



# USS Seattle AOE-3

## Veteran's Association

### Newsletter



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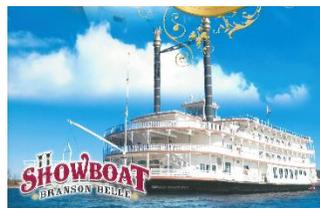
**TIME?**                      Reunion # 7 is in the books – now we're preparing for reunion # 8 in Washington DC – hope to see you all there.

**Your Officers:**

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## REUNION # 7

Here's some photos from the Branson reunion – a great time was had by all. We had many many photos and everyone got into at least one or ten of them. Looking forward to getting a lot more to share at Reunion # 8



Would love to show all the photos – there were a lot – but you can check them out on the website. <http://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org> See for yourself how much fun everyone was having at this reunion.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shipmates,

It's hard to believe we are about to have our eighth USS Seattle Veterans Association reunion in Washington, DC this coming August. It seems like it was only last year we meet in Kansas City to see if enough people would even come together as a group. At that reunion we had 20 ex Seattle sailors come and agree to create an association. As it turned out, we did have the right mix of people that bring together their skills in creating the association. How blessed to be part of the initial USS Seattle crew and to be a charter member of USSSVA.

So here we are almost 8 years later and I have been honored to be the first VP of the association and the second President during that time. This is an important year for the association as we will elect new officers (President and VP) while in Washington. If you are interested in one of the positions or know someone who would be willing to serve, and have any questions please call, we will open the floor for nominations at the USSSVA general meeting.

Since the first reunion, and each following year I think we have out done ourselves in planning and execution for the reunions, then the very next year we do it again. And believe me Washington DC is going to be the best year so far. We have more people joining the association, almost daily and coming to the reunion.

It should be the best since we have some great events planned, a Whitehouse tour, a Wreath service at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier and a trip to tour the Naval Academy. In addition, we have a tour of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, the Navy Yard or U.S. Navy Museum (think NCIS), tour of war memorials with our own park ranger and of course the banquet. We are planning to have two or more meals in the Hotel depending on speakers.

My favorite reunion events are the Thursday morning show and tell where we meet the banquet speaker, the toast to our deceased sailors, reading of the names and taps and of course the Banquet on Saturday night... heck I love it all.

Thanks to all of you throughout the 8 years and before for your friendship, your service to this Great country we are lucky enough to call home and for your contributions to the association that have helped us to contribute to some worthy charities and services... you guys and your dependents are the best.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you then and now. Sincerely,

Bill Norris, President - USSSVA

## Messages from David Holton

### DUES NOTICES GO OUT

Dues notices will be mailed by January 31 for 2016. Annual dues remain at \$30.00. You can go on line and pay or you can mail a check to Stu Tyson, Treasurer, 1436 SE 53<sup>rd</sup> Portland, OR 97215. Consider joining as a Life Member. Over 30 have joined. At checkout, click on the drop box and see the one-time cost for your current age. When you go on line to pay your dues, please take a few minutes to update your profile!

### WHITE HOUSE TOUR

Registration has been extended until February 15, 2016. Get your info in ASAP. There is no guarantee we will get the tour, but we are working with our NC Senator to have his office submit for us. At this time we have over 100 members and guests on the registration list. We know we asked you to register if you were considering going to the Reunion. If circumstances will keep you from attending, please contact David Holton at 704-698-5948 or email [david@davidholtonconsulting.com](mailto:david@davidholtonconsulting.com) of your change status.

### TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE REUNION is NOW!!!

Tentative Itinerary is posted on the website. PLEASE HELP THE COMMITTEE by registering for the Reunion and paying the registration fees as soon as possible. Coordinating transportation, food and activities for this size group is a challenge. By registering and paying in advance, it permits us to get those reservations made. IF YOU HAVE INDICATED YOU MIGHT ATTEND and realize you cannot, please contact David Holton at 704-698-5945 or email [david@davidholtonconsulting.com](mailto:david@davidholtonconsulting.com).

Book your hotel rooms soon! We secured a certain number of rooms and have the ability to increase that number, but the closer we get to the Reunion date, the fewer rooms the hotel will have available to hold for us. August is a busy tourist time for DC. Therefore, get your room booked and be sure you have a room!

As a reminder, you MUST be a member in good standing (meaning dues are current for 2016) in order to attend the Reunion and the Reunion events.

### USS SEATTLE MEMORY BOOK

As reported earlier, shipmate Rich Toma has compiled the history of USS SEATTLE from construction through decommissioning. This hard bound book contains over 250 pages of photos, narratives and history. We expect that book to be printed and available in the Ship's Store well before the Reunion in August. Be on the lookout for an announcement on our website [www.ussseattleaoe-3.org](http://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org)

If you have questions or problems with the book, contact Shipmate David Holton at [david@catchmystory.com](mailto:david@catchmystory.com) or call at 704-698-5948.

## REUNION 8

*Here is some info on the hotel selected. More to follow as we get it.*



*The Westin Hotel in D.C.*



*The Lobby of the Westin*



*A view from one of the rooms.*



*The Breakfast Buffet line.*

*Vic Hellberg provided the pictures and info and he and Bill were both very impressed with this hotel and the amenities they have.*

### **SHIPS STORE**

*On another note, Vic wanted to remind everyone to check out the ships store with over 50 items for sale there is bound to be at least one you don't have and would like. Maybe a Christmas present for yourself.*

[http://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org/class\\_custom.cfm?page\\_id=241509](http://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org/class_custom.cfm?page_id=241509) ← here is a link directly to the store.

## Letter from Shipmate RAY PIERCE

Shipmates,

Although the USS Seattle AOE-3 Veterans Association was formed as a social association to keep alive the memories of our ship and her crews; two of the proudest moments were when we as a group stepped up to help. First was disaster aid to the church in New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina. Second was the ALS ice bucket challenge during the reunion in Branson. To me these were defining minutes of our association's character and determination to make a difference in the world we live in today.

I have shared a vision with our leadership for the association to continue make a difference by adopting and supporting a worthy cause. I had in my mind a veteran's support organization such as the Wounded Warrior Project but somehow that does not seem personal enough. The support of ALS foundation was and is personal due to the effects that terrible disease has had on our Shipmate Tom Filo. Alzheimer's has taken shipmates Ted Lloyd and John Volk.

It is easy to see that many non-profit organizations could benefit from our support. The question now becomes do we want to continue to support a cause? Do we want choose a particular organization or continue ad-hoc?

Please send me your thoughts and suggestions at [ray.pierce1950@gmail.com](mailto:ray.pierce1950@gmail.com). I will compile the responses and present at our board meeting in November.

Thank you,  
Ray Pierce

## Possible NAVY YARD Tour

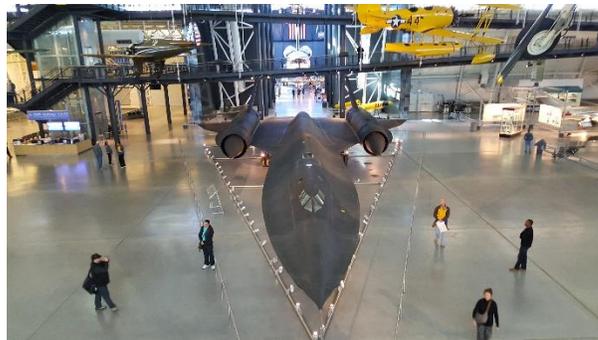
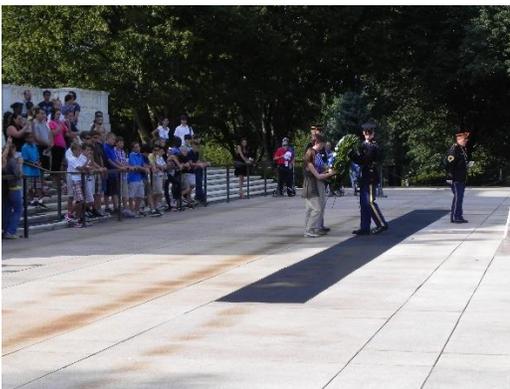
**Rich Toma is working on getting us on a tour for the Navy Yard. Here is some info about it.**

Even though NCIS is no longer located at the Navy Yard (they have been gone for several years) the building that is widely known from the hit series is still there. There is a Navy Museum there which by several accounts is supposed to be "really good" and The Cold War Gallery is located next door to the museum. The tour takes about two hours. Just outside of the museum is a small park of sorts with a couple of things to see. There is no charge to visit this facility.

There will also be a security form to attend this tour – more info to follow as soon as we have it.

**PICTURES** – provided by Vic Hellburg

Some of the things you can look forward to seeing on tours in Washington DC.



**SPEAKER****(Francis) Gary Powers, Jr.**

Born June 5, 1965 in Burbank, California, he is the son of Francis Gary and Claudia E. “Sue” Powers. His parents instilled in him at a young age that all persons are to be treated equally regardless of ethnic origin, gender, possessions, race, religion, or other cultural biases. Because of his family upbringing, he was always encouraged to volunteer in order to give back to the community in which he live. As a result, he has dedicated his life to public service and nonprofit management.

Over the course of his career, he has worked with boards of directors, chambers of commerce, teachers, students, volunteers, members of Congress, members of the Virginia General Assembly, related staff members, and a variety of national, regional, and local business, nonprofit, educational, and community leaders. He has testified before the Congressional House Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands and the General Laws Committee of the Virginia General Assembly.

As a result of his efforts to preserve Cold War history and educate students, the Junior Chamber of Commerce selected him as one of the “Ten Outstanding Young Americans” for 2002. He holds a Bachelors’ of Arts Degree in Philosophy from California State University, Los Angeles and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration / Certification in Non-profit Management from George Mason University (GMU), Fairfax, Virginia.

Gary will be one of our speakers. He’ll be able to tell us about his father’s exploits flying the U2 spy plane, being shot down over Russia plus much more.

This will be a very interesting talk so be sure you plan to be there.

**Fair Winds & Following Seas**