

# THE CORAL SEA BREEZE

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## Welcome Aboard!

**John Beaver**  
QM2, Navigation  
1966-69

**Nathan Blank**  
HM2, Medical  
1949

**William Blow**  
Civ/GS13, NIS  
1979-80

**George Cone**  
BTC, B Div.  
1969-73, 1977-79

**Kent Damon**  
QM2, Navigation  
1970-72

**Alvin Doonan**  
RD2, OI Div.  
1960-62

## 2013 Omaha Annual Reunion Recap.

Omaha, Neb. was a great reunion site. The hotel and staff were great. Upon arrival, we noted that the registration personnel were wearing "Dixie Cups" (aka white hats). What a nice touch!



Assoc. members tour the Strategic Air & Space Museum in Omaha.

The weather couldn't have been better. The tours were very enjoyable.

Several important actions occurred at the business meeting.

Association dues will increase to \$20.00 per year effective Jan. 1, 2014. Pay your dues now and save

\$5.00 per year. In the future, anyone attaining the age of 80 years will have to pay dues. However, all Shipmates who are currently 80 years of age will not have to pay dues.

The Association wishes to continue to support the Coral Sea Cadet Div. A donation of \$1,000.00 was made to them. Many thanks to Shipmates



Our 'welcome sign' on the front desk of the Double Tree Hotel.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## President's Corner

Greetings Shipmates, The just concluded 2013 reunion went very well. Even though there was a small turnout this year, we all had a great time. Many thanks go to Ed and Candy Fracul, as well as Marie Chrastina, for all that they did to make the hospitality room a big success. You all worked hard and I'm very appreciative of your efforts. Thanks!!!

Omaha was a great place for the reunion. We saw many nice places there. I had an especially good time meeting up with a Shipmate that I hadn't seen since I left Coral Sea 44 years ago. John and Nancy Beaver took us to several good eating places in Omaha, as well as shared their time with us. John and I had a good time reliving our times together in N Div. and lots of partying that we did years ago. But this is what reunions are all

about: Good times! The 2014 reunion will be in Nashville, Tenn. Shipmate Bill Johnson put together a package for there that promises to be a great time. Many thanks to you, Bill, for your work on behalf of the Assoc. Make your plans now to be there. See the hotel registration info in this issue. We're planning to adjust the usual reunion plan of the day to accommodate

*(Continued on page 7)*



## Welcome Aboard!

**Robert Driscoll**  
FTSN, FOX Div.  
1954-57

**Walter Hardy**  
ABHI  
1964-68, 1977-83

**Albert Kerswell Jr**  
GMG3, 5th Div.  
1973-76

**Jerry Krivolavek**  
YNC, X Div.  
1979-80

**Rudolph Lovell**  
MM3, A Div.  
1968-71

**Donald Ross**  
CS2, S2 Div.  
1967-70

**Gerald Stevenson**  
FN, B Div.  
1972-73

**George Waters**  
YNSN, Operations  
1963-64

## Midwest Spring Fling April 24-27, 2014.

Your Association's Midwest Spring Fling once again is being held in Springfield, Ill. This centrally-located reunion site is about 200 miles southwest of Chicago.

The reunion hotel is the Northfield Inn & Suites, 3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield, Ill. 62702.

Call 1-217-523-7900 for reservations. Mention USS Coral Sea Association when making reservation to receive your discounted room rate of \$88.00 per night for a double and \$98.00 per night for a king Jacuzzi room. (For current taxes, add 12%.)

- Registration price per person: \$35.00 which includes the hospitality room and Saturday night buffet.
- Buffet entrees are sliced roast sirloin of beef and chicken breast with basil cream sauce.

For more information about our Midwest Spring Fling events or to confirm your reservation, please call Jon Lickey at 309-688-3939 or email him at: [jjlickey47@yahoo.com](mailto:jjlickey47@yahoo.com)

## Vice President's Corner

Howdy Coral Sea Mates,

The reunion in Omaha has come and gone. It was a small, but lively crowd. It had great fellowship and we did a lot of visiting, catching up, and planning for Nashville.

The next reunion will be in Nashville, Tenn. For all of you that have been to Nashville, you know there is a lot to do. Let's start to make plans to be there next year, October 1-5, 2014. I was the one that proposed the bid for Nashville. I am going to be the Chairman of this reunion, and I am going to need a lot of help. I have had

numerous people tell me they will help, and I can always use more!

John and the crew did an excellent job at this reunion; the hospitality room was outstanding as well as the tours. The meetings were well attended and very informative. The raffle for the painting was great and the 50/50 raffle we had for the scholarship went well. We raised a lot of money for the Association and Scholarship Fund. We want to thank Lorraine Calderone.

For all of you Florida people, we are planning to have our Spring Fling on March 8, 2014 at the American Legion in Venice. This reunion is

## 36th Annual Reunion in Nashville, Tenn.

If you missed the Association's last Nashville annual reunion, held in "Music City" in 1995, you have another opportunity!

Next year's reunion dates are Oct. 1-5, and you'll discover that Nashville is just a short plane ride away from about 2/3 of the U.S.

Our event hotel is once again the Holiday Inn-Opryland/Airport, 2200 Elm Hill Pk. Nashville, Tenn. 37214

Call 1-866-871-1171 for reservations. Mention USS Coral Sea reunion when making your reservation.

Room rates are \$105.96 per night which includes all current taxes. This group rate applies from Sunday, Sept. 28 through Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2014. Room reservation deadline for this rate: September 2, 2014.

This property features free parking. It is located about 3 miles from the airport, about 5 miles from the Opryland Hotel complex and Opry Mills Mall, and 6 miles from downtown.

As an added convenience for air travelers, our reunion hotel provides free airport transportation for guests every 20 minutes from 5 a.m. until 11 p.m. every day.

More details coming in the March *Sea Breeze*!

also for visitors and anyone else whom wishes to attend. Any and all sailors are welcome! Everyone comes and shares fantastic stories.

There will be more information about the Spring Fling in this Newsletter.

Sincerely, your vice president,

*Bill*

Bill Johnson

P.S. I want to thank each one of you that expressed regrets for my Step-Father's passing. It meant a lot to me and my family.

## Florida Spring Fling Mini-Reunion: March 8, 2014.

It is will soon be time for the Florida Spring Fling Mini-Reunion of the USS Coral Sea Association members. This year we are again inviting local carrier sailors to join us. In the past, we've welcomed sailors from the FDR, the Midway and the Shangri-La. We sure hope you can make it again this year. Any flat-top sailors are invited as well.



Social hour begins at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served between 12 and 12:30 and will be a choice of char-broiled hamburger or cheeseburger, basket of chicken tenders, tuna or egg salad plate w/cottage cheese and chicken salad croissant with fresh fruit garnishes. The burger or tenders basket

comes with fries, chips or coleslaw. The tuna or egg salad plate comes with fresh sliced tomatoes, coleslaw and/or hard boiled egg.

- When - March 8, 2014
- Where – American Legion NO-VEL Post 159, 1770 East Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34292
- Cost - Dinner is \$20.00 per person, tax included. For more info: **Bud McKay**, 151 Hoosier Place, Sarasota, FL 34232;

Ph. (941) 371-3790, or

**Bill Johnson**, 322 N Portia Street, Nokomis, FL 34275; Ph. (941) 485-4360 (leave a message, calls will be returned)

For meal reservations, please complete the form and return it to Bud McKay at the address above.

## Raeann VanSickle Wins 2013 Coral Sea Scholarship Essay Contest.

Raeann VanSickle was a 2013 graduate from Charles F. Adams High School in Clarkston, Wash. When not studying, she spent much of her free time volunteering. She volunteered to sell concessions at school basketball games to raise money for the marching band and the local National Honor Society. As a volunteer, she helped to build a house with the local Habitat for Humanity.

Raeann was her state's "Distinguished Young Women" scholastic winner and valedictorian for her graduating class of 2013.

She won the County Youth Commission "Outstanding Team Project" award and first



place in "Hospitality and Tourism Team Decision Making." Raeann qualified for the International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, Calif.

Raeann participated on the Varsity Golf team and played flute in the marching band. She also served as 12th grade president of the local National Honor Society chapter.

She is attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to pursue a degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

*Ed. Note—Raeann's winning essay can be found on page 4 of this issue*

*of the Sea Breeze.*



**TAPS**

**John E. Ambrosone**  
Corpsman/Medic  
Bath, NY

**Clay Clifford**  
ICC, E Div.  
1960-63

**Redmond L. Clevenger**  
Chief Engineering  
Officer, 1973-74  
Boston, MA

**Anthony DiSalvo**

**Bernard Kivilman**

**Paul Lucas**

**Leo J. Samson**  
DC3, R Div.  
1953-56  
Chicopee, MA

**Chuck Whitcomb**  
Past Assoc.  
President  
Birmingham, AL

**Beryl E. Yates**  
AKI, S6 Div.  
Aboard Early 1960s  
Hanford, CA

## 2013 Coral Sea Assoc. Scholarship Winning Essay.

Armed forces not only defend our nation, but serve as an example of the standards that are held within our borders. In the United States, a strong military is needed in order to fulfill the international positions and commitments that it has made to other nations. Strong armed forces are instrumental in protecting international sovereignty and commerce, supporting alliances such as NATO, and helping to combat global terrorism. Yet, the United States armed forces were not created just for preserving peace in the world, they were created to protect America. The United States military serves as our defense against hostile nations, ensuring the safety of the people of the United States every day. Even during times of peace, the United States military defends the nation by simply existing as a deterrent to any other country that wishes to threaten us. The strength of our armed forces is especially important because it most accurately reflects the United States as the strong and united nation that it is.

After the Revolutionary War the strength of the United States military was greatly diminished due to the fact that the war had ended and a strong military was no longer necessary. It was also at this time that France no longer had to defend American ships from being attacked, leaving the United States in charge of its own protection. The Barbary Pirates took advantage of the United States' weak position and began to capture hostages and demand ransoms. Tired of paying ransoms, Jefferson decided to build up a navy. "It will be more easy to raise ships and men to fight these pirates into reason, than money to bribe them." Jefferson once wrote. When Jefferson became president, this is exactly what he did. Using the force of the United States Navy, Jefferson finally was able to create peaceful relations with the Barbary Pirates. Creating a strong military helped the United States to defeat the Barbary Pirates and protect international commerce and American citizen's lives.

Throughout history, weakened militaries have been the cause of many nations' downfalls. On August 2, 1990, Iraq, which at the time had the world's fourth largest standing

military, invaded the country of Kuwait. Due to the small and relatively weak military force that Kuwait maintained, much of the equipment that the military possessed was destroyed by the Iraqis. It was this inability to defend the nation, due to small numbers and depleted equipment supply, which allowed Iraq to take over Kuwait in just two days. Within several months, the nations of the world spoke up, demanding that Iraq leave Kuwait by January 15, 1991. The U.S. and many other countries helped to expel Iraq from Kuwait in an efficient manner. Kuwait's small military, largely depleted after the invasion, stood no chance of trying to regain power, and relied on the assistance of other countries' armed forces that were greater in strength. The power and force of the other nations showed the importance of military strength, not just in defense of one's own country, but other countries as well.

Although the U.S. was in the depths of the Great Depression, the aggressive actions of Germany caused the United States to create the Lend Lease Program to provide older ships and equipment to Great Britain in the early stages of World War II. This program assisted the allied side, which the United States would later join. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, the United States was largely unprepared to enter war. Yet, the United States was able to quickly strengthen its military. The alliances that the United States had formed with other countries allowed the allies to win World War II. A strong military enables the United States to form strategic agreements with other nations in order to better protect our nation.

Terrorism has become a growing problem, not just in the United States, but throughout the world, as well. Today, the multitude of ways to travel, as well as unsecured international borders, have allowed terrorists to enter countries all over the world. Technology continues to advance, allowing the destruction caused by terrorists to increase even more. Terrorism in itself is meant to cause fear within members of a nation, making a strong military force a necessity, in order to provide people with a feeling of safety within their own

*(Continued on page 5)*



### College Football Humor...

Why do Tennessee fans wear orange? So they can dress that way for the game on Saturday, go hunting on Sunday and pick up trash on Monday.

(Continued from page 4)

### Winning Essay...

homes. Terrorism is also the cause of lost lives, equipment, property, and assets, placing a heavy financial burden on those who must replace and rebuild what is lost. With threats on the United States quality of life and property, it is important that the United States Armed Forces remain strong in order to combat this problem of global terrorism. Keeping our armed forces strong is necessary, not just for

the survival of the United States as a nation but for the other nations that depend on the United States as well. A strong military keeps America safe from foreign enemies, whether they are terrorists or the opposing force in battle. Most importantly, the strength of the United States armed forces portrays to other countries the strength of the United States as a nation and keeps the citizens of America safe from harm.

—Submitted by Raeann VanSickle

## Chaplain's Corner

Dear Shipmates,

The arrival of December always reminds me of my last deployment onboard our beloved ship. It was late December 1988, and we headed for Naples to spend Christmas there. My two chaplain colleagues who served with me, Chaplain Dave Atwater and Father Seamus (Jim) O'Kielty, both wanted to take the tour to Rome for midnight mass at the Vatican.

So, I stayed behind to celebrate Christmas with the duty section and others with nowhere else to go. (I'll say one thing before I forget .... The chow was outstanding!)

On Christmas Eve we announced that a special worship service would be held in the chapel. (I understand that our chapel was formerly the warrant officer wardroom; I always wondered about the stories those walls could tell!)

I had planned no special program. It was mainly singing the old familiar carols. Of course we read the Christmas story from the Bible and had a few prayers. Then I asked if anyone had any good Christmas memories they would be willing to

share. Slowly our shipmates began to share some memories. The stories were very moving. Many were from our childhood, probably memories never before shared in public. As I looked around the chapel I realized once again the things we sacrificed to sail to a foreign port serving our country. Leaving our beloved families behind, especially at this most special holiday of the year was very difficult, but I heard no complaints or grumbling, because this was what dedicated sailors do.

I won't go so far to say this was my best Christmas ever. But I will say that we certainly had a great Christmas celebration together. Shipmates, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your Christmas gift that year, the gift of your special memories.

May YOUR memories be special, too! Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkak, and best wishes to you all.

Your Shipmate,

*Michael*

Michael D. Halley  
CDR, CHC, USN, Retired  
Association Chaplain

## Treasurer's Corner

Greetings Shipmates,

Well, another annual reunion is in the history book. Omaha turned out to be a great site, as was the Double Tree Hotel.

Our Cash Raffle winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> prize of \$500, **Lowell Bushong** of Elkin, N.C.  
2nd prize of \$250, **John Clark** of Kanab, Utah  
3rd prize of \$150, **Terry Tieman** of Eager, Ariz.

Congratulations to the winners and "Thank You" to all who participated.

As promised at the business meeting, the questions about the small stores financial statement have been addressed and the way in which the statement is formatted has been changed to eliminate the confusion.

Hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving, and Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

*Clarence*

Clarence Neander  
Association Treasurer



## College Football Humor...

What does the average Alabama player get on his SATs?

Drool.

# USS Coral Sea Association Membership Application/Renewal Form

Membership in the USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION is open to all Navy, Marine Corp and Air Force personnel who served aboard the ship (CV/CVB/CVA-43) for a period of at least 90 days. Also, any person who was assigned to the commissioning crew (plank owners), even if they spent fewer than 90 days aboard, shall be eligible for membership. **DUES:** Association membership dues is \$15 per year. Dues for membership are not limited to one year. When submitted for renewal or first-time application. Any amount submitted over the annual dues will be automatically earmarked for the Association's Scholarship Fund program.



**New Member:**  I apply for membership for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s). Enclosed is a check/money order \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Renewal:**  Renew my membership for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s). Enclosed is a check/money order \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birth Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please PRINT First name, middle initial, last name) (mo/day/year)

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZIP+4** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthday** \_\_\_\_\_ **Anniversary** \_\_\_\_\_

**ON BOARD SHIP AS CREW MEMBER:**

From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate On Board \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Month/Year) (Month/Year) (Lt/RD/FN/SN/Sgt)  
 Military Retirement: No  Yes  Retired as: \_\_\_\_\_ USN  USMC  USCG   
 (Rank/Rate) USNR  Air Force  Army

I do  do not  want my complete mailing address printed on the Published roster.

Please make check payable to: **USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOC.**  
 Mail application to:

**Don Colwell, Secretary, USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOC.**  
**10658 S Fruit Avenue**  
**Fresno, CA 93706** Email: doncolwell@att.net

**Office Use Only**

Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expires: \_\_\_\_\_



**College Football  
Humor...**

What do you say to a University of Miami Hurricane football player dressed in a three-piece suit? "Will the defendant please rise."

**Secretary's Corner**

Hello Shipmates,  
 Hope you and yours are well.  
 Wishing you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving, Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
 In service, your secretary,

*Don*

Don Colwell  
 P.S. Our sincere condolences to the family of Chuck Whitcomb, former Association president and shipmate. May he rest in peace.

**A Request for Association Member Assistance.**

Dear Mr. Colwell,  
 I am contacting you for possible assistance in finding crewmates of a young man who served on the Coral Sea. His name was Richard Boyce and he was a member of VAH-2 in 1966.

He passed away in 1968 at the age of 21. He had a son, Ed, who was born in August of that year and never got to meet his father.

Ed is a friend of mine and I have been trying to find those who may have been friends of his father. I am hoping that, for Christmas, I might be able to find some pictures, stories, anything connected with his dad to give Ed a better connection

to his father. I believe it would do his heart a world of good.

I have posted notices in the guest book, but thought I would seek the assistance of the Association directly as you would perhaps be able to reach some people that I can't even find.

I know that Mr. Douglas C. Blancahard was a member of the unit, but have no contact information for him. His roster I.D. is 106.

If there is anything you can do to help me, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,  
 Pam Blubaugh  
[cerridwen.llewellyn@gmail.com](mailto:cerridwen.llewellyn@gmail.com)

(Continued from page 1)

**2013 Reunion Recap...**

Shelby Gaul and Richard Satchell for all that they do for this fine program. The Sea Cadets represent the Association well.



Reunion attendee Dave Eastman makes some new friends while waiting for the train in Omaha.

We welcome Larry Pennington to the

Board of Directors. Please note that Andy Wright remains on the board. It was my mistake at the meeting thinking that he was to go off. Jon Lickey was the one year board member and Larry replaces him.



Author Jeanette Vaughan was on hand to sign her books about VA -154 and the 1967-1968 Coral Sea Westpac Cruise.

Many thanks to Shipmate Jon for all that he does to keep the scholarship program working.

Bill Williams was presented a plaque recognizing his long service as scholarship fund chairman. BZ to you, Bill!



BTCM(Ret.) George Cone (l.) and Mike Pfeffer, Assoc. Master-at-Arms and Historian.

The 2014 reunion will be in Nashville, Tenn. See you all there!

(Continued from page 1)

**President's Corner...**

those of us who want to attend the Grand Ole Opry, at least on Friday night. More info will be published on this later.

Make your plans now also to attend the Mid-West Spring Fling in Springfield, Ill. Jon Lickey is putting the plans together for this event. We've had a great time the past three years in Grand Rapids. Many thanks go to Diane and Gary "Mad Dog" Maddox for hosting the past three spring reunions. Please check out the hotel and tour info for the spring fling.

You will note in the obituaries that Past Assoc. Pres. Chuck Whitcomb has passed. He was a fine Shipmate and he will be missed.

We're still trying to fix the Assoc. roster; please bear with us. There are many address and name mistakes.

**Please forward needed address and name corrections to Assoc. Secretary Don Colwell, not to me.** He will fix the problems as needed. I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Please note that the Assoc. dues will increase to \$20.00 per year effective 1/1/2014. Pay your dues now and avoid the increase. Also, if you like, you can pay more that one year and save even more money. This dues increase was voted into effect at the 2013 business meeting. In addition, the provision for free membership for Shipmates 80 years of age or older was eliminated. However, this does not apply to any Shipmates who are currently 80 years of age or older. It applies only to those Shipmates who, in the future, become age 80. There are still no dues payments required for original plank owners. If this increase is a

hardship for any of you, please contact us. We do not want to lose any members.

Welcome aboard to all new Shipmates. I hope that you enjoy this Assoc. Please remember in your prayers all deceased Shipmates.

Shipmates, as always, I welcome your input as to how we can make this a better Assoc. Please e-mail or U.S. mail me with your suggestions. This is your Assoc. and I want to see it move forward.

Here's hoping that your Thanksgiving was great and that you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Godspeed!

*John*

John H. Ranson  
President



**College Football Humor...**

If three Florida State football players are in the same car, who is driving?

The police officer.

# Coral Sea Association Small Stores Product & Price List



Association Logo



Ship's Logo—CVB, CVA, CV

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Price</u>
1001	Reg. Style Cap (Blue or White), CVB/CVA/CV	\$12.00
1002	Mesh Back Cap (Scrambled Eggs) CVB/CVA/CV	\$14.00
1003	Marine Cap (Red) Marine Det., CV	\$14.00
1004	Windbreaker Jacket (Blue), all sizes**	\$42.00
1005	Micro Poly Casual Jacket (Blk, Dk Grn, Maroon, Navy, Red, Royal or Stone) all sizes**	\$46.00
1006	Sweatshirt (Blue or White), all sizes**	\$25.00
1007	T-Shirt (Blue or White), all sizes**	\$17.00
1008	Denim Shirt (SS or LS), all sizes**	\$32.00
1009	Titan Twill Shirt (SS or LS), (Navy, Dutch Blue, French Blue, Khaki, Black, Butter, Crimson, new Olive, Smoke or White), all sizes**	\$32.00
1010	Polo Shirt (Blue or White); all sizes	\$28.00
1011	Pin, CV-43 (Hat/Lapel)	\$ 5.00
1012	3-inch Patch (Older Bolder, CVA-43, Decomm)	\$ 4.00
1013	4.5-inch Patch (Older Bolder, CVA-43)	\$ 6.00
1014	License Plate Frame (Chrome-Plastic), CVA-43	\$12.00
1015	Photo, Coral Sea Straight Deck (8" x 10")	\$ 4.00
1016	Photo, Coral Sea Angle Deck (8" x 10")	\$ 4.00
1018	Coral Sea Coffee Mug	\$ 8.00
1019	Watch Cap, CVB/CVA/CV	\$12.00
1020-1	Optional Embroidery (Name, Div, Year, etc.)	\$ .50/ltr.
1021-2	Full Back Logo for Jackets	\$30.00
1023	Coral Sea Pin (CV-43 or CVA-43)	\$ 3.00

\*\* These are embroidered items; please choose either the Association Logo or Ship's Logo

**Please Note:** Additional embroidery of your choosing is available on any item. Add \$.50 per additional letter.

**Mail:** USS Coral Sea Association  
 Small Stores Account  
 PO Box 1697  
 Powder Springs, GA 30127

**Fax:** 770-222-4833  
**E-mail:** georgerogers@bellsouth.net  
**For more information:** 770-943-3818

# Coral Sea Association Small Stores Order Form



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Item #	Qty.	Description (Color, Logo, Sleeve Length)	Size	Price Ea.	Total Price

Merchandise Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Charge\*\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment**

- Check (make payable to USS Coral Sea Assoc.)
- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express



Association Logo



Ship's Logo  
CVB, CVA, CV

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it Appears on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: 770-222-4833  
 E-mail: [georgerogers@bellsouth.net](mailto:georgerogers@bellsouth.net)  
 Mail: USS Coral Sea Association  
 Small Stores Account  
 PO Box 1697  
 Powder Springs, GA 30127

**\*\*Priority Mail S/H Cost**

Up to \$24.99.....\$ 7.00  
 \$25—\$50.....\$ 9.00  
 \$51—\$75.....\$12.00  
 \$76—Up.....\$15.00

Credit card orders will appear on your statement as "ICU Stitching."

## Key Dates & Events in the History of USS Coral Sea.

600401 PO Homeport : Alameda to 2 March 1983

600919 FF 610527 : 1st Westpac cruise. Laos crisis, Japan, Hong Kong

600919 GC CVG-15 embarked, tail code NL. HOOK Clayton

601205 CO New CO: Lynch, John J. at Yokosuka, Japan. Boston College 1933

610100 ND Operates in South China Sea as Pathet Lao, Laos crisis escalates

610429 EV Vietnam Expeditionary Force service dates; to 9 May 61

610527 GA VMA-324, 121 from Japan replace FITRONS for all attack CVW

610818 CF Enters San Diego Bay for naval aviation 50th anniversary. Largest to date

611023 GA 100,000th landing aboard ship celebrated. A4D Skyhawk

611101 CO New CO: Weisner, Maurice F. Admiral

611212 FF 620717 : 2nd Westpac cruise. Vietnam Expeditionary Ops

611212 GC CVG-15 embarked, tail code NL. HOOK Clayton

611214 CH Pilot Landing Aid Television, first carrier installation

611214 MF 1st carrier Pilot Landing Aid Television (PLAT) installed

620112 EV Vietnam Expeditionary Force service dates; to 27 Jan 62

620200 DO Port calls: Kobe, Yokosuka, Sasebo in Japan

620313 GA Demon, F3H, catapulted while at anchor at Yokosuka demonstration

620330 DD Japan Prime Minister, 23 Diet members tour ship, Yokosuka

620527 DO 620603 : Port call at Hong Kong

620717 MF 1st attack carrier to operate in Bering Sea

620723 CO New CO: Elder, Robert M. in San Francisco Bay. U of WA '40.

620723 DA Tillman, Barrett. Bob Elder. HOOK Fa 89. Biography

620908 AK 621221 : Overhaul period at Hunters Point NSY

630202 CD Aground 8 hours in San Francisco Bay enroute Alameda. Ends SoCal ops

630213 CO New CO: Roemer, Charles E. at Alameda pier

630403 FF 631125 : 3rd Westpac cruise. Australia, Coral Sea services

630403 GC CVG-15 embarked, tail code NL. HOOK Clayton

630422 CF Crosses Equator and International Date Line same time, enroute Australia

630502 CF Commemorates Coral Sea battle with port call at Sydney, Australia

630603 ND Supplies 256,000 gallons of water to drought in Hong Kong

640216 CO New CO: Charbonnet, Pierre N. Jr. USNA '41

641207 FN 651101 : 1st Vietnam extended war cruise. 10,000 sorties

641207 GC CVW-15 embarked, tail code NL. NHC Battle Order p 3

650115 CO New CO: Cassell, George L.

650125 EV 650704 : Vietnam Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Medal

650200 CF 4 CVs mass in Opn Candid Camera off Vietnam; CVs 10, 19, 43, 61

650206 BF 1st combat operations from carrier to Dong Hoi military barracks, No. Viet

650704 ES 651023 : Vietnam Service Medal awarded for combat ops off coast

651002 GA 150,000th trap by Lt. Ronald E. McKowan, VF 154 in a F-8D Crusader

651101 DL 167 line days on 6 line periods with 21 planes lost in combat

651101 DO Olongapo, Phil. Is; Hong Kong; Yokosuka, Japan

651101 MF Record 331 days deployed, 245 days at sea, over 10,500 landings

651104 BD Navy Unit Commendation for Vietnam duty from 7 Feb 65

—Ed. Note, History continues next issue with key events beginning November 1965.



### College Football Humor...

Ohio State's Urban Meyer on one of his players:  
"He doesn't know the meaning of the word fear. In fact, I just saw his grades and he doesn't know the meaning of a lot of words."

# USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) Association.

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**John Ranson, Chairman—2012** Reunion in San Antonio, TX

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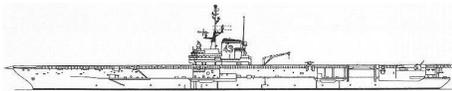


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### Former Association President Chuck Whitcomb Passed Away November 18.

*Publisher's Note—With heavy hearts, we report that our long-time Association member, past Association president and good friend, Chuck Whitcomb, died in November. Chuck, who lived near Birmingham, Ala., was a consistent supporter of our Association for many years. We will miss his service and his friendship. Following is an abbreviated version of his obituary, as posted online.*

Charles Herbert Whitcomb (Chuck) - passed away on Monday, November 18, 2013 at age 76. Chuck served in the United States Navy during the Korean Conflict. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and a member since 1973 of the Cahaba Heights Masonic Lodge #887. A 32nd



degree Mason, Chuck served as Worship Master 2011- 2013. He was a member of Zamora Temple, Past President of USS Coral Sea Association, FDSK member and the owner of Magic Carpet Cleaner. Charles

was preceded in death by his wife Marie Whitcomb. He is survived by his daughter Donna (Prather) Ford; grandchildren: Laura (Mike) Goewert, Prather Ford and Derrick Ford; great grandchildren: Taylor, Alexis, Damion, Michael, Derrick, Bailey, Prather and Faith; great great grandchild: Aubrey. He is also survived by his sisters Cathy (Donald) Root and Mary Jones. His burial was with Military Honors and Masonic Burial Rites.

### Scholarship Essay Packets Available Now!

Shipmates, now is the time to get your seniors thinking about scholarships. If you have a son, daughter, grandchild, great-grand child, step-child, or step-grandchild, and you are a member in good standing (paid-up membership), you can request a packet for the senior. When you make your request, please include your snail-mail address as I will be sending the packet via USPS. All requests for scholarship packets must be made NO LATER than February 15, 2014.

You can email your request to me at: [jjlickey47@yahoo.com](mailto:jjlickey47@yahoo.com), or phone me: 309-688-3939, or write to me for information:

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