



USS Seattle AOE-3

Veteran's Association Newsletter



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Issue # 9 3rd Quarter - 2014 Issued: Aug. 2014

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Jimmy Pease, Bob Miller, Bill Tirrell, Earl Boutell

TIME? It's almost here. Reunion # 6 – Pensacola, FL. – Tropical Breeze.

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|
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ARE WE GETTING EXCITED YET?????
The reunion is now less than a month away.
Have you signed up? Will you be there?
Do you have room reservations?

THE BOARD of DIRECTORS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Every year a group including many board members gets together and works out the plans for our reunion. Some of those plans require that we estimate far in advance how many will attend. Since most who will attend must also make travel arrangements – doing so in advance saves money. Planning well in advance can also result in savings for everyone. If you know you're going to attend, please, fill out the online form, select and pay for your tours, meals, etc. – as far in advance as possible to help the board and the committee get everyone a great deal and make this reunion, and the next even better than the last. If you have trouble getting things filled out and taken care of, email any of the board members and we'll be happy to assist you. We also understand that plans can change due to issues that arise that are out of our control – but please, email or call us and let us know if something comes up to prevent you from attending – that way, the committee/board can make adjustments and try to maintain the best deals possible for everyone who does make it. Last – and most important – have fun.....

USS Seattle AOE-3 Veteran's Association

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REUNION # 6

Pensacola, Florida is the location.

September 3rd through the 7th are the dates.

The theme this year is: Tropical Breeze

Below is a list of events and prices....

Hilton Garden Inn
1144 Airport Blvd
Pensacola, FL

| | Event Schedule | Member Fee | Spouse (Guest) Fee |
|--|----------------|------------|--------------------|
| Tuesday | | | |
| Early Arrival | all day | | |
| Wednesday | | | |
| USSSVA Golf tournament Tee off AM back by noon | 0730 - 1300 | | |
| Welcome | all day | \$ 45 | |
| Gathering, show and tell Pizza, snacks and drink provided | 1600 - 2200 | \$ - | \$ - |
| Thursday | | | |
| Breakfast in Hotel | 0600 - 0800 | \$ - | \$ - |
| USS Alabama Tour | 0800 - 1600 | \$ 47 | \$ 47 |
| Hula in hotel | 1830 - 2200 | \$ 30 | \$ 30 |
| Friday | | | |
| Breakfast in Hotel | 0600 - 0800 | \$ - | \$ - |
| Naval Aviation Museum includes lunch | 0830 - 1730 | \$ 47 | \$ 47 |
| Evening meal in hotel or McGuire's Estimate | 1900 - 2200 | \$ 30 | \$ 30 |
| Saturday | | | |
| Breakfast in Hotel | 0600 - 0800 | \$ - | \$ - |
| Association meeting | 0800 - 1000 | | |
| City Tour lunch provided (Oar House) | 1030 - 1630 | \$ 40 | \$ 40 |
| Banquet | 1900 - 2200 | \$ 49 | \$ 49 |
| Sunday | | | |
| Farewell Breakfast | 0700 - 1000 | \$ - | \$ - |
| Depart for Home | | | |

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shipmates,

As of Aug 1st we have 41 signed up on the website to come to Pensacola, FL, and I would encourage you to call and register as early as possible to make sure everyone gets a room. If you have any special needs or have any problems please contact me directly. *When booking your reservation, please refer to the USS Seattle AOE-3 Veterans Association or the group code "SEA" This will allow you to get the discounted rate of \$119 per night and includes breakfast in our restaurant each morning.* Hotel Phone number: 850-479-8900

We're going to try something a little different this year. In an effort to encourage new reunion goers, I would like to offer 5 drawings at the reunion. There is nothing to purchase just attend the reunion in Pensacola. On Wednesday evening at our gathering time, we will provide food and drink and will have the following giveaways:

- 1) Captain Craig Honour has agreed to do three (3) simulator rides for reunion goers. We will have three separate drawings worth a free \$20 ride. Only restriction is you must be present to win.
- 2) We will give a \$100 cash award for the first female Seattle sailor to attend a reunion. If we have more than one, we'll draw for the winner.
- 3) We will give a \$100 cash award for the first **new** USSSVA (members only) Seattle sailor to attend this reunion. If we have more than one, we'll draw for the winner.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the reunion. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call myself or Ray Pierce and we'll try to answer them. Also, the next publication and/or emails to everyone will have the finalized details for all events planned at the reunion.

NOTE: Check out pages 5 through 7 for a info and stories about the USS Seattle AOE-3 Captains Gig!!!

Bill Norris
USSSVA President

Reference websites:

Motion-Based Simulator at the National Naval Aviation Museum
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPfu11PPIs>

USS Alabama (BB-60)
<http://www.ussalabama.com/>

The National Naval Aviation Museum
<http://www.navalaviationmuseum.org/>

USS Seattle Gig placed on USS Wisconsin (1 of 6)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUR6g3urhYM> #1

REUNION MEAL EVENTS

With info by Jim Pease

Tuesday (also for early arrivers)

Place: PEG LEG PETE's – Oyster Bar and Seafood Restaurant

Eats: Oysters on the half shell, raw or steamed to perfection, served with garlic butter

Pricing: RAW or Steamed – ½ dozen on the half shell = 5.99 1 dozen on the half shell = 8.99

All the seafood is great but save room for desert: Key Lime Pie or Bread Pudding

Wednesday (opening day with a meal for all)

Place: Hilton Garden Inn – 1st Floor Conference Room Starts at 6 pm

Eats: Pizza with coffee and tea service and a dessert bar (with a huge assortment of mini-desserts)

Other: This is a great time to meet and greet all who are attending this year's reunion.

Thursday TROPICAL BREEZE LUAU

Place: Hilton Garden Inn – 1st Floor Conference Room Starts at 7 pm

Get your comfort clothes on – bright Hawaiian colors, grass skirts & Leis are certainly welcomed.

Eats: Enjoy some wonderful tropical foods – Teriyaki chicken or baked tilapia in citrus sauce, Island veggies, rice pilaf and fresh green salad. Assorted breads, iced tea or lemonade.

AND – for dessert (you might want to loosen a button) there's Coconut Cake.

Friday - Trolley ride from Naval Air Station at 5:30, return to Hotel at 7pm.

Place: McGuire's Irish Pub & Restaurant (be sure to check out the ceiling as you come in)

Eats: Wide selection of seafood, steaks, chicken, and some burgers with amazing flavor.

Things you might try include; Senate Soup (served at the same price since 1977), a cold brew (every day here is like St. Patty's day), Irish Lamb Stew and for dessert you could try the Bread Pudding although you may want to opt for the Irish Bash Crème Pie instead.

Saturday ---- TROPICAL BREEZE BANQUET Seating at 7 pm but Happy Hour outside the conference room Starting at 6 pm

Place: Hilton Garden Inn – 1st Floor Conference Room Service starts at 7:30 pm

Eats: Char-Broiled Kansas City 10 oz. pork chops, Mediterranean Salad, garlic mashed potatoes, Key Largo mixed veggies, dinner rolls w/butter – served with iced tea and coffee.

DRESS: Arrrr – it's Pirate time – while dress is casual, you're welcome to dress up as a pirate and show off your garb and pirate demeanor.

LAST MINUTE UPDATE: On Tuesday night we may be able to attend a concert.
Watch your email for important details. Look forward to seeing everyone there..... Bill Norris

REUNION 2014 - TROPICAL BREEZE ----- Letter from Jim Pease

Pensacola.....and what a fun place this city is. So much to see and do, from city view to Navy history and the nice beaches. Pensacola. The place you want to be September 3 - 7..for Seattle's 6TH Reunion. This year the setting gave us the theme of TROPICAL BREEZE. While here you will enjoy both that and all the wonderful things your Reunion Committee has planned for this event. It's recommended you come early....as so many have planned to be in Pensacola from Monday to Monday. Make this your vacation spot and enjoy your time with many of your former Seattle shipmates.

Monday and Tuesday you can make it a sight-seeing venture in Old Town and enjoy several of the many restaurants there. If you are a beach person....head across the causeway to the beach. Have a day in the sun. For Tuesday evening's meal the Association has suggested we get together and go to Peg Leg Pete's. It's a great seafood house and atmosphere.

Wednesday there is a planned GOLF outing for all golf enthusiasts. However ... ladies, you are not left out..... Cordova Mall is near with free shuttle service from the hotel. If you are interested in a spa treatment, please contact Jim for arrangements thru the Hilton. And, if you are interested in a full day of fun on the beach...Jim has arranged for transportation to and from. Oh, don't worry...there is plenty of food & drink while soaking up some rays.

In the afternoon the committee members will be setting up for those who arrive later in the day. However, if you have not done one of the earlier mentioned places...i do recommend it. Should you need information there are many brochures in the lobby of the Hilton and any of the hotel staff will be happy to assist you. If you don't have a vehicle/rent car.... Ask, you'd be surprised where that shuttle will take you. Never fear.....The evening events will be special all week. We have listed all the events and we certainly hope each will participate and have fun. Relax near the pool; visit with friends while you enjoy that wonderful TROPICAL BREEZE. If you choose to go for a stroll on the beach, late evenings are also nice, it's your vacation, put some romance into your time while in Pensacola. Food will be available at the hotel hosted by the Association or various nearby restaurants just across the street. Plan to spend the evening visiting with your friends and fellow shipmates. I'm sure there will be plenty to tell and show thru the evening.

Thursday we have scheduled a wonderful tour to the USS ALABAMA, which is located in Mobile. That is approximate 1 hour away on bus. There are several naval attractions to see while there that will fill the day. Food....ah, a yummy lunch will be included. In the TROPICAL BREEZE we think of Hawaii . . So nothing would do but have a LUAU for the evening's meal hosted by the Hilton. A prize (\$100 value) will be given to the person with the "best original Hawaiian attire." Hawaiian shirts, shorts, dresses/grass skirts, coconut bras, flower decorations, leis or anything TROPICAL/Hawaiian style.

Friday you will enjoy the most impressive displays the Navy has to offer at the Pensacola Naval Aviation Museum. It's difficult to see and do all that is offered in one day. As for your surprise of the day....think...."BLUE ANGELS." For those of you with a coming appetite, the Museum Restaurant has good food and a lot of history, so check it out. Now the day would not be complete without going to see and enjoy that famous restaurant, MCGUIRE'S. Let's just say...you have arrived and walked inside...LOOK UP...after that shock have a brew, great food and a wonderful time visiting together. Even if you only have a lite dinner, seeing the place and being with your fellow shipmates - makes the evening.

Saturday.... O' that day has arrived ... our general meeting, a city tour of several memorable spots and lunch at the Oar House (seafood to burgers).... Now, don't overdo it....as SEATTLE TROPICAL BREEZE BANQUET is this evening. It will be fun filled and many things happening along with good eats. NO fancy dresses or pumps required, ladies and men forget the coats and ties - let's get casual...it's Pensacola and SEATTLE enjoys the TROPICAL BREEZE tonight. However, you have been cautioned, the evening's theme is "PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN." Be sure to plan this one ahead of time. Dress in colors of red, black and white with your best pirate attire created by you for an evening of surprise. Again, there will be a prize (\$100 value) given to the person with the "most authentic attire of a pirate." This in no way takes away from our military standing. It will merely add fun and flavor to the evenings event. After the meal we have a short ceremony with a guest speaker. Prizes from the raffle and best authentic dress will be awarded.

Sunday we host our closing Breakfast. We hope you set your travel schedules to be present the entire time for this. Your house will still be there if you get home late or even on Monday. On behalf of our President and myself, we want our reunion to hold a special meaning for each of you. What an opportunity to rekindle old Navy times together, remember those not with us any longer, and have fun in each event planned.

We sincerely hope you have made plans or making plans to attend. Watch our web site for making your hotel reservations. If you have any questions about our events, please contact Jim Pease (210 788 1251 call/text or email: jpzz03@aol.com)

CAPTAINS GIG Dedication

The Navy is a small world after all...

I was excited to talk with BMC Daniel Dunham about the USS Seattle Gig being purchased for the USS Wisconsin, having it restored and mounted on the starboard side of the ship. Over the next couple of months I and group of the Veterans association worked to design a plaque that the project manager of the Wisconsin agreed to mount for us.

A group of 27 Seattle sailors and wives made the trip to Norfolk to attend the dedication of the plaque. We all walked on the Wisconsin and about half way stopped and took a picture. You will see the USSVA members in blue shirts and the other sailors are from 1987 – 1994. In the background of the picture you will see the Seattle Gig.

You might ask if we are sure this is the USS Seattle gig or one that just looks like it. Well rest your mind, I was sent the chrome “AOE – 3” lettering for the front of the gig and when you look at the front you can still see the holes from the letters spelling out AOE-3. So yes we are sure.

The plaque is a 18 X 12 X 1 inch thick teak plaque. The plaque will be mounted on the bulkhead of the Wisconsin and will be only a couple of feet away from the Gig. We engraved a simple inscription and a picture of the USS Seattle AOE-3. A picture of the plaque and the group at the presentation are below.



Now for a personal story. In 1987 my cousin, Commander Jack Norris was assigned to the commissioning / reactivation crew of the USS Wisconsin. I went to the commissioning and now 27 years later mounted the plaque dedicating the Gig of the ship(USS Seattle) that I helped commission in 1969.

I would encourage everyone that served aboard the Seattle make an attempt to visit the USS Wisconsin and as you pass the Gig pat the plaque.

Bill Norris

GIG STORIES by Bill Tirrell & Vic Hellberg & Bob Miller

Shipmates,

A quick story of the 'provider' and the 'users' that the GIG dedication enabled.

Most of us know that the engineers (known affectionately in my time as the 'snipes') provided the power that made everything else on a ship operate.

The gig dedication plaque presentation made it possible for me, after 40 plus years, to meet one of the 'power providers' that made 'my' radios operate. As the SEATTLE'S commissioning crew communications officer (1969 – 1971), 'my' radios needed several things to operate but chief among them was power, aka electricity. I had the good fortune to meet former electrician's mate Bob O'Connor (and his bride Donna) at the presentation. My bride (Jan) and I shared several hours (and a couple of meals) with them and took the 'way back' machine to share some experiences (and swap some 'sea stories') from our days as commissioning crew members. I didn't come across any of my shipmates from my second tour in SEATTLE (1981 – 1982), but seeing several faces and hearing some names I remembered from decades before and meeting several new shipmates – including Bob – made the jaunt absolutely worthwhile from northern Virginia for the ceremony.

Bill Tirrell
CDR, USN (Ret)

More Pictures from the Plaque presentation.



GIG STORIES (cont) by Bill Tirrell & Vic Hellberg & Bob Miller

This story by: Vic Hellberg

The USS Seattle AOE-3 Veteran's Association has brought many terrific moments into my life since 2009. The latest was a weekend with shipmates in both Washington, DC, and Norfolk, VA.

Shipmate and president of USSSVA, Bill Norris became aware of the fact that the Captain's Gig from our ship was going to find a permanent home on board the USS Wisconsin which is a museum in Norfolk. He felt there should be a permanent recognition of the fact it came from the Seattle. Long story short (and a lot of communication and work) and he personally laser engraved the beautiful teak wood plaque which shows the ship and tells the story to the thousands of visitors who will walk the Wisconsin's deck in the many years to follow.

Now the neat parts for me are numerous and I will try to outline them here. Because of my involvement in the association, I keep myself aware. I wanted to be part of the placing of the plaque on the ship. The project manager of the museum had afforded our organization the opportunity to have a small ceremony of presentation on July 19, 2014. Now the good news gets better, because Bill and I were able to meet up with VP Ray Pierce in Washington, DC. Ray was there for work, so Bill and I flew in on Thursday. This gave us Friday to spend viewing the monuments in Washington. Ray's home office is there so he knows the city well. He found a place to park near the Iwo Jima memorial and we walked into Arlington from there. The most incredible part of the day was that walk. We discovered the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at one entrance to the cemetery. We didn't really know it existed but found it interesting. But the walk through the cemetery was the most interesting part of the day. I learned many wives are buried with their husbands. President Kennedy had two children who died before they were a year old. Both are buried with their parents. Ted and Robert Kennedy are buried way to the left of the eternal flame area where the family is buried. We then headed to the changing of the guard which was preceded by a ceremony of boy scouts laying a wreath. Both were extremely moving to witness. We walked past an area freshly prepared for a funeral later that day. We passed the grave of one of the men who raised the flag at Iwo Jima. We passed the graves of Marshall and Bradley and many more. Lunch was at Ben's Chili Bowl made famous in the 80's by Bill Cosby. The walls are covered with pictures of famous people who have visited there. Next, the World War II Memorial followed by the Korean, walked past the Lincoln Memorial and on to the Vietnam Wall.

The next day we picked up Al Kaspar, another shipmate, living in Maryland. The four of us headed to Norfolk. We met with more association shipmates, Bob and Debra Miller and Dave and Pam Houlton at Joe's Crab Shack, the site of the after decommissioning party. After a meal, we walked to the USS Wisconsin and met with the project manager. There was also a group of shipmates from 1987 – 95 connected by a Facebook page getting together in Norfolk. We invited them to participate in the presentation. We then had our evening meal together. The four of us headed back north Sunday and flew home Monday.

The best part was the time with friends and meeting new ones. I look forward to welcoming the new shipmates as members of our association. This trip epitomized the reason for our association. We all shared time on AOE-3 and have that common thread. No matter what we have done and where we have gone, Seattle hooks us together. Our association is our common bond now. It can bring us together to share an important time in our lives.

If you have never attended a reunion, you need to. I truly believe you will be hooked & would find it very hard to miss one in the future. **Vic Hellberg**

GIG STORIES (cont.) by Bill Tirrell & Vic Hellberg & Bob Miller

The USS Seattle Captains gig is a very special gig, as I was coxswain of the gig for Capt. Keener, Capt. Townsend and Capt. McCann. Here are a few of the stories from my days as the coxswain. Bill Miller, BM2

ROUGH WEATHER

It began with Capt. Keener and returning the gig to the ship in some very rough weather. I had to figure out how to approach the accommodation ladder when it seemed we were 8 ft. above, then 8 ft. below the ladder! The next thing I knew we were under the ladder and Capt. Keener jumped in and took control, he got us out of a bad situation. The Capt. asked me, did anyone teach you how to drive the gig? I answered nobody did. The Capt. stayed calm and showed me how to handle the gig in rough seas. Thank goodness I was given a second chance and I didn't have to be told twice! After I got the hang of it, I loved being coxswain of the gig and took great pride in keeping her looking sharp! They say you judge a ship by its boats appearances when you see them come ashore. I believe that is true!

PORT-AU-PRINCE

The gig carried many important people, such as ambassadors, admirals and captains. Returning to the ship from an island off Port-au-Prince with the Admirals flag flying high and the gig looking its best, we were in very rough waters with two Captains, an Admiral and the Ambassador of Haiti. The seas were so rough that morning that the Ambassador became sick. As we approached the ship there must have been a hundred small Haitian boats around the USS Seattle with kids diving for nickels that the sailors would throw to them. They would yell "nickel Joe, nickel Joe!" They also sold beautiful carved wooden statues for a dollar or two. The only way we could get to the ship was to go full throttle as we got closer so they would clear out and make us a hole! They could hear that diesel come alive!

SKIING BEHIND THE GIG!

With Capt. Townsend we would ski behind the gig! The Capt. had a speed prop, a ladder and port-a-pot on the gig. We took turns skiing behind her; in fact that is where I learned to ski. Even with the new speed prop, accelerating was slow as that gig was a lot of boat, sat deep in the water and had a big wake behind her. Once we had a retired Capt. Nick Smith, who had a wooden leg, aboard as a guest and he wanted to ski also! He got up right away, but we forgot to take in our ladder and it fell off, floating in the water. I kept going in circles around our ladder to keep track of it. The Capt. had to fight the huge waves of the gig that we were making as I went in circles! He finally let go and I retrieved the ladder and returned to Capt. Smith and asked him if he would like to try it again? He said, "Yes, but I would like to go straight this time!" I later learned that the Capt. had been an Ace Pilot in WWII and at one time a champion tennis player! He was the only pilot to fly active duty with a wooden leg!

AMPHIBIAN PLANE

Cruising Puerto Rico on the gig we came up on an amphibian plane piloted by Capt. Nello Perrosi. We noticed they were hammering on the propeller and wondered if a boat had bumped the propeller and put a nick in it. After Capt. Townsend visited with his good friend we headed out to sea, but shortly after we got to full throttle I looked behind us and here came Capt. Perrosi flying at low altitude just clearing the gig! Capt. Townsend appeared not to be worried and just waved and smiled! Well, I found out later, Capt. Nello Perrosi was a Blue Angel when he was a Lt.

GIG STORIES (cont.) by Bill Tirrell & Vic Hellberg & Bob Miller

ADMIRAL IN THE FOG

When in Earl, New Jersey the Capt. had an Admiral as a guest on our ship. He instructed me to take the Admiral down river to his place of residence. He said he was going to send a Quartermaster with us to assist because it was so foggy you could hardly see the bow of the gig. Going slow down river the gig has a sound of a low roar! The Quartermaster turned to me and said "I think we are on the west side of the river". I told him "I think we are on the east side of the river", when just then a lighted boat dock appeared on our port side. I'm thinking, "I'll have to ask the Admiral for directions", but just then he came out of the rear cabin, saluted us, said "Thank you men" and walked off! We just looked at each other and returned the gig to the ship. The next day we got a message saying well done! I guess it must have been his boat dock!

SHALLOW WATERS

Going up river in the Norfolk area I would follow a chart, watching where I was and how much water was beneath us. We didn't have GPS or COMPUTERS back then! As I went up river with Capt. Townsend and his guest who was a Captain also, Capt. Townsend came out of the rear cabin saying, "back it down, back it down!!" He asked me if I knew how much water was beneath us, the water looked rough ahead and this could mean low waters. I showed Capt. Townsend where we were on the chart and the water was deep enough as the chart read. The Capt. said it shows the mothball fleet where we were and we had passed it earlier. I convinced the Captain that the next buoy was number (can't remember exact number) and he said "I hope you're right Miller!" I was sweating all the way to that buoy and then there it was! Capt. Townsend came out of the rear cabin laughing and said, "By god. Miller was right, they must have moved the mothball fleet!" That could have been a bad deal for all of us!

RUNNING OUT OF FUEL

One Saturday morning I picked up Capt. Townsend at 0630 to go on a nine hour cruise. Four and a half hours up river, across Chesapeake Bay, then returning back was pretty awesome. At the lock and dam the attendant would ring a bell four times to salute the captain! Other captains were in their gigs cruising and waving at Capt. Townsend who was sitting on the bow of our gig waving back! As we were about two and a half hours from completing our journey, I went out of the channel around a bridge pillar and back in the channel. Capt. Townsend came over to me and asked "why did you do that?" I said, I didn't know! He asked me "what time did you get in this morning?" I think I said about 45 min. before I picked you up sir. The captain laughed and slapped me on the back saying he was proud of me and told me to get a soda and take a break and he took over for a while. So I was now sitting on the bow, waving at other boats, while the captain was driving! The captain believed in "work hard, play hard". I think I did both! Although the gig never broke down, we did run her out of fuel once! During this nine hour cruise, we just couldn't carry enough fuel for such a long trip. We hardly lost a minute though because, right when we ran out of diesel we drifted alongside a moored Navy ship and they dropped a fuel hose down to us right away!

DANGEROUS TIMES!

There were times when we lifted the gig in very bad weather and there would be a lot of damage to the boat from the fore and aft hooks used to lift her. Once, the forward hook came through the windshield ripping its frame from the gig and the rear hook ripping the railing from the stern. The bow hook and I were trying to dodge the swinging hooks and keep the gig in one place so it could be lifted. Since the rear hook needed to be attached in the rear cabin, a sailor would be in the rear cabin trying to attach the hook and dive out of there before getting hurt. Very dangerous and challenging at times, but I loved being Coxswain of the Gig! Wish I could do it again!

WEBSITE

Navigation Tips from the Webmaster

Please visit our website: to meet the people that served aboard. We have Links to:

If you are a Visitor:

- * Purpose of our Vets Assoc.
- * Profiles - Board, Shipmates, Offices, Commanding Officers
- * Link to the Ships Store - Buy your USS Seattle Memorabilia and Clothing
- * Memorial - In Memory, Remembrance and Missing Shipmates
- * Reunion info - pass and future ones
- * Contact info to get in touch with your shipmates
- * Gallery - By-Laws, Spirit of Seattle, History and videos, Drawings of the Seattle, Links, Sea Museum. Stories and
- * Message Forum
- * Member Certificates

If you are a Member:

Class Connection
Notify Me
Message Center
Edit Contact Info
Edit Profile
Post Announcement
Email Configuration - Your own email Addr: Name@ussseattleaoe-3.org
Change Password
Log Out.

**Please take some time and check out the website.
You can find your shipmates through the site and get lots of Seattle info.
Thanks to Myron for providing this info.**

A QUICK NOTE ABOUT BENEFITS – FROM: Earl Boutell

The American civilian public is now privy to the can of worms our VA system has become at the hands of Congress and other bureaucrats since Vietnam. Perhaps the new \$17 Billion transfusion will put the VA system back on its feet and working for ALL veterans. Some of the Regional VA facilities were functioning very well, others very dysfunctional. In light of the happenings over the past few months, I can see things getting better very quickly.

If you were injured or aggravated an injury during your enlistment, you are encouraged to send a claim to the VA for medical and financial benefits. Or, if you need financial assistance with schooling or buying a house or business startup, the VA can help. If you are homeless, the VA has programs in place to help you. I would encourage you to seek help through a group like the VFW, Am Vets, American Legion, VVA, or DAV who have trained Veterans Service Officers to help guide you through the VA paperwork and at no charge for this service. You don't have to be a member, just a veteran.

SHIP'S BELL

GREAT NEWS - David Holton has arranged for the Association to have temporary possession of the Ship's Bell through the museum in Pensacola.

We'll have use for Wednesday through Sunday and return it to the museum on Monday.

The team will still be working on obtaining possession for future reunions and we'll keep you posted on the status of anything we learn.



REUNIONS:

PAST

Here is some condensed info about past reunions:

Reunion Number 1 – 2009

20 members met and got the USS Seattle AOE-3 Veteran's Association started. They met in Kansas City, Missouri for the first time on Saturday August 29, 2009 to establish the USS Seattle Veterans Association.

Reunion Number 2 – 2010 Bremerton, WA – 51 at Banquet

The birthplace of the USS Seattle AOE-3. Pictures online include a scan of the well wishes letter from the Mayor to Seattle crewmembers.

Reunion Number 3 – 2011 Virginia Beach, VA – 50 at Banquet

Reunion Number 4 – 2012 New Orleans, LA – 56 at Banquet

Reunion Number 5 – 2013 San Diego, CA – 62 at Banquet

Fair Winds & Following Seas