

**BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION**



March 2016

Greetings Shipmates:

It's been too long since the last newsletter and we apologize. We hope everyone is doing well and winter hasn't been too bad where you live.

Our host this year is Don Johnson. He has put together an excellent itinerary for the reunion in San Diego. The reunion will be at the Four Points Hotel. Reservation and reunion information are on the following pages. **Note that the deadline for reservations is July 1, 2016.** If you do not make your reservation by then, you may not get the reunion price. You should make a reservation. You can always cancel if for some reason you won't be able to attend.

If you are in contact with a shipmate who is not on the roster, please send us the name and address so we can add him and send newsletters. A lot of guys have told us they were out and about wearing their ship's baseball cap and were approached by someone who also served aboard. So if you have a cap, be sure to wear it! If you don't have one and would like to order one, ordering information is on the last page of this newsletter. They are also available at reunions.

If you're on Facebook, please join the USS Porterfield group page. It's a place where you can keep up with your shipmates. Lots of photos posted there. Family members are also welcome. Just type USS Porterfield in the search box and click on "ask to be added" when you get to the page. There is also a lot of useful information on the page about Asbestos and Agent Orange exposure and filing claims with the VA. Several guys have been successful and are willing to help others negotiate the red tape. If you're not on Facebook and would like to be, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and sign up. It's easy and free.

If you know of a shipmate or the wife of a shipmate who is ill or has passed away, please let us know.

**\*\* IMPORTANT \*\***

**If your address or email address has changed, please be sure to send us the change as soon as possible. Each time we send out newsletters, we get several mail and email returns. Some of the mail returns have new addresses, but many don't. Postage is a large expense for the association, so returns are costly. If there is no forwarding address, we have to remove that person from our mailing list. If an email gets returned, we then have to add that person to the list of people to receive paper copies, increasing postage costs.**

Fair winds and smooth sailing,  
Jim & Pat Siler



U.S.S. BALCH DD363



U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682

## Reunion 2016—San Diego, CA

Four Points Hotel San Diego  
8110 Aero Drive  
San Diego, CA

Reservations: 858-810-5616 (John Cruz), be sure to mention the Balch-Porterfield Reunion

Dates: September 11-17, 2016

Room Rates (taxes and service charges are not included):

Single \$109.00

Double \$119.00

Rates are good three nights before and three nights after the reunion.

Breakfast is included.

The hotel has free shuttle service to and from the airport.

### The 41st Annual Balch/Porterfield Reunion

San Diego California – the root of it all. The USS Balch/USS Porterfield reunion once again returns to San Diego the week of September 11, 2016.

Our hope is that this reunion will be remembered by one and all as truly memorable and meaningful – for the sailors ... for the families ... for friends. We all have roots in San Diego ... proud US Navy roots. These two proud US Navy Destroyers, DD-363 and DD-682 and the sailors who served on them sailed in and out of San Diego Harbor to far flung places in the world in defense of liberty, whether in keeping the peace or actively defending liberty in times of war. Many, as young men and proud sailors, started families in San Diego. Many went home after serving ... to Nebraska, to Minnesota, to Montana, to New York and elsewhere in this far-flung nation. Some stayed in San Diego and began a new life there helping to build a fine city. Some came to our country from foreign lands and served in our military forces and on our ships – some even returned to live in the very nations they came from and the very nations they helped liberate from tyranny. So no matter where you now call home, we ask that you remember that San Diego was once home to you and that you will return and enjoy San Diego and one another once more. Your home address may have been National City, Chula Vista, North Park, San Diego – or DD-363 or DD-682, but remember your roots in San Diego.

We have an excellent week lined up for you in September with fine hotel accommodations and tours that will take you to see how “Americas Finest City” has grown and changed since last you saw her. You will be given a grand view of that magnificent harbor you sailed in and out of so many times. We will be remembering those who have passed-on with a memorial service on top of Mt. Soledad around a proud and memorable veteran’s memorial having the names of many veterans who served this nation, and many who gave that full measure of sacrifice. You will see and tour the USS Midway, perhaps the finest naval ship museum in the nation. You will see close-up, the memorial to Taffy-3, and the role of heroic “Destroyer men” in that extraordinary Battle off Samar -- considered by many to be the story of the U.S. Navy’s finest hour.

So please join us and help honor the memory of those two fine ships and the men who served on them – and to the families left behind in perilous times.

### Reunion Summary

**On Sunday**, we will begin to arrive and sign in at the Quarterdeck. We’ll pick up our name badges, program booklets and other information. The Quarterdeck will be the hub of the reunion, where we’ll gather to visit and share sea stories and also catch up with what we’ve been up to since the last reunion. If you have any photos and other memorabilia, please feel free to bring them (be sure to put your name on them so you will get them back).

**On Monday**, there’ll be a Board of Director’s meeting and in the evening a welcome dinner. In the past there has been a buffet, but we have arranged something a bit different this time. We’ll have pizzas and salad.

**On Tuesday**, there'll be a tour and then a free evening.

**Tour 1.** Narrated City Tour & Luncheon. Departs the hotel **Tuesday September 13@ 0930** Returning back by 1430.

- Includes Coronado, with a panoramic view from the Coronado bridge, with a stop at the Del Coronado Hotel, Balboa Park, the Gaslamp, downtown, with its renovated late 1800 buildings,
- There will be a stop at Seaport Village with time to browse, purchase a cup of coffee or some postcards.
- The luncheon will be on scenic Shelter Island; the menu will allow choosing from several different entrees, along with dessert and coffee or iced tea. The food and service are excellent.
- The view is one of San Diego's finest, overlooking the harbor and the city skyline.
- After lunch we will proceed to Cabrillo Monument with time to explore on foot. The elevation is 610 feet above sea level with a sweeping view of the Pacific Ocean, and San Diego, looking south to Mexico.

***The all-inclusive price per person is \$70.00.***

**On Wednesday**, there'll be a tour as well and then a free evening

**Tour 2.** USS Midway, Two hour narrated Harbor Excursion, and Box luncheon on board the cruise. Departs the hotel **Wednesday September 14 @ 0900** Returns by 1530.

- The Midway opens at 10:00AM -- with advanced tickets there is no waiting in lines. Everyone also receives a complimentary light weight audio set. This allows the group to fan out on their own, visiting their favorite exhibits. The Midway is a wonderful Naval museum.
- In a park beside the Midway is a memorial to TAFFY 3, a heroic Destroyer unit that engaged and turned back a far superior Japanese fleet at the battle off Samar. Porterfield was part of Admiral Halsey's 3'rd Fleet in support of the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Our WW-II sailors, as well as others, will enjoy seeing that memorial to the heroic sailors and ships of that battle.
- At noon we board the coach and travel a short distance to enjoy a two hour narrated harbor excursion, passing by five military installations. During the tour, everyone will enjoy a box lunch at their leisure, with dessert and beverage.
- Before the final mooring of the cruise, the ship passes by the bow of the Midway, for another special photo opportunity. (The Midway is handicap friendly with elevators and park benches.)

***The all-inclusive price per person is \$70.00.***

**On Thursday**, our tour will include our Memorial Service. After the tour, we will have a free evening.

**Tour 3.** La Jolla Tour, Mount Soledad, Stephen Birch Aquarium, Lunch at Tom Ham's Lighthouse restaurant. Departs the hotel **Thursday September 15 @ 0900** and Returns by 1430.

- The first stop will be at the one of a kind, the Veteran's Memorial, at the top of Mount Soledad; it is 900 feet above sea level, with a 360 degree panoramic view of San Diego. It is here at this veteran's memorial that we will have our Memorial Service with time to explore up close and have some terrific photo ops.
- We will then proceed through La Jolla, by the scenic Cove and the coast line, making our way over to the Stephen Birch Aquarium, one of the finest salt water aquariums on the west coast. There will be an hour to enjoy up close and more scenic views from the back terrace of the aquarium, overlooking the La Jolla Riviera.
- The luncheon will be at Tom Ham's Lighthouse restaurant, located on Harbor Island, with a postcard perfect view. The food and service, again, are both excellent.

***The all-inclusive price per person is \$70.00.***

**On Friday**, we will have our business meeting and raffle. If you plan to participate in the raffle, please bring an item. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. In the evening, we will have a cocktail hour and our banquet.

**On Saturday**, we end the reunion with a farewell breakfast.

## Financial Report for 2015

<u>Item</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Balance October 31, 2014			\$ 12,371.00
<u>Income - non-reunion related</u>			
Cap & Decal sales		\$ 274.00	
Donations		<u>\$ 250.00</u>	
Total non-reunion related income		\$ 524.00	
Balance			\$ 12,895.00
<u>Expenses - non-reunion related</u>			
Cap expenses	\$ 227.00		
Newsletter - printing & postage	\$ 816.00		
Plaque engraving	\$ 165.00		
Pens (printed w/association name)	<u>\$ 209.00</u>		
Total non-reunion related expenses	\$ 1,417.00		
Balance			\$ 11,478.00
<u>Reunion Income</u>			
Registrations		\$ 280.00	
Kitty		\$ 1,475.00	
Raffle		\$ 215.00	
50/50		\$ 85.00	
Silent Auction		\$ 150.00	
Activities		<u>\$ 7,591.00</u>	
Total reunion income		\$ 9,796.00	
Balance			\$ 21,274.00
<u>Reunion Expenses</u>			
Monday night banquet	\$ 2,372.00		
Friday night banquet	\$ 2,293.00		
Friday entertainment	\$ 200.00		
Tuesday activities	\$ 252.00		
Thursday activities	\$ 672.00		
Bus	\$ 1,521.00		
Quarterdeck food & beverage	\$ 625.00		
College of the Ozarks	\$ 150.00		
Reimbursements	<u>\$ 448.00</u>		
Total reunion expenses	\$ 8,533.00		
Bank balance October 31, 2015			\$ 12,741.00

### **Additions to the Roster**

Michael Allomong, P, BMSN, 63-64  
288 N Hartford St. Apt. 2  
Chandler, AZ 85225  
mallomong@cox.net

Leo Armenta, P, GMG3, 65-69  
1801 Aspen St.  
Broomfield, CO 80020  
lwarmenta@comcast.net

Adam von Dioszeghy, LTjg (ASW Officer), 64-67  
Lives in Budapest, Hungary  
adamandaliz@yahoo.com

Rufus Graham, P, SN, 66  
7833 The Lakes Dr  
Fairburn, GA 30213  
313-268-0610  
rbgra14@sbcglobal.net

John "Jack" Hix, P, FTG3, 65-66  
1973 Fairlee Dr.  
Encinitas, CA 92024

### **Additions to the Memorial List**

Dale H. Bitton, P, BM, 51-52  
John Blumenthal, P, MM2, 43-46  
Kent Carmain, B, TM, 42-43  
James T. Franklin, P, MMC, 52-55 & 67  
Robert Gewinner, P, GM3, 43-45  
Robert Guerra, B, GM3, 42-43  
Donald A. Hamilton, P, BMC, 52-53

Brian Hoffman, P, SN, 51-53  
William Marinese, B, GM2, 43-45  
Donald Pennington, P, RD3, 56-57  
Philip Poff, P, SO3, 53  
Ray Stikeleather, P, RD2, 51-54  
James Webber, P, Sonarman 67-71 ?

Mary Caetano, widow of Joe Caetano, P, SM2, 43-45  
Mary Sanford, wife of Phil Sanford, P, BT3, 64-66  
Shirley Vogel, widow of Norman Vogel, B, RMD2, 42-45

### **Change of Address**

Donald Bartels, P, LT, 66  
1742 Parkland Dr  
College Station, TX 71845  
409-722-7014

Charles Clark  
13561 Petite Dr.  
Maurepas, LA 70449-5423

Richard Gurnett  
15626 Poppypeed Ln.  
Canyon Country, CA 91387-1850

Robert P. Hutchins  
PO Box 113  
Bickleton, WA 99322-0113

Carol Laycock (widow of Cliff)  
496 W 350 S Unit C  
Springville, UT 84663-5815  
801-515-6044

Paul Thunstrom, P, CSSN, 61-65  
178 Meadow Ln. Apt 202  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Please fill out all the information below and return with your check, payable to Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association to Tom Hamilton, 17004 Doty Road, New Haven, IN 46774-9726.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Sunday, September 11, 2016</b>	<b>\$ per Person</b>	<b># of People</b>	<b>\$ Total</b>
1300	Quarterdeck opens Pick up name badges, programs, etc.	Registration: Kitty:	\$5.00 \$25.00	
	Free afternoon and evening.			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	<b>Monday, September 12, 2016</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
TBA	Board of Directors' Meeting			
1730	Quarterdeck closes			
1800	Cocktail hour, followed by pizza party.	\$32.00		
	<b>Tuesday, September 13, 2016</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
0930	City Tour, return to hotel 1430 (includes lunch)	\$70.00		
	Free evening			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	<b>Wednesday, September 14, 2016</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
0900	USS Midway, harbor cruise, return 1530 (includes box lunch)	\$70.00		
	Free evening			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	<b>Thursday, September 15, 2016</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
0900	La Jolla tour, Memorial Service at Mt. Soledad (includes lunch)	\$70.00		
	Return by 1430, followed by a free evening			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	<b>Friday, September 16, 2016</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
TBD	Business meeting and raffle			
1700	Quarterdeck closes			
1830	Cocktail hour			
1900	Banquet (choose one option below)			
	Steak__ Chicken__ Salmon__	\$44.00		
	Saturday, September 17, 2016			
0800	Farewell breakfast			
	<b>Total Amount of Check</b>			\$

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rate/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Years: 19\_\_ 19\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first reunion? Yes \_\_ No\_\_ Will you be staying at the hotel: Yes\_\_ No\_\_

Please fill out this form and return it to Don Johnson, 382 Central Ave., New Haven, CT. 06515.

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Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first reunion? Yes \_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Will you be staying at the hotel: Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

## Contact Information

Jim Siler, Secretary  
Pat Siler  
835 Claybanks Drive  
Callaway, VA 24067-4524

Email Jim: [jwsilerbtc@gmail.com](mailto:jwsilerbtc@gmail.com)  
Email Pat: [silerpugs@yahoo.com](mailto:silerpugs@yahoo.com)  
  
Phone/Fax: 540-483-5727

Tom Hamilton, Treasurer

Email: [twrahamil2000@hotmail.com](mailto:twrahamil2000@hotmail.com)  
Phone: 260-632-4019  
(cell) 260-415-3555

Don Johnson, 2016 Reunion Host  
382 Central Ave.  
New Haven, CT 06515

Email: [DonJohnsonDD682@live.com](mailto:DonJohnsonDD682@live.com)  
Phone: 619-459-0612

## Website (<http://www.balch-porterfield.org>)

Pat Siler is the webmaster. She is planning to overhaul the site, so please have patience while this is being done. If there is anyone with experience and would be interested in working with the photo gallery on the website, please contact Pat.

Newsletters are posted on the website. Email notifications are sent out when a new one is posted. The crew roster page is being updated and we hope to have it online soon.

## Facebook

We're on Facebook. Type USS Porterfield in the search box and click to get to the page. Then look for "ask to be added" at the right. We'll add you and then you can start having fun. You're welcome to post photos, which everyone loves to see. And there's some useful information regarding dealing with the VA in getting disability for Agent Orange and Asbestos exposure. Family members are also welcome to join the group.

## Baseball Caps

We have baseball caps for sale. The price is \$12.00, which includes shipping. Please indicate which ship you were on. We have solid cloth and mesh back caps available. Please indicate which you prefer. To purchase, send a check payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association** payable to James W. Siler, Jr. at the address above. Caps are available at reunions as well.

## Patches and Decals

We have two patches and a decal for sale. The first patch, with the Pacific Ocean globe with Pride of the Pacific on it, was issued during the Korean Conflict (price \$4.00) and the second patch, with a seahorse and trident came out in the 60s (price \$5.00). The decal is the same design as the 60s patch, with the seahorse and trident (price \$3.00). Please note the increase in price for the 60s patch and decal. We've had to order new at an increased price. To purchase, send a check payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association** to Jim Siler at the address above. Patches and decals are available at reunions as well.