

# LEYTE NEWS

## NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LEYTE CV-32 ASSOCIATION

May 2019

### PRESIDENTS LETTER

As this will be my last Presidents letter for this term in office, I wish to thank those members and friends who have made my last two years in office so memorable. Charlie Hill will be stepping into the office for years 2020 – 2021 starting next reunion.

Our last reunion in Branson, MO. Although small in attendance was a wonderful experience. We have been working on our 33<sup>rd</sup> reunion to be held in Pittsburgh, PA. at the end of September with our point person on site, Katherine Kersten. Information for the reunion is included in this newsletter. The LEYTE was put out of commission in 1959 and age has taken it's toll on our membership attending reunions along with other factors, health, finances, etc. We still have a core of members who attend the reunions and I hope that the reunion in Pittsburgh will bring out members that for various reasons could not attend past reunions.

We have some members who have been with us from the very beginning, Clarkson Farnsworth, Charles Hill, and myself to name a few. I also encourage our members to visit our web site at [ussleytecv32.com](http://ussleytecv32.com) which is kept up to date thanks to Steven Perry the son of a past shipmate. You will find it interesting with a large roster of members names and years they served aboard along with pictures and information on future reunions. If you are not familiar with computers or smart-phones I'm sure your children or grandchildren can get to the website in a flash. I hope that you make every effort to be at this reunion and if you can't make it

don't hesitate to give me a call, at 480-239-9555, or text or email at [1016coney@gmail.com](mailto:1016coney@gmail.com) to say HELLO. Here's to your good health, I am yours,

John (Jack) Mitchell

### THE CHAPLAINS CORNER

By Frank Koeller, Jr.

There's a saying that the word Bible means Basic Information Before Leaving Earth. How true. It tells us how we should live our lives now and where we'll be when we die. If you're looking to occupy one of those mansions in heaven or willing to just stoke the fires of hell, it's your decision. However, you must know the owner personally. The mansion's owner is Jesus. Do you know him? If not, then read the Bible and get to know Him before it's too late. I am sure you don't want the fires of hell.

### MAIL CALL

From Frank Agostino: I served on Leyte in 1947 as a yeoman attached to Carrier Division Four on the staff of Admiral Jennings. I was thrilled to receive your invitation but will not be attending so thank you. Please deposit the check. The Leyte was a great ship and was sorry they cut her up.

From Theresa Batelho: Telling us of the passing of her husband Daniel on July 14, 2017.

From Carol Kosevich: Telling us of the passing of her husband George on January 19, 2017.

From Bill Staab: I waited a long time to inquire about my plank that I sent and should have requested a receipt. Can't remember the date and time has a way of making events fade away. WW II is ancient history to young people and Leyte

escaped action then but was the flagship in Korea. I was in the reserves but never called up later and felt all my training went to waste. Good luck at reunion.

From William Gass: I first came to the Leyte from the Midway in June 46 and was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> division. We went on shakedown in 46. In early spring of 47 we were anchored in Gibraltar. Cabral and I were on a plank above the hanger deck when our line tender let my end go. When I came up my ears pounding I saw that Cabral had hold of the line and was up to his knees in the water. I grabbed one leg and he kicked me in the head and I went back under. No life jacket but had a life belt on that I had forgot to screw the cap down tight so all I got was bubbles. I started swimming toward a fishing boat and they picked me up. I think they were from Spain as they were speaking Spanish. Leyte had its accommodation ladder down and they took me to it. I was taken to the Sickbay and Cabral was there with both hands bandaged up. When U asked him why he kicked me in the head he said "hell Gass I thought you were a shark".

#### **FROM THE EDITOR**

The Association makes 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 the reunion so please make every effort to attend and enjoy a good time with the shipmates.

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

#### **ABOUT PITTSBURGH**

The view of Pittsburgh's skyline is stunning as you emerge from the Fort Pitt Tunnel, where the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio rivers converge and modern monoliths soar majestically beyond. Shame on visitors expecting to see a gritty steel mill town engulfed in smoke for Pittsburgh doesn't deserve the bad rap of the past. Steel mills have been replaced by high tech and healthcare concerns and more than 30 institutions of higher learning.

Many names gracing buildings and other venues serve as reminders of the families that figured prominently in the cities development. What's nice about Pittsburgh is that it has big-city amenities, yet retains a small town feel. The cities unique neighborhoods stand as proud symbols of ethnic diversity. All Pittsburghers come together to demonstrate spirit for their beloved sports teams. Tradition also plays a part in the form of food icons and the friendly neighborhood grocer.

#### **TAPS**

Daniel Batelho 7/14

Everett J Brown 5/11

William B Calnan 01/01

Buel E Carson 00/86

Neil B Colbert 6/18

Davey L George 4/18

George M Kosevich 1/17

Warren Minckin 1/18

Stanley Nalewawk 8/17

Robert A Nixon 7/18

Edward Prunier 12/18

Alfred Reinhardt 6/18

Richard A Rice 2/18

William I Rice 12/17

William G Rudolph 4/18

Robert Schweida 4/18

Lawrence S Spoto 12/18

Robert Thomson 11/18

Clarence Wright 11/18