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USS Basilone Association



DD

December 2023

Greetings Shipmates, Associate Members and the crew of the DDG 122.

I would like to start this letter by welcoming the crew of the new USS John Basilone DDG 122 to the association. We hope that you enjoy being part of the association.

As most of you know we had planned on having our reunion last year with the Tin Can Sailors in the Baltimore area. Well, it didn't happen. We're not sure why we had so few sign ups - health, money, been to the area too many times and I'm sure there are other reasons. Anyway, we again have lots of questions this year. The reunion committee has picked a place for a possible reunion this year and it is Cincinnati, Ohio. A possible date is sometime in October.

However, that can go down the drain as we are still awaiting info as to when and where the commissioning of DDG 122 will take place. As of now that puts a possible reunion up the stack as rumors have the commissioning anywhere in August or September. Depending on sea trials, the commissioning date could be earlier or later. After talking with Geoff Bender, who was our contact man for the christening events he told me he only had 8 weeks to get everything done for the christening. Geoff thinks if we have that same 8 week time frame for the commissioning it's not long enough to put together a proper reunion. Look to the website for updated info about the commissioning. So, all we DDE/DD 824 sailors can do is try to attend to honor both the old and new USS John Basilone.

Dues is due. The amount is still the same \$25.00 for a year, \$125.00 for a life membership. DDG 122 members do not have to pay dues. Dues and donations can be sent to our treasurer:

Fred Gehrisch
5640 Whistling Cove Rd
Gainesville, GA 30504.

Dues help our association to stay afloat and we are seeing less dues coming into our association each year even though new members are registering. If you like the information you receive on our website, please support the association. If you have not submitted your annual dues for a while, now is the time to help us.

Special thanks to Frenchy Gagnon and Geoff Bender for donating to the special commissioning project.

The association officers will continue on as before.

We have received several items of ships' memorabilia. The first item is various letters from our shipmate Don Patterson who started us with the parade as well as letters from other shipmates and interested parties during the 80's. Phil Poplaski found an old Cruiser-Destroyermen magazine in his stuff with an article called Thar She Blips. It was about trying to bounce sonar off biologics (whales). Robert Simmons's daughter, Barbara, contacted us about donating several plaques of her father's from the DDE era. The most interesting that we got was from Phil Lutz. It was about the first around the world cruise. It lists where the ship went but the most fascinating part was the statistics. When the letter was written the ship had traveled 30,000 miles and at the end of the cruise would have travelled 46,000 miles. She had

24 refueling at sea and 21 underway replenishments. She fired 2,541 shells in gunfire support. I seem to remember that we may have a family gram from the second around the world cruise that may list the same or more info like Phil gave us.

It is my sad duty to inform you of the passing of the following shipmates: Jack Price, Ted Kinnear, Edward Orsulak, Peter D'Arrigo, Robert Reneau, Richard Wiseman, Fred Clements, Ronald Trzekowski, James Carroll, Vere Koski, Richard Beisner, Bryceton V. Scott, JR, Louis Spadaro, Elwood Enders, Samuel Kay, Charles Benko, David Harding, Raymond Norris, Jack C. Young, Robert Thomas, French Johnson, Paul Straughan, Richard Kelley, Robert Simmons, Thomas Poulyon, Earnest Griffin and Ellen Christenson wife of Chris. Their names will be read at the next memorial service.

On a happier note, we have found the following shipmates from all eras: Paul Richeson, Michael Oberman, Gary Blivens, James Barrett, Broderick Syhal, Jahnesa Huey, Alexander Cook, Dennis Fornier, Thomas Rees, Monte Rhodes, Lydon Wilson, Evan Ripple, Zach Townley, Jason Soto, Xavier Rodriguez, Derrick Foster, Terry Stephon, Evan King, Nolan Wright, Xzavier Roberson, Michael Young Ray Scarboro, Larry Brown, Dennis Schroder, Thomas Winebrenner and Joseph Goodwin.

Here's hoping to see you at the DDG 122 commissioning or a reunion.

Your Shipmate,

Phil Poplaski
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