



USS Seattle AOE 3

Veteran's Association Newsletter



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Editor: Dale Eicker **Contributing Editors:** David Holton,
Rich Toma, Vic Hellberg, Chuck Caudill
and Bill Norris

REUNION # 12 - 2022 in Charleston, SC

The reunion was cancelled for 2020 and 2021 after all the Covid-19 issues. The Reunion Committee is working on setting up our 12th reunion in Charleston and more info about this reunion is included on page 4.

Your Officers:

<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Phone</i>
President	David Holton	david@davidholtonconsulting.com	(704) 698-5948
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	danjustynski@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	Chuck Caudill	chuck102001@aol.com	(606) 464-0066
Member at Large #2	Danny Abner	djabner@windstream.net	(859) 361-9663
Member at Large #3	Charles Rudd	crudd42@comcast.net	(253) 970-2589
Emeritus Member @ Large	Bill Norris	bnorris5248@gmail.com	(281) 785-6415
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 2021

Shipmates,

Information on paying dues and a handy form is provided on page 7 of this newsletter.

Please use the forms included in this newsletter to pay your membership dues or place orders with the Ships Store. By doing so you save the USSSVA the fees incurred when you use PayPal or your credit card.

Rich Toma '71
Vice President – USSSVA

Letter from the Association President

Dear USS SEATTLE AOE-3 Members,

It has been another year where Covid-19 and its cousin, the D-Variant, seem to dominate or in some way affect our lives. The vaccine was good news, but there were still far too many people who suffered and died. Our hearts and prayers go to those USS Seattle individuals and families that were affected.

As you know, we had to cancel our Reunions for the past two years. However, we were able to stay in touch via Zoom. If you missed the Zoom meetings, be sure to read the Zoom article in the newsletter. The Good News is we are actively planning a 2022 Reunion in Charleston, SC. Check out the newsletter article and begin your planning to attend.

The opening of the USS Seattle AOE-3 display at the Puget Sound Navy Museum finally opened after a two-year delay due to Covid-19. All items in the display were collected from USS Seattle sailors and officers. If you are in the area, please stop by and send us your photos.

Each year we hear of shipmates who have lost much or all their belongings due to hurricanes, flooding, etc. This year the Board created a Donation Policy that allows shipmates in need of financial support due to natural disasters to request help from other shipmates. Please read the new policy in this newsletter.

The health of your association continues to be strong. Thanks to all the Life Members, those who pay their annual dues and the new members who joined this year. If you have not joined, please consider supporting our efforts to keep the legacy of the USS Seattle alive and connect with your shipmates.

See you in Charleston!

Fair winds and following seas.

David Holton – President USSVA

Letter from the Association Vice President

Shipmates,

During this past year, our association has returned to mailing out our newsletter as well as notices to join us in ZOOM meetings. If you did not get either one, there is probably a problem with your mailing address. Please take a few minutes to log in and update your address. We got about 25 newsletters and post cards returned due to forwarding expired and incorrect or insufficient addresses.

This past year the association had over 75 paid members with almost 20 being new paid members. We also had 8 new “Life Members” sign up. These are great numbers and I know we can do better next year. Dues are payable before January 15, 2022. Payments for next year are now being accepted.

The Ships Store is always open. Now would be a good time to place your orders now so you can receive them before Christmas.

I would like to wish everyone of our members a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year.

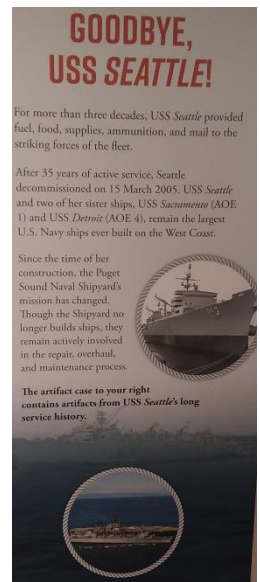
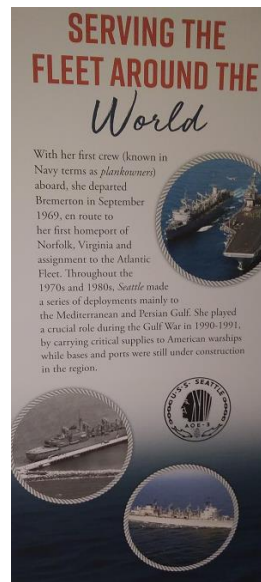
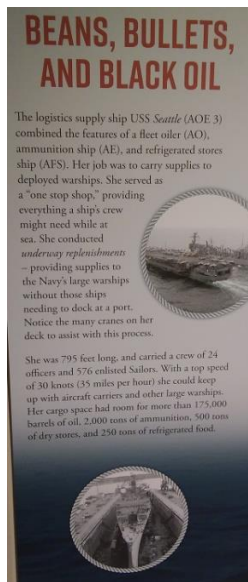
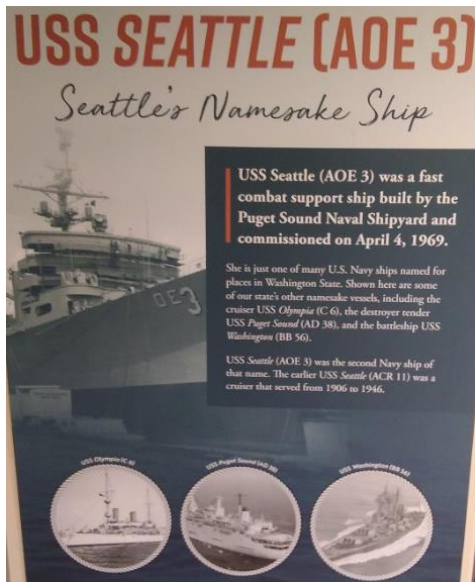
Rich Toma '71

Vice President – USSVA

Opening of the USSSVA PSNM Exhibit

Photography by: Chuck Rudd

Below are just a few of the pictures provided by Chuck of what is currently displayed at the Museum. When you have an opportunity to visit Seattle, stop in and check out all that is there.



REUNION 2022

Info by: Bill Norris

IN 2020, the USS Seattle AOE 3 Veterans Association had planned a great reunion to be held in Seattle, Washington. Hotel plans made, several great events including the opening of the USS Seattle museum exhibit.

Then came the Pandemic and Covid-19 which changed everything. It forced us to cancel what would have been another excellent reunion and opportunity for shipmates to get together. 2021 wasn't looking any better so it was determined that we should plan for reunion #12 to be held in 2022.

A survey was conducted for where to hold the next reunion and Charleston, SC was the selected location. Bill Norris and the Board are looking at options for our reunion next year.

Below you will see what we have thus far as well as things Bill Norris and others on the reunion committee are checking out and trying to get added to the plan.....

I know it is hard to believe but our next reunion is just over a year away. Reunion next year will be from 09/07 through 09/10/2022. This past week I was able to secure the hotel and I'll be reviewing the final contract version (4th) and signing next week. We have a real good deal on the Hotel next year, with a room rate of \$125 which includes breakfast for two and really nice rooms. I have not actually seen them yet but planning on going out later this year to review.

The Hotel has included the normal 3 nights before and after the reunion at the same rate, so I encourage you to extend your trip to see more of the area. If there is enough interest, we can schedule a golf outing as we have in the past on Tuesday or Wednesday morning. There are several historic tours geared for small groups you can take advantage of. And we are only about a 2-hour drive to Savannah which was voted the second choice for the reunion.

I have not worked out all the details of our tours yet but for sure we will be spending an afternoon at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum and a dinner on the way back to the hotel at a Charleston unique restaurant. Looking to schedule a river and dinner cruise combination one night.

I will have a survey with more details later in September and will be looking for commitments on the number of rooms. Our last survey indicated we might have between 50 – 70 attend the reunion and that would be fantastic. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Charleston next year...

Bill Norris
Ops 68-72
Reunion Planner

SHIP'S STORE

Shipmates,

Challenge coins are more popular all of a sudden. See all those in the ship's store. Scroll down past 7 pages in the Ships Store listing on the website for our group of coins.



New Veterans Challenge coin



New Retired Challenge coin



Ever Popular "Don't Tread On Me"

Here is the link: https://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org/product_store.cfm?StoreID=361

Vic Hellberg
Ship's Store Manager

ZOOM MEETINGS

When it became clear in early 2020 that we were cancelling our annual Reunion due to Covid-19, the Board thought of ways to stay connected and came up with the idea to have ZOOM calls. In 2020 we had four of them, each covering a ten-year period of the ship's service. Each session was open to all sailors. We had one or more previous Captains for each period attend. We heard from the membership they liked the idea, so in 2021 when we had to cancel that Reunion, we resumed our ZOOM meetings.

This year we had two meetings that were organized around two major events - Desert Storm and the period of Pre-Commissioning to the ship's inaugural tour to take the ship from Bremerton, WA, through the Panama Canal to its homeport of Norfolk, VA.

The Crew and Officers who were aboard during Desert Storm recalled the almost non-stop UNREPs. Our guest speaker was a Navy pilot who flew sorties during Desert Storm. He gave his accounts, which was like hearing "the rest of the story" as he told how the munitions were selected and launched depending on the targets and locations.

On the Pre-Commissioning session, we heard stories from the first crewmembers who remembered looking down into a big hole and seeing the beginning of the hull. We heard about the installation and training that was done as the equipment and electronics were arriving at a fast pace daily. Did you know the USS Seattle was the largest ship to pass through the Panama Canal before it was widened? She cleared with just 2-3 inches to port and to starboard!

While the ZOOM meetings were fun and informative, they are not the same as hearing the stories when we gather at Reunions. We were able to record the Zoom meetings and they can be viewed on our website at https://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org/class_custom.cfm?page_id=1212314. Hopefully, we will be face to face during our next Story Time!

USS Seattle AOE 3 Veteran's Association

Issue # 29




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SHIP'S STORE ORDER FORM

In order to save the fees that PayPal or your credit card may charge our association when anything is purchased from the ship's store we are trying a mail in option. Go to our website, ussseattleaoe-3.org, and place an order using the form below and mail to Vic Hellberg with your payment by check or money order.

		USSVA SHIP'S STORE ORDER FORM					
NAME:							
ADDRESS:							
CITY:			STATE:		ZIP CODE:		
E-MAIL:			PHONE #				
QTY	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	SIZE	PRICE EA.	SHIPPING	TOTAL	
GRAND TOTALS							
NOTES FOR PERSONALIZED ENGRAVING:							
CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS CONTACT VIC AT: PLANKOWNER4@GMAIL.COM SEND WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: VIC HELLBERG 204 NORTH 18 ST. MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA, 50158							
OFFICE USE ONLY DATE REC'D : _____							
DATE SHIPPED: _____							

Paying Dues

Shipmates,

The USS Seattle Veteran's Association is nearing the end of its 13th year and we are incredibly 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 the past reunions, 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.ussseattleaoe-3.org.

Membership dues are due by January 31st, 2022, but we do not charge a late fee if you pay anytime during the year – We appreciate all support. If you wish to pay by mail, please use the form below.

To help with paying dues for next year, a form is provided below. Fill in, cut out, and mail with your check to the address provided.



2022 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:

Dan Justynski, USSVA Treasurer

13 Lyme Rd.

Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

Make Checks Payable To:

USS Seattle AOE-3 Veteran's Association

SHIPMATES LOST IN 2021

Listed below are the USS Seattle crew members who passed away in 2021. Usually, we are informed by a loved one or someone who was close to the deceased. As you learn of a passing of a crew member, please contact one of the officers of the association so we can update our records. May they rest in peace.

[Raymond Daigle](#) (Crew Of 1977) 🇺🇸

[Richard Daubenspeck](#) (Crew Of 1970) 🇺🇸

[Barry Patrick Friday](#) (Crew Of 1982) 🇺🇸

[Charles Racer](#) (Crew Of 1970) 🇺🇸

[Gordon Sterling](#) (Crew Of 1971) 🇺🇸

Donation Policy

Over the years some Seattle sailors have experienced what have been truly catastrophic financial losses due to fires, hurricanes, and tornados that destroyed all their possessions. Others have had unexpected, extraordinarily high medical expenses under impossible conditions.

While the Association is not authorized by its governing documents to extend financial help from its treasury, we are able to share information about a specific financial need with our Family of Seattle Sailors and provide our individual Sailors a way to offer financial support.

Therefore, any USS Seattle Sailor who is registered on our website can make a request to post their need for financial assistance on our website. Requests for aid should be for unexpected and life changing challenges.

PROCEDURE FOR MAKING A REQUEST:

1. Seattle Sailor must be registered on our website. You do not have to be current with your dues.
2. To register go to www.ussseattleaoe-3.org Click on Join.
3. Send an email to (general mailbox) of USS Seattle Veterans Association. Details of the situation should be provided for inclusion in the Association's outgoing notification to all sailors registered on its website. Include contact information. An Officer of the association will contact you to discuss your request.
4. The requesting sailor should open a Go Fund Me or similar account or can request that checks be mailed to their home address.

ACTIONS BY THE ASSOCIATION:

1. Upon approval, the Association will send a communication to all registered USS Seattle sailors with a writeup of the request and information on how they can contribute.
2. The Association will make at least one posting of a validated request.
3. Contributions come from individual members and go directly to the affected sailor or sailor's family. The Association will not handle any funds but can be proud of the response from USS Seattle (AOE-3) Veterans' Association Shipmates.