



USS Seattle AOE 3

Veteran's Association

Newsletter



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Issue # 24

2nd Quarter - 2019

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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:

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President	David Holton	davidholton@gmail.com	(704) 698-5948
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Emeritus Member @ Large	Vic Hellberg	Plankowner4@gmail.com	(641) 752-6882
Emeritus Member @ Large	Ray Pierce	ray.pierce1950@gmail.com	(817) 503-0325

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 USSVA 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
 Dan Justynski, Treasurer
 8 Broadview Drive
 Barrington, RI 02806

Letter from The Association President

Dear Shipmates,

Memorial Day is approaching. It is a day to remember those who sacrificed their lives serving to defend our liberties and provide freedom to millions of people around the world. May we always be a grateful nation honoring them and remembering the loss to their families.

This day is also the semi-official start of summer. While I do not want to miss any of the great summer days, my mind is also looking forward to the USS Seattle 11th Reunion. We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ship's commissioning.

Remember your days on tour duty. Always focused on work, ready for some shore time but always counting the days to returning home.

That's how I see things. I plan on enjoying every day of summer but I am writing this on May 17 which is just 116 days and a wake up to our being together in Jacksonville, Florida.

Be sure to read the other articles in this newsletter for Reunion information, how to register and make your hotel reservations.

In the meantime, enjoy your summer and see you in Jacksonville.

David L. Holton
President, USSSVA

SHIP'S STORE ITEMS

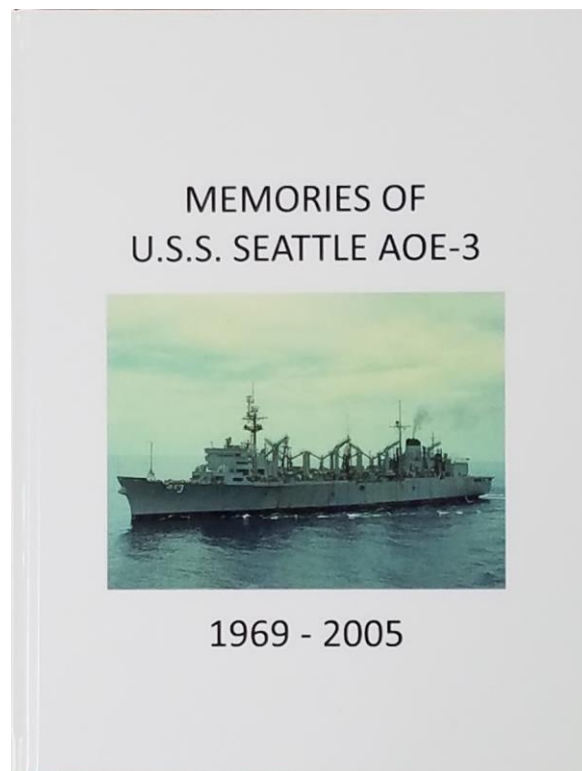
Shipmates, the last newsletter had a special on Rich Toma's book "Memories of USS Seattle AOE 3". We will continue it with a slight twist. Each copy will include a crisp new \$10.00 bill hidden in the pages of the book!!! Also there will be two --- **that is 2** --- surprise gifts from the ship's store.

Use this link: <http://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org/testmhc1.htm> and scroll down to #629 which is the 14th item down.

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.

Shipmate Ray Pierce 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."

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 bonuses!!!



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 from: Sisters of Mercy website

<http://www.sistersofmercy.org/blog/2017/11/10/faith-and-service-reflections-of-a-desert-storm-veteran/#more-9938>

Editor's Note: This article is copied from the above website and was posted prior to Veteran's day in 2017 but holds true for any time of year. Thank you Dan for your contribution and your service..... Dale

Faith and Service: Reflections of a Desert Storm Veteran

Article date: November 10, 2017

By Daniel Justynski

Dan Justynski is the director of real estate portfolio for the Sisters of Mercy – Northeast Community as well as a proud alumnus of two Mercy schools.



Each year as Veterans Day approaches, I reflect on my time in the Navy and the origin of my desire to serve our country. I have known the Sisters of Mercy since I was 10 years old; they were my first educators academically as well as spiritually. I attended the Mercy-staffed St. Margaret School in East Providence, Rhode Island, and Bishop Feehan High School in Attleboro, Massachusetts. My moral compass was set through my faith and a decade of Mercy mentoring and education.

I also knew from a young age that I wanted to be a naval officer. I decided to work towards a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) scholarship and was accepted into the program at the College of Holy Cross in 1983. My first memory from NROTC was October 23, 1983—the bombing of the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. I realized that day that I now wore the same uniform as that of many of those 241 servicemen who, in service to our country, had been killed in the attack. My focus at college was to learn as much as possible, earn my degree and be the best officer and leader possible when I was commissioned an ensign in

December 1987.

I met my ship, USS Seattle, in Norfolk, Virginia, in September 1988. To me, the ship was huge and very intimidating. During four years of NROTC training, I had spent all of 30 days at sea, and now I was walking onto a Fast Combat Support Ship as the boiler's officer, leading a division of 50 men. It was a time of great internal stress, anxiety over my worthiness and fear of failure.

SHIPMATE SPOTLIGHT (continued)

Article from: Sisters of Mercy website

Ensuring Safe Travels across Oceans

I had a lot to learn and little time to do it, but I was surrounded by officers who taught me how to run a division and become a surface warfare officer. We deployed soon after. I put my personal life on hold and said goodbye to my fiancé Gayle in Rhode Island, leaving her to graduate from college and plan a wedding without me. As this was an era before email and cell phones, we communicated through long letters during the deployment. I returned from the Indian Ocean, and Gayle and I were married with a full military celebration in February 1990 at St. Theresa's Church in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. We moved to Virginia Beach, Virginia, as Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, and I was immediately sent to prepare our ship for deployment in what would soon be called Operation Desert Shield and later Desert Storm.



(Dan in uniform.)

My responsibilities on the ship had changed. I was now navigator and responsible to the commanding officer and the entire crew for our safe travels across the Atlantic Ocean, through the Straights of Gibraltar, into the Mediterranean Sea and through the Suez Canal to arrive in the Red Sea in support of naval operations. Gayle moved back to Rhode Island and began the waiting game, watching news stories of the battles and missile attacks while wondering how I was faring. She would tell you that she got her first (only) gray hairs during this time.

Our crew returned triumphant after Desert Storm and were greeted on the pier by loving families and a country that thanked us for our service.

I am forever grateful for the lessons I learned while serving in the Navy. The leadership and team-building skills I honed during my naval career serve me well in my current position working with the Sisters of Mercy.

The combined experiences of Mercy and military service molded the man I have become, and have helped me be a better husband and father to our two wonderful daughters.

I am eternally grateful to all the service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. On this Veterans Day and every day, may their sacrifices never be forgotten.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Seattle Shipmates,

Shipmates,

Summer has arrived. This means school is out and plenty of Bar-B-Ques and picnics. Safety is the word!! Please be extra cautious while driving **PUT YOUR PHONES DOWN**. Also make sure children are not playing around hot grills.

Memorial Day is just around the corner. Take a moment to remember all those that have fought and died for our freedom.

A little over three months from now we will be gathering in Jacksonville, FL for our 11th annual reunion. We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the commissioning of USS SEATTLE AOE 3. Make plans now to be there. We always have a great time.

Enjoy your summer, hope to see you in Jacksonville!!

Rich Toma
V.P. USSSVA

USS Seattle AOE 3 Veteran's Association

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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.

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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

History: How many know about the submarine “museum” located in Galveston, Texas? A link is provided below that will take you to a YouTube presentation about this Navy Ship. Enjoy....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXbHsRYZIKE>

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.

While shopping at the local Walmart the other day, I met a former Marine that had served aboard a few ships during his career. We talked for quite a while and my wife managed to nearly fill a basket by the time I caught up with her. Wearing Seattle gear definitely gets noticed.

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

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

Fair Winds & Following Seas