


BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION

March 2011

Greetings Shipmates:

We hope everyone got through the winter unscathed. For most of the US, the winter was quite stormy and, as I write this, there is widespread flooding in the northeast.

We have most of the Williamsburg, VA reunion events set up but don't have the final prices yet. I'll list the events below. Here is the information for the hotel. You may make your reservations now.

Lexington George Washington Inn & Conference Center
500 Merrimac Trail
Williamsburg, VA 23185
757-220-1410
\$74.00 per night plus tax
Reunion rate available 2 days before and after reunion.
September 11-17, 2011

Events

- Sunday – Check in
- Monday – Free day, Board meeting, Welcome Buffet
- Tuesday – Tour Jamestown Landing & Settlement, Memorial Service at Jamestown
- Wednesday – Free day to explore Colonial Williamsburg on your own or shop
 - Local Transit Buses (\$1) available from hotel
- Thursday – Tour of Norfolk Naval Base & visit Mariner's Museum
- Friday – Business Meeting & Raffle, Grand Banquet
- Saturday – Farewell breakfast

The next newsletter will contain sign-up sheets with dates, times and prices.

Williamsburg is a beautiful city with a rich history. Jamestown and Yorktown are nearby. There is ample opportunity for shopping and dining. Most restaurants are some distance from the hotel but there are transit buses and we can provide directions for those who have cars. The hotel has a restaurant as well.



U.S.S. BALCH DD363



U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682

Mini-Reunion

The Mini-Reunion will be held on Memorial Day weekend as usual. Sam Thomas has all the arrangements set.

Y.O. Ranch Resort Hotel
2033 Sidney Baker
Kerrville, TX 78028
Tel: 830-257-4440
Fax: 830-896-8189
Dates: May 27-June 4, 2011
Rates: May 27-June 1 - \$92.00 (single), \$92.00 (double)
June 2-4 - \$89.00 (single), \$89.00 (double)
Tax: 6% state, 7% city

The plan is to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Nimitz Memorial.

Nimitz Memorial Walk of Honor

Every year over Memorial Day weekend, members of the association meet for a mini-reunion in Texas. Part of the mini reunion is a trip to the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg. The Balch and Porterfield are represented there with plaques.

There is a "Walk of Honor" at the Nimitz Museum. Below is an order form if you'd like to have a brick in the walk.

BRICK ORDER													
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State, Zip _____													
Phone _____													

Walk of Honor Brick Name Pavers

Honor those who have served in our nation's military-- and those in domestic, industrial, or civilian efforts who supported them-- by sponsoring an engraved brick paver in the Walk of Honor. A \$100 donation allows for three lines, with 14 spaces each, of engraving on a 4 x 8 inch brick paver. When the brick is installed, you will receive a certificate letting you know where the brick is located. Please mail the form on the left to: The Admiral Nimitz Foundation, 328 E. Main, Fredericksburg, TX, 78624 or e-mail kaderli@nimitzfoundation.org. Checks to The Admiral Nimitz Foundation or VISA and MasterCard are accepted.



I have begun work on the website. At this point, I've revised the main page and have reunion information on the page. My next project is to update the Roster and Memorial List. It will take some time, so please be patient.

In the last newsletter, I left out one addition to the Memorial List. David Lee (RD3, 53-56), who attended several reunions, passed away on September 28, 2010. My apologies to his wife Sheila for not getting it into the January newsletter.

If you know of anyone who served aboard the Balch or the Porterfield who isn't a member, please send us any information you can about him. 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!

A couple of our shipmates live in New Zealand. I've been in contact with Dan Brown. He doesn't live on the island where the quake happened, thank goodness.

We had a note from Fred Fleetwood (P, BT3, 63-65). He thanked the group for the plaque and the help while he was Chaplain. He and Patsy have moved to be closer to EMS services, since both have health problems.

We received an email from Randa Anderson, daughter of Sam Thomas and daughter-in-law of June Anderson (widow of Dale, P, MM2, 43-46). She said June had a fall and broke her kneecap. She's doing well. If you'd like to call or send her a card, her address is 4160 Oakridge St., Rocklin, CA 95677, phone: 916-624-5030. Sam also called us to give us updates on a few shipmates. Jack Hanley has been ill and is doing better. He's currently with his son in Georgia but hopes to go home to New York soon. Jack Spradlin is doing OK. Randa told us Jack and Helen have moved back into their home. They'd been in an apartment. Dave Spencer is doing OK.

Don Godfrey (P, LTJG, 58-60) emailed to say that Pat had major surgery after the Salem, OR reunion. The surgery went well and she's feeling much better. He said she now has developed a severe case of the "vapors" (hadn't heard that one in a long time!), feeling very light headed and atrial fibrillations of the heart, which is quite unpleasant. He says it seems to be improving and hopefully will go away. They plan to attend the reunion in Williamsburg. He will combine the trip with the 50th reunion of his FBI New Agents Class in Baltimore.

If you're on Facebook, please join the USS Porterfield group page. It's a place where you can keep up with your shipmates. Family members are also welcome. Just type USS Porterfield in the search box and click Join when you get to the page. If you're not on Facebook and would like to be, go to www.facebook.com and sign up. It's easy and free.

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. If an email gets returned, we then have to add that person to the list of people to receive paper copies, increasing our costs. If those are returned, we have no way of getting newsletters to you. Please check the "returned" section. If you have a new address for anyone on the list, please send it to us.

If you have news about yourself or your shipmates, please let me know so I can include it in newsletters.

We're looking forward to the reunion in September and hope to see a lot of you there.

Address, Email Changes

Rollin Baptist (P, FC33, 43-45)
158 Copper Ridge Rd.
San Ramon, CA 94582-4573

Daryl Crass (P, SN1/c, 51-52)
dlcrass@juno.com

George Davis (B, MM3, 43-44)
6008 Hills Creek Ln.
N Ridgeville, OH 44039-2542

Matt Davis (P, GMG3, 68-69)
Mdavis001@hotmail.com

Fred Fleetwod (P, BT3, 62-65)
603A S. Main Ct.
Bixby, OK 74008
918-943-3125
fred.fleetwood@gmail.com

Earl Harper (P, BTC, 50-53)
5469 Corte Cercado St.
Hemet, CA 92545-9162
951-925-9352
Elharper230@gmail.com

Denis Howard (P, E3, 61-63)
2160 E Potter Ave.
Kingman, AZ 86409-1208

Additions to the Memorial List

Arthur F. Fischer, Jr. (P, LCDR, 44-45)
Captain Retired

Doris Greening
Widow of Bob Greening (B, FC2, 40-42)

Terry Liercke (P, Officer, Korea)
Received an obit from Sandra Harper
He wasn't on the roster.

Returns – No Forwarding Address

Dickey Ray Foster (P, MM2, 58-62)
Randall Johnson (P, EM3, 69-Decom)
Larry Wiley (P, RD1, 67-69)

James Iozzo (P, MM1, 53)
1800 Beach Dr. Unit 337
Gulfport, MS 39507-1565

Paul Korf (P, FT2 52-55)
115 Hayes St.
Burlington, IA 52601-1814

James Mahan (B, RD3, 43-45)
PO Box 1113
Calipatria, CA 92233-1113

Donald C. Moore (P, BT2, 52-55)
889 W Woodlawn Dr.
Hayden, ID 83835-8809
208-772-3122

Jack Spradlin (P, WT3, 43-45)
304 Lincoln Rd.
York, SC 29745
803-684-4805

Norman Vogel (B, RDM2, 42-45)
7033 W Shadow Lake Dr.
Circle Pines, MN 55014-1930

If your name is on this list, please send us your phone number and email address if you have email.

David Lee (RD3, 53-56)

Neil B. MacIntosh (P, LT, 43-45)
Received a note from his son.

James R. Mowat (P, WW II)
From son Richard.

John Staubus (P, ET3, 50-53)
Received a letter from his wife Donna.

Contact Information

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

Email Jim: jwsilerbtc@earthlink.net
Email Pat: silerpugs@yahoo.com
Phone/Fax: 540-483-5727

Website

<http://www.balch-porterfield.org>

The Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association website was managed by Jeff Shaffer for many years. We owe him a debt of gratitude for all his hard work. Pat Siler has taken it over and is in the process of updating the site. Please be patient while this is being done.

The main page has been updated and the Roster and Memorial List will be the next to be done. The newsletters will soon be posted on the site as well.

Baseball Caps

We have baseball caps for sale. The price is \$10.00, which includes shipping. Please indicate which ship you were on.

To purchase, send a check payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association** to Jim Siler, 835 Claybanks Drive, Callaway VA 24067-4524.

Patches

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 spear came out in the 60's (price \$4.00). The decal is the same design as the 60's patch, with the seahorse (price \$1.00).

To purchase, send a check payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association** to Jim Siler, 835 Claybanks Drive, Callaway VA 24067-4524.