


BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION

March 2011

Greetings Shipmates:

We have finalized the plans for the reunion and we think we've included things that everyone will be interested in. Here is the information for the hotel. You may make your reservations now. The deadline for reservations is August 1, 2011.

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

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.

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.



U.S.S. BALCH DD363



U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682

Nimitz Memorial Walk of Honor

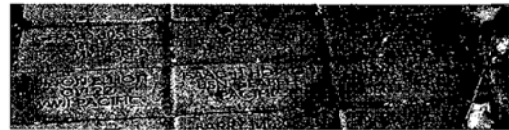
Every year over Memorial Day weekend, members of the association meet for a mini-reunion in Texas. Part of the mini reunion is a trip to the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg. The Balch and Porterfield are represented there with plaques.

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													
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Ordered by _____													
Address _____													
City _____													
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 add newsletters and update the Roster and Memorial List. It will take some time, so please be patient.

Since the last newsletter went out, we have experienced a "bump in the road." Jim had a routine colonoscopy in early April and was diagnosed with colon cancer. He had surgery on April 11. He has had an amazing recovery. However, cancer cells were found in 2 of 19 lymph nodes tested, so he will have to have some chemotherapy. We meet with the oncologist on May 5 (I'm writing this on May 2) to discuss which protocol to use. He has been assured that whichever they use, it will not cause nausea or hair loss. The doctors are very optimistic for a cure and we are proceeding with our lives. We're planning to attend our niece's wedding in Williamsburg over the Memorial Day weekend, go to Massachusetts over the July 4 holiday, and of course we're finishing up plans for the reunion. Please keep us in your prayers.

There will be live entertainment at the grand banquet. Johnny St. Clair is our niece's fiancé (theirs is the wedding we're going to). He's a country singer and is excellent. We had him for the banquet at the USS Henry W. Tucker reunion last year and they liked him so much they wanted to make him an honorary member! He's a super nice guy and we're thrilled to welcome him into our family.

We have some crew members who live in states that were affected by the horrific tornado outbreak on April 25. We hope and pray that all are safe. There were two tornadoes here in Virginia that day, one about 100 miles southwest of us and one about 80 miles east of us. The death and destruction are difficult to believe.

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!

Dan Brown received an email from Norman Gillette, nephew of Ray Gillette. He would like to hear from anyone who knew Ray about his time in the Navy. His email address is nlg1939@msn.com.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Woody Moyle. He was a fixture at reunions. Along with Chris Norris & Ray Stikeleather, they were known as The Three Musketeers and roomed together at reunions. He'll be sorely missed.

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. And be sure to "friend" us. Jim is James Bill Siler and I'm Patricia Anderson Siler. 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. 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.

Fair winds and smooth sailing,

Jim & Pat Siler

Address, Email Changes

Jack Corcoran, P, BM3, 60-63
Wife Rosemarie
1801 35th St. #1124
Oak Brook, IL 60523

Denis Howard, P, E3, 61-63
6551 Nielsen Way
Golden Valley, AZ 86413-9400

Warren Seward
500 Swansea Mall Dr Apt C145
Swansea, MA 026777-4118
508-567-6318

Norman Vogel, P, GM3, 51-53
2300 Hazelwood St. #235
Maplewood, MN 55109

Rick Whitacre, EM3, 65-69
whitacre.rick@yahoo.com

Robert White
10801 Johnson Blvd #A334
Seminole, FL 33772-4745

Additions to Memorial List

Jesse Ashcraft, P, Chaplain, 52-53
Harold W. Hall, B, YNC, 40-44
Doyle "Pinky" Jobe, P, QMSN, 51-53
Lewis "Woody" Moyle, P, GM1, 50-52
Roy "Steamboat" Saul, P, SN, 54-55

USPS Returns

Randall Johnson, P, EM3, 69-Decomm.
Larry Wiley, P, RD1, 67-69

Please fill out the form below and return it with your check, payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Assn.**, to Tom Hamilton, 17004 Doty Rd., New Haven, IN 46774.

Sunday	September 11, 2011	Price Per Person	Number of People	Total
1300	Quarterdeck Opens	Reg. \$5.00		
	Check in, pick up name badges and welcome packages	Kitty \$25.00		
2200	Quarterdeck Closes			
Monday	September 12, 2011			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
	Free Day			
1500	Board of Directors Meeting			
1700	Quarterdeck Closes			
1730	Cocktails, cash bar	\$35.00		
1800	Welcome Buffet			
Tuesday	September 13, 2011			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
0900	Board coaches for Jamestown and Memorial Service			
1200	Lunch on your own at Jamestown			
1300	Board coaches for Yorktown Victory Center tour			
1530	Return to hotel	\$48.00		
	Free Evening			
2200	Quarterdeck Closes			
Wednesday	September 14, 2011			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
	Free Day and Evening			
	Visit Colonial Williamsburg on your own, admission \$38.00 per person at visitors' center , or shopping. Public buses pass hotel (\$1.00)			
2200	Quarterdeck Closes			
Thursday	September 15, 2011			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
0900	Board coaches for bus tour of Norfolk Naval Station			
1130	Proceed to Mariner's Museum in Newport News			
1230	Lunch in private room at museum			
1530	Return to hotel	\$42.00		
	Free Evening			
2200	Quarterdeck Closes			
Friday	September 16, 2011			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
TBA	Business Meeting & Raffle			
1700	Quarterdeck Closes			
1800	Cocktails, cash bar			
1830	Grand Banquet	\$40.00		
1900	Music & Dancing			
Saturday	September 17, 2011			
0800	Farewell Breakfast	No charge		
	Total			

All prices include tax and gratuity, including for the coach drivers. Entertainment at the banquet included in cost of banquet.

Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Address _____ Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Names of Guest(s) _____

Your rate or rank when aboard _____ Which ship? _____ The years you were aboard _____

Please fill out the form below and return it to Jim Siler, 835 Claybanks Drive, Callaway, VA 24067.

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Contact Information

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

Email Jim: jwsilerbtc@gmail.com (note new email address)
Email Pat: silerpugs@yahoo.com
Phone/Fax: 540-483-5727

Cell Jim: 540-420-5809
Cell Pat: 540-420-5808

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. This newsletter will be posted on the website along with previous newsletters.

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.