

LEYTE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LEYTE (CV-32) ASSOCIATION

May 2014

PRESIDENTS LETTER

The President sends his "Memories from the 'A' division bunk of Frank Hanna" as a way of introduction. "I, and others find it difficult how I can remember things yet I could not tell you what I did last week. I can remember many things about my Navy days such as reporting to Whitehall Street, NYC in October of 1956 at 0700 or was it 0600!! Getting on a bus for a trip to Bainbridge, MD. But lets go back a few weeks before that trip. I can honestly and absolutely tell you this. I was only 17 years old at that time and had to have one of my parents sign me in, and there was in a bar in Astoria, Queens, NY. It so happens that my Father drank in the same bar as the Chief from the recruiting station. So in this bar at a table in the back of this dimly lit bar my father and the chief signed my fate for the next four years over a drink. I would believe no sailor was ever signed into the U.S. Navy over drinks and I could not have one at that signing.

After boot camp I was assigned to the LEYTE until she was decommissioned in May or 1959. I was then transferred to a refrigeration ship USS Regal AF-58 out of Norfolk, VA and discharged in Nov. 1960. I can remember walking forward while at sea on the hanger deck and hearing the ship hit something, a few moments later I felt the ship backing down as we had hit a whale before going in to the bay at Annapolis, MD. Again, the time we pulled into NYC for liberty and we waited and waited on the hanger deck forever but fate had it that liberty was never to come. We left the pier and moved over to Bayonne, NJ ship yard and the mast was put back on while trailers of supplies were lifted onto the flight deck. We pulled out of Bayonne that night and as soon as we left NY harbor we went to Battle Stations this was no drill. My battle station was the fantail and we were loading live ammo into the guns then I saw our escort of destroyers pull in closer to us and we later found out that we were at battle stations because of the Lebanon crises and that an unidentified plane was above us. Just a few of my memories.

I can say that our reunion in Orlando, FL went well. It was well planned and many can thank the shipmates that set it up. For Reunion 2014 in Mobile, AL on 8-12 October we will be staying at the Holiday Inn Mobile West. The hotel has a AAA rating of 3 Diamonds. Rooms have a microwave and refrigerator so log onto the hotel's web site www.holiday-inn.com for details. It would be great to have a good turnout of shipmates to show support for the Association so make your plans soon using the hotel reservation information and registration form found in this newsletter. I will be interested in meeting with all and exchanging some more of my sea stories of the great ship LEYTE. 'You all come' in New Yorkese. As your new President I will take great pride in my duties. I thank all who have the faith in me to do the job and I will always be available to everyone. frankh25@yahoo.com or Cell 772-475-6977.

FROM THE EVENT COORDINATOR

Looking forward to our reunion, we would like to ask you to bring something from your state, city etc. that could be put in the auction. Maybe something you made. Know people enjoy getting items that you cannot get at the local Walmart. Great last year.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY PASSES

It is with sorrow that we announce the passing of our Financial Secretary William I. McQueary. He served the Association well. All of the duties he performed will be taken over by the Treasurer Angelo Masi whose address is 127 Glen Eagle Cir. Naples, FL 34104. Angelo can be reached by email via the Mrs. at kayange@gmail.com or 239-348-0085. Please submit your dues on the form provided directly to him.

GET ON BOARD HEAD FOR

MOBILECHAPLAINS CORNER

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose. As so ably put from the beginning by this wonderful country –In God we trust.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ON 2014 AND 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President Frank Hanna 772-475-6977
- Pres Elect Charles H. Hill 209-754-1022
- Vice-Pres John E. Mitchell 480-239-9555
- Secretary: William D. Carr 586-264-2048
- Treasurer: Angelo R. Masi 239-348-0085
- Fin. Secty: Vacant
- Asst. Secty: Vacant
- Chaplain: Frank Koeller, Jr. 423-390-1476
- CMAA: Le Grande Van Wagenen 732-727-5993
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- First Past Pres: John E. Mitchell 480-239-9555
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- Historian: Vacant
- Hospitality: As Assigned
- Newsletter: Kenneth McLaurin 757-497-7188
- Nominating: John E. Mitchell 480-946-9555
- Publicity: Le Grande Van Wagenen 732-727-5993
- Registration: James L. Nelligan 207-947-0844
- Ship's Store: Charles H. Hill 209-754-1022
- Webmaster Steven Perry 302-827-3779

NOTICE TO AMMEND THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF THE USS LEYTE CV-32 ASSOCIATION

Notice is hereby given of intent to change the articles to reduce the number of Officers in the Association in accordance with current efficient business practice subject to approval of at least two thirds vote of the membership attending the next scheduled meeting of the Association in Mobile, AL at 9 AM on October 11, 2014. Changes will delete "one or more" Vice-Presidents, the "Assistant Secretary", and the "Financial Secretary" whose duties will be assumed by the Treasurer.

WW II DIARY ON LINE FOR ALL

Nearly every day that the United States was at war with Japan, Pacific Commander Adm. Chester Nimitz and his staff recorded details large and small in an operational diary. By the time the fighting ended, it was 4,000 pages long. Navy historians have described it as the most authoritative source on World War II in the Pacific, and they have posted it online in its entirety. Named the Graybook for the color in which it was originally bound, it is available at www.usnwc.edu/graybook. Traffic may be heavy at the site. The diary begins, "The war opened with the attack of Japanese aircraft on Oahu".

70TH ANNIVERSARY, NORMANDY 'D' DAY

This year we remember the sacrifice of those members of the Joint Armed Forces that led the way

into the liberation of Europe during the second World War.

MAIL CALL

Thanks to those members that wrote to ask about sending in their annual membership dues. The form enclosed with this newsletter reflects the correct address to send them to. E.G. Al Woolford, Bob Curtis

From Duncan Johnson. I served aboard LEYTE from Aug 57 to decom in May 59. Made last Med Cruise, the rush to Lebanon up to Quebec and then helped put her to rest. Kept a journal of 48 pages. (ed. Asked to sort out and send to website) I remember that there were maybe 12 mothballed jeep carriers in Boston at the time of the explosion and that may be the ones referred to in news articles. Association reunited me with my best buddy Merrill Bancroft who was also in OE Div.

Carla Mass wrote to tell us about the passing of her Dad Robert D. Horner who served in LEYTE during Korean War and asked that he be placed on the Taps list on the web page and NL. She visited the memorial in Boston and took the pictures to him. He was able to visit the Yorktown and see one of the type planes he was a tail gunner in. Wasn't able to attend our reunions as he was in Wyoming helping at guest lodge and making trail rides.

From Dana and Bill Crawford (former ships store) with their new address in St Augustine, FL.

From Van Wagenen. Names and addresses of a number of new shipmates signing up. Van has also been in contact with John Woods niece that said he is doing fine and was just completing special training in Connecticut for sight impairment and should be back home by now. Said that he doesn't like to be tied down.

From Bob Connolly. Sent a photo of old #4 motor launch that was sold and converted for fishing and named the Philip T. Clark. He boarded the boat and approved of the conversion. Also sent notice of a couple of shipmates passing.

Also checking in were John Zwick, Ruth Heaphy, Al Neil to say hello to all, Dean Devore at 918-744-8752 like to hear from V4 commissioning folks; Robert Welch, Sr. Plank owner; William Conner on board 52 & 53; Robert W. Welch, Sr., John Flynn and Patricia Brynild on passing of Dad.

Mitch Dowdy at 618-259-6348 said that he is trying to help the family and would like to talk to any of the shipmates of Glen Logan that was in 'B' division during the periods 48 to 55.

