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USS BASILONE

824



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December 2005

Greetings Shipmates and Associate Members;

The 2006 Reunion will be held in Northern New Jersey from 18-24 September. The reason we are having it at this time and in New Jersey is that the 25th Anniversary of the John Basilone is going to be held in Raritan, New Jersey where Basilone grew up and we intend to march in the parade. So we're looking for a great turnout for the reunion. We are currently looking at several hotels in the area and have already started lining up the tour packages. An information questionnaire is included with this newsletter fill it out and return it to the address indicated.

38 shipmate and 73 total people attended the reunion this past year in Saco, Maine. We had a nice mixture of regulars, first timers and people that missed the last several reunions as well as several shipmates from Maine that dropped in. We started the reunion on Monday with check in and a welcome dinner and catching up with what happened to old shipmates and telling sea stories. Tuesday we divided up into 2 groups. One group went on a tour of the state capitol, Augusta. The other group went on the Freedom Trail Tour in Boston, this was the only day it really rained on us. Wednesday we toured the White Mountains in New Hampshire, this is better known as leaf peeping. Thursday saw us touring Arcadia National Park and Bar Harbor. Friday we were in Bath, Maine at the Maine Maritime Museum on the schooner that is moored there we held our memorial service. While in Bath we cruised the Kennebec River and went by the Bath Iron Works, which had several Aegis class destroyers being outfitted. The final event of the day was a lobster bake at Foster's in York, Maine. Saturday saw a group head of to Freeport, Maine for shopping at LL Bean. When the shoppers came back we had lunch and the business meeting. The farewell dinner and raffle drawing were held that evening.

At the business meeting we heard reports from the Treasurer, Ships Storekeeper, Historian, and Roster report. Frank Crouse informed us that those of us who didn't go on the Augusta trip would be getting pins that those that did go got. George Christenson informed us that he would be taking orders for name tags and would register anyone on to the association website. He registered several people and got several orders. Just a reminder that our official website is www:uss-basilone-dde-dd824.org/ So come visit the site and join in on some of the discussions. The Historian was presented the following items A DDE lighter that was given to us by a military memorabilia dealer, a brass plaque that hung in the quarterdeck that was purchased for us by Marc Siudut, some pictures and a parade banner from the 2005 John Basilone Parade, which I and George Christenson marched in. We also purchased a book about John Basilone that deals mostly with his life in Raritan. It is in the association archives. It was decided that next year we would have white golf shirts, some with and some without pockets, at the next reunion, it was also decided to get decals for the ships' patches made up for the next reunion. We have renewed the domain name and website contracts which are good until

next October. We discussed several items concerning Tin Can Sailors such as the message board they host for us. We talked about getting a plaque at the Navy Memorial but the price tag was more than we could afford. So the 2 above-mentioned items are currently tabled. We approved the following donations. \$250.00 to Tin Can Sailors and \$500.00 to the John Basilone Foundation. The Basilone Foundation used our donation to help a Marine family and the Tin Can sailors' uses our donation toward the up keep of the Historic Fleet, especially destroyers like the Kennedy At Battleship Cove in Fall River, Mass. If you are interested in joining Tin Can sailors' drop me a line as I have the forms you'll need. We also gave our shipmate, Richard Hadley, 1 of each kind of ships patch so that he could present them along with a picture of the ship at the dedication of the Basilone Manor Apartments in Buffalo, New York. The ceremony took place November 14th. For those of you that don't know John Basilone was born in Buffalo.

Under the old rules widows and members of the Basilone and Riggi families are associate members and pay no dues, this remains the same. We voted to add to the associate members lists the sons and daughters of those that served on board the ship. If a son or daughter wishes to become an associate member their dues will be \$10.00. They will not have any privileges of a voting member of the association. We are still looking for a Vice President. The Board of Directors has been temporarily trimmed as I serve as the Publication Officer and Roster Coordinator, at this time. We have also temporarily trimmed the Tin Can sailor Webmaster from the list as TCS is having major problems with its' website. We also approved adding the John Basilone Foundation to the disbursement of our monetary funds should the association disband.

Finally, It was voted on that we would have life memberships. After much discussion it was decided that a life membership would be \$100.00 and that yearly dues would remain at \$15.00. On that note DUES IS DUE!!!! Checks should be made payable to the USS Basilone Association and should be mailed to our Treasurer Frank Crouse 3103 Mt Carmel Rd Upperco, MD 21155.

On November 10th between 15 and 20 of us were in Washington D.C. for the First Day Cover ceremony for the Distinguished Marine stamps, of which John Basilone was one of 4. The stamps come in sheetlets of 20 stamps so that there are 5 stamps of each marine on each sheetlet. I have learned that there are no plans to reissue these stamps in the 39-cent format when the postage rates go up in January and that demand has been heavy for this issue.

It is my sad duty to inform you of the passing of the following shipmates during the past year: Abdiel Yingling, Arthur C. Ashe, Perry S. Shrewsbury, Jack Updegraff, Albert Schutz, Leonard (Leo) Blaszczak, Charles (Chuck) Ruzicka, Loren Sommerfeld, James McGinnes, John Maude, Billy Moore, Louis Morgan, Fred Drescher, John Ramsden, Warren Scott, Gerald Coohill, Martin J Huey, John Krahenbuhl, Robert Stuart (CO), Jack Sheltrown, Donald Wensinger, and Steve Naunchik.

During the past year the following shipmates have been found: Edward R Bonn 75-77, William Hansen, Edward Gilson, Jerry Benson, William Byron, Audrey Yingling associate member, Marcel Chamberlin, Richard Kennedy, Larry Bayless, Harry Sharp, Wayne Schamburger 62-64, Tom O'Malley, Philip Short, David Rankin 63-65, Bob Nichols 64-67, Charles Huber 67, Jim Elliott 71-75, Elgin O Woody 64-66, Thomas O'Reilly, Bill Baker 66-69, Rich Dodson 69-70, Henry A Moeller 61-65, Greg Perkins 67, Al Hawley, John Q Stilwell, Lewis Smith, Ray Norris 58-60, Roger Tennysen 69-70,

Charles Fowlkes 75-77, Joseph Py 71-74, William Py 68-70, Joseph Pucciareillo 60-62, Mike Traweek 73-75, Tim Dexter 73-74. If I missed anyone from this list I'm sorry for the oversight.

If you have any comment or suggestions please feel free to contact me and I will be glad to pass it on to the appropriate person.

Just a reminder that the enclosure for the Reunion in September is to be returned to Around the World Tours PO Box 579 Coloma, CA 95613 not to me. Pricing for tours and the hotel will be included in the reunion packets that will be sent out in response to the enclosed questionnaire. Reunion information will also be posted at the association website. If you are even thinking about attending for only an event or 2 be sure to return the form as only those that return the form will get a reunion packet with the finalized tours and their costs. I hope to see you all in September.

Your Shipmate,



Philip E. Poplaski

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On Board 69-70