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# USS BASILONE

## 824



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December 2004

Greetings Shipmates and Associate Members,

Widows of deceased shipmates have free membership in the association as long as they wish and they and their families are always welcome to attend our reunions. On that note DUES IS DUE. The 2005 annual dues of \$15.00 are due and can be paid to our treasurer Frank Crouse. Checks should be made out to the USS Basilone Association and sent to Frank at the following address. Frank Crouse 3103 Mt. Carmel Rd Upperco, MD. 21155.

Thanks to Jack Price and his wife Dorothy for hosting another wonderful reunion. The reunion this year was held in Branson, Missouri from 22-26 September and according to the sign-in log 32 shipmates attended. It was a good mix of regulars, first timers and shipmates that hadn't been to a reunion in a couple of years. Attendance was down this year but that was expected with the time of year, location and the hurricanes hitting right before and during the reunion. In fact I know that 2 of our shipmates from Florida still made it French Johnson and Mike LaLonde. I don't think any other Florida shipmates made it. Everyone could have gone to the following shows on Wednesday we saw *Lost in the 50's*, Friday morning was an area tour and a stop at the Veterans Museum. There is a room in the museum that listed every serviceman killed in World War II. It also had a rather impressive bronze sculpture. Friday in the afternoon we had our memorial service and then we boarded the Showboat Branson Belle for a dinner and show. On Saturday we went to the Buck Trent Breakfast show. Saturday night we went to the Chateau on the Lake where a group picture was taken and we had our final banquet. I've stayed in a lot of hotels in my travels and this place was truly impressive (but man it has to be truly expensive). Our speaker was Mike Radford, who gave us a very wonderful talk. Now I know you're saying what happened Thursday and these shows couldn't have taken up that much time. Well they didn't. We realized that not everyone would want to go to these shows so we left plenty of free time to go see other shows and for shopping at the many craft and other stores in Branson. Some of the other shows that were seen were Andy Williams and Ann Margaret, the Duttons, Shoji, Stuck in the 60's and Pam Tillis just to name a few. But what happened Thursday. Well Thursday was basically a free day except for the business meeting. At the business meeting I had the privilege of introducing John Basilone's Great-grand niece, Michelle Bury. Michelle was there to tell about the John Basilone Foundation and its' goal. I have pamphlet on it if anyone is interested. She also confirmed that John Basilone would be honored as one of the 4 Distinguished Marine stamps that the post office is issuing next year. The stamp will be part of a se-tenet set of 4 stamps showing Basilone, Daly, Lejuene and Puller on a sheetlet of 20 stamps so every 5<sup>th</sup> stamp will be of John Basilone.

The stamps are tentatively scheduled for release in June. I would have thought that they would have been issued for release on November 10<sup>th</sup> the 230 Anniversary of the Marine Corps. The stamps can be seen at the official USPS website or on Linn's Stamp News website on the November 29, 2004 issue. Michelle also had a limited supply of John Basilone's recently published biography entitled "I'm Staying with my boys", which sold out. She was also taking orders for a companion DVD or VHS tape which many of us signed up for to receive notification that it was ready. At the time of the reunion Michelle told us that they were trying to have the DVD and VCR's available by February 19<sup>th</sup>. If you think you might like to order either of these items you can call 888-827-2762 or go to their website at [www.sgtjohnbasilone.com](http://www.sgtjohnbasilone.com) to get the order forms. Hopefully, we can get another member of the Basilone family to come to a reunion.

Other business discussed was whether or not to have a reunion next year and the members present decided that we should. After much discussion and a show of hands Bath, Maine was chosen the dates for the reunion are September 12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. More information will be sent to you in the future with hotel and tour costs and travel directions. We also voted to have the 2006 reunion in New Jersey and we are looking for a host for the event, which will be in late September as we are planning on marching in the John Basilone Parade in Raritan, New Jersey, which always held at the end of September. The members present authorized the following donations a disbursements \$250.00 to Tin Can Sailors, \$500.00 to the John Basilone Foundation and the cost for the renewal of the website. A number of shipmates at this reunion suggested some items they would like to see in the ships store they included license plate holders, the ships patches as a decal that can be applied to the window of a car and white golf shirts with USS Basilone DDE/DD824 on the left side. This information was passed on to George Christenson who was to contact our shipmate Andy Zeller who does most of this type of work for us. We also learned that during the 4<sup>th</sup> degree of the Knights of Columbus initiation that John Basilone is mentioned in the Patriotism, Honor and Sacrifice section of the initiation.

Finally we passed out a proposed Constitution and By-laws. This was the first reading and as it was such short notice, being passed out at the business meeting everyone just gave it a quick glance and gave it limited approval until they could read it more closely. Well a lot of the guys since the reunion have read it closely and gotten in touch with me and there comments have basically been "We're running okay under the present rules should we really change things" and "we like some of the things in it, so can we only vote on the parts we like." Well the answer to the last question is yes. We can chose to accept none of it, part of it or all of it. Who can comment or vote on it? The answer to that is those people who have paid their 2004 dues but also those who did not pay their 2004 dues but do pay their 2005 dues. Another vote will be taken at the 2005 business meeting and those results will be passed on to those dues paying members who were unable to make the reunion for their Yea or Nay. The result will be posted on the website. So if you want to be part of this process pay your dues (see the first paragraph as to where to send dues). If any of any or all of the constitution and by-laws is approved you will be notified in the December 2005 newsletter or you can check the association website. Any approved changes will go into effect on 1January 2006.

It is my sad duty to inform you of the passing of the following shipmates Ronald Oltman, Ronald Pierce, Lawrence Wilson, Hubert Barnes, Gordon L. Bailey, Wesley

Johnson, Lester Luckey (55-59), Willis Conners, Claude Keith, William Markwith (49-51), Kenneth E. Thomas (50-52), Elmer Goldman (51-53), Harvey B. Lawson (62-65), William O. Klotz, Jr. (57-58), Robert Hall ( 50-51), and Abdiel Yingling (60-62).

It is my pleasure to give you the names of the following newly found shipmates Herb Hartmann, James Carter (49-51), Henry H. Thomas ( 50-53), Glenn J. Moder (49-51), Charles E. Doss(64), Randall E. Drews, Gary Mullenhoff, Marvin C. Thompson (55), Sieve Farnsworth (75-77) Delmar W. Lane, Jr. (60-61), Dennis Grady (61), James Higgins, Charles M. Thames (60-61), Terry L Raabe (57-59) and associate members Marie Lawson and Audrey Yingling.

The ships storekeeper Mike La Londe has a new e-mail address. He can now be reached at [Usssalty1@wmconnect.com](mailto:Usssalty1@wmconnect.com) or he can be called at 863-688-4004. Mike has all of the ships store items (baseball hats, ships patches, coffee mugs and pins). The only thing he doesn't have is the sweatshirts, which I have. So if you want to let people know what ship you served on now is the time.

Until next year or at the reunion in Bath, Maine, have a great year.

Your Shipmate,



Philip E. Poplaski

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