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USS Seattle AOE 3

Veteran's Association
Newsletter

Issue # 33

1st^h Quarter - 2025

Issued: Feb 2025

REUNION # 15 - 2025 in Annapolis, MD

2025 Reunion

PORT CALL: ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND: September 25-28, 2025

Online reservations for the Reunion will open soon but mark your calendars NOW to join us!

We will pull into Annapolis on Thursday afternoon, September 25. For the Lifers you will notice this is one day shorter than the previous Reunion Port Calls. It's a good thing we are no longer on active duty. Not only does the Department of the Navy think Seattle sailors need less shore time, but now DOGE thinks the same way!!! But our training aboard Seattle taught us how to have 6 days of fun in just 3 days!

Muster when you arrive! We will have the Hospitality Room open to get your registration bags and visit. We will have some food available later in the evening.

Friday will be spent on the grounds of the US Naval Academy with our own special tour guide and alumnus, Captain Craig Honour. The Dinner location is a special place if we can secure it. We will keep you informed! While the sailors have their business meeting, the spouses and guests will have their special breakfast gathering, another popular event. Many ladies believe breakfast is almost as much fun as visiting another navy ship!!!

Saturday is a Free Day. You will have lots of choices to choose from, as Annapolis is not like Augusta Bay, Sicily.

Banquet night is Saturday which is always the highlight of the Reunion. Captain Honour is working on his contacts for another outstanding banquet speaker. From the list he shared with me, you will not want to miss it.

Sunday is checkout.

While the Reunion registration is not open yet, Hotel Reservations are now open. Call 410-571-1501 to reach the Group Housing Coordinator. Use Group Code SRB or USS SEATTLE REUNION. The hotel is the Crown Plaza, 173 Jennifer Road, Annapolis, MD. The rate is \$139.00 per night, double occupancy, which also includes free parking and two breakfast vouchers per night. Rates are available for 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion on an as-available basis. So, if you plan to extend your stay, please do so soon. Annapolis is a popular town. Cancellation is up to 24 hours before arrival.

If you fly, you most likely will go to BWI or Washington National. BWI is just 30 minutes from Annapolis. Our hotel contact recommended using Uber, which she thought was \$25-\$50 depending on the time of day.

If you have questions, contact David Holton at david@davidholtonconsulting.com or 704-698-5948.

Check the website <https://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org/> after April 1 for online registration!

See you in Annapolis!

Letter from The Association President

Hello Shipmates,

Well, it is that time of year again, if you have not sent in your 2024 dues please do so now, as 2025 dues is due by the first of March. We are looking for dates and where you would like to go for our 2026 reunion. Suggested places to choose from are Las Vegas NV, Seattle WA, Springfield MO and Omaha NE. Also, let us know what timeframe, August or September. Please let us know by the 15th of March. We are trying to get everything finalized for Annapolis MD, September 24-28, 2025. We hope to get registration up very soon. If you would like to help, please let us know.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,

Chuck Rudd

USSSVA President

Letter from The Association Vice President

I have been speaking with Charles Rudd about my health issues since before the holidays and have asked him to keep it confidential. I also sent him another email message recently letting him know that my symptoms have gotten to the point now that interfere with my ability to communicate. (My wife is helping with this email) Unfortunately, due to the symptoms I am experiencing from my illness it would be difficult and unfair to the members of the USS Seattle Veterans Association to continue as their Vice President. Regretfully I must submit my resignation to my fellow Veterans and Board Members.

Respectfully,

Bradley P. Stenstrom PC1, Ret
USS Seattle AOE-3
Eagle Lake, FL

Looking for volunteers to serve as Vice President! Interested? Contact Chuck Rudd at crudd42@comcast.net

New Officer Bios

At the 2024 Annual Reunion held in Newport RI the membership voted the following to serve as officers of the Association for 2024-2025. **Chuck Rudd**- President **VACANT** -Vice President **Dave Warunek** – Treasurer **Russ Hughes** -Secretary.

President

Chuck Rudd was born in Los Angeles California and moved to Tacoma Washinton, when he was 1.5 years old. His father was a SM3 stationed at Subic Bay PI at the end of WWII. Growing up in Washington he enjoyed hunting, fishing and motorcycle riding. He graduated in 1978 and joined the Navy in 1979, going to Boot Camp and MS “A” school in San Diego, California. His first duty station was Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 6 in Norfolk, Virginia. He made one deployment with HC6 on board the USS Concord AFS 5. In August 1981 he reported aboard the USS Seattle AOE 3. He worked in the Wardroom mess, as DCPO, in the bake shop and as watch captain in the crew’s mess. On the Seattle he advanced from MSSN to MS2 and completed two Med cruises. He left the Seattle in November of 1983, going to school in Memphis, Tennessee in route to his new duty station; NTC ADCOM San Diego, California working at the BOQ as reservationist and on the front desk. Finishing shore duty he reported to Point Loma, California on board the USS Pintado SSN 672 as watch captain and records & returns. He was discharged in November 1988. He moved back to Tacoma, Washington and worked at Bradken Foundry for 33 years. In 2023 he moved to Gillette Wyoming. Stacie, his spouse, and Chuck have been married for 43 years and have two boys, five grandsons and one granddaughter. He still rides motorcycles and loves to camp. He also drives tour bus part time and likes being semi-retired.

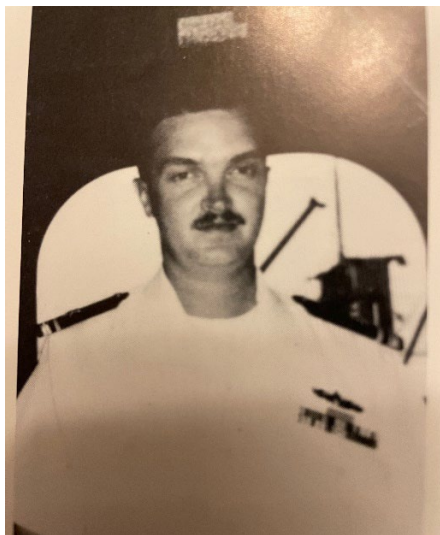
Vice President

VACANT

Treasurer

Dave Warunek was born and raised in Corning, NY and enlisted in the Navy as an Engineering Aid in the Seabees in 1981. After working as a draftsman and surveyor for a few years he was accepted to the Navy BOOST preparatory school leading to his commission through the Penn State NROTC program in 1988. Upon completion of Surface Warfare Officer and Engineering Officer of the Watch training in Newport, RI, Dave reported to USS SEATTLE in the summer of 1989. On board SEATTLE Dave served as E-Divo, 1st Divo, and

Nav/Admin and made Med/IO, Med/Red (Desert Storm), North Atlantic and counter narcotics deployments, detaching in 1992. Shortly after transferring for a planned second division officer tour as an LCAC OIC in Little Creek, Dave received lateral transfer orders to the Navy Supply Corps. Upon completion of Supply Corps Basic and Department Head school Dave served on board USS ELMER MONTGOMERY (FF-1087) and USS KINKAID (DD-965) as Supply Officer. Service included counter narcotics operations in EASTPAC and deployment to WESTPAC and the Persian Gulf. Subsequent tours included the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and professional specialization experience in contracting and financial management at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Naval Air Systems Command, Naval Sea Systems Command, and Navy Regional Contracting Center Singapore/FISC Detachment Singapore. Dave retired as a Commander after twenty-two years in 2007. Post-retirement positions include working as a consultant and civil servant for Naval Sea Systems Command, and as a civil servant for the Naval History and Heritage Command, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement. Retirement is planned for 2025. Dave has been active in Veterans Support Organizations since retiring from the Navy and served as Commander of American Legion Post 746 in Corning, NY. He is also an active member of the Post's Ritual Team supporting Veteran's funerals and patriotic events with firing details and colors guards. Dave has been married to wife Kathleen for 36 years and they have two grown children, Zack and Anna, who live in the area.



Secretary

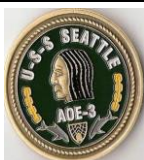
Russ Hughes enlisted in 1976. His rate was AW (Aviation-Anti-submarine Warfare Operator). He did a tour as a P-3 aircrew in VP-11. He rose to the rank of AW1. In 1984 he was commissioned via OCS where he served in submarines aboard USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN 619) and USS Ulysses S. Grant (SSBN 631). In 1990 he reported to USS Seattle as a Lieutenant. He was deployed in the Red Sea supporting Operation Desert Shield as Cargo Division Officer and Assistant Supply Officer. In January 1991 he was supporting Operation Desert Storm. The ship returned to NWS Earle in March 1991. He continued to serve on USS Seattle until December 1993.

including two Med cruises and several Caribbean Law Enforcement cruises. He transferred to the Navy Reserve in January 1994 where he rose to the rank of Captain in 2006. He was recalled to active duty in 2008 and served in Iraq with US Forces Iraq and was awarded a Bronze Star. In 2010 he retired. He took a job with the U.S. Postal Service rising to the position of Postmaster retiring in 2021. He resides in Richmond, Maine. Russ has five children and eight grandchildren.



Dues due January 15th

Pay online (<https://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org/>) or send the following form to Dave Warunek, Treasurer



2025 MEMBERSHIP



Annual Membership cost is \$30.00

Name: _____ Year reported on board: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone #: _____

Check one: New Member _____ Renewing Member _____

Life Memberships are also available. Rates by age can be found on our website.

Mail to:

**Dave Warunek, Treasurer
9696 Grove Springs Rd.
Hammondsport, NY 14840**

FAREWELL to SHIPMATES

Over the years we have lost over one hundred shipmates and at each reunion we have honored those who have passed on before us. There may be others we do not know of their passing. When we receive word of the passing of a shipmate, we try to find an obituary that we can include (for a limited time) on the ship's internet site. Listed below are the names of those we know that have passed since our last reunion.

If you know of a shipmate that has passed, please send info in an email to:

If you have a link to an obituary, please also include that information as well.