



# USS Seattle AOE-3

## Veteran's Association

### Newsletter



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

**TIME to Think About our Next Reunion**  
 Reunion # 8 is in the books – now we're preparing for reunion # 9 in San Francisco, CA (setting selected in hopes that Doc Townsend, our ship's second Captain will also be able to attend, or that many will have the opportunity to see Doc once more) – hope to see you all there. Anyone with ideas is welcome to submit them to the board.

<b>Your Officers:</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
	President	David Holton	<a href="mailto:davidholton@gmail.com">davidholton@gmail.com</a>	(704) 841-7301
	Vice president	Rich Toma	<a href="mailto:richtoma16@yahoo.com">richtoma16@yahoo.com</a>	(440) 669-9615
	Secretary	Keith Jones	<a href="mailto:kjones14@neb.rr.com">kjones14@neb.rr.com</a>	(402) 464-6344
	Communications Officer	Dale Eicker	<a href="mailto:deicker@comcast.net">deicker@comcast.net</a>	(713) 899-2491
	Treasurer	Ray Pierce	<a href="mailto:Ray.Pierce1950@gmail.com">Ray.Pierce1950@gmail.com</a>	(817)503-0325
	Ships-store	Vic Hellberg	<a href="mailto:Plankowner4@gmail.com">Plankowner4@gmail.com</a>	(641) 752-6882
	Web-master	Myron Carter	<a href="mailto:MyronCarter@gmail.com">MyronCarter@gmail.com</a>	(770) 432-1564
	Legal Advisor	George Hastings	<a href="mailto:GoodNewsFinancial@sbcglobal.net">GoodNewsFinancial@sbcglobal.net</a>	(615) 504-0071
	Member at Large #1	Earl Boutell	<a href="mailto:eboutell@kc.rr.com">eboutell@kc.rr.com</a>	(913) 636-4993
	Member at Large #2	David Caldwell	<a href="mailto:dcaldwell1247@aol.com">dcaldwell1247@aol.com</a>	(360) 731-2351
	Member at Large #3	Bill Norris	<a href="mailto:bnorris5248@gmail.com">bnorris5248@gmail.com</a>	(281) 785-6415
	Member at Large #4	Ray Pierce	<a href="mailto:Ray.Pierce1950@gmail.com">Ray.Pierce1950@gmail.com</a>	(817)503-0325

## DUES for 2017

**Shipmates,**  
 The association is not about money, but it needs money to operate and that is the primary reason for annual dues. Each year dues are due by January 15, so the association has tried many things to remind our membership to pay their dues. This activity has been time consuming and expensive so we have sought out other methods of reminders. PayPal offers to send out email invoices at no charge to the association allowing the member to pay online through PayPal. PayPal tracks payments and sends out email reminders all at no cost to the association. Members that prefer to pay their membership dues by check can still do so by mailing a check to the treasurer and the treasurer will update PayPal that payment has been received. We are excited about this new method and can only see benefit for the membership and the association.

**Make checks payable to:**  
 USS Seattle AOE3 Veterans Association

**Send checks to:**  
 USS Seattle AOE3 Veterans Association  
 Ray Pierce, Treasurer  
 5108 Abby Road  
 N. Richland Hills, TX 76180

## Letter from The Association President

Shipmates,

As 2016 ends, we can look back on another successful year of the USS Seattle (AOE-3) Veteran's Association. Here are just a few of the highlights.

We had our most attended reunion ever in Washington, DC with 50 sailors, and another 45 spouses and guests. There was so much to see and do, it could easily have been a week long. The highlight was the opportunity to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Watching the changing of the guard and the wreath laying procedure is the epitome of military respect and bearing. Tours of the White House, The Capital, The Navy Yard and the National Museum of Aviation rounded out our tours. Those attending the banquet will recall the Color Guard and how strikingly precise they were. Vice Admiral Retired, John Muzach, our guest speaker and a past CO of USS Seattle, asked me how I got that group to come to our event. I told him I simply requested it on-line and that is who they sent. He then told me they were the President's Own!

Once again Seattle crew stepped up to help a fellow crewmember who lost his belonging in a house fire while he was attending the reunion. The love and generosity we share for each other is what makes us a special association.

As announced and displayed at the Reunion, Rich Toma has compiled a 183-page book of the history of the USS Seattle that is printed in a beautiful hard bound keepsake book. It includes newspaper articles, Navy memorandums, action photos from all decades of service, bios on all COs, Christmas dinner menus and so much more. You will totally enjoy reading and sharing this book with family and friends for many years. Go to the ship's store and order yours today!

The Board recognized the many years of dedicated and passionate service to the association by Bill Norris, Vic Hellberg and Ray Pierce by making them Board Members Emeritus. See the article in this issue for more details.

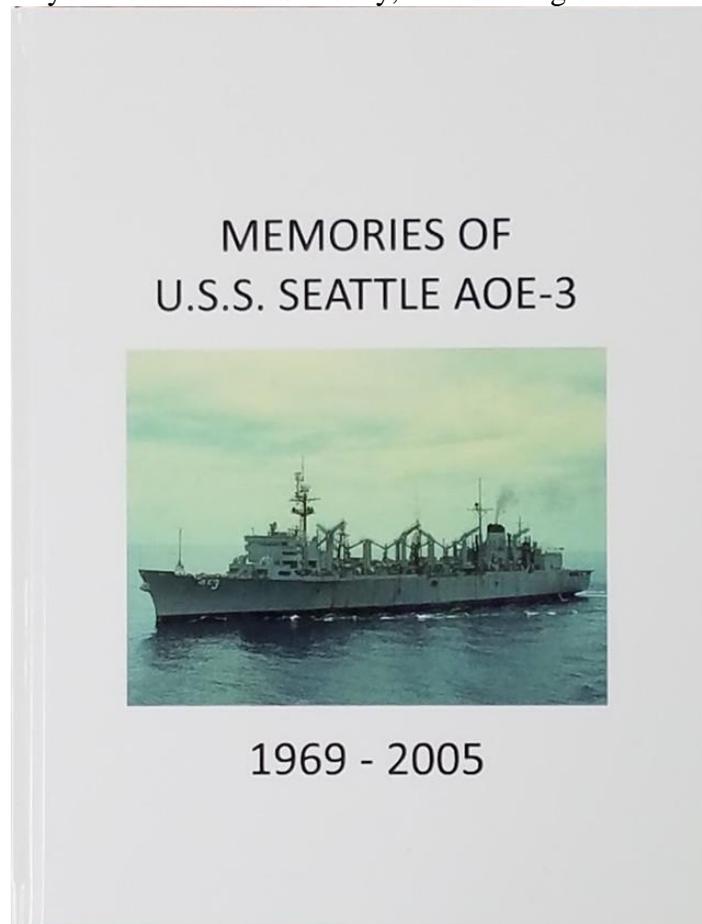
Plans are well underway for the 2017 Reunion in San Francisco and we hope to see you there! On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors of the association, we wish you and Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year!

David Holton,

President, USSSVA

**SHIP's STORE ITEM****Shipmates,**

I think it is fair to say, you are going to receive much better communication from your USS Seattle AOE-3 Veterans Association in the future. We want to continue to grow and you are the key to that. The ship's store is a player in the growth effort of your association. So today, I am sharing one of the most exciting offerings!!!



Rich Toma has authored a book on the USS Seattle! Rich has been working on this book for four and a half years. It is a wonderful history of our ship and of the beginnings of your Association. Rich did a lot of research in preparing to write this book. Many of you shipmates contributed information to Rich. We shared the information about this at the Washington D.C. reunion and sold over twenty copies before the printer shipped us the book. I have filled all those orders and am now ready to ship to you. We think this will make a great Christmas gift. Rich's book is 183-pages and measures 9 X 11.75 inches. It sells for \$70.00 to association members and \$100.00 to non-members which include 2017 membership. And as a bonus, to all new members, I will be including several surprise ship store items with your book. Here is the link to the ship's store [http://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org/class\\_custom.cfm?page\\_id=241509](http://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org/class_custom.cfm?page_id=241509)

**Vic Hellberg**

Ship's Store Manager

**REUNION # 9 --- IN THE PLANNING STAGES****A note from the reunion committee**

The reunion committee has completed our annual reunion site survey trip and are pleased to announce we have again found a very nice hotel, Hyatt Regency SFO Airport and believe we have negotiated an excellent rate for the reunion period. Some of the highlights are: daily room rate of \$207, which includes breakfast for 2, they are NOT charging for any of the meeting spaces and setup and break down of the rooms, we will receive a 15% discount on F&B, discounted beer and wine for the dinners and we will also be allowed to bring in our own alcohol and snacks to the hotel (with some restrictions).

The dates for the reunion are August 9<sup>th</sup> through August 13<sup>th</sup>.

I know \$207 a night sounds high, but understand this is San Francisco and everything is priced much higher. So, we are going to need everyone to help sell the reunion and get members to come and even bring friends. As part of our negotiation with the Hyatt, we were able to lock in some number of discounted rooms 3 days before and after the reunion for anyone that wants to extend the visit in SF.

Some of the events we are planning include, Pier 39 (shopping), Alcatraz tour, Hornblower Bay tour & Dinner cruise and a city tour. We are planning two dinners in the hotel, like we had in DC in 2016. This year we are also planning to have more free time for show and tell and visiting. We will be sending out details as soon as they are available.

Start making plans today to join us next year for a great time. Anyone with suggestions is welcome to send them via email to any of the board members and we'll review and respond to all that we can as soon as we can.

## STORY FROM Vic Hellberg

Shipmates,

This year at our reunion in Washington, DC, we were able to schedule a time at Arlington Cemetery to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown on behalf of all the shipmates who served on the USS Seattle. I was 1 of 4 who placed the wreath and must say it was one of the most memorable experiences of my life!



Four of us presented this wreath at 1:15 PM on August 4, 2016. For me, this was the highlight of the entire reunion! That is a huge statement considering all the other amazing things we did and shared together. Above is a picture of our salute during the playing of taps.

Now, as Paul Harvey used to say, here is the rest of the story. I came home to Marshalltown, Iowa. I shared my story of the reunion with several people. Next thing I knew the editor of our daily newspaper calls to ask if he could send a reporter to interview me about my experience. He interviewed for about a half hour and I shared the picture above. The following Sunday our paper had this picture on the front page. On Monday, a fellow came into our business and asked if I was the guy who served aboard the USS Seattle. He said he also served aboard her in 1972 for several years. I served aboard her for two and a half years leaving July of 1971. Those of you that are active in the association and have attended reunions, know that Bob Miller also served with me and lives here in Marshalltown. We are a community of a little over 26,000 residents and now we have THREE guys who served aboard. At our earliest convenience, we got together at home and enjoyed a terrific time of sharing stories about Seattle. Here is a picture of the three of us.



Bob Miller... Gary Fulton... Vic Hellberg

## Message from Bill Norris

Fellow shipmates,

The reunion committee is moving forward on finding location and venues for our next reunion. (see page 4)

There is still a lot to do and any help would be appreciated.

Going forward, I plan to focus in two directions for the association: first Vic Hellberg and I will continue to assist in planning and execution of future reunions as we have in the past and second, I plan to focus my efforts on trying to find other shipmates and encourage them to join us.

I can certainly use your help with the second activity. Any one you know that served on the Seattle is a potential new member and I would like to contact them and explain our mission and goals and encourage them to join us. So I need your help finding previous Seattle shipmates.

Information I will need to find someone:

First Name, Last Name

City lived in (and/or last known)

State

Bill Norris  
19399 Xingo Ct  
Porter, TX 77365  
Bnorris5248@gmail.com  
281 785-6415

## INTERESTING INFO

### DID YOU KNOW?

Have you ever wondered what it takes to keep a ship the size of a small town going during a six-month deployment? Here are some statistics:

Total Distance Traveled	41,389.2 nautical miles
Replenishments Completed	134
Water Produced Onboard	11,383,200 gallons
Total Water Used	11,899,780 gallons
Fuel Consumed	4,868,830 gallons
Laundry Washed	180,180 lbs., and 7,200 sets of khakis
Hair Cuts Given	3,388
Phone Cards Sold	4,116
Sodas / Juices Sold	142,702
Snicker Bars Sold	4,912
Sailor Phone Calls Made	64,800 (approximate)
Emails Processed	40,708 (approximate)
Messages Processed by Radio	40,000
Total Amount of Checks Cashed	\$867,412.79
Patients Seen in Sick Call	1,063
Dental Cleanings	291
Ice Cream	506 gallons
Milk	4,628 gallons
Coffee	1,075 lbs.
Eggs	8,345 dozen
Single Serving Boxes of Cereal	17,640
Total Mail Handled	88 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> tons
Cargo Moved	7,320 tons
Movies Shown	4,000 plus
Amount of Ammunition Fired	18,880 lbs.
Paint Used	2,737 gallons
Rolls of Toilet Paper Used	3,625
Personnel Moved	81 reported aboard, 44 departed, & 219 transients

## Letter from the Vice President

Shipmates,

Matthew is gone but not before leaving several hundred miles of destruction. It will take millions of dollars and months to repair the damage left behind. The USSSVA had a number of members that were in Matthew's path. After communicating with most of them, I am very happy to say none of them sustained any serious damage to their property.

January 17, 2017 is a day to remember. If you are a not a life member, this is the day our USSSVA dues will be due. You should receive an email from the Treasurer for dues that need to get paid. Our dues are going to remain at \$30.00 this year.

The board is already working very hard on our 2017 reunion in San Francisco. The dates for the reunion are August 9<sup>th</sup> through August 13<sup>th</sup>. When planning your vacations, keep these dates in mind. During the months to follow you will be getting more information about the hotel, registration, tours and other details through our newsletter and mailings. Start saving now as this reunion will be a little more expensive.

I would like to wish each of you and your family a very Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year!

Rich Toma  
Vice President

## A FEW NOTES & A STORY

### Board Recognizes Norris, Hellberg and Pierce

A called Board meeting was held in October, 2016 and unanimously approved making Bill Norris, Vic Hellberg and Ray Pierce Board Members Emeritus. This means they have a permanent voting Board seat for life. President, David Holton said, "Many people have contributed to the success of the association over the years and this in no way detracts from our appreciation for their contributions, but these three men have spent many, many hours of dedicated time and energy year in and year out that has created a superior association with outstanding annual Reunions we keep enjoying."

Please join me in congratulating these men for their loyal service.

### Board Elects Ray Pierce as Treasurer

In September Stu Tyson informed the Board he was resigning as Treasurer. Stu served as the association's Treasurer for five years and his service is greatly appreciated as treasurer and as an active board member. The Board elected Ray Pierce as the new Treasurer. Stu is working with Ray to make a smooth transition of the duties.

Thanks Stu for a job WELL DONE!

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## 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 the ship. Send your story to Dale Eicker at [deicker@comcast.net](mailto:deicker@comcast.net). Below is my short story of just such an encounter.

See Vic's story on Page 5.

Submitted by David Holton, PN3 1971-1972.

# Fair Winds & Following Seas