

# THE JERSEY BOUNCE

USS New Jersey Veterans, Inc.

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

Volume XXXIX No. 2      Fall 2024

President: Bob Dingman      Vice President: Leon Tucker



37<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

# USS NEW JERSEY (BB-62) - AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Decoration</u>
<b>1945</b>	<b>WWII AMERICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL</b>
<b>1945</b>	<b>WWII ASIA-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL</b>
January 1944 - March 1944	Marshall Island Operations
February 1944 - May 1944	Asiatic - Pacific Raids
April 1944 - May 1944	Hollandia Operations
June 1944 - August 1944	Marianas Island Operations
September 1944 - October 1944	Western Caroline Operations
October 1944 - December 1944	Leyte Operations
February 1945	Iwo Jima Operations
March 1945 - April 1945	Okinawa Operations
<b>OCTOBER 1944 - SEPTEMBER 1945</b>	<b>WWII PHILIPPINE LIBERATION MEDAL</b>
<b>1944 - 1945</b>	<b>WWII PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION</b>
<b>1945</b>	<b>WWII WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL</b>
<b>OCTOBER 1945 - JUNE 1946</b>	<b>NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE MEDAL</b>
<b>1951</b>	<b>NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (KOREA)</b>
<b>1951</b>	<b>KOREA SERVICE MEDAL</b>
May 1951 - July 1951	Communist Chinese Summer Offensive
July 1951 - November 1951	United Nations Summer/Fall Offensive
April 1953	Third Korea Winter Campaign
May 1953 - July 1953	Korea Summer/Fall Campaign
<b>1951</b>	<b>UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL (KOREA)</b>
<b>1951 - 1952</b>	<b>KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION</b>
<b>AUGUST 1953</b>	<b>CHINA SERVICE MEDAL</b>
<b>1968</b>	<b>NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (VIETNAM)</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 1968 - APRIL 1969</b>	<b>NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 1968 - APRIL 1969</b>	<b>VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL</b>
September 1968 - November 1968	Vietnam Counter Offensive Phase V
November 1968 - February 1969	Vietnam Counter Offensive Phase VI
February 1969 - November 1969	TET 1969 Counter Offensive
<b>SEPTEMBER 1968 - APRIL 1969</b>	<b>REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 1968 - APRIL 1969</b>	<b>REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY</b>
<b>OCTOBER 1968</b>	<b>COMBAT ACTION RIBBON</b>
<b>JUNE 1983 - DECEMBER 1984</b>	<b>NAVY "E" RIBBON</b>
<b>JUNE 1983 - MAY 1984</b>	<b>NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 1983 - APRIL 1984</b>	<b>ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 1983 - JANUARY 1984</b>	<b>NAVAL EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 1983 - JANUARY 1984</b>	<b>SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON</b>
June 1983 - December 1984	Western Pacific, Central America, Beirut
May 1986 - August 1986	Western Pacific
July 1988 - November 1988	Korea/Australia
September 1989 - February 1990	Persian Gulf
<b>JANUARY 1985 - JUNE 1986</b>	<b>NAVY "E" RIBBON</b>
<b>DECEMBER 1989</b>	<b>ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL</b>
<b>1990</b>	<b>NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (PERSIAN GULF)</b>



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greetings,

The 37th reunion is in the books. It was nice to see so many of you once again and to meet many new attendees and members. The weather was nice, and it appeared that everyone had a good time. I found the Museum of the American Revolution to be very interesting and informative. They had General George Washington's Revolutionary War tent on display and the story behind it was amazing. Unfortunately, I found our visit to the US Mint disappointing. They were not producing any coins that day and therefore none of the machinery was running and there were only a few people on the production floor. Our group's family style late

lunch at Maggiano's offered us plenty to eat, with seconds as needed. I personally did not have to worry about dinner that night. Just a few light appetizers at the hotel were sufficient.

At the General Meeting, the members in attendance voted to hold the 2026 reunion in Omaha, NE. Planning for 2025 is underway and for 2026 will start soon. This year's auction for our scholarship fund was a huge success, taking in over \$7000, thanks to many one-of-a-kind teak item donations by Dave Wasmer and a fabulous mix of items donated by many of our members and their spouses. The ship is looking great with the new teak decking completed on the main deck. Marshall Spevak, CEO of the Battleship, gave us an update on what's been happening and what's planned for the most decorated Battleship in US naval history. Many of our members enjoyed to opportunity to share their "Stories of Service" during video interviews conducted by the Unites States Navy Memorial with the assistance of middle school students and teachers from So. NJ and SE PA.

Congratulations to the new and returning members of the Board of Directors. I am excited to see more of the men from the 1980's get involved in the control and operation of the organization. I know we are in good hands with the current mix of 80's and Vietnam Era men in charge. For years I've thought that Mike Holmes would make a great president. I was pleasantly surprised when he told me while aboard the ship on Friday that we needed to talk prior to the General Meeting. We talked for about an hour on the quarterdeck and I guess I was able to give him the right answers. Thanks to Danny Fielder and Randy Bergman for encouraging Mike to consider the Presidents position. We still need someone

for Storekeeper, but one of the men of the 80's is seriously thinking about it. If you're interested or want more information, call Mike Schappaugh.

Finally, as I write my last message as the President of the USS New Jersey Veterans, Inc. I wish to say how proud I am of this organization and the many men I've had the honor to work with during my 12 years as an officer. Thanks to all who helped me during this time, including all the current and former officers and all the members and spouses. A very special thanks to Judy who has supported me and the organization since we started attending the reunions in 2002. Once Mike decided to run for president, one of the 1st things he asked me was if Judy's help came along with the position. I told him I didn't think he could keep her away. Our wives do so much to support this organization. Beginning in 2016, there were no longer any WWII and Korea veterans on the Board of Directors. Before long, the Vietnam era veterans will give way to the 1980's. It's a natural progression and one that will keep us vibrant for many years to come. Thank you all again. I'm really looking forward to being able to spend more time sitting and talking with many of you at our future reunions.

Stay safe and healthy this coming winter,

*Bob Dingman, President*

*EM2, E Division, Sept '67 - Dec '69*



*The Changing of the Guard*



# THANK YOU!

To all who helped make the 2024 Cherry Hill, NJ 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

Wayne Bendelow	Bill Romer
Randy Bergman	Larry Ruble
Joe and Carol Cusumano	Bill and John Ryan
Judy Dingman	Paul and Jack Robbins
Danny Fielder	Marshall Spevak
Tom Gallucci and Karen Johnson	Jessica Shepardson
Mike Holmes	Mike Schappaugh
Ray and Rita Kehoe	Phil and Helen Tasker
Don Lowery	Beverly Langford
Kaylee O'Brien	Leon and Hilda Tucker
Chuck and Elaine Oehme	Dave and Norma Wasmer
Mary Porter	Marvin Williams
Michael and Jody Murphy	

Jack Willard and the staff & Volunteers of the Battleship New Jersey

All the Auction Item Donors and Bidders



## PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT

Greetings Shipmates,

The reunion aboard the NEW JERSEY in Camden this year was not only memorable but one that brought back fond memories, sea stories (some actually believable) and garnished new relationships between shipmates old and new. We were so grateful for our time spent with our two WW2 Battleship brothers who provided tales of our ship's history and life aboard during those times which were so different than Korea, Vietnam and the 80's era adventures aboard. The reunion was successful because of the superb planning by our outgoing leadership directors but also by the number of shipmates who attended from far and wide, even Australia!



Our Veteran Association Business Meeting was well attended and memorable as well as I was elected to be your new President of the association. I am grateful for your support and recognition and will endeavor to continue to expand on the superb efforts of Bob and the outgoing leadership team. One of our challenges is to find our shipmates who are not members and get them to join and be involved in our ship and association. **Accept the challenge!**

As background I started my 47-year Naval career while attending NY Maritime as an enlisted reservist on USS WILLIAM R RUSH and USS POWER. After commissioning I served on USS MCINERNEY (FFG-8), USS NEW JERSEY (BB-62), USS LEYTE GULF (CG-55) and as XO of NAVSTA New York and the US Merchant Marine Academy before transferring to the Engineering Duty Officer Program overhauling nuclear submarines and eventually serving in the Navy's Deep Submergence Systems Program on Submarine NR-1, USS DOLPHIN, DSRV-1/2 , DSV 3/4 as well as some other "interesting" programs. After retirement I served as a Program Manager with NAVSEA for Submarine Escape and Rescue, NATO Chair for Submarine Escape and Rescue and ended my career as the Chief Engineer for the Littoral Combat Ships (LCS). I have been happily married to my wife Marianne for 29 years and now enjoy sailing the world in comfort.

Lastly, let me just say how important our organization is in its monetary and political support of our ship on the waterfront of Camden, especially with the 250th Navy Birthday coming up next year in Philadelphia where our ship will be a focal point in the celebration. We owe a great deal of gratitude to those that care for our ship, and we need to build on the strength of our membership. Let your new leadership know your thoughts and ideas as we move forward.

*Mike Holmes, President Elect*

*LT, Repair Officer, 1/1981 - 5/1984*

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greetings:

It is not good-bye or farewell to the organization, just a shuffle from the vice president position to the 80's advisor. My wife and I want to thank all for the support while I fulfilled my duties as vice president. As I settle in on my new position, I am going to enjoy this as I reach out across the country in search of former shipmates. This is going to be very exciting.

*Leon Tucker Jr. GMG1(SW)*

*G1 Division 87-90*

## SECRETARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Hello shipmates.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank this organization for time I have spent as Secretary. It has been a privilege to serve in this position for the past 9 years. When I first started this report years ago, I used the light house as a symbol to guide new members to our organization as in the manner it was used to guide ships. Whether or not it has done that job, I am pleased that we have more 80's members as well as other new members. After the 2024 reunion the USS New Jersey Veterans Inc. Board has several 80's members. I welcome Mike Murphy as the new Secretary as I do for the other new board members. If anyone has the opportunity to welcome him and the other new board members, please do so. I know he will do a great job as well as the other new board members. If Mike has any questions, I will be glad to help him, I will not be abandoning ship. Everyone had a wonderful time at this reunion, and it was great to go back to the ship. My wife Sheila and I really enjoy this time. We take extra days and incorporate a vacation in as well. At the ships Memorial Service Junie Hobbs was able to attend because her wonderful granddaughter Dominica brought her. Her husband Ken Hobbs passed away a few years ago. He served on board during Korea. Her family as well as other shipmate families have become good friends, and that is due to this organization. Let's keep it going as long as possible. Our 2025 Reunion will be in San Antonio, Tx. I am sure this will be a wonderful reunion as well. The date will be September 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> which is a Monday thru Thursday. There is more on the reunion in this issue. Anybody reading this Bounce issue if you have not attended a reunion or it has been a long time, come enjoy, you will have a good time. As always "Fair Winds and Following Seas"

***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:*

Another reunion is in the books, and we are gearing up for San Antonio next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank, IN A BIG WAY, all that helped with the setup and teardown of the store.

Also, with getting Beverly back and forth to the hospital while I was there for 2 days. A big help it was. THANKS

A big THANK YOU to Dave Wasmer for providing the teakwood items to the store. they were an instant sellout.

We had a very good conversation with some shipmates regarding becoming the new storekeepers in the near future.

Unfortunately, I was under the weather and could not attend the last day of the reunion. I am recovering and moving forward with completing orders and restocking the store.



Have a great Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas

***Mike Schappaugh - Ship's Store Advisor***

USS NEW JERSEY VETS SHIPS STORE

3540-16th St. No.

St. Petersburg, Fla 33704

[sixpaca12@yahoo.com](mailto:sixpaca12@yahoo.com)

# MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Greetings fellow shipmates,

My wife Elaine and I had a great time at the reunion in Camden. Our ship was in great shape thanks to the Battleship New Jersey Museum & Memorial, its staff and volunteers, and the contributions from our members for the deck restoration and ship's maintenance. We got to see old friends again and meet new ones. All our members have a story, whether it be their time on the ship, their careers, their families or hobbies. Wonderful people and wonderful conversations. Thanks to Tom Gallucci for supplying the refreshments for us in the hospitality room.

As Membership Chairman I get to see the email addresses of our members. You would be surprised to see the number of email addresses with BB62 in them. Our members are really proud of their service aboard the "World's Greatest Battleship".

We struggle to identify the World War II era vets who served on New Jersey. The available documentation isn't great. The cruise books of the 50's, 60's and 80's provide a whole lot more information. If you know of anyone who served on New Jersey in the World War II era and has passed away and not listed in our Taps List on our website, <http://www.ussnewjersey.org/general/status.htm>. Please let me or one of our officers know.

Sincerely,

***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 18 October 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Members in Good Standing	394	402	439	403
WWII Era Members	9	11	15	17
Korean Era Members	61	77	96	105
Vietnam Era Members	159	153	155	140
Vietnam & 1980's Members	3	3	3	3
1980's Members	109	102	108	87
Associate Members	53	57	63	52

Since the 2023 Reunion, we have 22 new members and 9 attended the 2024 Reunion in Camden.

Respectfully submitted,

***Chuck Oehme***

Membership Chairman

## TREASURER'S REPORT

We had another wonderful Reunion on Board the ship. We also elected seven new Directors and Advisors to the management team. They bring a new range of experience and background to the organization.

Financially the organization continues to do well. Traditionally we have had to subsidize the costs of the reunion and while this year was no different, the subsidy was significantly less than normal. With only one exception, over the past ten reunions the membership has had to contribute an average of about \$4,700 to each reunion. While all the expenses for this year's reunion have not been paid yet, the subsidy will be in the range of a few hundred dollars, not thousands. Dave and Bob did a great job in pricing events and the introduction of Registration Fees helped significantly reduce the deficit



Another very positive result of this year's reunion was the outcome of the Scholarship Auction where we raised over \$7,000 for the Scholarship Fund.

We ended the month of September with \$47,669 in cash balances, a \$7,930 increase over our year-end position. For the remainder of the fiscal year we have the costs of this edition of the Bounce to disburse, but we also have the Membership Dues renewal revenue to receive.

I would welcome any questions members might have regarding the financial status of the organization.

Concerning the Bounce, I would like to make sure that we especially recognize Bill Romer who provided an excellent portfolio of pictures for us to use in this edition of the Bounce.

I hope everyone has a safe and healthy winter ahead.

*Phil Tasker - Treasurer*

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



## REUNION COORDINATOR'S REPORT

*SHIPMATES,*

The 37<sup>th</sup> annual reunion held back at the ship is complete. I wasn't able to attend this year due to family health issues, but I was told it was another successful reunion. I heard from a lot of people that they had a great time and are looking forward to next year's reunion. It takes many hours of planning, and I truly appreciate hearing that the reunion was a success.

The annual Scholarship Auction was very successful again this year. God willing, we can have auctions like this every year. Items that I personally engrave for the auction are only available at the auction, and your generosity is appreciated as it goes to a good cause.

Our next reunion—our 38<sup>th</sup>—will be held in San Antonio, Texas, from Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The fall season is a very busy time in San Antonio, so we shifted the reunion dates for more favorable room rates. The meeting rooms, hospitality rooms, Ship Store and dining rooms will all be complimentary.



Monday will be Registration Day. Tuesday will be a free day with several tour companies set up to book your private tours of other sites in the San Antonio area. Wednesday's activity will be a tour of the Admiral Chester Nimitz Gallery and the WWII Museum in Fredericksburg. Bus transportation will be provided. In the Memorial courtyard, you will find the USS New Jersey ship plaque. The reunion will conclude on Thursday with our Annual Meeting and our Dinner Dance Banquet.

San Antonio is a city with a lot of history and things to do. The famous Alamo is a few short blocks from our hotel, which is located on the amazing San Antonio River Walk. You'll find many restaurants, bars, and shops plus loads of entertainment on the River Walk, including tour boats offering a historical tour of the area.

More information to follow in the next edition of the Spring Bounce.

*Dave Wasmer - Reunion Coordinator  
IC2, E Division, Sept '67 - Jun'69*

## LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

Shipmates,

The association had a great reunion in Cherry Hill, NJ, and got to see our great ship again. By the time you receive this bounce there should be many pictures posted on the web page. Once again, the three of us couldn't make it this year as we had a medical issue with our dog and had to be around to keep an eye on her.

I work with our membership director on keeping the rosters 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 from all four era's 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 in San Antonio, TX, please try to attend and see what is going on with your organization we need your support to keep going!



*Stay well,  
Bob Williams, Liaison Officer/Web Master*

### ERA REPRESENTATIVES

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## **Minutes USS New Jersey Veterans Inc.**

Business Meeting Saturday 9/21/24 9:00 am.

Double Tree, Cherry Hill New Jersey

Officers and Advisor's Present:

President-Bob Dingman, Vice President- Leon Tucker, Treasurer- Phil Tasker, Secretary- Danny Fielder, Membership Chairman- Chuck Oehme, Master at Arms Ray Kehoe,

Seating Coordinator- Marvin Williams

Meeting Opening and Pledge of Allegiance: Bob Dingman

Opening Prayer: Danny Fielder

Reading of past minutes was dispensed with as they were included in the 2023 Fall issue of the Bounce. Motion to accept Danny Fielder 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Romer. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Phil Tasker reported things are going well. Available funds are \$39,163.72, restricted funds \$12,613.50 Note: Restricted funds are the funds such as scholarship fund, donations to ship. These funds are specific and not to be used except for those purposes. Total cash funds are \$51,777.22. Phil also mentioned that most all reunions have a short fall. This can be for various reasons such as last-minute registration's, change in some of the tours provided. More detailed information will be in Treasurer report in this issue of the Bounce. Motion to accept by Steve Sheehan 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Holmes. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Chuck Oehme reported that we currently have 391 paid members. The makeup is as follows: 9 WWII members, 60 Korean era members, 158 Vietnam members, 3 Vietnam & 80's members, 109 1980's and 52 Associate members. Since the 2023 Reunion we have 19 new members and 8 are at this reunion. General discussion was held on membership and an explanation on what associate members are. Motion to accept by Bill Romer 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy Bergman. Motion carried.

VA Report: With absence of Joe DiMaria no report provided.

Reunion Coordinator's Report: With the absence of Dave Wasmer, no report provided.

Small Stores: With the absence of Mike Schappaugh no report provided, however Bob Dingman reported that stores had received \$2000.00 since reunion started.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Scholarship Recipients for 2024:

The organization received 5 applications and awarded 3 scholarships this year. This year's scholarship awardees:

Adeline Finger, Virginia Beach, VA

Emily is the daughter of Ruben and Jennifer Finger. Ruben served aboard the USS New Jersey in OI Division between 1983 - 1986. Adeline is attending Old Dominion University, where she will be studying toward a career in healthcare.

Kelly Induisi, Davie, FL

Kelly is the daughter of Frank and Maele Induisi and granddaughter of shipmate Anthony Induisi (Vietnam, 1st Division). Kelly will be attending Florida Atlantic University. She will be majoring in Biological Sciences.

Linsey Spillman, King George, VA

Linsey is the daughter of Nick and Karen Spillman and the granddaughter of shipmate David Rasmussen (1980's, GM Division). Linsey will be attending the University of Mary Washington, majoring in Elementary Education and Mass Communications.

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

Bob Dingman gave update on 2025 reunion which will be held in San Antonio, Tx. Dates will be September 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> which will be Monday thru Thursday. Hotel accommodations will be at Holiday Inn Riverwalk, reunion price \$139.00 with 18% tax.

Nominations for 2026 reunion location venue:

Omaha, Nebraska

Rapid City, South Dakota

Portland, Maine

By show of hands it was unanimous for 2026 reunion to be held in Omaha, Nebraska

Election of new board members and advisors as well as ERA representatives are as follows:

There were no opposition to any of the candidates, so no voting was required.

Directors:

President – Mike Holmes  
Vice President – Hector Tellez  
Treasurer – Phil Tasker  
Secretary – Mike Murphy  
Membership – Chuck Oehme  
Reunion Coordinator – Dave Wasmer  
Liaison Coordinator – Bob Williams

Advisors:

Small Stores: Open position  
Web Master – Bob Williams  
Master at Arms – Mike Goins  
Chaplin – Felix Bautista  
Seating Coordinator – Mike Ales  
Bounce Editor – Open Position  
VA Coordinator – Steve Sheehan and Jim Davy

NOTE: On above Ray Kehoe made a motion by acclimation that this position could be a co-advisor position. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Sheehan. Motion carried

ERA Representatives:

WWII – Paul Robbins  
Korea – Max Sharff  
Vietnam – Tom Gallucci  
80's – Leon Tucker  
US Marine Corp. – Mike Goins

Please if you have the opportunity by phone call, email etc. give the outgoing board a thank you for the outstanding job they have done these past years, and a hearty welcome to the new board.

This concludes the 2024 business meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Danny Fielder and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy Bergman, meeting adjourned.

Recorded Minutes

***Danny Fielder: Secretary USS New Jersey Veterans Inc.***



USS New Jersey BB-62 World's Greatest Battleship

## USS New Jersey Veterans, Inc.

It's an Election Year, and the results are in.

Officers for January 2025 - December 2028

President / Director	Mike Holmes	1980's
Vice President / Director	Hector Tellez	1980's
Secretary / Director	Mike Murphy	1980's
Treasurer / Director	Phil Tasker	Vietnam Era
Membership Chair / Director	Chuck Oehme	Vietnam Era
Liaison Officer / Director	Bob Williams	Vietnam Era
Reunion Coordinator / Director	Dave Wasmer	Vietnam Era
Master at Arms / Advisor	Michael Goins	Vietnam Era
Small Stores / Advisor	Open	
Web Master / Advisor	Bob Williams	Vietnam Era
Newsletter Editor / Advisor	Open	
Veterans' Affairs / Advisor	Steve Sheehan	Vietnam Era
Veterans' Affairs / Advisor	Jim Davy	1980's
Seating Coordinator / Advisor	Michael Ales	1980's
WWII Era / Advisor	Paul Robbins	WWII
Korean Era Rep / Advisor	Max Sharff	Korea
Vietnam Era Rep / Advisor	Tom Gallucci	Vietnam Era
1980's Rep / Advisor	Leon Tucker, Jr.	1980's
Marine Detachment Rep/Advisor	Michael Goins	Vietnam Era

Respectfully,

**Chuck Oehme ETR2 12/1967 - 12/1969**

**USS New Jersey Veterans, Inc.**

**Nomination Chairman**



## **Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin**

The 2024 Vietnam Veteran Commemoration Lapel Pin Ceremony at the USS New Jersey Reunion at Cherry Hill New Jersey is history. We recognized Veterans by name with a Certificate signed by Bob Dingman and myself noting the presentation aboard the Ship. Some Veterans were unable to attend the ceremony. We read their names in front of their shipmates and have mailed a certificate to them. Their Lapel Pin will be mailed by The Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Committee in Arlington VA.

Bob Dingman is the Chairperson of our organization's partnership with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Committee administered through the Department of Defense. I am honored to be a committee member. We have honored our Vietnam Veterans with a Certificate and Lapel Pin at a ceremony held after our Memorial Service at our annual reunions since 2021.

The Program will see sunset from the DOD after our reunion in San Antonio next year. The Certificates will reflect the place of award. Please review the requirements for receiving the Lapel Pin and forward the information to your shipmates before next year's reunion.

Requirements as outlined by Congress:

The 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.

Please contact me at [wbendelow@gmail.com](mailto:wbendelow@gmail.com) if you are eligible and plan on attending next year's reunion in San Antonio TX. The Spring Bounce will contain my contact information as well.


***Wayne Bendelow***

***United States of America***

***Vietnam War Commemoration Partner***


***Committee Member***







THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



## Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin

“A lasting memento of the Nation’s thanks!”

**Eligibility:**

Presented to living U.S. veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.

**Symbolism:**

- **Eagle** - The eagle represents courage, honor, and dedicated service to our Nation. As one of the most recognizable and notable American symbols, it is emblazoned on numerous military insignia.
- **Blue Circle** - The color blue matches the canton of the American flag and signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice.
- **Laurel Wreath** - A time-honored symbol representing honor and victory.
- **Stripes** - The stripes behind the eagle represent the American flag.
- **Stars** - The six stars represent the six allies who served, sacrificed, and fought alongside one another: the Commonwealth of Australia, the Kingdom of Thailand, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of the Philippines.
- **Message** - “A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You” is embossed on the back, closest to the heart of the wearer. The official name of the Commemoration is included to remind each veteran that this is a national initiative.

August 2023

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!

vietnamwar50th.com



## State of the Museum Report

Shipmates,

It has been an incredibly busy year. It was great to see many of you at the commissioning of the new *Virginia*-class submarine USS *New Jersey* (SSN-796). She is now the third warship to carry the state's name. It was also great to see you all in September at the crew reunion when you got to see some of the major projects we have recently completed. I'm happy to say we have knocked out two more big ones since then.

Our focus during the first half of the year of course was drydocking the ship. Around 6,200 guests supported the project by paying for tours of the drydock while the ship was being repainted. During that project we applied a new system of coatings to the underwater part of the hull which is expected to last 30 years in the freshwater environment we are berthed in. We replaced the more than 1,200 anodes that made up the passive cathodic protection of the ship and we tested all of the cofferdams over the roughly 160 through-hull openings. We had to repair about 10% of them which had failed. Thanks to the massive amount of support, we received we were also able to extend our time on the blocks and make additional repairs to thin parts of the hull, around rivetted seams, and at the gland seals for the propellor shafts. Thanks to your support and the support of all the folks who came out for tours this project was even more successful than we originally planned.

After spending nearly \$10 million in drydock on exclusively projects underwater on the exterior of the ship we were nervous people wouldn't realize we had done any work, so we scheduled several other capital projects to coincide with drydocking. Shortly after getting back to Camden, we finished redecking the main deck finally making it safe for guests to make a full lap of the deck. Work will continue redecking the superstructure for at least another year, assuming we continue to get funding. We also just finished repainting the entire freeboard. It was cheaper to do pier side from a barge than while we were in the yard, and it had been over a decade since we last did that.



## State of the Museum Report

The final part of the project was reattaching the mast and various antennas we removed to safely transit under the Walt Whitman bridge on our way to the yard. It didn't sit right with any of us here at the museum that we would be paying to "damage" and then "fix" the ship, so we agreed from the beginning that we were going to make an effort to add things back onto the ship as part of this project. I am happy to report that in addition to repainting the pieces while they were on the pier we also replaced one nonfunctioning antenna with a new one, fixed 3 of the tangled or broken halyards and, oh yeah, added back our drone control dome and long missing port side harpoon launch tubes!

The fiberglass dome that is supposed to sit on the forward face of the aft stack that protected the RPV drone control antenna was not there while the ship was mothballed. It's the same dome as the SPQ-9 fire control domes on the Ticonderoga-class cruisers in the reserve basin at the Philadelphia Navy Yard where we were drydocked. However, the Navy would not let us bring in a crane to remove any. Fortunately, Infinite Technologies Radomes and Composite Structures (ITIRCS) reached out to us and said they make a similar sized dome. They manufactured and shipped it to the museum for free.

The Navy couldn't let us send men aloft to get the dome but when we reached out about completing our armament they didn't let us down. The museum was able to get eight Harpoon launch tubes for the starboard side of the ship years ago, but we had never been able to get any for the less viewed river side. Naval Weapons Station Yorktown had some they were about to dispose of, and we were able to drive down the day before the crane was available to pick them up.

We were able to save a bunch of money by installing both the dome and the Harpoons while the crane was here to reattach the mast and antennas. *New Jersey* is now the only *Iowa* with a complete set of real weapons. (*Iowa* has replica harpoons and phalanx's, *Missouri* and *Wisconsin* don't have a complete set yet.) And yes, we did get the SPS-49 air search radar antenna spinning again when we reattached it.



## State of the Museum Report

We have intentionally been working towards getting these projects done this year because next year is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Navy and Marine Corps. Both were formed right here in the Philadelphia area and so the Navy has chosen our area as the place to celebrate. In October 2025 there will be a Fleet Week including at least four active-duty warships in Camden and Philadelphia which will then lead into the national 250<sup>th</sup> celebration in 2026, which is also happening in the Philadelphia area.

And while our area is seeing record breaking numbers of tourists coming to celebrate those huge anniversaries the battleship will look better than she has since before she was decommissioned. Her bottom is clean and watertight, her freeboard and much of her superstructure has been painted in the last year, her main deck is completely redecked, and she is more complete than ever with the addition of the new Harpoon tubes and radome. Thank you for all your support. That what let us do these projects. Hopefully we will see you back on board before we host the 2027 crew reunion on board.

Be sure to check the museum's website and various social media accounts for the most up to date information on the ship. We are still posting videos every night at 7pm Eastern on the YouTube channel, [YouTube.com/BattleshipNewJersey](https://www.youtube.com/BattleshipNewJersey).

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***

# **2024 50/50 Drawing Results**

## **Held September 21, 2024**

**Pool: \$833.50**

**First \$333.40**  
**(Donated Proceeds to Scholarship Fund)**

**Paul Siegert**  
**Yonkers, New York**

**Second \$250.05**  
**Richard Peter Malkovich**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

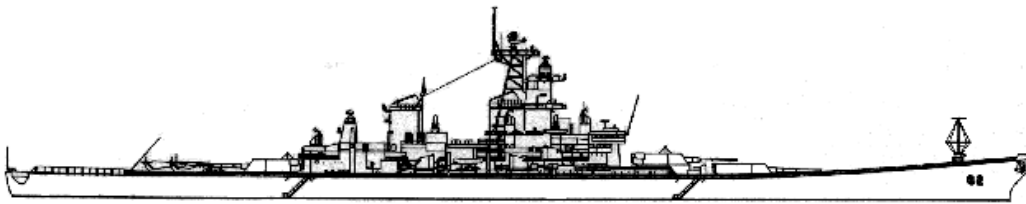
**Third \$166.70**  
**(Donated Proceeds to Scholarship Fund)**

**Don Lowery**  
**Jacksonville, Florida**

**Fourth \$83.35**  
**(Donated Proceeds to Scholarship Fund)**

**Randy Bergman**  
**Cartersville, Georgia**





**USS NEW JERSEY VETERANS, INC.**

**38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REUNION**

**WHERE:**

Holiday Inn San Antonio Riverwalk  
217 N. St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, TX 78205

**WHEN:**

September 15th – 19th, 2025

**COST:**

**One King or Two Queen - \$139.00+tourism fee 1.25%=\$141.00  
(plus 16.75% taxes)**

**RESERVATIONS:**

1-210-224-2500 (Hotel Direct)

For group rate reference group code: **NJV**

Online Reservations can be made at the link below which is  
also available on our website, <https://www.ussnewjersey.org>

<https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=SATRW&PMID=99801505&GPC=NJV&cn=no&viewfullsite=true>

**(Once you click on the link it will take you to the hotel website, then enter your arrival & departure dates, and it will automatically populate our group name and discounted group rate \$141.00)**

- Reservations received after 11:59PM(CDT), August 17, 2025, may not qualify for the group rate.
- Group rate is available from 9/12 - 9/18, plus 3 days pre and post.
- ADA rooms are available upon request.
- Individuals may cancel reserved rooms up to 48 hours prior to arrival without penalty.
- Full breakfast buffet \$20 pp, (discounted from \$25.47 pp)
- 10% discount at Windows on the River Restaurant (except alcohol).
- Overnight Parking \$20 per day (discounted from \$34)
- Complimentary WIFI in guest rooms and meeting spaces.
- Service pets only.
- Check In Time: 4:00 PM, Check Out Time: 11:00AM

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

**37<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion**

**Doubletree by Hilton**

**Cherry Hill, New Jersey**

**(All Reunion photographs courtesy of Bill Romer)**







**Vietnam Era Gentlemen**



**Vietnam Era Ladies**



**80's Era Gentlemen**



**80's Era Ladies**



## Welcome Aboard Dinner and Scholarship Fund Auction



## Welcome Aboard Dinner and Scholarship Fund Auction





## Ship Visit and Memorial Service





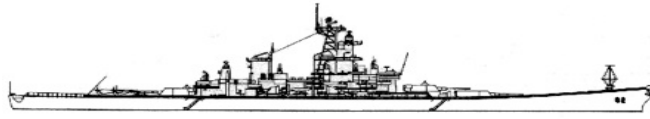
## Dinner Dance



## Dinner Dance







## **USS New Jersey Veterans Inc. 2024 Scholarship Awards**

### **Adeline Finger, Virginia Beach, VA**

Adeline is the daughter of Ruben and Jennifer Finger. Ruben served aboard NEW JERSEY in OI Division between 1983 - 1986, Adeline graduated this past spring from Floyd E. Kellam High School. She has been in the National Honor Society for 3 years and her high schools honor roll for four years. She graduated with an advanced degree and was sophomore student of the year for Advanced art. During high school, Adeline took over 13 college level classes including AP Human, Geography. and AP Psychology. She volunteered with the Church of the Ascension every winter to bag over 200 meals for families in need and was a leader of the food drive that has collected over 500lbs of food to restock the Church of Ascension's food pantry. Adeline also enjoyed writing letters to the elderly and active military service members. Adeline is attending Old Dominion University where she will be studying toward a career in healthcare.



### **Kelly Induisi, Davie, FL**

Kelly is the daughter of Frank and Maele Induisi and the granddaughter of shipmate Anthony Induisi (Vietnam, 1st Division). This past May, Kelly graduated from St. Thomas Aquinis High School. She's been on the Honor Roll for 4 years. During her senior year she took multiple honors classes and AP classes. Kelly enjoyed participating in theater and choir during her four years of high school. In January 2024, she performed at the FMA All-State Concert Chorus in Tampa. Kelly volunteered at the Big Dog Ranch Rescue, Feeding South Florida, and made Thanksgiving food bags for the homeless with her School. Kelly will be attending Florida

Atlantic University, majoring in Biological Sciences.

### **Linsey Spillman, King George, VA**

Linsey is the daughter of Nick and Karen Spillman and the granddaughter of shipmate David Rasmussen (1980's, GM Division). Linsey graduated this past May from King George High School. She earned an advanced diploma with distinguished honors. She participated in varsity softball, varsity cross country, varsity track, DECA, CREWE, Student-to-Student, and the Chick-fil-a Leadership Academy. Linsey's community activities included volunteering at the King George YMCA preschool and the Creepy Crawly Carnival. She served as coordinator for the Veteran's Day 5K and 1 Mile Run. This fall, Linsey will be attending the University of Mary Washington, majoring in Elementary Education and Mass Communications.



We wish to congratulate all five students who applied for the USS New Jersey Veterans scholarships. Good luck to all of you in your future endeavors.



## USS New Jersey BB-62 Taps Listing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
John Abate	FC	WWII	Hillsborough, NH
James E. Abercrombie	CS	WWII	Jacksonville, FL
Carl J. Albrecht	WD	Vietnam	Hamilton, NY
John Fredrick Andre Sr.	FA	Korea	Hamden, MA
Louie Attebery	Unknown	WWII	Caldwell, ID
David Lee Aubin	6 <sup>th</sup>	Korea	Vernon, VT
James L. Austin	Marine Det	Korea	Winston Salem, NC
David L. Barthel	4 <sup>th</sup>	Vietnam	Pearce, AZ
Jerry Duane Bass	H	Vietnam	Del Rio, TX
Lawrence Baumgardner	E	Korea	Baja, CA
Elphege "Al" Beaulieu	Unknown	WWII	Bristol, NH
Norman C. Benson	N	WWII	Lisle, IL
Victor H. Benzilio	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Korea	East Brunswick, NJ
Merle B. Beyeri	Unknown	Korea	Glenshaw, PA
George K. Bezanson	R	Korea	Hanover, MA
Roland Blanchette	S-1	Korea	Lakeland, FL
Edward Francis Blest	S-2	Vietnam	Delawarean, DE
Charles "Chuck" Bones	Marine Det	80's	Jacksonville, TX
Hubert "Jim" Bordelon	EX	WWII	Metairie, LA
Ernest P. Bouche	B	Korea	Valparaiso, IN
David LeRoy Boyle Jr.	Unknown	80's	Muncie, In
Lee Brandsma	B	Korea	Glen Carbon, IL
Robert "Bob" Brandt	M	Vietnam	Mesa, AZ
Dana Michael Brooks	6 <sup>th</sup>	Vietnam	Rising Sun, MD
Jacob Eugene Brown	E	Korea	La Porte, In
Chester Guy Brown	Unknown	WWII	Clermont, FL
Edwin "Ted" Buskhout	Marine Det	WWII	Hadley, MA



## USS New Jersey BB-62 Taps Listing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Clyde L. Burton	AV	WWII	Green Valley, AZ
Gerald "Jerry" Byrne	M	Vietnam	Gibbstown, NJ
Travis "Jim" Camp	K	Korea	Bakersfield, CA
Patrick R. Cantu	E	Vietnam	Robinson, TX
Ronald G. Carboneau	M	Vietnam	Manchester, NH
Donald E. Carroll Sr.	Unknown	WWII	Rock Port, MO
Richard J. Case	EX	Korea	Bay City, MI
Robert Ceresoli	Unknown	WWII	Chandler, AZ
George T. Chesnut	2 <sup>nd</sup>	WWII	Kirkland, WA
William N. Chiappi	E	Korea	Houston, TX
Jesse "Wayne" Cleland	GM	WWII	Clute, TX
Rene Clifford Couleman	Unknown	WWII	Lusby, MD
Thomas F. Creegan	Unknown	Korea	Scranton, PA
Hasvil Douglas Crowder	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Korea	Pulaski, VA
Jack Edward Cruppenink	Unknown	Korea	Hopewell, VA
Rolland Jay Custer	7 <sup>th</sup>	Korea	Homosassa, FL
Ernest John Dalton	C	Korea	San Antonio, TX
Charles A. Dancy	FM	WWII	Winston Salem, NC
Yancey Wesley Dittinger	Unknown	Korea	Austin, TX
Nathaniel C. Douglass	Unknown	Korea	Andersonville, TN
Robert Y. Dubel	Marine Det	WWII	Glen Arm, MD
Ronald J. Dvorak	OE	Vietnam	Dallas, GA
Richard G. Eberhard	D	Korea	Mayfield Heights, OH
Frank D. Epperson Sr.	E	Korea	Napa, CA
George Philip Ethier Jr.	EX	Korea	Cranston, RI



## USS New Jersey BB-62 Taps Listing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Harold "Blackie" Fluke	Unknown	WWII	Ocean Springs, MS
John W. Freeman	Marine Det	WWII	Evansville, IN
Romeo R. Frenette	R	Korea	Berlin, NH
Donald Martin Frost	M	Korea	Bar Harbor, ME
Conrad Lee Fruehan	CIC	Korea	Hurst, TX
Joseph Kenneth Fryar	Unknown	Korea	Kapolei, HI
Charles "Stubby" Fulton	4 <sup>th</sup>	WWII	Bowling Green, KY
Ralph V. Gearhart	CS	WWII	Hammond, IN
Ralph V. Gilles	E	Korea	Kickapoo, IL
Sean Gimenez	Unknown	80's	Kirkland, WA
William Patrick Goss	1st	Vietnam	Los Angeles, CA
Jon G Gregory	Unknown	80's	Stilwell, OK
George W. Grom	EX	Korea	Stratford, CT
E. Charles 'Gus' Gustafson	Unknown	WWII	Annandale, VA
Louis H. Hagedorn	E	WWII	London, KY
Leo T. Hall	Unknown	WWII	Wilkes-Barre, PA
Alan Hart	K	Korea	Copley, OH
Craig Clifton Higgins	3rd	80's	Nobleton, FL
Wayne E. Hill	E	Vietnam	Knoxville, TN
Donald James Holly	B	Korea	Milford, CT
Bruce L. John	FM	Korea	Dover Township, PA
Carl L. Jones	E	Vietnam	Gas City, IN
Louis Paul Jones Jr.	GM	Korea	Grand Bay, AL
Marvin Scot Killough	B	80's	Luverne, AL
Claude R. Kirk Jr.	Marine Det	Korea	West Palm Beach, FL



## USS New Jersey BB-62 Taps Listing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Donald Kline	Unknown	Korea	Spotsylvania County, VA
Donald G. Kline	3rd	Korea	Penn, PA
Richard S. Knoll, Sr.	Marine Det	WWII	Newburg, PA
Joseph V. Krick	B	Vietnam	Girardville, PA
Hubert Lankford Jr.	3rd	WWII	Lufkin, TX
George David "Skip" Lenz	S-2	Vietnam	Sheridan, WY
Lloyd A. Littlefield	S-2	Korea	Hurley, NY
Loyal M. Littlefield	S-2	Korea	Tiffany Place, NY
Robert L. Littlefield	S-3	80's	Rouge River, OR
Frank J. Littlefield	S	WWII	Evart, MI
Robert M. "Bob" Lloyd	A	Korea	Wilmington, NC
Anthony W. Lovenguth	D	Korea	Kalispell, MT
Raymond Lyles	C	Korea	Spindale, NC
Russell Alfred Marcellus	L	Korea	Seabrook, TX
Paul D Marlatt	L	WWII	Clairton, PA
Robert L. Martin Sr.	Unknown	Korea	Palmyra, PA
Bruce Albert Marx	M	80's	Las Vegas, NV
Donald E. McBride	Unknown	WWII	Philadelphia, PA
Michael O. McCourt	Unknown	80's	Berwyn, IL
Francis J. McDowell Sr	M	WWII	Thorofare, NJ
John F. (Jack) McGrane	S	Korea	Vero Beach, FL
Edward J. McGuire	S	WWII	Chicago, IL
Dallas A. McKendree	E	Korea	Brookville, PA
Bernard J McManus		Korea	Brewster, MA



## USS New Jersey BB-62 Taps Listing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Robert T. McNamara	8th	WWII	Blue Water Bay, FL
David H. Merwin	Unknown	Korea	Dowagiac, MI
Walter M. Miles	Unknown	WWII	Hueytown, AL
Neil C. "Mitch" Mitchell	8th	Korea	Lawrence, MA
Stephen Blakeney Murphy	M	80's	Las Vegas, NV
John Francis Naizer	FA	WWII	Barberton, OH
Gerald E. Napier	R	Korea	Jeffersonville, IN
Arthur Edward Nordhoff	Midshipman	Korea	Seattle, WA
Richard L. Norgaard	C	Korea	Mansfield Center, CT
John Thomas Nuckols	OI	Vietnam	Ramona, CA
Robert (Bob) Carl Paul	E	80's	Ogden, UT
James Albert Perino	Unknown	Korea	Antioch, CA
Murray Mendel Perlstein	Unknown	WWII	Los Angeles, CA
Bruce Colin Putnam	EXOO	80's	Hillsborough, NH
Bobbie Curtis Rinehart	4th	WWII	Welling, OK
Steven M. Sametz	Unknown	Korea	Wayne, NJ
Harry L. Shabino	Unknown	WWII	Waupaca, WI
Clete Sharpe	E	Korea	Alamance, NC
Everett Coleman Smith	S	Vietnam	Paradise, CA
Jerry Glover South	FA	Korea	Mill Valley, CA
Carl L Spidel	FA	Korea	Chambersburg, PA
Patton Stephens	CR	WWII	Magnolia, TX
Thomas C. Stephens	6th	Korea	Manton, MI
Meredith Franklin Stephenson	Unknown	Korea	Lexington, MO
Cole Ellsworth Stevens	1st	80's	Boulder City, NV
James J. Sullivan	Unknown	WWII	Charlottesville, VA
David Walton "D.W." Sumner	S1	Vietnam	Maysville, NC
Earle Alfred Thompson Jr.	FA	WWII	Braintree, MA
Lauris Touchet		WWII	Lafayette, LA





### USS New Jersey BB-62 Taps Listing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
James F. Tufts	B	Korea	Gahanna, OH
James David Ussery	5th	Korea	Muskogee, OK
Ernest A Uveges	6th	WWII	Middleburg Heights, OH
Theodore G. Valcis	N	Korea	Shippensburg, PA
James Bailey Wagoner	K	Korea	Sparta, NC
Harry H. Waldheim	6/7/L	Korea	Houston, TX
Giles A. Wilkinson	EX	WWII	Sarasota, FL
Joseph M. Wochek	Unknown	Korea	Bethel, CT
Benjamin Peter Wolf	Unknown	WWII	Portland, OR
Frank Slaton Woodard	Unknown	Korea	Corpus Christi, TX
Glenn M. Woods	FA	Korea	Chillicothe, OH
John Wythe "J." Woods, Jr.	Marine Det	WWII	Madison, WV





## USS New Jersey BB-62 Welcome Aboard New

### Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Andrew Adams	R	WWII	Ingleside, TX
William "Bill" Brewer	FA	80's	Frisco, TX
Thomas Clark	OC	80's	Spanish Fort, AL
Catherine Colson		Associate Member	Newton Junction, NH
Mark Ellwanger	4 <sup>th</sup>	Vietnam	Johns Island, SC
Derek L. Farthing		Associate Member	Jersey City, NJ
Franklin R. Fernandez	S-2	Vietnam	Vacaville, CA
Benjamin Guillen	R	Vietnam	Corpus Christi, TX
Thomas Hyde	1 <sup>st</sup>	Vietnam	Roeland Park, KS
Paul Kapferer	FM	80's	Midlothian, TX
Benjamin Knox	G-3	80's	Las Vegas, NV
Mark Kullberg	FA	80's	Streetman, TX
E. Junior Maldonado		Associate Member	Jersey City, NJ
Charles McDonald	OE	Vietnam	Rio Rancho, NM
Robert E. Myers		Associate Member	Broken Arrow, OK



## USS New Jersey BB-62 Welcome Aboard New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Era</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Donald Lee Overman	S-1	K	Tilton, NH
Bruce Stone	OE	Vietnam	Auburn, NH
Richard M. Traub	OI	Vietnam	Leonardo, NJ
Edward L. Wells	OI	80's	Hayward, CA
Jeffery White	S-1/X	80's	Loxley, AL
Mirth Williams		Associate Member	Newton Junction, NH
Richard B. Wolpin	S-1	80's	Lakewood, 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 electronic 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.***



**The aftermath of what was likely the heaviest shore bombardment by a single ship the world will ever see.**

In the early morning of 22 February 1969, a radio call from a Marine outpost just south of the so-called "demilitarized zone" in Vietnam calmly but urgently requested assistance. Steaming in the dark waters of the South China Sea was a giant of a ship, the USS New Jersey (BB-62). She was the Navy's only battleship, resurrected from the mothball fleet less than a year before. Together with a Coast Guard cutter, the behemoth answered the plea for assistance by opening up with her portside 5-inch guns and then followed with salvos from her main 16-inch battery. Radarman Third Class Bob Fulks could hear the staccato bursts of machine-gun fire on the radio as he coordinated with spotter Lance Corporal Roger Clouse to rain death and destruction onto a large number of enemy troops who were closing in on the embattled Marines.

The initial rounds landed very close to the Marines' position, because that was where the enemy was. As Fire Controlman Rick Crawford watched the plot of cascading rounds develop, they formed an almost perfect circle, painting a harrowing image that showed the Marines were completely surrounded. Sailors and Marines worked together for hours to fight off the threatening force, their young voices speaking calmly by radio in the midst of great chaos and impending catastrophe. Round after round erupted from barrels that grew hotter and hotter until the grease on the guns' recoil slides began to bubble. As the battle wore on, the diameter of the plotted circle began to expand, presenting a reassuring image of gradual enemy withdrawal. Finally, after five-and-a-half hours and nearly 2,000 rounds, the enemy broke contact and withdrew.