



USS Seattle AOE 3

Veteran's Association

Newsletter



In This Issue

- President's Letter
- Ship's Store (Vic)
- Membership
- Shipmate Spotlight
- Shipmate Spotlight 2
- Shipmate Spotlight 3
- From the VP
- Reunion Plan
- Museum Update
- Few Notes

Issue # 23

1st Quarter - 2019

Issued: Mar-15

Editor: Dale Eicker

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

REUNION # 11 - 2019 in Jacksonville, FL.

Preparations are underway for reunion # 11 in Jacksonville, FL.

Included in this issue is the tentative schedule of events and their costs.

Prepare to register for a great reunion, fun times and camaraderie to be had by all. Look forward to seeing everyone there.

Your Officers:

<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Phone</i>
President	David Holton	davidholton@gmail.com	(704) 841-7301
Vice president	Rich Toma	richtoma16@yahoo.com	(440) 669-9615
Secretary	Mark Giraldi	mark_giraldi@yahoo.com	(847) 420-9212
Communications Officer	Dale Eicker	deicker@comcast.net	(713) 899-2491
Treasurer	Dan Justynski	Dan.justynski@gmail.com	(401)-302-1611
Ships-store	Vic Hellberg	Plankowner4@gmail.com	(641) 752-6882
Web-master	Myron Carter	MyronCarter@gmail.com	(770) 432-1564
Legal Advisor	George Hastings	GoodNewsFinancial@sbcglobal.net	(615) 504-0071
Reunion Committee	Bill Norris	bnorris5248@gmail.com	(281) 785-6415
Member at Large #1	Lance Briggs	docnav@aol.com	(845) 551-0504
Member at Large #2	David Caldwell	dcaldwell1247@aol.com	(360) 731-2351
Member at Large #3	John Marino	marinoic4@comcast.net	(717) 449-2575
Member at Large #4	Bob Dunphy	bob@REDSsystems.com	(617) 819-4077
Emeritus Member @ Large #1	Bill Norris	bnorris5248@gmail.com	(281) 785-6415
Emeritus Member @ Large#2	Vic Hellberg	Plankowner4@gmail.com	(641) 752-6882

DUES for 2019

Shipmates,

The USS Seattle Veteran's Association will begin its eleventh year this year 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 this past reunion in San Francisco, 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.usseattleaoe-3.org.

Membership dues are due by January 15th, 2018. Collection began on January 1st so, if yours are as yet unpaid, please get them in as soon as possible. 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
Ray Pierce, Treasurer
5108 Abby Road
N. Richland Hills, TX 76180

Letter from The Association President

Dear Shipmates,

Well, here I am in early March, and I have already failed in seven of my ten New Year's Resolutions. I know I will keep the other three – Love my wife more, love my kids more and attend the 2019 Seattle reunion in Jacksonville, Fl. I am reminded of how Ted Williams once answered the question of why he played baseball. He said, “where else can you work and be right just three out of ten times and be at the top of your profession.” So, I guess I am in good company with my three out of ten! Dare I ask about yours?

It's not too late to make a new resolution for 2019 to stay involved or get involved with your association. Renew or join by paying your dues for just \$30.00. Consider becoming a Life Member, shop at the Ship's Store, add a “Sea Story” to the website for others to read. Donate a piece of memorabilia to our museum that is planned to open in 2020 in Bremerton, WA. **And plan to attend the Reunion where you can meet old and new friends who served on USS Seattle over her 36 years of service!**

I also encourage you to be a regular visitor to our website to stay informed of new announcements. Enjoy this newsletter and please reach out to the Officers and Board Members of your association with any questions or ideas of things we can do to continue to make the USS Seattle AOE 3 Veterans Association the best ship reunion association!

See you in Jacksonville!

David L. Holton
President, USSSVA

SHIP'S STORE ITEMS

Shipmates, this newsletter edition is really special!!! Until April 15th, every ship's store order for Rich Toma's book "Memories of USS Seattle AOE 3" will receive a copy of the 2019 calendar with 12 fabulous pictures of our ship. But in addition, there will be a crisp new \$10.00 bill hidden in the pages of the book!!!

So use this link: <http://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org/testmhc1.htm> and get your copy today.

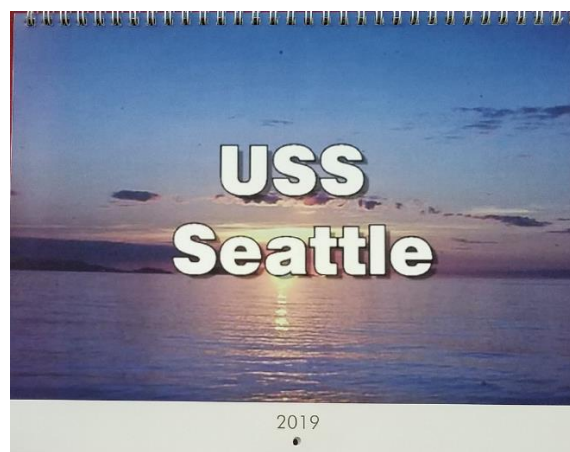
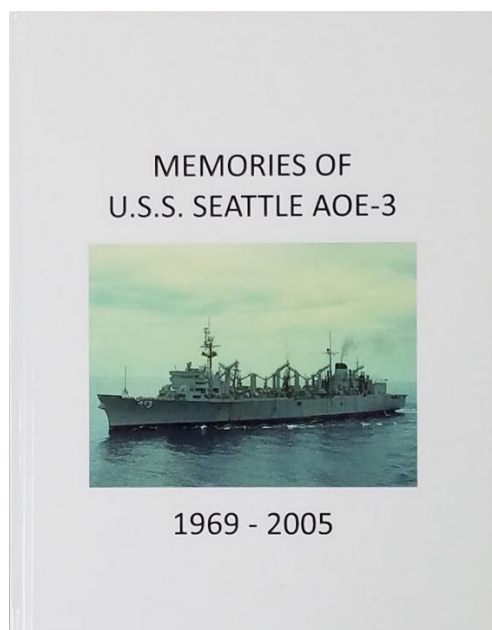
This book is a must have for all sailors who were crew members of the USS Seattle AOE 3. Rich Toma spent five years researching and collecting the articles in this amazing history of the Seattle.

One person who bought the book said: **"I was privileged to watch this as a work in progress and to see it come to fruition is a dream come true. What a story it tells."** *Ray Pierce*

What a great story of the life of one of the Navy's finest ships. If you served aboard her or someone you love did, you need this in your family. Get it now and get the bonus!!!

Vic Hellberg

Ship's Store Manager



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)	

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).

SHIPMATE SPOTLIGHT

Article provided by: Vic Hellberg

At our reunion in Washington, DC, we were able to schedule a time at Arlington Cemetery to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown on behalf of all the shipmates who served on the USS Seattle. I was one of the four who placed the wreath and I must say it was one of the most memorable experiences of my life!



Four of us presented this wreath at 1:15 PM on August 4, 2016. For me, this was the highlight of the entire reunion! That is the huge statement considering all the other amazing things we did and shared together. Here is a picture of our salute during the playing of taps.

Now, as Paul Harvey used to say, here is the rest of the story. I came home to Marshalltown, Iowa. I shared my story of the reunion to several people. Next thing I knew the editor of our daily newspaper calls to ask if he could send a reporter to interview me about my experience. He interviewed me about half an hour and I shared the picture above. The following Sunday our paper had this picture on the front page. On Monday, a fellow came into our business and asked if I was the guy who served aboard the USS Seattle. He said he also served aboard her in 1972 for several years. I served aboard her for two and a half years leaving July of 1971. Those of you that are active in the association and have attended reunions, know that Bob Miller also served with me and lives here in Marshalltown. We are a community of a little over 26,000 residents and now we have THREE guys who served aboard. At our earliest convenience, we got together at home and enjoyed a terrific time of sharing stories about Seattle. Here is a picture of the three of us.



Bob Miller..... Gary Fulton... Vic Hellberg

SHIPMATE SPOTLIGHT # 2

Article provided by: Vic Hellberg



This is a picture of Officer Mark Treu of the Washington police department. Marc is a former Seattle sailor – serving aboard in 1987. Pictured here holding the citation he received. Here's the story:

Mark has been in law enforcement for over 26 years. In those 26 years, he has seen many horrible things. Some he will never forget. February 2013 was unfortunately one such occurrence. Some "thug" was having financial problems and domestic issues with his girlfriend so he decided to start his mattress on fire, block the exits and escape to safety. The fire spread quickly, trapping a 4-year child in her bedroom as she was sleeping. Mark, his fellow officers and DC firefighters did everything they could, risking their own lives, to save the little girl. 2 days later however, she lost her battle to survive. Mark was determined to make sure the "thug" responsible for this innocent child's death, would be brought to justice. After 2 trials, the "thug" was found guilty of first degree murder and sentenced to 35 years in jail. The US Department of Justice recognized Mark and his fellow officers for their diligence and for obtaining justice for that poor little girl. Being a police officer is often a thankless job. Today, this little girl is thanking Mark and all those who helped, from Heaven.

DO YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE ABOUT A SHIPMATE OR SOMETHING YOU ARE INVOLVED WITH IN YOUR COMMUNITY? WE'D LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT IT AND SHARE IT WITH ALL YOUR SHIPMATES. PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLE TO DALE FOR PUBLICATION.

SHIPMATE SPOTLIGHT # 3

Article info from: Times Republican newspaper article in Marshalltown, Iowa

Bob Miller, left, of the local combined Veterans of Foreign Wars/American Legion Honor Guard, recently presented a memorial U.S. flag flown at Rose Hill Cemetery to a late veteran's grandson (center) while fellow Honor Guard member Rick Johnson looks on. They are working to distribute 49 more flags to relatives. If relatives cannot be found, they will dispose of the flags properly.



The following is quoted from the Marshalltown Times Republican newspaper:

A member of the Marshalltown combined Veterans of Foreign Wars/American Legion Honor Guard is asking the public's help in awarding memorial U.S. flags.

Bob Miller said he has been working conscientiously to find relatives of decedents honored on past Memorial Days by the local Rose Hill Cemetery.

His task: Give relatives the 49 U.S. flags flown in memory of loved ones.

The cemetery retired some of the older flags and gave them to the Honor Guard for proper disposal.

This is a link to the article which includes the names of deceased veterans they are seeking to find:

<http://www.timesrepublican.com/news/todays-news/2018/12/local-veteran-asks-publics-help-in-awarding-memorial-u-s-flags/>

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Seattle Shipmates,

MEMBERSHIP. That is the main concern of the Vice President. In my dues letter last December, I put out the challenge to have 100 shipmates pay annual dues this year. We are about half way there, let's see if we can reach our goal.

If you haven't heard, registration for our Jacksonville, FL reunion is now open. Keep in mind that August 11th is the deadline for hotel reservations and reunion registration. Please sign up early and expect to have a great time.

Finally, Bill and Vic are already working on our 2020 reunion in Bremerton to coincide with the grand opening of the USS Seattle display in the Puget Sound Naval Museum. If you have an artifact of any kind from our great ship that you would like to donate to the association, please contact me at richtoma16@yahoo.com and I will get with you to arrange getting the item stored with all those we are currently preparing for the museum.

I hope each of you and your families have a great and relaxing summer. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you in Jacksonville.

Rich Toma
V.P. USSSVA

USS Seattle AOE 3 Veteran's Association

ISSUE: # 23

1st Quarter - 2019

Issued: Mar-15

Page: 9

UPCOMING REUNION INFORMATION

Reunion Day	Begin Time	End Time	Event	P/P Cost	Comments
			Doubletree by Hilton Jax/ Riverfront	\$119.00	Doubletree by Hilton 1201 Riverplace Blvd. Jacksonville, Fl. 32207 1-800-222-9733
Wed.	6:00 AM		Breakfast	\$0.00	Hotel Restaurant 1st floor
	12:00 PM		Official Check-in USSSVA Registration	\$70.00	Hospitality Room 2nd floor Members only pay fee
	5:30 PM	10:00 PM	Welcome aboard reception	\$0.00	Hospitality Room Refreshments (pizza, soda, beer, wine)
Thur.	6:00 AM		Breakfast	\$0.00	Hotel Restaurant
	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	General Meeting/Breakfast for Spouses		Meeting - members only - Hospitality Room
	10:15 AM	2:45 PM	Mayport Naval Air Station or Military Museum	Bus for all day (both events) \$50.00	Leave at 10:00 for tour of Mayport Naval Air Station. If no ship available to tour we will tour The Military Museum of North Florida.
	3:30 PM	5:15 PM	Free Time		
	6:00 PM	10:00 PM	WHITE SEATTLE SHIRT EVENING Alhambra Dinner Theatre alhambrajax.com	\$50.00	Dinner begins at 6:00. Show begins at 7:50 MAMMA MIA is the show. Business casual dress..... no jeans or t-shirts.

USS Seattle AOE 3 Veteran's Association

ISSUE: # 23

1st Quarter - 2019

Issued: Mar-15

Page: 10

UPCOMING REUNION INFORMATION (cont)

Reunion Day	Begin Time	End Time	Event	P/P Cost	Comments
Fri.	6:00 AM		Breakfast	\$0.00	Hotel Restaurant
	9:00 AM	4:45 PM	BLUE SEATTLE SHIRT DAY Board bus for St. Augustine	Bus for all day \$50.00	Arrive Castillo de San Marco for group picture. Those who paid for alligator farm reboard bus for ten minute ride. Return to visitor center. Rest of day and lunch on your own.
	10:30 AM		Alligator Farm and Zoo	\$15.00	
			Old Town Trolley tour	\$10.00	
	5:30 PM	7:15 PM	Arrive Clark's Fish Camp clarksfishcamp.net		Dinner at Clark's on your own. Mains, platters and baskets range from \$10.00 to \$35.00
Sat.	6:00 AM		Breakfast	\$0.00	Hotel Restaurant
	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	USSSVA Show and Tell (optional)		Hospitality Room
	10:30 AM		Rest of day on your own		Day cruise to Jacksonville Zoo Friendship Fountain (walk) River City brewing Co. for lunch (walk) MOSH Museum (walk) Monorail ride to Jacksonville Landing or Sweet Pete's (free) River Taxi to Jacksonville Landing
	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Mixer		Cash bar just outside of banquet room
	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Banquet	\$70.00	Guest Speaker Capt. Wilbur C. Trafton USS Seattle's 14th Commanding Officer
Sun.			Farewell Breakfast	\$0.00	

MUSEUM UPDATE

Shipmates,

As we all know the Puget Sound Naval Museum (PSNM) has agreed to provide space for a USS Seattle AOE 3 exhibit in Bremerton, WA. The exhibit will open in the August – September (2020) time frame. We are working on our 2020 reunion to coincide with the opening and are planning a great day to celebrate the event.

Current plans include; a reception at the Kitsap Convention Center (KCC) next to the PSNM, a tour of the museum for the opening of the Seattle exhibit, then back to the KCC for a mixer followed by the banquet.

We have been in contact with the City of Seattle, City of Bremerton, the Tribes of Chief Seattle, and all have said they would like to have someone in attendance for the event.

Please start planning now for this event to commemorate the USS Seattle AOE 3 in her home town of Bremerton.

*Bill Norris
Reunion Committee Member*

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 the ship. 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.

The other day, I had to stop by the Post Office to mail some packages to new members. The clerk that assisted me noticed my shirt and started asking questions. He was thoroughly impressed at what our ship did, the amount of cargo we carried and handled. I believe if there hadn't been several more customers waiting in line, we would have continued the conversation for some time.

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

Fair Winds & Following Seas