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**USS Basilone
Association**

KENWOOD



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December 2021

Greetings Shipmates and Associate Members,

I will start this letter with an apology to the family of Ronald Jansen. In the last newsletter I misspelled Ronald's last name. I left the N in Jansen.

We gave our usual donation of \$100.00 to the John Basilone Parade committee and we now also have a zoom account for meetings. We also bought a stand up flag.

The Reunion is tentatively set for October the tentative dates are 4-9 or 11-16. Masks will be needed. The reunion will be held in the Nashville area. Dates and places are subject to change. The reunion committee has told me that there will be one surprise for sure and possibly a second one also. The surprise or surprises will be in the next newsletter. The reunion committee hopes to have the necessary information out by the end of January or early February.

Dues is due. It's still the same \$25.00 for a year and \$125.00 for a life membership. Dues can be mailed to Fred Gehrisch at 5640 Whistling Cove Rd Gainesville, Ga 30504. We are a 509c19 organization non-profit and any donations are tax exempt.

USS John Basilone DDG122. As most of you know the new USS John Basilone is in the works in Bath, Maine. If you go to the website (ussbasilone.org) and click on the USS Basilone DDG 122 tab in the menu bar you will see the information that we have gathered from various sources over time. As we receive information it will be posted here.

We will have a registration page which will ask for your name and e-mail address if you are interested in attending the christening and/or the commissioning ceremonies. The purpose of this page is to let the Navy know approximately how many former Basilone crewmen might attend. When this page is activated, a message will be posted on the home pigeon how to access it. This will be set up soon so be on the lookout for it on the website. Once the times and places for the christening and commissioning are known, those who signed up will be e-mailed that information.

The ships' storekeeper is offering a 20% discount on all DDE 824 merchandise on a first come first served basis. A list of the items available is attached to the newsletter. You can download an order form from the ship's store page.

During your COVID cleaning if you came across something that could be used as a door prize at the reunion bring it with you.

On another note I was surfing the web and came across a site that mentioned the the navy tug Navaho towed the Basilone from Orange, Texas to the yard in Boston.

We are always looking for stuff from the ship like POD's, family grams and other stuff. Ralph Giancursio IC2 66-68 came up with photo of the damage to Mount 51. The picture can be seen in the photo section in the Mount 51 section. Ralph says the damaged was caused after a gunnery exercise off Block Island. The gun was apparently never was recentered and still pointed to starboard when a wave crashed into Mount and pretty much destroyed it. Apparently there was some flooding. Ralph is standing by the mount.

Jim Geiger has given us an unusual item that has been in his care for nearly 40 years. Those of us that were Snipes (engineers) knew this item, it's the astern steam valve wheel. This is how he got it. In the early 80's he ran into BTC Turner in Newport. The Chief and Jim were on the Basilone together and when the chief knew that the Basilone would never get underway on her own power the chief took the wheel and put in the trunk of his car and rode around with it for several years. The Chief offered it to Jim who accepted it. It's been out in the back of Jim's house for 20 years and the red paint is mostly gone because it was outside. Jim mentioned that he remembers that it was the only valve wheel painted red. Jim also informed me that he has the handle to the ship's whistle from the bridge but that is another story for another time and maybe someday we'll get it.

On another note I got a call from Charlie Germershausen SA 74-75 asking me to put out a reminder that we are all subject to mesothelioma. He has been recently diagnosed with it and he wanted the guys that slept in the first division berthing compartment with the white lagging dust that they are still susceptible to it.

On a sad note we lost the following shipmates this year Eric Lindhal, Lester Fleeger, Alfredo Dalao, Jim O'Brien, Ken Grabarczyk, Bill Gill, Ken Haske, Millard Brimmer, Charles Day, Joseph Angello, Louis Minafra, Troy Barber, Lloyd Blackwell, Andrew Zeller, Vincent Campbell, Melvin Thiekle, Donald Miller, Thomas Ross, Michael Norrell, John Viola, JR, Ellis Eichmann, Eugene McCarthy, Reginald Bolton, Douglas Strang, and David Polzien.

On a more pleasant note we have found the following shipmates Paul Lazrovitch, Ronald Frey, Carl Johnson, John Fitzgibbon, Steven Schoch. Dwayne Black, Patrick Shelmadine, Burnie Chambers, Donald Dobson and Edwin Kounger.

If you happen to be in contact with any of our old shipmates or know of any that have passed away. Drop us their contact information, if living or their name if deceased.

We hope to see you at the next reunion in Nashville this fall.

Your Shipmate,



Phil Poplaski

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November 8, 2021

Ship's Store Sale

All **DDE** merchandise is 20% off. Buy a shirt and get a free DDE patch or DESRON 36 patch while supplies last.

If you purchase one shirt, you can purchase a second shirt for 30% off.

Below is a list of the **DDE** merchandise that we have in stock. Please use the ship's store order form and when purchasing a shirt indicate which patch you would like.

Item	Size	Qty in stock	Old Price	Sale Price
Shirt Polo White - DDE with Pocket	Med	1	\$31.00	\$24.80
Shirt Polo White - DDE no Pocket	Large	3	\$31.00	\$24.80
Shirt Polo White - DDE no Pocket	XL	2	\$31.00	\$24.80
Shirt Polo Navy - DDE with Pocket	Med	2	\$31.00	\$24.80
Shirt Polo Navy - DDE with Pocket	Large	2	\$31.00	\$24.80
Shirt Polo Navy - DDE With Pocket	XL	2	\$31.00	\$24.80
Jacket DDE	Large	1	\$51.00	\$40.80
Jacket DDE	XL	1	\$51.00	\$40.80
T' Shirts White DDE/DD 824 (no pkt)	Large	8	\$25.00	\$20.00
T' Shirts DDE/DD 824 (no pkt)	XL	1	\$25.00	\$20.00
Coffee Cup - DDE		4	\$6.00	\$4.80
DDE Patch		28	\$10.00	\$8.00
DESRON 36 Patch		18	\$10.00	\$8.00
DDE Ball Cap		1	\$15.00	\$12.00

Download the order form from the Ship's Store page on the Basilone Website to place your order.