



WINTER 2013

USS WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION

## 2012 Reunion in Charleston, WV Highlights



Front Row (L-R): Sylvester Puccio, Jim Downing, Tony Reiter, John C. Brown; Back Row (L-R): Bob Andler, George Gackle, Morgan Pulver, Joe Variot, Herbert Crask (absent from photo: Ron Aubry, Charles Loving)

The 2012 USS West Virginia (BB-48) reunion took place from September 28-30 in Charleston, West Virginia.

During the three days in Charleston, the following events were enjoyed:

- Visit the West Virginia Cultural Center with a greeting from the West Virginia First Lady and Secretary of State
- Group luncheon where it was decided that there will be at least one more reunion!
- Banquet in Beckley, West Virginia
- Tour of the Raleigh County Veterans Museum - Home of the 20ft USS West Virginia (BB-48) model
- Nightly Bull sessions and trading of sea stories in the Hospitality Room
- Memorial service for crew members who have passed since the last reunion

More information and pictures are available on the website at:

<http://www.usswestvirginia.org/reunion/2012>

At the 2012 reunion, taps was played for the following crew members who passed since our last meeting:

Donald B. Wilkins  
Ralph Batchelor  
Charles Shea  
David Franklin Jones  
Albert J. Gleason, Jr.  
Anthony Sereno

Esla E. Gates  
Joseph B. Keziah  
John J. Mikottis  
William V. Stein  
Ernest R. Wilson  
Ray Stevens

Heinz Volz  
Herman H. Schlaefer  
Claude B. Knox  
Robert A. Jones  
Richard Jesson  
Robert R. Cony

## Reunion planned for 2013!

At the 2102 reunion in Charleston, WV it was decided that we would organize at least one more reunion. In order to facilitate the planning, a new reunion committee was formed. The reunion committee consists of Tom Reiter, Joe Reiter, and Tim Dege. These are the sons and grandson of crew member Tony Reiter.

As many of you know, Joe and Margot Variot have been doing all of the heavy lifting for our organization for more than ten years. They have handed over the reins of reunion planning to the next generation. The amount of work that goes into planning and executing a successful reunion cannot be underestimated and Joe and Margot have done a great job.

At the reunion, we talked about where to have the next reunion and most felt that heading back to the west coast was a good option. Over the years we have had concerns about going back to California for a reunion due to cost. The committee has done some research and the costs that they have found are very reasonable in San Diego. Another important factor in selecting San Diego is that the airport has many incoming direct flights from all over the country.

The *tentative* dates for the reunion in San Diego are September 20-22, 2013. The dates and other information will be confirmed in the spring. Watch your mailbox for updates!

Save the Date!  
September 20-22, 2013  
San Diego, CA

## Annual Dues

It is the time of year again when we need to ask for everyone to send in their annual dues.

Membership is open to anyone and we love to have new members at our reunions. **Annual membership dues are \$15.** Donations are also welcome and sincerely appreciated. This form and your payment will serve an additional purpose for us. It will let us know who you are and what your connection is with the USS West Virginia. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mike Mullins by phone: 610-952-3542 or by mail at the address below.

In 2013 and going forward the dues will cover the calendar year starting in January.

Send a check or money order payable to **USS West Virginia Association** to: USS West Virginia Association, Attn.: Mike Mullins, 2933 Cottonwood Lane, Chester Springs, PA 19425. Or pay via credit card through our donation page at: <http://www.uswestvirginia.org/donate>.

**Please send this section/form** regardless of payment method.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues \$ 15, and/or Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Connection to USS West Virginia:  Crewmember  Family  Friend

If you are a crewmember, please include the following information:

Division \_\_\_\_\_ Years Aboard 19 \_\_\_\_\_ to 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Rate While Aboard \_\_\_\_\_ Pearl Harbor Survivor:  Yes  No

All of this information is voluntary. If you would like to send more information or pictures, please send an additional sheet. We would love to add your information to the ship's history.

## USS West Virginia Small Stores

We maintain an inventory of USS West Virginia related items that are available for sale at our reunions or via mail. Use this form to order. Send the completed form along with a check or money order to USS West Virginia Association, Attn: Mike Mullins, 2933 Cottonwood Lane, Chester Springs, PA 19425

\*Shipping is a flat \$8.00. Please note available sizes. Call Mike Mullins with any questions or concerns at 610-952-3542.

Item	PRICE	QTY. & SIZE	TOTAL (\$)
USS West Virginia (BB-48) Coffee Mug	\$6.00		
USS West Virginia Polo Shirt pre 1941—M, L, XL, 2XL	\$25.00		
USS West Virginia Polo Shirt post 1941—M, XL, 2XL	\$25.00		
USS West Virginia Denim Shirt (short sleeve) - L	\$35.00		
USS West Virginia Denim Shirt (long sleeve) - M, L, XL, 2XL	\$38.00		
USS West Virginia Jacket—L, XL	\$35.00		
USS West Virginia (BB-48) Baseball Cap	\$20.00		
Battle of Surigao Strait Baseball Cap (I Was There) w/ Eggs	\$15.00		
Battle of Surigao Strait Baseball Cap (I Was There) w/o Eggs	\$15.00		
Battle of Surigao Strait Baseball Cap (My Father Was There) w/ Eggs	\$15.00		
USMC Baseball Cap	\$15.00		
The Mountain State Battleship USS West Virginia (Book)	\$18.00		
Mountaineer Battlewagon (Book)	\$7.95		
USS West Virginia Crosses the Equator 1940 (Book, Reprint)	\$25.00		
USS West Virginia Crosses the Equator Again 1944 (Book, Reprint)	\$25.00		
USS West Virginia Reunion 2004 Tucson, AZ—hatpin	\$4.00		
USS West Virginia 1923/1944 two ship's hatpin	\$4.00		
American Flag Sticker	\$1.00		
USMC Iron/Sew patch	\$2.00		
USN Iron/Sew patch	\$2.00		
USMC Keychain	\$2.00		
USN Keychain	\$2.00		
SHIPPING	\$8.00	1	\$8.00*
		Grand Total:	

### Shipping Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Photos from the 2012 Reunion



**USS West Virginia Association**  
**Mike Mullins – Curator**  
2933 Cottonwood Lane  
Chester Springs, PA 19425

Phone: 610-952-3542

**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.usswestvirginia.org](http://www.usswestvirginia.org)**

The USS West Virginia Association's collection of information and artifacts is kept in the care of Mike Mullins, Curator. Our web site is one of the largest online collections of information about a battleship that you will see anywhere.