

**BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION**



May 2015

Greetings Shipmates:

The 2015 reunion will be September 13-19, 2015 in Denver, Colorado. Our reunion host is Richard Gomez, assisted by his daughter Vivian Noe. They have some excellent tours planned. We've never been to Denver before and look forward to sightseeing.

Hotel:	Holiday Inn Denver East - Stapleton
Address:	3333 Quebec Street Denver, CO 80207
Local Phone:	303-329-2873 (do not call this number for reservations)
Phone Reservations:	855-914-1373
Online Reservations:	<a href="http://ichotelsgroup.com/redirect?path=rates&amp;brandCode=HI&amp;regionCode=1&amp;localeCode=en&amp;GPC=NR7&amp;hotelCode=DENST&amp;_PMID=99801505">http://ichotelsgroup.com/redirect?path=rates&amp;brandCode=HI&amp;regionCode=1&amp;localeCode=en&amp;GPC=NR7&amp;hotelCode=DENST&amp;_PMID=99801505</a>
Reunion Code:	NR7 (be sure to mention this code when making reservations)
Room Rate:	\$109 per night + tax (includes breakfast every day)

You may call to make reservations now. The online link is two lines long. When typing it into your browser, type it all with no spaces. A clickable link is on the ship's Facebook Group page as well. The room rate is good for three days before and three days after the reunion. The hotel is located at the old Stapleton Airport and there is shuttle service from the new airport.

At the welcome buffet on Monday night, the choir from the school where Vivian works will perform. There is no charge, but we will take donations.

If you would be interested in a "casino night" during the reunion, please let us know. If there is enough interest, Richard Gomez's daughter can arrange it and collect payment when you arrive at the reunion.

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, information is on the last page of this newsletter. They are also available at reunions.



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



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

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. 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 the Roster**

Harold P. Grems, P, LT, 65-68  
2113 Fair St  
Mankato, MN 56001  
507-387-6755  
[hwgrems@gmail.com](mailto:hwgrems@gmail.com)

## **Address Changes**

Edgar A. Davis, P, GM3  
3800 Westleigh St Apt 408  
Eugene, OR 97405-1131

John Detlaff, P, SO2, 54-57  
3115 Carrollton Ct.  
The Villages, FL 32162-7538  
352-259-9798

Eugene A. Dodds, P, FT3, 64-66  
2561 N Garfield Rd.  
Pinconning, MI 48650-8965

Charles Eversole, P, Late 50s  
2320 Tom Miller St.  
Austin, TX 78723-5382

Denis Howard, P, E3, 61-63  
865 Cashmere Dr. Apt. Q05  
Lk Havasu City, AZ 86404-2823

Frank Koslowski, B, MM2, 42-45  
301 S. Huntington Ave. Rm. 204  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-4207

## **Additions to the Memorial List**

John Blumenthal, P, MM2, 43-46, 4/23/2015  
Alva M. Bowen, P, CDR, 63-64 (CO), 12/11/2011  
Oscar Fairfield, B, MM1, 42-45, 10/11/2014  
Robert Guerra, B, GM3, 42-43  
Donald Hamilton, P, BMC, 52-53  
John "Jack" Kinkead, B, SN1/c, 44-45 4/11/2015  
Paul McKee, B, YN2, 36-38  
Thomas Sammartino, P, ET, 57-59, 2/1/2015  
Mary Sanford, wife of Phil, P, BT3, 64-66  
Jim Switzer, P, CDR, 67

Ray Lynskey, P, GMSN, 51-53  
1700 Kellenbeck Ave. Apt. 206  
Grants Pass, OR 97527-4254  
619-670-0188

William Marinese, B, GM2, 43-45  
11 Netcong Hts, Apt. 5  
Netcong, NJ 07857-1711  
518-966-8044

Robert Perkins, B, FC, 36-38  
193 Robin Hood Cir, Unit 203  
Naples, FL 34104

Robert Thurston, P, ENS, 44-45  
1301 Nottingham Rd., Apt. C119  
Jamesville, NY 13078-8778

Robert Vantrease, P, BT2, 52-53  
2115 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Trlr. 97  
Clarkston, WA 99403-1572

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

		Price per Person	# of People	Amt. of Payment
	<b>Sunday, September 13</b>			
1300	Quarterdeck opens	Reg. \$5 Kitty \$25	_____	_____
	Check in, pick up name badges & welcome package			
	Free day and evening		_____	_____
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	<b>Monday, September 14</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$40.00	_____	_____
	Continue registration			
1000	Board of Directors meeting			
1200-1300	Lunch on Quarterdeck			
	Free day and evening			
1700	Quarterdeck closes			
1800	Welcome buffet & entertainment			
	<b>Tuesday, September 15</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$20	_____	_____
	Board bus for Railroad Museum in Golden, CO			
	Free evening			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	<b>Wednesday, September 16</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$15	_____	_____
0900 tentative	Board bus for Denver Mint			
	Free evening			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	<b>Thursday, September 17</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$15 1 \$18.00 2 \$10.00	_____	_____
0900 tentative	Board bus for Memorial Service at Ft. Logan National Cemetery			
1200 tentative	Lunch at Famous Casa Bonita: 1: all you can eat, 2: senior meal.			
	Free evening.			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	<b>Friday, September 18</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	Beef \$40 Chicken \$35 Pork \$35 Fish \$40	_____	_____
1200-1300	Lunch on Quarterdeck; Free day			
1330 tentative	Business meeting and raffle			
1600	Quarterdeck closes			
1700-1900	Cash bar			
1800	Banquet & entertainment: London Broil, Chicken, Pork Chops Tilapia			
	<b>Saturday, September 19</b>			
Time TBA	Farewell breakfast			
	<b>Total Payment</b>			

Please fill out all information below. This information will be used to make name badges.

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

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ First Reunion? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Guests Names \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form and return it to Richard Gomez, PO Box 114, Bennett, CO 80102.

		Price per Person	# of People	Amt. of Payment
	<b>Sunday, September 13</b>			
1300	Quarterdeck opens Check in, pick up name badges & welcome package	Registration \$5	_____	_____
2200	Free day and evening Quarterdeck closes	Kitty \$25	_____	_____
	<b>Monday, September 14</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
1000	Continue registration			
1200-1300	Board of Directors meeting Lunch on Quarterdeck			
1700	Free day and evening			
1800	Quarterdeck closes Welcome buffet & entertainment	\$40.00	_____	_____
	<b>Tuesday, September 15</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
0900 tentative	Board bus for Railroad Museum in Golden, CO	\$20	_____	_____
2200	Free afternoon and evening Quarterdeck closes			
	<b>Wednesday, September 16</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
0900 tentative	Board bus for Denver Mint	\$15	_____	_____
2200	Free afternoon and evening Quarterdeck closes			
	<b>Thursday, September 17</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
0900 tentative	Board bus for Memorial Service at Ft. Logan National Cemetery	\$15	_____	_____
1200 tentative	Lunch at Famous Casa Bonita: 1: all you can eat, 2: senior meal.	1 \$18.00	_____	_____
2200	Free afternoon and evening Quarterdeck closes	2 \$10.00	_____	_____
	<b>Friday, September 18</b>			
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
1200-1300	Lunch on Quarterdeck; Free day			
1330 tentative	Business meeting and raffle			
1600	Quarterdeck closes	Beef \$40	_____	_____
1700-1900	Cash bar	Chicken \$35	_____	_____
1800	Banquet & entertainment: London Broil, Chicken, Pork Chops Tilapia	Pork \$35	_____	_____
		Fish \$40	_____	_____
	<b>Saturday, September 19</b>			
Time TBA	Farewell breakfast			
	<b>Total Payment</b>			

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Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ First Reunion? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Guests Names \_\_\_\_\_

## Contact Information

Jim and Pat Siler  
835 Claybanks Drive  
Callaway, VA 24067-4524  
Phone/Fax: 540-483-5727

Email Jim: jwsilerbtc@gmail.com  
Email Pat: silerpugs@yahoo.com

Tom Hamilton, Treasurer  
Phone: (home) 260-632-4019  
(cell) 260-415-3555

Email: twrahamil2000@hotmail.com

## 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.

## Facebook

We're on Facebook. Type USS Porterfield in the search box and click to get to the page. Then look for "Join Group" 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.