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USS BASILONE

824



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December 2008

Greetings Shipmates and Associate Members,

Well another year has come and gone and we begin another. Hopefully, it has been a good year for everyone.

This year I'll start with Ships' memorabilia. We now have in our possession the 25th Anniversary DVD of the John Basilone Parade. We marched in this parade as part of our New Jersey Reunion. We have also purchased Shootout: Guadalcanal from the History Channel. The last 15 minutes are about Manila John. Finally and probably the most important item is the one that newly found shipmate and Plank owner Warren Smith gave us. He sent me the plan of the day for the commissioning an invitation to the commissioning and several other items. At the reunion everyone commented on how well preserved these items were for being over 50 years old. So thanks Warren.

Thanks to Les and Lou Carter for hosting the reunion in San Antonio. We had a welcome dinner on Monday. Tuesday we did the Alamo and the other missions in the area. The Alamo is only a fraction of the original size because as San Antonio grew there seemed to be no need for historical preservation. Luckily someone got their act together. Wednesday we went to Fredericksburg, Texas to tour the Nimitz museum and LBJ's boyhood home and final resting place. The stone for Lady Bird Johnson wasn't there when we got there. For all you country music lovers we even stopped in Luckenbach, Texas. Thursday we tour the LBJ Library and Museum. We also tour the state capitol building in Austin. Friday we did the river walk by boat; saw an IMAX movie, The Alamo, which was done with local actors. We also rode the elevator to the top of the Tower of America, which was part of the Hemisphere World's Fair that was hosted by San Antonio. Saturday saw us have our business meeting, memorial service, down on the river walk with an Honor Guard from the San Antonio Silver Wings. The farewell dinner was held at the river walk.

The business meeting got off to a rousing start by wishing Les and Lou Carter congratulations on their 50th Wedding Anniversary and we had a birthday girl Jackie Gagnon. Then we got down to business. After the usual reports were read we approved money for keeping the domain name and the website operating for another year. We approved the following donations. \$500.00 to the John Basilone Foundation. After some discussion the usual \$200.00 we give to the Tin Can Sailors. Was changed to \$100.00. We voted to give the other \$100.00 to the Navy Memorial for use in educational programs. The John Basilone Parade Committee sent us a letter asking if we could help in supporting the parade. We voted to send them \$100.00. We still haven't gotten Lena Basilone into the Navy Memorial which is the only thing we didn't get accomplished from last years' projects. Geoff Bender and his wife Diann will be hosting the 2009 reunion in Chicago from July 7th to July 11th. Geoff and Diann have asked me to include

a flier that they would like returned to them before they mail out the reunion packets in January. John Moreau and his wife Terry have stepped up to host the 2010 Reunion in Newport, R.I. If you want to showoff the area you live in volunteer to host a reunion. Finally, we had a good discussion about cutting costs and most of our costs are in printing and mailing rosters, to dues paying member and the annual letter to everyone on the mailing list. We decided that everyone should still get the newsletter. However, the cost of mailing rosters ever year is almost as much as the newsletters so we voted to send out new rosters every 4 years to the dues paying members. We also decided that we would include update to dues paying members on a separate sheet every year that a roster isn't sent out.

DUES IS DUE. Dues can be paid to Frank Crouse, Annual dues is still \$20.00 per year and lifetime membership is only \$100.00. Widows who chose to become associate members pay NO DUES. Frank's address is Frank Crouse 3103 Mount Carmel Road, Upperco, MD 21155.

During the past year we have lost the following shipmates Chuck Mooney, Willard Peak 55-58, Mario Roberti, Clyde Young 48-49, Larry Stull 69-70, Robert Buckalew 49-51, Zendell Slaughter 57-59, Gene Rozell, Robert Renton 58-61, Lloyd Heif 54-57, Richard Kennedy, John Riediger 62-63 (C.O.), Donald Hall 57-60, and Henry Hepsoe 56-61.

Newly found shipmates this year include Robert Bacharach 68-69, Peter Stidham 71-73, Royal Daniels 53-54, John E Basilone, James Blankenship, Warren Smith 49-50. Kenneth Barthel 58, Robert Beck., Frank Brennan 76-77, Steve Michaels 60-64, Robert E Johnson 51-53, Robert Whittle, and Frank Brennan 76-77.

Here is everyone having a wonderful year and I, Geoff and Diann look forward to seeing a number of you at the reunion in Chicago this coming year.

Your Shipmate,



Philip. E Poplaski

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