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USS BASILONE 824



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December 2009

Greetings Shipmates and Associate Members.

I'd like to start out this newsletter by thanking Geoff and Diann Bender for hosting the Chicago reunion this past July. It was another good reunion attended by the usual suspects, a few of the guys that hadn't be to a reunion in awhile and some first timers. As far as I know we only had one bad incident, someone broke into one of our shipmate's cars and stole some stuff (shades of New Jersey). Hopefully, he didn't have many problems because of this.

The Basilone plaque will be going up sometime after the first of the year at the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas. Thanks to those of you who donated towards the plaque at the San Antonio and Chicago reunions. Special thanks to John Berger for being the driving force behind this idea. The association will be mentioned on the plaque as being the sponsor.

DUES IS DUE. It's that time of year and dues is still only \$20.00 for a year and \$100.00 for a life membership. Checks for dues should be made out to the USS Basione Association and mailed to Frank Crouse at 3103 Mt. Carmel Rd, Upperco, MD 21155.

Our website provider did an upgrade to it's servers and we want to know what kind of problems you might be having using the site, there have been some. For those of you that have never visited the site here is our web address www.uss-basilone-dde-dd824.org

Enclosed you will find a flier from Greg Perkins our reunion host in Sarasota, Fl. about next years reunion. Greg has told me that reunion packets will go out sometime at the end of March or the beginning of April.

Here are some newly found shipmates William Branin, Edward Malec, Alfred Schlueter, Robert Beverly, David Plank, David Welsh, Millard Brimmer, Raymond Zeuner, Mike Zawinsky, Neil Thorsby George Sherkness and Gabriel Smiles, Jr. For those of you that pay dues or are life members no rosters will be mailed out only an upgrade on these newly found members. This is an effort approved by the membership at the San Antonio meeting to cut printing and mailing costs.

It is my sad duty to inform you of the passing of the following shipmates Eugene Perschbacher, Charles Greer, James Gurley, Samuel Chilton, Samuel Barclift, Morris Grissom, William Zapp, John Walling, Charles T. Olive, Terry Rudd, John Ayello, Walter Wojiechowski, Taft Broyhill and Paul Bjork.

The following items were approved at the business meeting in Chicago. First to have a reunion next year in Sarasota, Fl.. The following donations were approved \$500.00 to the John Basilone Foundation, \$100.00 to the Tin Can Sailors, \$100.00 to the Navy Memorial and \$100.00 to the John Basilone Parade. Also approved was money for the website domain name and website hosting. Jack Richie stepped up to say he would

host a reunion in Newport, RI in 2011. Regarding the website it was agreed that if the domain name and website hosting every offered multiple year subscriptions that we should take the offer. So far there has been nothing offered by the company that is our host. We also voted to have generic T-shirts for the next reunion.

We had the following other activities going on while we were in Chicago. On Tuesday we had the welcome dinner and opened the hospitality room. Wednesday saw us tour the north side of Chicago. We went to Wrigley Field, the botanical gardens, and rode a tour boat on the Chicago River and out into Lake Michigan past the Navy Pier and along the northern shore of the city. We also went to the John Hancock Tower for its' panoramic views of the area. They opened the downward looking sky view at the Sears' Tower just a week before we got there and there wasn't enough time to change the itinerary. Thursday we did the south side of Chicago, and we didn't see Leroy Brown. We saw a number of Frank Lloyd Wrights' buildings as well as the United Center where the Bulls and Blackhawks play. We also saw Soldier Field and Citi Field where the Bears and White Sox play respectively. Most of the day was spent at the Museum of Science and Technology. Friday we were at Great Lakes, shades of Boot Camp and A school. For those of us that went to Boot camp there the train platform still seems like it was way back when. Snipes Castle is gone as are the old barracks we knew. The memorial service was held on base and we had what should have been some good old Navy chow but it was catered. We also shopped in the Base Exchange for souvenirs. Another part of the tour was supposed to be the Navy museum at Great Lakes but it's opening had been put off again so maybe another time. Saturday we had the business meeting, which has already been discussed, and we had a tour of a place called Cantigny, which was the home of the family that owned the Chicago Tribune, and it is now a park. While we were there there must have been anywhere from 6 to 12 wedding parties there for pictures.

One final note the ships' store is in Florida with Greg Perkins. He has everything except Men of the Basilone sweatshirts and beer cozies which I have

That's it till next year.

Your Shipmate,



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