



USS Seattle AOE 3

Veteran's Association

Newsletter



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Issue # 27

4th Quarter - 2020

Issued: Dec. 04

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Rich Toma, Vic Hellberg, Bill Norris, and
Raymond Kloc

REUNION # 12 - 2020 in Bremerton, WA.

The reunion was cancelled after all the Covid-19 issues. The Board is working on what will be next..

Your Officers:

<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Phone</i>
President	David Holton	david@davidholtonconsulting.com	(704) 698-5948
Vice president	Rich Toma	richtoma16@yahoo.com	(440) 669-9615
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Communications Officer	Dale Eicker	deicker@comcast.net	(713) 899-2491
Treasurer	Dan Justynski	danjustynski@gmail.com	(401)-302-1611
Ships-store	Vic Hellberg	Plankowner4@gmail.com	(641) 752-6882
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Member at Large #1	OPEN		
Member at Large #2	Danny Abner	djabner@windstream.net	(859) 361-9663
Member at Large #3	Charles Rudd	crudd42@comcast.net	(253) 970-2589
Emeritus Member @ Large	Bill Norris	bnorris5248@gmail.com	(281) 785-6415
Emeritus Member @ Large	Vic Hellberg	Plankowner4@gmail.com	(641) 752-6882
Emeritus Member @ Large	Ray Pierce	ray.pierce1950@gmail.com	(817) 503-0325

DUES for 2021

Shipmates,

The USS Seattle Veteran's Association is starting its thirteenth year in 2021 and we are incredibly lucky to have each of you as a member. Even though the USSVA is relatively small we do still have expenses that the officers and board members try very hard to keep to a minimum. Thanks to our raffles and fund raising at the past reunions, we are again able to keep our yearly membership dues at \$30.00. You can also become a Lifetime Member if you choose. These dues are based on your age and can be found on www.ussseattleaoe-3.org.

Membership dues are due by January 22nd, 2020. Collection begins on January 1st - but you can also pay in advance if you wish. They can be paid online at our website or paid by check mailed to:

Make checks payable to:

USS Seattle AOE3 Veterans Association

Send checks to:

USS Seattle AOE3 Veterans Association
Dan Justynski, Treasurer
7 South Balch St.
Hanover, NH 03755

Letter from The Association President

Fellow USS Seattle Shipmates

As I write this Letter it is hard to reflect on 2020 without commenting on the COVID-19 virus and the devastating impact it has had in the world, on our country, and to each of us. Nearly all of us know of someone who was infected, some of us were infected and at least one shipmate died from it. Our reunion was cancelled. Yet there are still reasons for us, as Americans, to be thankful this season.

1. While any unexpected death is sorrowful, the death rate is far below original estimates.
2. Countless numbers of first responders and those providing us services placed their own lives at risk to serve others.
3. At this writing, three companies have developed promising vaccinees. **AMERICAN COMPANIES ARE LEADING THE WAY!**

Regardless of our differences, the United States remains the country of unapparelled abilities, capabilities, and capacities.

This year we know of nine shipmates who passed away. Among them was Captain Marland "Doc" Townsend, the second CO of USS SEATTLE AOE-3. When the first small group of men met to discuss starting an association, it was Doc who they called for advice. His guidance and influence helped get the association "underway". Over the years, he was always available and helpful in growing the association. He loved talking to Seattle sailors. His home was just outside San Francisco and many of us went to see him whenever we were in the area.

When we knew our reunion would be cancelled, the Board decided to have a series of ZOOM MEETINGS. These meetings were set up for each of the decades Seattle was in service. We were fortunate to have a total of ten former COs join us on those calls. What an honor and privilege it was to have every CO we approach agree to be on the call from the decade they served.

It was a great time of sharing and many sailors were able to speak to shipmates they had lost contact with. We will be doing another round of these ZOOM calls starting in early 2021. **I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO WATCH FOR THE EMAILS AND POSTINGS AND PLAN TO ATTEND.** Everyone is encouraged to join in any of the calls and hear stories from other decades.

We are still studying what to do for a 2021 Reunion. Much of it will depend on just how fast and effective the vaccine will be, when it will be available and whether hotels and other places will be open to meet the way we want to gather. **STANDBY!**

Be sure to read Rich Toma's article on how to make money, just by paying your 2021 dues and referring a new member!

The Officers and Board of Directors wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and holiday season and together we pray for our men and women in uniform and their families.

David L. Holton
President

LETTER from the VP

Shipmates,

2020, what can be said. From quarantines, lockdowns, masks, loss of thousands of small businesses and deaths. I think most of us would say it has been the year from hell. We also were affected by the virus as we had to cancel this year's reunion in Bremerton, WA. The board is now tasked with trying to decide whether to have a 2021 reunion. Covid-19 was also responsible for the death of at least one of our shipmates.

Our association mourned the passing of nine shipmates this year. Most notable were Captain Marland "Doc" Townsend '71, Commander Charles "Andy" Anderson '73, and Commander William Tirrell '68 and '81. Others include Lance Briggs '75, Wayne Harriman '79, Robert Minehart '77, Hugh Primrose '72, Michael Sermo '79 and Henry Wright '83. May they rest in peace.

On a brighter note, we began holding monthly ZOOM meetings in July with the commissioning crew and ending with the decommissioning crew in October. We averaged almost 20 participants at each meeting including many former Commanding Officers from each decade.

I would like to send a special Thank You to former CO Craig Honour '91 for taking the time to contact each of the Captains and getting them to join us. We plan to start over again in early 2021.

In a nutshell, that was our year in review. On the business side, we are still looking to fill a vacant "Member at Large" seat on the board. This position was vacated with the passing of Lance Briggs. If you are interested, please contact me or any other board member and submit your name.

As always, you can count on me to remind everyone to take a few minutes and log in to our website to review and update your contact information, if needed, and visit our ships' store to see all the items we have in stock with the USS Seattle AOE-3 logo.

Dues for 2021 remain the same at \$30 payable by January 31. This year we are providing you two ways to earn back your dues.

1. Pay 2021 annual dues of \$30.00 by January 31, 2021 and you will receive a \$15.00 credit at the Ship's Store. You will have until March 31, 2021 to redeem your credit. After you pay your dues, simply go online and make your purchase and pay full price for your items. When you receive your order, \$15.00 in cash will be included.
2. If you refer a new, dues paying shipmate to join the association you can receive a \$15.00 credit on your 2022 annual dues. All you need to do is have the new shipmate contact Rich Toma (richtomal6@yahoo.com) and give your name as the referrer.
 - Life Members qualify for incentive #1, so be sure to go to the Ship's Store and redeem your credit. Just another benefit to becoming a Life Member. Life Membership info available on our website.

The USSSVA officers and board members wish you a Happy Holiday and a Prosperous New Year. Let us all hope and pray that 2021 is a better that 2020.

Rich Toma,
Vice President, USSSVA

Story From a SHIPMATE

By: MM2 Raymond Kloc

When it happened, we were in the Mediterranean although I do not remember where exactly. I got a broken tooth while working in the aft engine room. Went up to medical, saw the 1st class corpsman and he looked in my mouth. He said that it looked fine but called Doc in to look anyway. Doc looks in my mouth and says, "Hey, you got a broken tooth. Let's see if we can take out the broke part." Doc asks me how I managed to get a tooth broke while on duty. I told him I had slipped and fell and that I had hit my jaw when I fell and guess that's when the tooth got broke. I couldn't tell them that it was actually from a fight because they would have written me up (plus probably asked a lot more questions).

Well, Doc reaches in my mouth with some tools to try to extract the broken part but, as soon as he touched it (the tooth was in the back on bottom), I let out a yell. So, Doc stopped. He gave me some Tylenol 3 (the fix all for everything back then) and said he'd figure out what to do. Doc told me that I could go back to work until then, so I went back to the pit.

The Doc calls me and says they're looking to fly me over to the carrier (I think it was JFK) to see a dentist. A couple of hours later Doc calls me again and says they're looking to fly me to Crete. Finally, the next day he calls me and says we were just 2 days from Israel, and they were going to get it fixed there. I tell him, "Sir, this hurts like a SOB" so he gives me some Vicodin (which you could take and work even though you might be a bit out of it) and says, "This should get you through until then."

So, I keep working in the pit until we pull into Haifa, Israel. Doc calls me and tells me be in civvies (we had to wear civilian attire when going ashore in some areas because of the terrorist actions that happened in those days) and on the QD as soon as they pipe that we are anchored. I get changed and head up to the QD and they have just posted the watch. They lower and bring around the motor whale boat and lower the gangway. The Bosun Senior Chief is first off, then me, then Doc. And we take off to the pier in Haifa. Apparently, Bosun had an abscessed tooth and needed a root canal.

We pull up pier side and there is a taxi waiting for us. We get in and drive about 5-10 miles into old Haifa, to an Orthodontist office. The Orthodontist waiting for us.

We go inside the dentist office and he puts each of in a room. It looks like a nice dental office. He goes to see Bosun and gives him a shot or two of Novocain. He comes in my room and gives me two shots. He says he will be back in a few minutes when I'm numb. Shortly after that I hear him start working on Bosun. Then I hear Bosun hollering. Then dentist comes into my room. I open my mouth and he reached in and yanked out the broken half of my tooth (and it feels like half my brain) before the Novocain has taken full effect. He says he will be back in a few more minutes and goes back to Bosun. He goes back and forth with us working on each if us for about an hour (or 10 it seemed like) until he says, "Well, you're done."

He sits me up in the dentist chair and while he finished up on Bosun I am looking around his office. There is his dental school diploma on the wall. From the University of Kentucky. How cool is that?

When we are done a taxi takes us back to the pier. Doc tells me the ship has already started liberty and I don't have to go back to the ship until end of the day. Then he says, "Tomorrow morning, come up to medical and I'll give you some pain killer that won't keep you from drinking some beer". Guess the Doc just assumed I might be on liberty the next day too....

SHIP'S STORE

Shipmates,

Christmas is not far off, and I want to remind you of wonderful USS Seattle gifts that could be on your wish list. The ship's store on our website has been updated with a whole new look and ease in ordering. Please go to <https://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org> and on the banner of links at the top is the link to the ship's store. What I would like to highlight now is one of the items we are all most proud of. It is a Personalized Commemorative Plank! We recently had a new member join our association and order one. Our laser expert, Bill Norris, made this one for him and included his membership coin. What a great memory of our service to our fine ship. I have one sitting right beside my computer. Here is the one we just sent. Shipmate Bill Norris can immortalize you and your service. Order early!!!!



Vic Hellberg
Ship's Store Manager

USS Seattle Veterans Association 12th Reunion Opening of the USSVA PSNM Exhibit

In 2020, the USS Seattle AOE 3 Veterans Association had planned a great reunion to be held in Seattle, Washington. Hotel plans made, several great events including the opening of the USS Seattle museum exhibit.

Then came the Pandemic and Covid-19 changed everything. It forced us to cancel what would have been another excellent reunion and opportunity for shipmates to get together.

Now we'll be looking forward to the next opportunity for us to celebrate our Association and allow for members to get together and share sea stories and memories of our time aboard the greatest ship the Navy ever had – at least in our opinions...

Bill Norris and the Board are looking at options for next year and will publish an update to everyone by the end of the first Quarter of next year.

SHIPMATE NOTE

From: Bill Norris

Shipmates,

As most of you know Lance Briggs died in March this year from Covid-19 while he was in Florida retrieving his motorhome. Susan was unable to be with Lance during the month he was in the hospital.

After things settled down somewhat, Bob and Deb Miller offered to drive to Florida and drive the motorhome up to Pennsylvania and deliver it to Susan. They spent two days driving to Florida and then two days to drive the motorhome up to Susan. They spent one day with Susan with a side trip to Woodstock, you younger shipmates may have to look up what Woodstock was. Following that, they drove back to Marshalltown, Iowa.

I share this with you because I believe we should share how our organization cares about each other and are always there to help. Sometimes these go unshared and they should be shared when they happen so that everyone will know that the shipmates we have in this organization go above and beyond for each other...

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year...

Bill Norris

Paying Dues

To help with paying dues for next year, a form is provided below.
Fill in, cut out, and mail with your check to the address provided.

2021 MEMBERSHIP

Membership cost is \$30.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

MAIL TO:

**Dan Justynski, USSSVA Treasurer
7 South Balch St.
Hanover, New Hampshire - 03755**

Make Checks Payable To:

USS Seattle AOE-3 Veteran's Association

OPEN POSITION

We recently lost a valued Shipmate – Lance Briggs – who had filled a “Member at Large” position on the Board of directors. His loss has left us with an open position and rather than us going out and trying to bring someone into that position it was suggested that we should seek a volunteer.

Would you like to serve on the board? You would have the opportunity to join in board meetings and discussions to assist the board with decisions for future events.

The Board would like to have a volunteer that wants to join in and be a part of the Board.

Please contact the President, Vice-President, Secretary or myself to get your name in the hat if you'd like to be considered for this position. We will need your name, email, phone number and any other contact information. If your info is up to date on the website, you can just let us know that and we'll get the info there.

A FEW NOTES

Show Your USS Seattle Spirit!

(Show your Spirit with shirt, hat, jacket, decal, license plate cover and more from Ship's Store)

We are beginning a new series of articles each newsletter where showing your USS Seattle Spirit has led to a conversation about the ship from a stranger, many of whom served on ships or in the military. Send your story to Dale Eicker at deicker@comcast.net.

Do you have a story to be included here???

Let me hear about your experiences..... Dale

P.S. – I would like to personally wish each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hoping to see everyone at the next reunion whenever that becomes possible. - - - Dale

Fair Winds & Following Seas