

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
U.S.S. WEST VIRGINIA REUNION ASSOC.

*Editor: Robert "Geezil" Kronberger*

*Transferred To the  
Supreme Commander-In-Chief  
Of The Universe*

*OUR DEPARTED SHIPMATES*

**Gaylord Pierce  
Comelis Morris  
Earl Bonner  
James Dowling  
Thomas R. Eddy  
Glen Stiltner  
Bobrilla Kirkendall  
W.E. DeWitt  
Louis P. Smith**

*"Eternal rest grant unto them and let perpetual light shine  
upon them and may they Rest in Peace"*



## FROM THE QUARTERDECK.....

### GENERALLY SPEAKING

The 23rd reunion is almost upon us and the time is now to commence the planning process. If what I gather from the letters and phone calls is correct; we should have another great and freindly reunion in Branson. The sortie to the new western musical capital will consist of plankowners through de-commissioners. They will consist of all rates and ranks from Apprentice Seamen Through Captain. You will find "Snipes", "Deck Hands", Musicians, Marines. Aviation crews, Bridge gang, Cooks, Bakers, Messmen. Mess cooks, Weapons handlers, Communicators, Storekeepers, Supply clerks, Construction & Repair Artificers, Flag Allowance, Medics, Executive Gang and Postal clerks. With them will be their Ladies and Guests. Everyone is looking for old shipmates and hope to make new freinds. We are anticipating a fun filled program that will find some that will bring pleasure to every one. Sea Stories will be the order of the day, bringing up old memories, some long forgotten, so that we can live the past again with those whose memories and freindships we cherish.

We are planning to concentrate all our necessary, but un-scheduled, activities into a central location such as registration, smallstores, lounge, refreshment center, hospitality room and entertainment center. I will be traveling though Branson in May and I expect to visit the Settle Inn to see what we can do to get the most out of our allotted areas. As we have a free afternoon on Saturday, I want to see if we can have some entertainment in our hospitality room. A "Rope Yarn Sunday" will get us all in the mood for a great banquet. If you have any special needs or desires let us know so we can be of service. We will have a non-denominational Devine Service on Sunday Morning.

### BUSINESS MEETING

After breakfast on Sunday Morning we will hold our usual critique and we will select a site for the 1997 reunion. When suggesting or proposing a location for the reunion it is important to consider the following points: does a suitable hotel exist, can it handle a group of our size conveniently; is it cost effective; the climate; transportation access (roads, airlines, parking,etc); Entertainment availability; is it located in an area that a large number of our crew resides in; it is re-union freindly. It must also be remembered that most hotels require from one to two years lead time in booking blocks of rooms. Also now we must sign a contract with the hotel a year in advance which holds us financially responsible to abide by our contract. For this reason we cannot change locations once they have been voted in and the contract is signed. These are all important entities for an enjoyable and successful reunion. Also at this meeting we should "Air Bedding" and let everone know what you want to see or expect at a reunion. The most important thing to remember at this meeting is that "THIS IS YOUR REUNION AND EVERYONE IS EQUAL--THE REUNION DOES NOT BELONG TO ANY ONE PERSON OR ANY SPECIAL GROUP--IT IS YOURS". So speak up and be heard with constructive critism.

### REUNION ADVERTIZING

I have been asked several times, how come we do not see a reunion notice in this or that publication. This year to date I have written requests to 37 publications asking them to

(FROM THE QUARTERDECK CONT.--REUNION ADVERTIZING)

print our reunion notice. We wrote to veterans magazines, fraternal magazines, service publications, news media, etc. Some publications wanted anywhere from \$15 to \$60 for a one time publishing. Several publications advised me that they would publish our notice on a space available status. Several we have not heard from. From what the publishers say; we can expect to see some notices in print around May or June. The best method of advertizing is the person to person method. If you know some one who has not heard of us tell him to contact me and get on our mailing list. To date we have a mailing list of 950 people. We are not sure of the status of every one on our lists as We carry some associates as crew members due to the lack of information. We also have a list of 125 Crew Member's Widows.

## BOOSTER LIST

When the call was put out for "Booster Assistance" we were overwhelmed with positive a response. So many have contributed, and generously, that we do not have the room to publish their names in this news letter. We are in the process of developing a roster for distribution in the near future and all the boosters will be identified in the roster. We could not have published a quality newsletter this year without the help of the boosters. As you know we are probably the only Reunion Association that does not charge a membership fee and we want to keep it that way. We usually are able to print a newsletter from the profits of the reunion and the sale of small stores. Our net profit from the small stores, hospitality and reunion in Colorado Springs only amounted to a little over \$900 and our costs for printing and the mailing of two sets of newsletters was \$1,692.00.

## THIS AND THAT

This has been an excellent year for us in the way of co-hesiveness. I have received many requests this year from our shipmates wanting to get in touch each other. We were able to match up these shipmates through our current files. We hope to be able to further update our files in Branson. One shipmate in Texas received a request from a family who lost a son on the 7th of Dec. 1941 and could get no information from the Navy Department. Our shipmate wrote to me, I put the word out to the sickbay crew (The man in question was a Hospital Apprentice) and Lo and behold our Sickbay crew came through and was able to put this families anxieties to rest after 53 years.

We have received several letters from shipmates relating experiences pertaining to WW II and I hope to be able to include some of them in future news letters.

All these experiences along with close association with old friends and making many new and lasting friends gives a person the feeling that every little thing we do makes our tasks and all the things we do worthwhile.

In Freindship, I Remain, Your Shipmate;



Robert/Bob/Geezil or Scratch Kronberger

# TASK FORCE 48 BULLETIN BOARD

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## Battleship USS West Virginia BB-48 Museum

We received a letter and a card from the museum in Parkersburg WV, The letter contained pictures of articles sent in by K.W. Meade (1928-1934). Clyde Lathey Thanked us for the items I sent and the item R.T. Sims (1942-1945). donated. Clyde says that the museum would welcome all items pertaining to the West Virginia. This a good chance to clean out your attic. The museum is at 921 Emerson Ave. Parkersville 26104.

## U.S. Navy Memorial

A letter from Bob Gallup informs us that the latest update at the memorial was completed last December. Anyone who has sent a picture and money to the log may make a purchase of a copy by sending \$6.00 to U.S. Memorial, 701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 123 Washington DC, 20004-2608 or call (202) 737-2300 Ext 73.

## Return To Okinawa

50th Anniversary: Colonel Warren H. Wiedhahn, USMC Retired states that veterans of all services who fought in or supported the Okinawa campaign in the spring of 1945 are invited to join the veterans of the 1st Marine Division in the return to Okinawa June 19th to the 25th. For further details he may be reached at Box 1179, Arlington, VA 22313-2375.

## Return To Tokyo

Retired Chief Dave Graham wants us to know that the American Battleship Association is going to the Orient in august to be at Tokyo Bay on 2 Sept., 1995. The address of the American Battleship Assn. is PO Box 711247, San Diego, CA 92171.

## We Remember

Let us take a little time out to remember our shipmate, PFC Tom Coffey, USMC, 7th Div. Tom, after leaving the West Virginia on 12/7/41, was promoted to 2nd Lt. He later joined "E" Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division; and with them he made landings at Roi, Namur, Saipan and Tinian. It was on Tinian that Tom lost his life as a result of sniper fire. At that time he was commanding a weapons platoon. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal posthumously. Toms brother John, was also a member of our Marine Detachment as a PFC, he later retired from the Corps as a Colonel.

(Bulletin Board continued)

## Another Hero Lost at Tarawa

Messman 2nd Class, Doris Miller, a black mess attendant serving on the West Virginia at Pearl Harbor, was awarded the Navy Cross by Admiral Cester Nimitz, USN. Miller was aboard the Liscome Bay during the U.S. Campaign to take the Gilbert Islands. During the Battle of Tarawa the Liscome Bay was sunk by enemy torpedos with a loss of 646 lives. Among those lost was Shipmate Doris Miller.

## In Search Of

Mr. Ronald Sperry, of 118 Walnut St. Corte Madera, CA 94925 has been looking for his freind Ensign Bert English since 1942. Ensign English was blown off the ship on the 7th. If anyone has any information on Ensign English, Mr Sperry ould be anxious to hear from him.

CWO, USN, Retired Ron Robertson is seeking information concerning his father's service aboard the West Virginia prior to may 1927. His father was a Sea 1/c. His brother James Hershel Robertson was in the Engineering Department at that time. If anyone has any information, no matter how little, Chief Warrant Officer Robertson would surley appreciate it. He can be reached at the Servicemen's Christian Center, 2456 Panuco, Ave. W, Atlantic Beach, Florida 32233.

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### SMALL STORES:

The following Small Stores items are available from our storekeeper, Dorothy Pedersen, 11700 Cozumel St., Cypress, CA 90630-5636. Please make checks payable to: "USS West Virginia (BB-48) Reunion Association".

BASEBALL CAPS: USS West Virginia (BB-48) (One size fits all), Regular issue--\$11.00 each, with "Scrambled Eggs" -- \$13.00, Shipping and Handling -- \$3.00; WEST VIRGINIA LOGO PIN-- WEST VIRGINIA DECAL---\$1.00; COMMEMORATIVE/COMMISSIONING PIN (BB48/SSBN 736)--\$5.00. (\$0.75 Shipping and Handling Charges for Pins & Decal)



NORFOLK  
VIRGINIA BEACH

HOLIDAY INN EXECUTIVE CENTER  
MILITARY REUNION HEADQUARTERS

Within 15 Minutes Of:  
Naval Bases  
MacArthur Memorial  
Harbor Cruises



- 336 Guest Rooms
- Full Service Restaurant
- Meeting/Banquet Facilities
- Hospitality Suites
- Indoor/Outdoor Pools
- Sauna/Jacuzzi
- Free Airport Shuttle
- Reunion Friendly Service

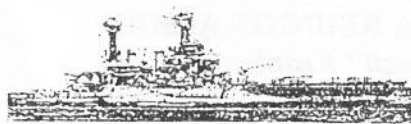
*Holiday Inn*  
*Executive Center*

**(804) 499-4400**

5655 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462

**1996 REUNION**  
**September 25th-29th, 1996**

**"HERE IT IS !"**



**NOW HEAR THIS !**

***Liberty Call !***

*Commencing*

***August 16th, 1995***

*Expiring*

***August 20th, 1995***

**At**

*Branson, Missouri at The*

***SETTLE IN***

*3050 Mountain Road,*

*Branson, MO 65616*

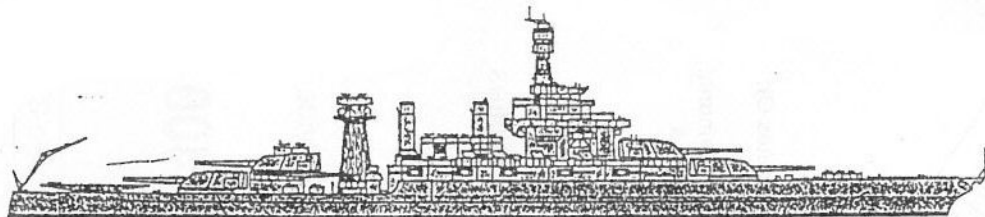
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***Fellowship; Music; Hospitality; Sea Stories;  
Banquet; Shows; Tours; Dancing; Acey Ducey;  
Cribbage; Food; Entertainment, Religious Services;  
Gift Shop; Pets Allowed; Handicap Facilities;  
Room Service; 24 Hr. Coffee, Tea & Hot Cocoa;  
Murder Mystery Dinner Theater; Pools & Hot Tubs;  
And Much, Much More (No Shore Patrol)***



# U.S.S. WEST VIRGINIA REUNION ASSOCIATION

C/O Robert S. Kronberger, Post Office Box 442, Big Bear City, CA 92314-0442



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To Shipmate:

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"Protect Our Flag--Support The Citizens Flag Alliance"