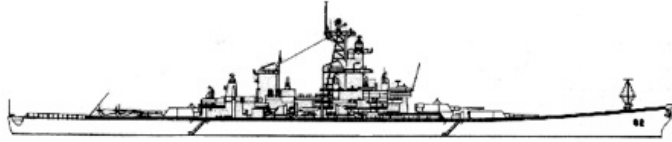
Our sea trials will likely occur in the December/January timeframe to support our scheduled commissioning on April 6th, 2024 in Belford, New Jersey at Weapons Station Earle. The USS New Jersey Commissioning Committee is in full planning mode to make our event the “best commissioning ever”. I encourage anyone interested in attending that event to follow the updates posted at:

<https://njcommissioning.org/>

My crew has had many opportunities to visit the state of New Jersey, tour BB-62, and meet some members of NEW JERSEY Veterans group. All the Sailors that experienced this ship have been overwhelmed by the Black Dragon’s impressive size and history that is embedded in every magazine and passageway. We look forward to keeping the BB-62 and SSN-796 connection strong to ensure we prolong Navy customs and traditions. We recently revamped our Submarine’s battle cry to match the battleship and we will often adjourn our meetings with a strong “FIREPOWER FOR FREEDOM”!

Sincerely,

Steven A. Halle, CDR USN



USS New Jersey Veterans, Inc.

SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING UPDATE

On Nov 1st, after this issue went to print, I received an email from the Commissioning Committee with information on the USS New Jersey SSN796 commissioning ceremony ticketing process.

In essence, it will go as follows:

- They plan to set aside special seating for BB62 invitees. They're not sure of the number of seats yet, but we can easily plan for a 100-150 range.
- They asked that I reach out to the USS New Jersey Veteran's, Inc. members and obtain the following information from those who want to attend:
 - Prefix (Mr, Mrs, etc)
 - Full Name (Last, First, Middle)
 - Suffix (such as: Jr., Sr, etc)
 - Mailing Address (Street required, City, State, Zip Code,)
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
 - Plus one name (Full name of Guest)
 - US Citizen? (Yes/No)
- I will add our information to the spreadsheet that was supplied to me and I will email it to the New Jersey SSN796 Commissioning Committee.
- Ceremony Invites (E-vite) will be sent to those on the sheet by the Navy.
- Hard Copy ticket packages will be mailed to those who accept the ceremony invitation.

**Please send your information to me via email, text or phone call:
email me at, bdingman62@gmail.com, text or call me at, 603-455-4441(C). Please send your information to me by Dec 12th so I can return it to the committee, giving them enough time to process the information and get it to the Navy.**

Other info about the commissioning day:

- Gates to NWS Earle will open 0730. Cars will be sent to a designated parking lot. After security screening, a bus will deliver the invitees to the pier, where ushers will direct them to their seats.
- The ceremony starts at 1000, and lasts approx 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- After the ceremony, a reception (light lunch) will be held on the pier.
- Attendees will be able to tour the submarine from 1200 to 1600.
- The return process is the reverse of the first step.

Thank you,
Bob

USS New Jersey Veterans, Inc.

Donation Form for Current Year

If you paid this year's dues at the Reunion, or your dues are paid ahead for a few more years, but still wish to donate this year to the funds listed below, please use this form.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Telephone #: _____ Spouses name _____

When did you serve on New Jersey? M/Y _____ - M/Y _____ Division _____

When did you serve on active duty? M/Y _____ - M/Y _____

Are you an Associate Member? Y/N _____

This Year's Donations	
*Donation to USS NJ Veterans, Inc.	\$ _____
Scholarship Fund	\$ _____
*Donation will be made to Battleship NJ Deck Restoration Fund	\$ _____
Total	
Please include a copy of this completed form with your donations.	
* <u>All donations are optional but welcomed.</u>	

Please make your check or money order payable to: **USS New Jersey Veterans, Inc.**

Mail check or money order to:

USS New Jersey Veterans, Inc.

Phillip Tasker, Treasurer

7526 14th Lane

Vero Beach, FL 32966-1200