

  
**BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION**

April, 2017

Greetings Shipmates and Families.

The 2017 reunion in Jacksonville, FL has been finalized. Sign-up sheets are included in this newsletter. We are hoping for a large turnout. Our hosts are John & Desiree Bryan. If you attended the Kerrville, TX reunion a few years ago, which they hosted, you know they did a great job and will do a great job for this one.

DoubleTree by Hilton Riverfront  
1201 Riverplace Blvd  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Reserve by Phone: 800-222-8733 (Mention Balch-Porterfield Reunion or Group Code UBP)

Reserve Online: [https://secure3.hilton.com/en\\_US/dt/reservation/bookhtm?](https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/dt/reservation/bookhtm?inputMod-)

[inputMod-ule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=JAXJRDT&spec\\_plan=CDTUBP&arrival=20170907&departure=20170918&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT](https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/dt/reservation/bookhtm?inputMod-ule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=JAXJRDT&spec_plan=CDTUBP&arrival=20170907&departure=20170918&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT)

Reservation Cut-Off Date: by midnight August 11, 2017.

Room rate: \$109.00 for single or double, which is good for three days before and three days after.

This includes a discounted breakfast coupon for \$12.50 per person, complimentary self-parking

The reunion runs from Sunday, September 10 through Saturday, September 16.

- Sunday will be the day to check in, pick up your name badges and welcome packets, and to sit back and visit old and new friends.
- Monday will be a free day. There will be a Board of Director's meeting at some point during the day. In the evening we will have our welcome buffet, which will be "Low Country" (dishes representative of Jacksonville). There will be entertainment following the dinner.
- On Tuesday, we will tour Naval Station Mayport, followed by lunch and the Anheuser-Bush Brewery. We'll have a free evening.
- On Wednesday, there will be a tour of historic St. Augustine, with lunch on your own and a shopping opportunity in the pedestrian only area. We'll have a free evening.
- On Thursday, our Memorial Service will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Wall, followed by a Jacksonville city tour and lunch. In the evening we will attend the Alhambra Dinner Theater for dinner and a show.
- On Friday, we'll have a free morning, our business meeting and raffle in the afternoon and our banquet and entertainment in the evening.
- On Saturday morning will be our farewell breakfast.



**U.S.S. BALCH DD363**



**U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682**

Jim and I attended a reunion for another ship last year at this hotel. The hotel and staff are excellent. We suggest asking for a riverfront room. The view of the river and downtown Jacksonville just across the river are spectacular. If you're lucky, you might see dolphins frolicking in the river! There is a Riverwalk along the river that is really nice.

The website address for the hotel is: <http://www.doubletreejax.com/>. There you will find pictures and amenities.

Note: The hotel doesn't have shuttle service from the airport. You might want to coordinate arrival times with friends and share a cab. Below are three cab companies that received excellent ratings from customers. There are several more, just Google Taxi Service in Jacksonville, FL.

A Team Taxi Service  
4251 University Blvd S Ste 102, Jacksonville, FL 32216  
(904) 443-7100

Omni Cab  
1381 Cassat Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32205  
(904) 639-6363

Angela's Taxi  
11534 E Ride Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32223  
(904) 300-8785

**\*\* 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

### **Additions to Roster**

No additions at this time.

### **Additions to Memorial List**

Gifford, Charles L.  
P, RM3, 64-66  
Date of death unknown

Palumbo, Arthur  
B, SN1/c, 43-46  
Died October, 22, 2008

Robison, Gaylen L.  
P, GMGSN, 56-60  
Died January 15, 2017

Turpin, Lander H.  
B, MMC, 38-44  
Died April 17, 2009

### **Spouse(s) Who Have Passed Away**

Robison, Idonna  
Wife of Gaylon L. Robison  
Died August 28, 2014

### **Address Changes, etc.**

Gunter, Jess R.  
P, GM2, 52-54  
2405 Danciger Ln.  
Cedar Park, TX 78613-1595

Howard, Denis  
P, E3, 61-63  
3765 Saratoga Ave.  
Lk Havasu City, AZ 86406-6280

Hutchins, Robert B.  
P, BTFN, 65-68  
PO Box 1142  
Long Beach, WA 98631-1142

Perri, Leonard R. "Bob"  
B, YN3, 43-44  
187 Washington St.  
Carbondale, PA 18407-2454

Piazza, Anthony J. "Tony"  
P, SK3, 52-54  
1528 Katy Gap Rd.  
Katy, TX 77494-7406  
832-427-1740  
832-437-3529

Turley, Theodore "Ted"  
P, 65-67  
517 Riverside Dr.  
Chesapeake, OH 45619-1027

### **Postal Returns with No Forwarding Address**

Bruno, Frank  
B, TM3, 43-45

Koslowski, Frank  
B, MM2, 42-45

Please complete all **the information below** and return with your check, payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Assn. to Tom Hamilton, 17004 Doty Rd., New Haven, IN 46774-9726.**

Time		\$ per Person	# of People	\$ Total
<b>Sunday, September 10, 2017</b>				
1300 (1p)	Quarterdeck opens Pick up name badges, programs, etc. Free afternoon and evening	Registration: \$5.00 Kitty: \$25.00		
2200 (10p)	Quarterdeck closes			
<b>Monday, September 11, 2017</b>				
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens Free day			
TBD	Board of Directors' meeting			
1700 (5p)	Quarterdeck closes	\$60.00		
1800 (6p)	Welcome Buffet—Low Country Foods—Entertainment			
<b>Tuesday, September 12, 2017</b>				
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
0830 (8:30a)	Naval Station Mayport Tour, Lunch. Anheuser-Busch Brewery	\$69.00		
1600 (4p)	Return to hotel Free evening			
2200 (10p)	Quarterdeck closes			
<b>Wednesday, September 13, 2017</b>				
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
0915 (9:15a)	St. Augustine Historic Tour (lunch on your own, shopping)	\$59.00		
1600 (4p)	Return to hotel Free evening			
2200 (10p)	Quarterdeck closes			
<b>Thursday, September 14, 2017</b>				
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
0930 (9:30a)	Memorial Service, Veterans Wall Memorial, City Tour, Lunch	\$69.00		
1330 (1:30p)	Return to hotel			
1745 (5:45p)	Alhambra Dinner Theater	\$69.00		
2245 (10:45p)	Return to hotel			
2200 (10p)	Quarterdeck closes			
<b>Friday, September 15, 2017</b>				
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
1300 (1p)	Business Meeting & Raffle			
1700 (5p)	Quarterdeck closes	C: \$45	___	
1800 (6p)	Banquet and entertainment (check one) Grilled Chicken__ \$45, Grilled Salmon__ \$51, Prime Rib__ \$55	S: \$51 PR: \$55	___ ___	
<b>Saturday, September 16, 2017</b>				
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
0730 (7:30a)	Farewell Breakfast			
	<b>Total \$</b>			

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rate/Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Years 19 to 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 complete **all the information** below and return to **John & Desiree Bryan, 2644 Rosewood Ct., Orange Park, FL, 32065.**

Time		\$ per Person	# of People	\$ Total
<b>Sunday, September 10, 2017</b>				
1300 (1p)	Quarterdeck opens Pick up name badges, programs, etc. Free afternoon and evening	Registration: Kitty:	\$5.00 \$25.00	
2200 (10p)	Quarterdeck closes			
<b>Monday, September 11, 2017</b>				
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens Free day			
TBD	Board of Directors' meeting			
1700 (5p)	Quarterdeck closes	\$60.00		
1800 (6p)	Welcome Buffet—Low Country Foods—Entertainment			
<b>Tuesday, September 12, 2017</b>				
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
0830 (8:30a)	Naval Station Mayport Tour, Lunch. Anheuser-Busch Brewery	\$69.00		
1600 (4p)	Return to hotel Free evening			
2200 (10p)	Quarterdeck closes			
<b>Wednesday, September 13, 2017</b>				
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
0915 (9:15a)	St. Augustine Historic Tour (lunch on your own, shopping)	\$59.00		
1600 (4p)	Return to hotel Free evening			
2200 (10p)	Quarterdeck closes			
<b>Thursday, September 14, 2017</b>				
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
0930 (9:30a)	Memorial Service, Veterans Wall Memorial, City Tour, Lunch	\$69.00		
1330 (1:30p)	Return to hotel			
1745 (5:45p)	Alhambra Dinner Theater	\$69.00		
2245 (10:45p)	Return to hotel			
2200 (10p)	Quarterdeck closes			
<b>Friday, September 15, 2017</b>				
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
1300 (1p)	Business Meeting & Raffle			
1700 (5p)	Quarterdeck closes	C: \$45	_____	
1800 (6p)	Banquet and entertainment (check one) Grilled Chicken__\$45, Grilled Salmon__\$51, Prime Rib__\$55	S: \$51 PR: \$55	_____ _____	
<b>Saturday, September 16, 2017</b>				
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
0730 (7:30a)	Farewell Breakfast			
	<b>Total \$</b>			

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

## 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

**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 pages are being updated.

## 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.