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USS BASILONE

824



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December 2014

Greetings Shipmates and Associate Members.

Another year and reunion have come and gone and we have gotten a new leader to the John Basilone Foundation, Diane Hawkins, one of John's nieces. During a conversation with her she informed me that she and the foundation are in the process of putting together a short video of some of the places that were important in the life of John. Diane informed me that once it's ready she would inform us as to when and how we can view the video.

DUES IS DUE! Dues is still the same \$25.00 for one year and \$125.00 for a life membership. Make dues checks payable to the USS Basilone Association. Dues can be sent to our treasurer Frank Crouse, 3101 Mt. Carmel Road, Upperco, Md 21155.

Thanks to our reunion hosts Bob and Shirley Terhune and Jim and Dee Goodspeed for an enjoyable reunion. Also thanks to Jerry Moorman for doing the tours. The reunion in Seattle was a small one but everyone that attended seemed to have a good time. Most of us that attended the reunion arrived on Sunday and we had a picnic style dinner. On Monday we toured Seattle with stops at the Boeing Museum of Flight, the original Starbucks, Pike Place Market and the Space Needle. Tuesday we went to Mount Saint Helens volcano and the Washington State Capitol in Olympia. Wednesday was a mini-tour to Mount Rainier, Skookum Falls, Sunrise Lodge, Emmons Glacier and Black Diamond Pioneer Bakery. Thursday we went into and over the Cascade Mountain Range over Snoqualmie Pass. We missed the falls because of heavy construction on the trip up the pass. We went to Leavenworth Bavarian Village, which the name implies is German and Swiss oriented. We also stopped at Liberty Orchards, a candy manufacturer, which makes Aplets and Cotlets. Friday saw us crossing Puget Sound to the Naval Shipyard where we toured the shipyard museum. We then went down to the U.S.S. Turner Joy DD 951 which is where we had our memorial service. We took the ferry from Bremerton back to Seattle with the majestic views of the skyline of Seattle. After we returned we got ready to have the farewell banquet at the Muckleshoot Casino. Our business meeting was held on Wednesday and we approved our usual donations to the following \$500.00 to the John Basilone Foundation, \$100.00 Tin Can Sailors, \$100.00 the Navy Memorial and \$100.00 the John Basilone Parade. We discussed the website as some people have had some difficulties with it. We will look into these matters and also see if we have any upgrades that might not have been implemented, by the time you receive this we hope to have answers and a new webmaster to run the site. We voted to have a reunion next year and Frank Cowling offered to be our host in Santa Fe, New Mexico this coming September. Frank has posted on the website several pieces such as the hotel we'll be

staying at and information on transportation. You can read these at our website www.uss-basilone-dde-dd824-org. Frank will be e-mailing the reunion information to those of you with good e-mail accounts the rest of you will get it by snail mail sometime around the middle or end of April. Frank has also received the ship's store you can pretty much anything from him except coffee mugs, which I have. We are out of Men of the Basilone sweatshirts and they will not be reordered due to extremely slow sales.

I apologize for not including this in last years' newsletter we do have a new item in the ships' store. Some of you have seen in different magazines and fliers challenge coins, we now have our own challenge coin which has both the DDE ships' patch on one side and the DD ships' patch on the other. Thanks to Rick Papesca for getting in touch with the company that made them and for doing some of the design work. I went to the Post Office and found out that cost for sending one coin, postage and an envelope included is \$10.00. If you want more than one the cost would of course go up. I have the coins, if you are interested you should make out a check for \$10.00 to the USS Basilone and I will get it out to you,

During the past year we have lost the following shipmates William Branin, Gary Strike, Vicecnt Strollo, Barry Nafe, Thomas Constine, Jessie Straughn, Jacob Keisler, Robert Nochols, Henry Moeller, Curtis Borden, Carl Esber, Burrel "Bill" Hall and Bruce Stuckey.

We were not very successful in finding new shipmates, it wasn't for lack of trying but we only found one last year John Sagar 65-66.

We received one item for the archives, a newspaper article from New Jersey. We are always looking for originals or copies of POD's (Plan's of the Day), familygrams, other articles that mention the ship or John. We are also looking for pictures of the ship or cruises she made. Several years ago Frank Stepka did a nice job of getting pictures from the 2nd Vietnam cruise on a CD and donated it to the archives.

We are updating the e-mail accounts in the roster and would appreciate it if you would contact Frank Cowling at fcowling@beyondbb.com or myself at the e-mail listed at the bottom of this letter.

This is all for this year. Here's hoping you can make the up coming reunion is Santa Fe this coming September.

Your Shipmate,



Philip E. Poplaski

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