

LEYTE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LEYTE (CV-32) ASSOCIATION

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

July 2011

As we make final arrangements for our reunion in Nashville, we should look back 25 years and thank those men who had the foresight and energy to form this organization. Reading the report of the May 2, 1987 meeting of the USS Leyte reunion committee it shows that there were 11 members present: Bob Rosenberg, Clarkson Farnsworth, Ed Prunier, John Morrison, Dick Bolin, Dick Pace, Fred Albers, Bob Catena, Aubrey Hinson, Al Kaminsky and Jack Mitchell. These shipmates were making the arrangements for the first reunion at the Chamberlin Hotel in Hampton, VA. We spent a lot of time at the reunion forming the Association, voting on everything from how often to have reunions, where to have them, Articles of Association and other legal things needed to form the USS Leyte CV-32 Association.

The first reunion turned out great. Everyone had a good time renewing old friendships, meeting new friends and getting the Association off to a good start. As the years have gone by, looking back I have enjoyed having the reunions in various parts of the country. This has given Betty and I a chance to travel around this great country and visit places we may never have seen otherwise. This year going to Nashville and seeing the Grand Ole Opry will be something special. I have enjoyed country music all my life.

I hope every one has made their reservations and arrangements to be in Nashville. I am looking forward to seeing every one and celebrating the 25th reunion of the Association. As you travel to Nashville I wish every one smooth sailing and fresh warm breezes. Charles Hill, President

IN MEMORY – B. ROBERT ROSENBERG

Bob served in LEYTE K-1 Division in 1946 and 1947. He left the Navy and became a Lawyer settling in Penfield, NY. Bob enlisted in the Navy 8 December 1941 immediately following the Pearl Harbor attack. He served on active duty for five and one-half years in the South Pacific and USS Leyte and was released to inactive reserve duty in 1947 with the rank of Ensign. Bob served in the Naval Reserve for 40 years retiring as Lieutenant Commander. Bob enjoyed 40 beautiful years together with his wife Angela (Ann).

As Ann recalls it this Association thing started in their den over 25 years ago while Bob was reading a publication and said "I wonder what happened to the guys on my ship", she replied "why don't you find out?" HE DID a year or two before the Association was formed and had gathered a list of 25 or so names of men who might be interested in attending a reunion. Bob later worked with Fred Albers and Clarkson Farnsworth and in December 1986 met with a small group to get things started. Bob provided his list of names and Clarkson ran with it to get a planning meeting going in January 1987 with Bob as Legal Advisor and author of the Articles of Association for the May 1987 meeting and subsequent October reunion in Hampton, Virginia.

Bob and Ann remained ardent supporters of the Association and watched it grow. Bob easily became the Father of the Leyte Association. Rest in peace good and faithful shipmate as

you go to join those other shipmates of the Association who have gone before you. Fair winds and following seas!

PHOTO OF BOB AND ANN

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Frank Koeller, Jr.

Unfortunately I never got to know Ed price our previous Chaplain very well till our reunion in Cleveland. One afternoon I met him just outside our hotel and had a very pleasant conversation with him. He told me about the great loss of his wife. He stated that it was like God reached down and plucked a beautiful flower from his garden. Ed was a very loving Christian man and we were fortunate to have him as our Chaplain.

This story reminds me of us who are still here in God's garden on earth. We're either a flower or a weed. If a flower, some day God will reach down and pluck us out of His garden to take us home to display forever. If a weed we'll be put down with other weeds to be burned.

You have the choice to make now before it's too late. God has given you the opportunity to decide whether you want to be a flower or a weed as you make your way through this life. The decision is up to you! Rough and tuff old shipmates as well as sweet wives make nice flowers.

CIVIL WAR NAVY BLOG

The Hampton Roads Naval Museum's Civil War navy Sesquicentennial blog has been selected for archiving in the Library of Congress. The blog, at www.civilwarnavy150.blogspot.com will be archived with the library's historic collection of internet materials and was selected because "it is seen as one that would contribute to future scholarship in the study and interpretation of the Civil War. It catalogs information on Civil War navy-related activities across the United States and is a nationally renowned source of historical information and research.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ON 2010 AND 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Webmaster: Steven Perry 404-324-0852

NASHVILLE AMPLIFIED

During the 'Best of Nashville' tour we will be visiting Fort Nashborough founded when James Robertson led his group of pioneers across the frozen Cumberland River and built the fort. This replica of the original settlement reflects the lifestyle of frontier pioneers in the late 1700s. (hard to believe Nashville was frontier and the hardy folks that settled there); The State Capitol was designed by William Strickland and looks much as it did when completed in 1859. One of the oldest working antebellum capitols in the nation, several areas have been restored to their 19th century appearance; The Parthenon is the worlds only full scale replica of the famous Greek temple. (remember the real thing we were able to visit in Athens?) Nashville's Parthenon features the city's art museum and Athena Parthenos. At 42 feet in height, she is the tallest indoor sculpture in the Western world; Bicentennial Mall is a 200 foot granite map of Tennessee featuring the 95 counties, 31 fountains representing the major rivers of Tennessee and an extraordinary history wall. There is also a large carillon, World War II memorial, 2,000 seat amphitheater and visitor center; Downtown at 5th and Deaderick St. there is a museum featuring exhibits on America's involvement in foreign wars from the Spanish American War to World War II; Country Music Hall of Fame (admission fee discounts AARP, AAA, Military) conveniently located in the heart of downtown (Fifth Ave south) Nashville's vibrant entertainment district has a 130,000 square foot museum and offers breathtaking views of the city. Fred Albers also recommends seeing the Ryman Auditorium (116 Fifth Ave admission fee AAA and Military discount) built in 1892. Self guided tour to see the Johnny & June at the Ryman exhibit and have your photo taken on the Opry's most famous stage. Backstage tours are also available, and you can record your own CD in the Ryman Recording Studio. For those that may have heard of Opry Mills shopping center regret to say that it is temporarily closed, take it because of the storm damage last year.

The trip to the Hermitage is worthwhile but it is no Mount Vernon. You have to realize that it was built in 1837 on this 1,120 acre working farm on the frontier and you can see as much or as little that you want. The Grand Ole Opry is a must. Country's best stars both new, superstars and legends of the genre – share the stage. Opry members include giants in country music, such as Loretta Lynn, Vince Gill, Carrie Underwood and Brad Paisley, to name a few but no guarantees.

For those with their own wheels Historic Franklin just south of Nashville is a beautiful 15 block downtown district featuring century old restored buildings. Go back in time with more than 70 retail and specialty shops, art galleries, antique shops, restaurants and more. Located there are the Carter house caught in the center of the Civil War battle of Franklin and still bears scars from bullet holes and the Carnton

Plantation was used as a Field Hospital in the same battle. (admission fee) Also located there just off I-65 is the CoolSprings Galleria an upscale shopping mall with five department stores, more than 165 specialty shops and a 500 seat food court and is the perfect place to get a little shopping done. Fred said to be on the lookout for a rib shack called 'Back Door Jack's'.

Considerable number of Airlines provide service to Nashville and you should use the courtesy phone in the baggage claim area to call for a pickup – be sure to call the Holiday Inn Select Opryland/Airport. The Metropolitan Transit Authority provides hourly service between the airport and downtown seven days a week. It takes about 20 minutes on the express and 35 to 45 minutes on the local. Fares are less than \$2.00 and the correct change is required. Service is provided in and out of town and unlimited all-day passes are \$4.80. There is a downtown transit station at 400 Charlotte Ave between 4th and 5th streets for all-day and weekly passes.

MAP OF REUNION LOCATION NASHVILLE

MAIL CALL

Received two additional donations from Life members, Vincent Darrigo and Ed Mireider and others with their dues to the support the Association operating fund. Vincent said that he would not join us this year as wanted to see some old shipmates at the USS Saratoga reunion. Raynond Bourque from Marine Detachment sent in a change of address and said he wouldn't see us this year but was looking forward to Orlando. An email from Thomas Oliver, thomas.oliver@gmail.com said that he recently discovered that his dad, William L (Bill) Oliver of Bay City Michigan served in LEYTE in the late 40's and was looking for someone that may have known him. He was in Co 140 at Great lakes and graduated in June of 1946 which means he may have been on the shakedown cruise. If anyone remembers him please let Thomas know and share a few sea stories. Received a number of phone calls and correspondence from Arthur Levy an Aerographer in LEYTE during the Korean cruise trying to get his newsletters and to fill me in on his sea stories. Hope to print one soon. He is also looking for any other Aerographers that may have served with him or that want to share sea stories.

Dave Hennessy sent in another article from the U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings under 'Lest we Forget' Wingmen by LCDR T.J. Cutler on Ens Jesse Brown. "Flying 1,000 feet above the icy mountains of Korea, the Corsair's engine cut out – the result of a lucky shot from a Communist gunner below." Jesse couldn't bail out or clear the mountain ahead so he had no choice but to attempt a wheels up dead-stick landing. His wingman LTjg Hudner knowing that the rescue helicopter would not arrive for awhile decided to join Jesse on the ground to help remove him from the cockpit. Even with the assistance of the helo pilot they were not able to extract him and Jesse died in place. In 1973 then Captain Hudner wearing the Medal of Honor awarded for the desperate attempt to rescue Jesse stood by Daisy and together they watched the brand-new frigate USS Jesse L. Brown slide down the ways to join the fleet.

ZONE INSPECTION

4-225-2-A S-1 No hat on man standing by. Very Good
2-230-2-A 6th Scuttle Broken. Access to 7-227-1-Q. Dust
2-222-2-L E Cigarette Butt on battle lantern. No hat
2-222-4-L Head Not ready for inspection
3-222-4-L 6th Shoes on bed. No shoes on man standing by.
Deck good

ELECTION

Jack Mitchell, at 480-239-9555, ussleyte32@cox.net is the nominating committee chairman and is waiting for your input to fill the vacancies of Vice President and Assistant Secretary and to support the other officers on the slate. Committee chairmen are appointed at the pleasure of the President and approved by the other officers of the Association. Your assistance in working on the committees is also solicited to make them viable to work with the President. Among the unsung heroes that we are looking for are those that step up to help at the reunions, like collecting bus tickets, registration (Jim Nelligan), hospitality, photo session and helping shipmates that need assistance to get around.

HONORED PASSING

Jo Ann Detwiler
Elizabeth Taylor

Many of us remember seeing/meeting Elizabeth on the French Riviera and how gracious she was on her Honeymoon to visit the ship several times and to have rooms set aside for some ships personnel to stay ashore. "She was different from her Hollywood persona. From childhood to her death, she remained a star who survived the very era that spawned her". The following were sent to President Kersten in reply to an invitation to attend the San Antonio LEYTE reunion.

PHOTO OF
ELIZABETH TAYLOR

LETTER FROM
ELIZABETH TAYLOR

FUTURE REUNIONS

Jack Mitchell gave a very upbeat report on plans for the Philadelphia 2012 reunion and he has selected a great hotel for us and events to match. We will not be located in downtown as that is cost prohibitive. And Jack James and Rich Marin are the front men for the 2013 reunion in the Orlando area. Mobile, Pensacola and Saint Louis will be among the locations being considered for the 2014 reunion. If you have inputs and are willing to work on the location planning please get the information in to the President soonest.

TAPS

James Booth 1971
William Braswell 11/09
Robert A Cann 10/10
Donald Johnson 2/10
Wilbert Kirks 7/07
Philip Lasalle 2/11
Robert J Martin 2009 (FCC)
Joseph H Mulholland
Thomas E Neal 6/11
William Oliver
Arthur W Peterson 5/11
Donald Roberts 5/11 Webmaster
B Robert Rosenberg 5/11 Father of Association
Jimmy A Singleton 11/10
Donald Strohm 6/11
Kenneth A Swift, Sr 6/11
Robert Taark 10/10
John Wechsler 3/11
Stanley F Woods 6/11
William Zeitlin 2010

REUNION REMINDER

Get your reservations for the hotel and registration in soonest. We appreciate your continuing support and look forward to seeing and having a great time with you in Nashville.

***** USS LEYTE (CV-32) ASSOCIATION RENEWAL/APPLICATION *****

I Mbr#___ apply to renew (___) **or** for membership (___) in the USS LEYTE (CV-32) Association and forward in consideration a gift of \$ 15.00. **or** Life membership (___) 59 years or less = \$150; 60-69= \$100; 70 up = \$50.

Name: _____ (_____) Wife's Name: _____ ** 2011 DUES**

Info Change(___) first/mi/last _____ nickname _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ + _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____ - _____ e-mail Address _____

Crewmember: From ___ - ___ to ___ - ___ Division(s): _____ Rank/Rate: _____

mo yr mo yr

Mil. Retired? No ___ Yes ___ **If yes, Rank/Rate** _____ **USN/US** _____ **[Mbr#** _____ **Paid \$** _____ **]**

Return Form to: **William I. McQueary, 14519 WCR 16, Ft. Lupton, CO 80621**

Please make checks payable to USS LEYTE CV-32 ASSOCIATION

***** A Non-Profit Organization of former crew members *****