

LEYTE NEWS

Newsletter of the USS LEYTE (CV-32) Association

May 2018

PRESIDENTS LETTER

As we approach our 32nd annual reunion, I would like to thank all our members for the support over the years. Some have been with us from the very start in 1986 and other's joined over the years. And, I can't say enough to those who served as officers in the association, some for many years. This year we will be holding our reunion in Branson, MO. We at one time were scheduled for Savannah, GA but the cost for hotels, tours and other expenses were too much for many members. The information on the Branson reunion can be found on our website www.ussleytecv32.com and also in this newsletter. I hope to see many shipmates along with their wives, companions and or family come and join us in Branson, MO. the first week in October.

I would like to mention to our shipmates who receive the newsletter to visit our website where there is additional information not only concerning our ship but information on Navy history and many shipmates who listed their names and divisions and years served aboard. Included are pictures of those shipmates and the years they served.

I hope to see and renew friendships with the many people I have served with on the ship and in the association along with their family and friends. To your good health, I am yours, John (Jack) Mitchell

CHAPLAINS CORNER

By Frank Koeller

What is love? Do you really know? Do you really know? Do you have it? Let's find out. The Bible say's, if I have the gift of knowledge and faith to move mountain's but have not love, I am nothing. Love is patient and kind. It does not envy or boast, and is not proud, nor easily angered. Keep's no record of wrong's, nor delight's in evil. Love is patient, love is kind. It always protects, always trusts, always truthful. The greatest gift we have is love.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ON 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Hospitality: As Assigned
- Newsletter: Kenneth McLaurin 757-497-7188
- Nominating: John E. Mitchell 480-946-9555
- Publicity: LeGrande Van Wagenen 732-727-5993
- Registration: James L. Nelligan 207-947-0844
- Ship's Store: Charles H. Hill 209-754-1022
- Webmaster Steven Perry 302-827-3779

FROM THE NEWSPAPER

Future guided-missile destroyer USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) successfully completed builder's trials to assess the ship's systems and its readiness for delivery. She has integrated Air and Missile systems with increased computing power and radar upgrades that improve detection and reaction capabilities. The ship will return to sea to conduct acceptance trials in the spring of 2018.

Captain Thomas J. Hudner, Jr. who earned the Medal of Honor during the Korean War was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington national Cemetery on April 4th. The ceremony included a missing man formation flyover by Strike Fighter Squadron 32, the same squadron Hudner was assigned to when he earned the Medal of Honor flying from USS LEYTE CV-32. He earned the medal by crash landing in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue Ensign Jesse L. Brown, the Navy's first African American Naval aviator to fly in combat who had been shot down during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War.

MAIL CALL

The minutes of the meeting during the reunion in Baltimore last year had the following items of interest. - Clarkson Farnsworth made a motion that was accepted to allow the ladies attend the association meeting. - Ken McLaurin reported that 520 newsletters were sent out this year. - Jim Nelligan reported that we have 15 shipmates 21

guests and 5 others in attendance. – Angelo Masi reported on the difficulty in finding a hotel in Savannah, Georgia for less than \$150 a night therefore didn't recommend we have the reunion there. Louisville, Kentucky was suggested but there was no one to discuss further. After much discussion a motion was made to go to Branson, Missouri which Charlie Hill had information on. Clarkson will follow through on the possibility of a reunion in Albany, New York. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was also suggested for consideration and Katherine Kersten was to look into it for consideration. – Election of Officers was conducted and is reflected in the list.

Donald Butts sent in a note on the passing of Joseph Ryan that he knew from the home town, boot camp and Leyte. Robert Shevett called in a change of address. Henry Hanners sent in his change of address. Van reported several new members on email. The Webmaster reported several new deceased members. The Secretary sent in a letter reporting a contribution to the association in memory of Dolores McLaurin.

ABOUT BRANSON

The Grand Plaza Hotel and Conference Center with a fabulous view of the Ozark mountain's is located at 245 Wildwood Drive just a block off famous highway 76 (W Main St) connecting to U.S. Route 65. In addition to the room amenities there is a restaurant, bar, large indoor pool, game room, fitness room, business center and cable access.

There are over 100 amazing shows waiting to provide entertainment for any taste from Kenny Rogers to the Beach Boys and Dolly Parton to Sons of the Pioneers to Wynonna Judd. All are priced individually and with specials offered. But go 'on line' yourself or with help to the web site **branson.com** for titles and prices. You can get ticketed through Anne Marquis when making reunion arrangements or later at the hotel.

Attractions are numerous with reasonable prices from the Scenic Railway to the Ferris Wheel and Titanic Museum.

For a shopping experience there are two outlet malls including the nearby Tanager Outlet, and the 200 stores and hundreds of boutiques, craft and hobby shops, antique stores, toy stores and jewelry stores art galleries and gourmet food markets.

There is a wide selection for dining at one of the numerous restaurants for the adventuresome.

For those desiring to fly in and out of Branson contact UNITED as they make connection with Silver Airways that has one flight in and out of Branson daily. Go to **flybranson.com** for details. Transfers are made in Chicago and Houston. For those desiring to fly and drive: The drive from Kansas City to Branson is about 4 hours 18 minutes and from Saint Louis is about the same time but about 40 miles further.

FROM THE EDITOR

Input from shipmates is desperately needed for the newsletter. If you have an article or remembrance for something that happened while you were in LEYTE please send it to the Editor at the address on this newsletter I am sure that your shipmates will be glad to hear of your adventure(s).

The Association Officers and Board of Directors make every effort to select locations for the reunion that have excellent accommodations and plenty of local attractions. The events are planned for everyone to enjoy and have a most enjoyable reunion so please make every effort to attend and enjoy a good time with your shipmates.

Don't forget to bring your donations to the reunion for the Hill's run drawing.

