



USS Seattle AOE 3

Veteran's Association

Newsletter



In This Issue

- President's Letter
- VP Letter
- Membership
- Reunion 11 – review of all the sights and things that were done
- From a Shipmate
- Surprise a Shipmate
- Reunion #12 Info
- Few Notes

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Editor: Dale Eicker

Contributing Editors: David Holton, Rich Toma, Vic Hellberg, Mark Giraldi and Bill Norris

REUNION # 12 - 2020 in Bremerton, WA.

Preparations are underway for reunion # 12 in Bremerton, WA.

Initial ideas and plan – updates to follow online and in next issues.

Your Officers:

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DUES for 2020

Shipmates,

The USS Seattle Veteran's Association is starting its twelfth year in 2020 and we are very lucky to have each of you as a member. Even though the USSSVA is relatively small we do still have expenses that the officers and board members try very hard to keep to a minimum. Thanks to our raffles and fund raising at the past reunions, we are again able to keep our yearly membership dues at \$30.00. You can also become a Lifetime Member if you choose. These dues are based on your age and can be found on www.ussseattleaoe-3.org.

Membership dues are due by January 17th, 2020. Collection begins on January 1st but you can also pay in advance if you wish. They can be paid online at our website or paid by check mailed to :

Make checks payable to:

USS Seattle AOE3 Veterans Association

Send checks to:

USS Seattle AOE3 Veterans Association
 Dan Justynski, Treasurer
 7 South Balch St.
 Hanover, NH 03755

Letter from The Association President

Fellow USS Seattle Shipmates

I like the change of seasons, each one gives me the opportunity to make some changes like what I eat, what I wear and what I do and where I do it. My favorite is from Fall to the end of the year. It is a good time for some reflection and the holidays reminds and inspires me to give thanks and rejoice in God's Grace.

For those who could not attend our reunion in Jacksonville, I want to share some comments that were echoed by everyone who visited NAS JAX and went aboard the USS Paul Ignatius DDG-117.

In the case of the USS Ignatius, it was commissioned just a few months before we arrived. As you walked on the decks forward and aft you see what looks like small hatch doors flush with the deck. Sixteen forward and sixteen aft. Those are the silos for the missiles stowed below deck. From the bridge I can only imagine what it must look and sound like as those missiles are launched via computer commands executed by young officers and crew, many under 30 years of age.

At NAS JAX, the Commodore spent 30 minutes briefing us on the Navy drone program. All the drones world-wide are commanded and flown from a building on base. We were shown surveillance photos and learned about their missions. We had the opportunity to see and board a P8, the Navy's newest surveillance plane. Both sides of the cabin were loaded with electronics. The cost of the plane is \$250 million and has a crew of 12. One of the tour guides was a woman officer who was just two years out of college. Her role? She flies the P8! Our tour of the Attack Helicopters provided the same experience. During Viet Nam our Attack Helicopters could launch 14 missiles. Today, they can launch 32.

The technology on today's ships and aircraft is unbelievable. And the training and caliber of the Naval Officers and crews, makes you proud and confident in the generation that is protecting America and our interests around the world.

I want to encourage you to remain active in your association. While the reunions are a good way to experience the association, it is not the only way. Keeping your membership active is important to be able to stay in touch with your shipmates via the website. There are updates on activities, photos of shipmates, ways to contact other shipmates and more.

Mark your calendars for September 2-6, 2020 for the reunion in Seattle Washington. We will have a ribbon cutting for the USS Seattle AOE-3 display at the Puget Sound Navy Museum. This is one event you will not want to miss! Keep watching the website and upcoming newsletters for more details,

Fair Winds and Following Seas for you and your family in 2020!

David Holton
President

LETTER from the VP

Shipmates,

For those that did not make our reunion in Jacksonville, FL last September, you missed another good one. Thanks to Craig Honour, we had the chance to tour the newly commissioned USS Paul Ignatius (DDG-117) and tour NAS JAX which included a briefing of our drone project as well as hands on tours of Attack Helicopters and the P-8 surveillance aircraft. We also attended Alhambra Dinner Theater presenting Mama Mia and spent a day in St. Augustine that everyone enjoyed.

As you read this letter the reunion planning committee is already working hard on our next reunion that will be in Bremerton, WA on September 2nd thru the 6th 2020. We will also be opening an exhibit for USS Seattle AOE 3 in the Puget Sound Naval Museum. Start making your plans now to attend. The committee is also looking at cities for our reunion in 2021. If you have any suggestions, please contact any officer or board member.

I am again urging all members to log into our website, www.ussseattleaoe-3.org and review your contact info. You need to do this at least once a year. Mailing and e-mail addresses need to be updated if they have changed. We need this info to keep in contact with you. While on-line, it might be a good time to pay your yearly membership dues if you are not a Life Member. Dues will remain \$30.00.

At this time, I would like to wish each of you and your families a Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year. Hope to see you in Bremerton.

Rich Toma
V.P. – USSSVA

The LIFER's Club

Albert Kaspar (1969)	Don McVey (1968)	Myron Carter (1969)
Bill Norris (1968)	Earl Boutell (1968)	Pete Lowry (1968)
Bill Tirrell (1968)	George Hastings Jr. (1968)	Peter F. Leon (1970)
C. E. "Andy" Anderson (1973)	Gordon Sterling (1971)	Raymond Pierce (1968)
Charles Rudd (1981)	Jerry Mason (1979)	Rich Toma (1971)
Chester Clark (1968)	Jim Pease (1969)	Richard Patty (1973)
Craig Honour (1991)	Keith Jones (1968)	Robert Miller (1969)
Dale Eicker (1970)	Lance Briggs (1975)	Roger W. Kane (1974)
David Caldwell (1968)	Mark C. Giraldi (1973)	Steven Firks (1996)
David "Frosty" Frost (1984)	Marland Townsend (1971)	Stu Tyson (1968)
David L. Holton (1971)	Michael Miller (1969)	Vic Hellberg (1968)
David Stein (1969)	Mike Stanaszek (1969)	William A. Wadsworth (1975)
James Conn (1968)	Phil Buckler (1968)	David Dykhoff (2003)
Donald Browne (1968)	Fred Campos (1971)	Larry Doyle (1968)
Gerald Hoewing (1993)	Dan Justynski (1989)	Michael McLean (1973)
Mike Richer (1969)	Lee Solt (1989)	Charles Caudill (1990)

Member Incentive Program (MIP)

What Is It? As a USSSVA member, you know firsthand the value membership provides in supporting your association and in strengthening veterans in our communities. The Member Incentive Program (MIP) offers the ideal opportunity to share the many benefits of membership with non-members USSSVA. By simply reaching out to your network and encouraging fellow shipmates to become a member, you pass along the benefits of membership. In turn, USSSVA will reward your efforts in referring new members*.

How the Program Works

1. Your membership must be current and remain current.
2. "Leads" do not count toward the incentive program. You must bring in a valid new member that is ready to commit to membership.
3. The new member* can apply online or by filling out a PDF application, and must include the referring member's name and contact information on the application in order for the referring member to receive credit.

What You Get

You will receive **50% OFF** your next USSSVA membership renewal for each new member that you sign up. The discount will be capped at two (2) new members per calendar year. Life members will receive a 20% discount in the ship's store**.

What They Get

Make it easier to refer! Your referred USSSVA member receives an 8 X 11" Sustaining Member certificate (suitable for framing), Member's coin and Lapel pin.

*New member is classified as a shipmate that qualifies for USSSVA membership and is not a current member of the association or that has lapsed in USSSVA membership for more than three (3) years from the new sign-up date.

**Value is not to exceed the value of an annual membership (\$30.00).

Contact Ray Pierce with any questions or to get assistance:

Ray.Pierce1950@gmail.com

(817) 503-0325

REUNION # 11

Jacksonville Reunion Memories

For those that arrived on Tuesday Captain Honour arranged a tour of the USS Paul Ignatius which at that time was the newest ship in the Navy. It was commissioned in July and not all the crew was even aboard yet.

Another example of how our Association towers!!!



Our hotel hosted two ship reunions which allowed us to make new friends!!!



Tour of the USS Paul Ignatius.



Our tour guide on the bridge showed us the new controls on the bridge being replaced by the old system of control!!!



The Captain came out on the bridge wing and visited with us for almost half an hour showing Respect and honor individually for our service!!!

REUNION # 11 (cont)
Tour of NAS Jacksonville



Thursday morning we had a briefing about the Trident.



Our afternoon we first got to tour one of the newest Naval aircraft, the P-8 Poseidon.



Next we got to see the Helicopter Strike Squadron Hangar



The hangar where we toured was enormous and we saw many things going on including students learning maintenance of the hellos.

REUNION # 11 (cont)
Dinner Theater



Dinner theater MAMMA MIA



Seattle Sailors with the full cast!!!

St. Augustine



Photo op at St. Augustine



REUNION # 11 (cont)

Dave's Fish Camp



Another photo op at Dave's

Surprising a SHIPMATE (by: Vic Hellberg)

I want to share my fabulous experience at our Jacksonville reunion. You all need to know what a great group of shipmates meet year after year to celebrate our common experience of serving on our Navy's finest ship. If you are not attending, you are missing great experiences and friendships.

My community had a tornado go right through our downtown as well as residential areas last year. Our town is rebuilding which will be a many year endeavor. I have been enlisted to be co-chair of a fund-raising committee to rebuild our Veterans Memorial Coliseum. My good friend and co-founder of our association, Bill Norris, knows all I do. He communicated with shipmate and Marshalltown resident Bob Miller. They conspired and sold our Coliseum challenge coins during the reunion right under my nose. Bill told me that every shipmate he approached about this reached in their pocket and said how much do you need. What a great group!!! So, at the conclusion of our banquet they surprised me with the big presentation check. My local newspaper felt it a good enough story to include with an update of our fundraiser. I am sharing this with all of you. You are part of a great group of people!!!

Times-Republican

Veterans Memorial Coliseum fundraising at 82%



Veterans Memorial Coliseum Fund committee co-chair Vic Hellberg of Marshalltown knew fellow residents and local businesses would support a campaign to restore the venerable building.

But he was surprised not long ago with a \$1,000 donation from the USS Seattle Veterans Association.

Hellberg served on the ship from 1968 to 1971. He and a friend from Houston started a reunion group.

"This year was our 11th reunion," Hellberg said. "And ship veterans stepped up. Their only connection to the coliseum is me. I thought that the donation was incredible. They totally blindsided me. It was an emotional experience. There will be a spot on the donation wall for the USS Seattle Veterans Association. I was just amazed."

Local resident and Hellberg friend Bob Miller also served on the ship.

From a SHIPMATE

Florence American Cemetery, ITALY

By: Mark Giraldi

Remembering All Our Veterans

Barb and I recently returned from a vacation in Italy. We had been there before, but knew nothing of an American cemetery in the area of Tuscany. We learned about it from friends who told us about it after we returned three years ago. We vowed we would make it a stop on our next trip, especially since Barb's father, who had recently passed away, had been a B-17 tail gunner shot down over France and evaded capture by German forces for three months with the aid of the French resistance. We thought it would be a fitting way to remember him and honor his service in WWII.

The Florence American Cemetery is situated approximately 7.5 miles south of Florence, Italy, on a main highway connecting Florence with Siena and Rome. The cemetery is open daily to the public from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm except December 25 and January 1.

The 70-acre cemetery is one of fourteen permanent American World War II military cemetery memorials erected on foreign soil by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The site was liberated on 3 August 1944 by the South African 6th Armored Division, and later became part of the zone of the U.S. Fifth Army. It is located astride the Greve River, and is framed by wooded hills, which rise several hundred feet to the west. The 4,402 servicemen and women interred in the cemetery represent 39 percent of the temporary burials originally made between Rome and the Alps. Most died in the fighting which occurred after the capture of Rome in June 1944. Included among them are casualties of the heavy fighting in the Apennines shortly before the war's end.



Very much like Arlington, this cemetery is beautiful and tranquil. On the west bank of the Greve River are the graves area, the memorial, the service area and the superintendent's quarters. A wide east-west mall of fine grass separates the graves area into two parts. Overlooking it from high ground at the west end of the mall is the memorial; a large flagpole overlooks it from the east end.

From a SHIPMATE (cont)

Florence American Cemetery, ITALY

By: Mark Giraldi



The Tablets of the Missing, which connect the north and south atria are constructed of travertine stone and measure 17'6" in height and 138' in length. Shaded by trees, the granite panels on the Tablets are inscribed with the names and particulars of 1,409 Missing in Action in the region or lost or buried at sea. They came from Canada, the District of Columbia and from every state of the Union except Alaska and Hawaii. United States Army and Army Air Forces numbered 1,379 and United States Navy 12.



From a SHIPMATE (cont)

Florence American Cemetery, ITALY

By: Mark Giraldi



The pylon or stele in front of the Tablets of the Missing is 69 feet high and triangular in plan. Faced in Roman travertine, it is surmounted by a sculptured figure in granite designed by Sidney Waugh of New York. The figure represents the spirit of peace hovering over the fallen, bearing olive branches. Flying beside her out of cloudlike forms is the American eagle, guardian of justice and honor. The following dedicatory inscription appears on the pylon in English and Italian:

**1941-1945
IN PROUD MEMORY OF HER SONS AND
IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THEIR SACRIFICES
THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

From a SHIPMATE (cont)

Florence American Cemetery, ITALY

By: Mark Giraldi

Having made a number of visits to Washington, D.C. and visiting the WWII Memorial, Vietnam Wall and Arlington National Cemetery, I can tell you that this visit to an American Cemetery on foreign soil was the most moving of all. As this November 11th has passed and we look forward to the next “Veteran’s Day”, please remember all of your family, friends and loved ones that fought throughout our brief history in this world to ensure that we enjoy the freedom and liberty that the United States of America affords us.



Footnote from Wikipedia:

“Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a [federal holiday in the United States](#) observed annually on November 11, for honoring [military veterans](#), that is, persons who have served in the [United States Armed Forces](#) (and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable)^{[1][2]} It coincides with other holidays including [Armistice Day](#) and [Remembrance Day](#) which are celebrated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of [World War I](#). Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the [Armistice with Germany](#) went into effect. At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.”

USS Seattle Veterans Association 12th Reunion Opening of the USSSVA PSNM Exhibit

In 2020, the USS Seattle AOE 3 Veterans Association will host our 12th reunion (and second) in Bremerton & Seattle, Washington. In addition to our reunion, we will be in Bremerton, Washington, home of the construction of the USS Seattle and we will be there for the opening of the first and only museum of the USS Seattle. Dates for the reunion will be Wednesday September 2nd – Sunday September 6th. Each room is a suite with sitting area and extra pull out bed.



We will be staying at the Doubletree Suites by Hilton, Seattle Airport South center 16500 South center Parkway, Seattle, WA 98188. We will be opening registration for the reunion as soon as all the details are complete, the rate from the Doubletree will be \$109.00 per night including breakfast for two. The hotel provides free transportation 24/7 to and from the airport. The hotel has a very nice indoor pool and two racquetball courts and I challenge anyone to a 3-match game.



USS Seattle Veterans Association 12th Reunion (cont)

Saturday, we will be traveling to Bremerton via Bus to the Seattle ferry landing and a short ride to Bremerton and to the Puget Sound Naval Museum (PSNM). There we will have a reception and dedication service in the courtyard depending on weather. After touring the museum, we will return by ferry to Seattle and return to the Hotel. That evening we will have our Banquet.



Some of the planned activities other than the Saturday trip to Bremerton will be, but not limited to, visit to the Boeing museum of flight, trip to the Seattle Space Needle, Chihuly Garden and Glass and the Space Needle Park and a meal down on the Seattle piers. More details to come as plans are finalized.



If you have not provided any items for the USS Seattle Museum Exhibit {and you have something to add} please contact Rich Toma (see contact info below) so we can have as many items as possible available at the opening.

RICH TOMA:

Email: richtoma16@yahoo.com

Phone: 1-440-669-9615

USS Seattle Veterans Association 12th Reunion (cont)

Tentative Reunion Agenda:

Wednesday:

- Check in
- Gathering (meet and greet)

Thursday:

- Association Meeting
- Show and Tell
- Trip to Boeing museum of flight
- Dinner out (need Bus)

Friday

- Trip to Space Needle, Chihuly Garden and Glass
- Other venue
- Meet at pier 58 for dinner and night life

Saturday

- Buss to ferry & ferry to Bremerton
- Walk to PSNM courtyard
- Dedication to USS Seattle museum
- Ferry back to Seattle & bus to hotel
- Banquet

Sunday

- Farewell Breakfast

Useful Weblinks:

Doubletree Suites: https://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/washington/doubletree-suites-by-hilton-hotel-seattle-airport-southcenter-SEASPDT/index.html?SEO_id=GMB-DT-SEASPDT

Boeing museum of flight: <https://www.museumofflight.org/>

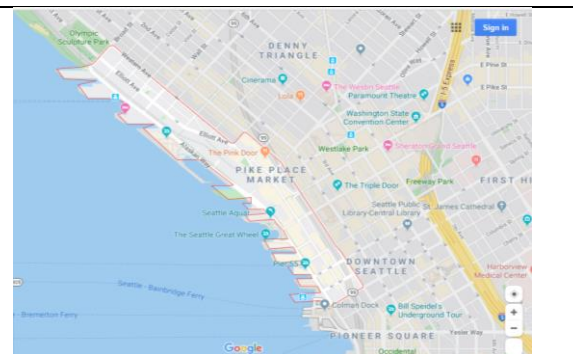
Chihuly Garden and Glass: <https://www.chihulygardenandglass.com/>

Seattle Piers:

There a lot of restaurants and things to see at the piers and even a Ferris wheel.

We will start the day at the Space center than have buss service down to piers and can have a planned meal or dinner on your own. Starting around 6:00 we can start shuttling people back to the hotel. Details to be worked out...

Check it out!



A FEW NOTES

Show Your USS Seattle Spirit!

(Show your Spirit with shirt, hat, jacket, decal, license plate cover and more from Ship's Store)

We are beginning a new series of articles each newsletter where showing your USS Seattle Spirit has led to a conversation about the ship from a stranger, many of whom served on ships or in the military. Send your story to Dale Eicker at deicker@comcast.net.

I wear my shirts nearly every day when the weather permits (in Texas that's the majority of the year) and have had people stop me regularly to ask about the ship, when I served or just to thank me for my service. These shirts, hats and jackets are a great way to bring attention to our organization. It has provided me the opportunity to meet other sailors from other ships, some that attend their own reunions, and some that just wanted more info about it because they hadn't heard of this type veteran's organization.

Do you have a story to be included here???

Let me hear about your experiences..... Dale

P.S. – I'd like to personally wish each of you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hoping to see everyone at next year's reunion and the dedication of the USS Seattle AOE 3 exhibit in the Museum at Bremerton, WA. - - - - Dale

Fair Winds & Following Seas