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USS BASILONE 824



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December 2011

Greeting shipmates and Associate Members,

Well another year and reunion has come and gone. We'll start this newsletter with some odds and ends. Thanks to Alex Morris for getting us a brief history of the 1st Battalion, 27th Marines at Iwo Jima. If I remember correctly Alex got it from one of his Naval Academy classmates whose father in the 1st Battalion, 27th Marines. Montclair State University in New Jersey named a wing in a new dormitory building for John Basilone. This year there were changes in the parade route. taking it past a home for veterans and the change may be permanent. Finally, Diana Hawkins (a Niece of John) has become more involved with the Basilone Foundation since JoAnn Cutter died. Diana is producing a new documentary about John. It may already have been premiered at this years G.I film festival. However, I'm not sure it did.

DUES IS DUE! Yearly dues is still \$20.00 and Life membership is still \$100.00. Checks for dues should be made out to the USS Basilone Association and mailed to our Treasurer Frank Crouse. Franks address is Frank Crouse 3103 Mount Carmel Rd Upperco, MD 21155. We have kept dues at this level for quite a long time but due to rising costs we may have to raise dues in 2013 or 2014. This will be discussed at the 2012 business meeting.

The following are newly found shipmates John Hunter, E. Peter Rylp, Dennis Spevacek, Richard Tomasky, James Azzuza, Dennis Vollmer, Jim Unchaper, Lyman "Bud" Morrill, John Carney, Frank Bangs and Ronald Huber.

The following shipmates passed away during the past year, Richard Boomer. Stephen Zachwieja, Algie Fittro, Thomas Pallozzi, William Boe, Robert E. Wilson, Peter Casal, Grader L. Montgomery, Richard N. Tocci, Thomas C. Hickman, Ray Betts, Dennis McDermott, Donald Jiskra, Wayne Pressy, John Halsall, Jerry Stevenson, John Esminger, William Carty, John W. Smith, Edwin Kinnear, and Paul Drozdenko.

The business meeting was relatively short this year. As usual we had reports form the treasury (we're still solvent), the Historian and ships store. We again approved keeping the website. For those of you that may have forgotten the website address is www.uss-basilone-dde-dd824.org. Next year's reunion will be in Gettysburg, PA in September or October and our hosts will be Frank and Caroline Crouse, whoops that's Caroline and Frank. Caroline said that if things go right that she expects to have a reunion packet ready for mailing sometime in late May or June. We're looking for a host for the 2013 reunion. Any one interested? May be someone out west? One of the outstanding things we were trying to do was to get Lana Basilone (John's wife) into the Navy Memorial. Well someone beat us to it as she is listed . I don't know who did it but it is appreciated. We gave out the usual donations which are as follows The John Basilone Foundation \$500.00, Tin Can Sailors \$100.00, US Navy Memorial \$100.00.

John Basilone Parade. We also authorized a special donation of \$2500 to the Joseph P. Kennedy. The Kennedy was in DESRON 12 with the Basilone when we were home ported in Newport, R.I. The reason for this is that the Basilone is still afloat on the Kennedy. Sometime after the Basilone decommissioning the people from the Kennedy got permission to go aboard the Basilone and salvage any items that they could use to improve the Kennedy. A listing of the items is on the website in the mess deck section. I also understand that there might be other items that are not listed. If you want to see the Kennedy you need to go to Battleship Cove, Fall River, Mass.

I want to thank Jack and Kathi Richie for being our hosts for the Newport, R.I. Reunion this year. Jack and Kathi thank you. We started the reunion with check in on Wednesday. Thursday saw the first tour of the reunion. We toured 2 mansions the Breakers and Marble House both were built by the Vanderbilt's. We then proceeded to tour downtown Newport for lunch and shopping. Friday we toured the Naval war college Museum had lunch at the Officers Club with a speech by Marine Colonel Rob Gardner. It was while at lunch that William Carty's son, who works at the O Club told us his father, had passed away. He also provided us with some articles and pictures about the Basilone that we didn't have in our archives. We then went to Surface Warfare Training School for simulations on bridge and engineering trainers. Saturday we went to Battleship Cove in Fall River, Mass for our memorial service aboard the USS Massachusetts and tours of the ships there, including the Joseph P. Kennedy mentioned earlier in the newsletter. One of our shipmates John Moreau even managed to get some of us seats at a dinner theater, which some of us took advantage of. We then had our business meeting, which already discussed. We then had a farewell banquet at which we gave out our door prizes. Jack presented the association with a banner he had made to us for our use at upcoming reunions. One of my desires for a reunion has finally happened. We had 2 sons of a deceased member with us for the farewell banquet. The sons of YN 1 John Smith, from the first Vietnam cruise, were with us; Dan and Kevin, both are Army Rangers. So hopefully this is the start of seeing some of the associate members or just family members at all or parts of our reunions.

Finally, I will be sending the plaque we had made for Fred Drescher, that I had displayed at the reunion, for his services to the association in it's early years. We will also be sending the signed acknowledgment that we did at the reunion as well as a picture of the ship at sea on a NATO cruise which Fred may have been on. The package will be sent to Frank Crouse so that he can make arrangements to get it to Fred's wife Vivian in York, Pa.

That's all for now. Fare winds and following seas to all.

Your Shipmate,



Philip E. Poplaski
USS Basilone
Association

113 Old Liverpool Rd
Liverpool, NY 13088
315-457-68147
pepumkc8@aol.com