Philsendolyear 172 = Dec 97?

Dear BASILONE crew member:

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Philip E. Poplaski and I am taking over from Charles Davis as President of our fledgling organization. I served aboard the BASILONE in 1969 & 70. I was a 2nd class engineman and was part of "A" gang.

We had our reunion the weekend of 27 - 29 September in the Somerville, N. J. area where John Basilone grew up. As those of you who were at the reunion 2 years ago know this area does not have a lot going for it as far as things to do go. I am pleased to say that we had more crew members attending this year than we did 2 years ago. We also had more wives and significant others attending this year than 2 years ago. As it was 2 years ago the only really organized things going on were a seafood buffet diner on Friday at the hotel, the Marine Corps Band from Quantico, Virginia concert on Saturday night and the 15th Annual John Basilone Parade on Sunday. The rest of the time was spent getting to know each other and finding out what went on during various times onboard the ship. The crew members this time as last time ranged all the way from Plank Owners to the Decommissioning crew.

We had a small business on Friday the 27th at which Charles Davis resigned as President and I volunteered to take his place for the next 2 years. Several other things that are of interest were discussed and approved by the crew members that were present. The 1st was that the next reunion will take place in late June or early July (tentatively) at Annapolis, Maryland. George "Chris" Christenson is our reunion organizer in Annapolis. As the time for the next reunion nears he will be contacting you to find out if you will attend and send you the pertinent material about hotels and planned tours. "Chris" address is:

George L. Christenson 751 Whitehall Beach Rd. Annapolis, Md. 21401 Phone: 410-757-2313

We also decided that instead of asking for donations to cover expenses that we

would charge dues. Dues is \$10.00 a year and up to 2 years can be paid at one time but larger donations are always appreciated. We have a Treasurer and dues can be sent to him at anytime and his name is Frank Crouse. Frank's address is:

Frank Crouse 9119 Bengal Rd. Randallstown, Md. 21133 Phone:410-655-3182

If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas don't hesitate to contact me. We look forward to seeing you at Annapolis in 1998.

Sincerely,

Philip E. Poplaski

Philip E. Poplaski 113 Old Liverpool Rd. Liverpool, N.Y. 13088

Phone: 315-457-6847