

LEYTE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LEYTE (CV-32) ASSOCIATION

May 2015

PRESIDENTS LETTER

How fast 2014 went by and here we are getting ready for our next reunion in Myrtle Beach. The Board of directors wish you and the family a Happy and healthy New Year. Mobile reunion was a successful event and we can all thank Angelo Masi and his wife Katherine for their tireless work in putting this together. Few know the amount of time and commitment that goes into making a reunion. So again, the Board of Directors and all shipmates again say thank you so much.

We are looking forward to Myrtle Beach on 30 September and this newsletter provides the details. The hotel is one of the largest we have ever stayed in and the reservation includes payment for the meals, and the activity. The bus cost for the two activities are to be paid for separately and included on the Reunion Registration Form. I am appealing to my shipmates for help in anyway at the reunion and getting involved in becoming an Officer. Positions are open and elections will be held at our next reunion so give a hand we would be very grateful. Frank Hanna

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- Ship's Store: Charles H. Hill 209-754-1022
- Webmaster: Steven Perry 302-827-3779

THE CHAPLAINS CORNER

By Frank Koeller, Jr.

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.

The story of TAPS America's most famous bugle call was arranged in July 1862 by Union Gen.

Daniel Adams Butterfield, who thought the military's "end of day" music was too formal, so he wrote a revised melody with assistance from bugler Oliver Wilcox Norton. "Everything was announced by a bugle in the Civil War". At the time, the military used some 50 different calls during maneuvers from sunup to sundown, but none became as well known as TAPS. Today, the bugle call is sounded at military funerals, wreath-laying, and memorial services, but its 24 haunting notes are not heard as often as they once were. "TAPS is one of those traditions that is slowly disappearing and it's sad". The original words to TAPS were: "Put out the lights, Go to sleep. As the years went on many versions were created. The words now used are: Day is done, gone the sun – from the lake, from the hills, from the sky – As we go, this we know- God is nigh. There are four more stanzas to it.

MAIL CALL

Shipmate Clarkson Farnsworth was honored by the American Welding Society for Volunteer work on the USS Slater Museum at the Port of Albany for 18 years. Clark said "It's just been a pleasure to be able to work here and carry on with what I've always done and love to do, which is welding". Well we know Clark, the Association Founding President, for his many years of work and support for the LEYTE Association. WELL DONE true and faithful servant.

From Betty Hill, Ladies and "old sailors", the Leyte reunion was great. The Saturday night raffle went smoothly and every one seemed to have fun and won the items they wanted. Now let's start thinking about the next reunion. Small or large, purchased or home made, all items are welcomed. Things from your home town or state put together in a basket. The raffle money goes directly back into the association bank account, which helps keep the reunions going. This year the raffle made over \$300.00 with no money charged to the Association for the items, let's do better at the next reunion.

Charlie and I want to thank every one that donated items. We had 27 glasses out with numbers. Several items were single and then a lot of items were grouped together. The more tickets you put in the glass for the item you want, the better chance to win. The tickets are 6 for \$5.00 and the more you buy the better chance you have.

Looking forward to next time. Extra thanks to Katherine K. and Chris R. for helping set up the table.

From Van, I have been in contact with John Paulson of the Naval Historical Foundation in Washington Navy yard regarding the ships bell. They are doing an extensive inventory. So far they haven't been able to locate the Bell. He assures me they will continue to look for it. Artifacts are being consolidated and inventoried in a new center in Richmond, VA.

From Duncan Johnson, ETR2 new member, "Reading the September 2013 Newsletter I noticed a comment about the myths surrounding the catapult explosion found in the press. I do wonder about the statement that there were a dozen other carriers at the Boston naval Yard when the explosion occurred. When we put in to Boston to have our ripped up forward flight deck repaired in 1958 I remember that there was a nest of mothballed 'jeep' carriers tied up there, easily a dozen. These may have been the carriers some one referred to. I have the Association to thank for reuniting me with my best buddy from my Leyte days, Merrill Bancroft who also served in OE division.

Survivors of the Battle of Leyte Gulf shared their experiences during the 70th anniversary reunion with friends and family in San Diego. Leyte Gulf survivors from the 13 ships that made up the "Taffy 3" commemorated Sailors that were lost during the Battle of Samar, a critical battle within the Battle of Leyte Gulf. This will be their final reunion.

From Ann Bemis Daughter, letting us know of the passing of Ed and his wife Alice. They enjoyed going to reunions very much and are very much missed.

From Ray Walker, III, noting the passing of his father Ray. He was proud to be in the Navy and to be assigned to Leyte. I was born at St Albans Naval Hospital while my father was on the Leyte.

From Roslyn Torella, wanted to share the news of the passing of her father Dave from B division who was a member for many years and attended many reunions. She created a face book page of the Leyte

and his fellow sailors. He was extremely proud of his service on the Leyte.

From Karen Loger on the passing of Don to a better place. Don was a Leyte plank owner and a Navy and Marine veteran. He was a good supporter of the reunions.

Obituary of Frank Neil showed that he was the youngest plank owner on Leyte. He donated a large collection of Leyte artifacts which were placed on exhibit in the USS Yorktown Museum.

Watch the landing of the latest fighter aircraft at <http://youtu.be/STVAM85y3i0>.

Don't forget to let the editor know about changes in address. Any experiences and articles are welcome for inclusion in the newsletter. Email address kmclaurin3@cox.net.

WELCOME TO MYRTLE BEACH

This is where memories begin and visitors awaken each morning to discover shining sunrises over the Atlantic Ocean lush natural wonders and new adventures. The memories you'll create will endure. Myrtle Beach offers that feeling of the perfect day for you to take home as a souvenir. A sophisticated cultural scene brings it all together from a leisurely stroll down the oceanfront boardwalk, to some of the favorite attractions at Broadway at the Beach including shopping in outlet stores and one of a kind boutiques and dining at its best. Entertainment includes the Hollywood Wax Museum, which the Ladies will visit, Ripley's Aquarium, Magiquest and Wonderworks, an interactive science museum and much more.

You will be astounded by the warmth and hospitality of every single person you meet during your stay. From the hotel check-in clerk who greets you when you arrive to the lady at the restaurant.

GREETING FROM THE ASSOCIATION

The Officers and Committee Chairmen wish to encourage you to make this reunion. We have held reunions every year since the first one in Hampton Virginia and have had a wonderful group of members at each one and they all enjoyed the good times together and you have the opportunity to participate if you haven't been to one. It is great to be able to relive some of the great sea stories and adventures while in Leyte and to catch up on what is going on since then. At each reunion we also have the opportunity to remember our shipmates that have passed during the year, a number of which were regulars at past reunions. This year we will

also be electing officers for the next two years and this will give you an opportunity to participate in the running of the Association. A lot of work goes into arranging the reunion for the membership and you should take advantage of the hospitality of the shipmates attending. "SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!!"

TAPS

- Edward Bemis 1/14
- Alfred E Bowers 6/94
- Biagio DeAstis 4/14
- George Decker 8/14
- Albert F Kaminsky, Sr 3/15
- William H Koenig 2/15
- Donald A Loger 12/14
- Richard Martin 3/15
- Thomas Pigford 9/13
- Ralph Pruette 5/14
- Dr. Keith C Sherman 4/15
- Joe W Toombs, Jr 1/15
- David J Torella 9/14
- Ray H Walker 8/14

***** USS LEYTE (CV-32) ASSOCIATION RENEWAL/APPLICATION *****

I Mbr#___ apply to renew () **or** for membership () in the USS LEYTE (CV-32) Association and forward in consideration a gift of \$ 15.00. **or** Life membership () 59 years or less = \$150; 60-69= \$100; 70 up = \$50.

Name: _____ () Wife's Name: _____ ** 2015 DUES**

Info Change() first/mi/last nickname

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ + _____

Phone: Home () _____ - _____ e-mail Address _____

Crewmember: From ___ - ___ to ___ - ___ Division(s): _____ Rank/Rate: _____
mo yr mo yr

Mil. Retired? No ___ Yes ___ If yes, Rank/Rate _____ USN/US [Mbr# _____ Paid \$ _____]

Return Form to: **Angelo R. Masi, 127 Glen Eagle Cir., Naples, FL 34104**

Please make checks payable to USS LEYTE CV-32 ASSOCIATION

***** A Non-Profit Organization of former crew members *****