

# THE CORAL SEA BREEZE

## This Issue's Ports of Call:

Charleston Wrap-up	1
San Diego Preview	2
Treasure's Corner	2
Secretary's Corner	3
All Hail a Passing Hero	4
Florida Spring Fling	5
Philippines, Leyte Gulf	6
Small Stores Products	8-9
Membership Application	10
Assoc. Officer's Directory	11

## Welcome Aboard!

**Alexander Ching**  
BTCM, B Div.  
1972-74

**Dennis A. Curtis**  
RM2, CR Div.  
1966-70

**Charles R. Daff**  
MM2, M-2  
1982-86

**Kent S. Damon**  
QM2, N Div.  
1971-72

**Gus Eleamos**  
AN, V-4  
1965-69

## Soggy But Super...Charleston 2016 Wrap-up.

The reunion in Charleston has come and gone. The crowd was not as big as we were hoping for what with the newsletter going out late and the "storm of the century" that hit South Carolina. It kept a great number of people away because to get to Charleston from various northern points was an extra 160 or so miles.

However, a great time was had by all who attended. The tour of downtown Charleston

went well; the storm didn't affect the downtown at all. We really had a good time out at Patriot's Point. A visit to a carrier is always great for carrier sailors. We visited the USS Yorktown and the USS Laffey --the destroyer that 23 kamikazes couldn't sink--and the USS Calameres. We also visited the Vietnam Village.

Next year's reunion will be in San Diego where there are also a lot of things to do. Mil

Phillips and his committee are already working to prepare for our October 2016 reunion.

On our banquet night, we had a special treat: Commander James Turner spoke. He began as a seaman, went up the ranks to chief and then warrant officer. Then he went to school to become an officer. He spent 34 years before he retired. He is still an old enlisted sailor

*(Continued on page 3)*

## President's Corner

Hello Shipmates,

One can best say that Charleston was a fun reunion with some unusual challenges. Weather was a paramount factor. Iris and I flew in on October 3, to do some sightseeing before the reunion started. On that day Charleston had 11.5 inches of rain, most ever since they started recording. Then because of road closures and flooding we were not able to visit family as planned.

Some shipmates traveling by car had detours that added 150 + miles to their trip. And, we had some cancellations as weather reports kept saying it was going to get worse. But, all in all Bill and Lynn did a super job and the reunion went off as scheduled.

At the business meeting the cost of putting on a reunion was discussed. With hotel contracts, meeting rooms such as hospitality, small stores, business, banquet and buffet are at no charge IF cer-

tain food and beverage dollar levels are reached. **IF NOT**, we are charged for the use. Thus by attending the dinners, it helps to cover the cost of the reunion. Hospitality room refreshments were also discussed and it was voted to have a \$10 fee charged for members, but not for guests. We realize some will benefit more than others but the amount is nominal and the membership felt it was necessary to help defray

*(Continued on page 6)*

## San Diego 2016 Annual Reunion Preview.



### TAPS

**Lawrence F. Archanbault**  
Corporal, Mardet  
1954-57

**James W. Bendall**  
1950-52

**John Ciccone**  
ABFC, V-I Div.  
1947-51

**Charles Emry**  
RM3, OR Div.  
1959-61

**Michael Fracul Jr.**  
EM3, E Div.

**John F. Gilbert**  
AK3, S-I Div.  
1955-56

**Jim Johnson**  
AN, OC Div.  
1972-73

**Laurel M. King**  
FC1, F Div.  
1947-49

**Paul J. Langon Jr.**  
BTC, B Div.  
1966-71



### Treasurer's Corner

Greeting Shipmates,

Another great reunion is in the books, BZ to Bill Johnson and George Hasse for a great job. Despite heavy rain in the days leading up to the reunion, there were no problems at the hotel or on the tours.

Congratulations to this year's raffle winners, Richard Strunk, Joseph Pace Jr. and Dominick Sano.

At this time the association tax return has been prepared and will have been filed by the time you read this and I can report

the association is financially sound. Keeping our dues up to date will keep it that way.

The March 2016 Sea Breeze will bring the raffle tickets for the 2016 San Diego, CA. reunion. We are working on a new look/format of the tickets to reduce waste and costs.

Hope all is well and all your winter preparations are complete.

*Clarence*

Clarence Neander  
Association Treasurer

### Midwest Spring Fling

ERLANGER, KY.

April 28 to  
May 1, 2016

Holiday Inn-Airport, 1717  
Airport Exchange Blvd.  
Erlanger, KY. 41018

Call 1-859-639-8422 for  
reservations. Mention USS  
Coral Sea Association  
when making reservation.  
Room rate: \$99.00 per  
night single or double plus  
tax. (Currently 11.3%)

(Continued from page 1)

### **Charleston Reunion Wrap-up...**

at heart. Commander Turner served on the Coral Sea and other carriers at the time that the catapults were being converted and preparation was being made for the larger planes. After his talk, we had another special guest, Mrs. Pearl Nicholson, widow of Bill Nicholson (deceased this year), first plank owner. It was Mrs. Nicholson's 89th birthday! We all signed a card and sang "Happy Birthday" to her. She was accompanied by her daughter Kathy. Pearl and Bill were at the very first Coral Sea Reunion held in South Carolina in 1979. Another plank owner, the late Herb Brank, was represented by his wife, Polly, and their daughter, Tiffany. We were very glad to see you ladies!

The raffle was held and a lot of gifts were awarded. Wayne Atkins, Assoc. vice president, auctioned off several items, and the money went to the scholarship fund. Special recognition for raffle contributions is extended to Ruth Carlson

(donated a custom afghan), Steve Neander (donated Coral Sea medallions), the family of Corky Hunt (donated a Coral Sea ship model) and we acknowledge the donation of a Hummel figurine from an unknown source.

In other news, the Florida Spring Fling will be March 12 (second weekend) of 2016 at the American Legion Hall, 1770 East Venice Avenue, Venice. We will meet at 11 a.m. and enjoy fellowship. The dinner will be served around 12:15. The registration form will be in the same issue. Any sailors and friends visiting the Venice area are certainly welcome to join us.

I sure appreciate everyone coming and look forward to seeing you all in San Diego!

Smooth sailing!

—Submitted by  
Bill Johnson

### **Secretary's Corner**

Hi Shipmates,

Thanks to all who attended the 2015 reunion in Charleston, SC and paid their dues. Thanks also to the new members that signed up then. I hope that you all enjoy the USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Assoc. as much as I do. I never get tired of visiting with shipmates and hearing from you all. Please stay in touch!

One correction is needed. Somehow shipmate Dominick Sano was reported as deceased in the March 2015 issue of *Sea Breeze* and his name was part of the 2015 "Two

Bell" ceremony at the reunion. I have since learned that he's alive and well. In addition, he won the \$150.00 prize in the annual raffle at the Charleston reunion. Congratulations shipmate Dominick! I'm glad that you're still amongst the living. God-speed to you! As Mark Twain said, "Reports of my recent demise have been greatly overstated."

As always, I need help from all shipmates regarding keeping the Association roster current. Please do not hesitate to contact me with corrections to your information as it's published on your *Sea Breeze* mailing label. If nothing else, I always enjoy hearing

from you all. I like to visit! Please check your mailing label. If your name is shown in red, your dues are delinquent. I'm carrying many shipmates who are more than one year past due. Please contact me if you have any questions as to your membership status. I look forward to sending membership cards and bumper stickers to all of you who pay up. Thanks!

Due to a call from shipmate Bob Nerbetski, I learned of the passing of the wife of shipmate Jim Ribbe.

The Midwest Spring Fling will be April 28 through May 1, 2016 in Erlanger,

(Continued on page 12)



### **Welcome Aboard!**

**Bernard D. Fowler**  
YN3, X Div.  
1969-70

**Charles Jensen**  
RM2, OC Div.  
1961-63

**Kenneth E. Lyle**  
BTFN, B Div.  
1972-73

**Robert W. Neal**  
DT2, D Div.  
1968-70

**Michael Petrofes**  
LT., VAW-113  
(Years aboard unknown)

## All Hail a Passing Hero.

Vincent Paul dePoix was born in Los Angeles, CA on 13 August 1916. His family moved to New York State shortly thereafter. After graduating from high school, he attended Lafayette College in Easton, Penn., prior to receiving a Congressional Appointment.

He entered The U.S. Naval Academy in 1935, graduating with distinction in the Class of 1939. His first assignment was to the USS Minneapolis (CA-36) for about a year; then the USS Sicard (DM-21). He then entered Flight School at NAS Miami, FL, becoming a Designated Aviator in 1942. After a brief sojourn with the Ready Air Group in San Diego, he deployed to the Pacific, joining VF6 on the USS Enterprise (CV-6).

Between June 1942 and August 1943, he flew combat missions off of Enterprise and USS Saratoga (CV-3), as well as shore based on Guadalcanal. He then joined CINCPAC as assistant to the Aviation Ordinance Branch. Command of VX-4 followed, and later, Fighter Squadron VF-172.

In 1959 he assumed command of the sea plane tender, Albemarle. Following that command, he reported to the Office of Assistant Director for Naval Reactors of The Atomic Energy Commission. In September 1960 he was ordered to the USS Enterprise, CVA(N) 65 as prospective Commanding Officer. He assumed command on 25 November 1961.

In July 1963, He was ordered to the Naval War College, Newport, RI. He was next assigned to Commander Carrier Division Seven in August 1966, which he commanded for two deployments. In August 1971 he assumed command of the Second Fleet. In 1972 he was appointed as Director

of The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). He retired from active duty in 1974, after almost forty years in uniform.

During his outstanding Naval Career, Admiral dePoix was awarded an almost unbelievable number of awards and badges: The Naval Distinguished Service Medal with three Gold Stars, Legion of Merit, Air Medal with Gold Star, Purple Heart, Naval

Expeditionary Medal, Joint Service Commendation, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with four Gold Stars, WW II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Korean Service Medal with Bronze Star, United Nations Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Cuba), Viet Nam Service Medal with Bronze Star, National Order of Viet Nam Grand

Officer, Vietnamese Gallantry Cross, Viet Nam Campaign Medal, Presidential Unit Citation with two Bronze Stars, CIA Distinguished Intelligence Medal. Finally, he had the Joint Staff ID Badge, and DIA Badge.

After retirement, he worked for Teledyne Inc. as President and Group Executive.

I first met the Admiral in August 1966, in Yokosuka, Japan, when he assumed command of Carrier Division Seven, aboard **USS Coral Sea, CVA-43**. During that first cruise, our contacts were limited to "Option One", "Yes Sir, No Sir," or a cheery "Aye, Aye Sir," on my part. On the next cruise, approximately six months hence, our personal contacts were more frequent after I was promoted to his Assistant Communications Officer. As such, I had reason to enter his personal quarters pertaining to communications traffic. Although we didn't engage in a lot of informal

*(Continued on page 5)*



### Salty Humor

The Evening News is where they begin with "Good evening," then proceed to tell you why it isn't!



## Florida Spring Fling Mini-Reunion Set for March 12, 2016.

Mini-reunions are a great opportunity for shipmates to reconnect on a regional basis. It's especially helpful for those Association members who have difficulty traveling to our annual national reunion.

One of the best annual Mini-Reunions is hosted each year by shipmates Bill Johnson and Bud McKay in Venice, FL. And the 2016 get together is scheduled for March 12.

Not only open to Coral Sea Assoc. members, but ALL carrier sailors in the area are welcome to attend. So if you have a friend who served aboard any other carrier, invite him to join you! Our social hour will begin at 11 a.m., with lunch serving between noon and 12:30. Meal choices in-



clude charbroiled cheeseburgers, chicken tenders basket, tuna or egg salad plate with cottage cheese and chicken salad croissant with fresh fruit. The cost of the meal is \$20 per person, including tip.

Make plans to join up with your fellow shipmates today at the American Legion NO-VEL Post 159, 1770 East Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34292. For more information and to make your meal reserva-

tion, contact:

**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).

*(Continued from page 4)*  
chit chat, we were nevertheless closer. I would say, about as close as an Admiral and an Ensign can be under like circumstances. When in doubt, I always fell back on "Option One".

As regarded Navy business, the Admiral was all business and fifty fathoms deep. He relinquished command the following August to Admiral Fred Bardshar, and went on to another assignment in D.C. I saw him last about a year later at the Pentagon Gym, though we didn't get a chance to talk.

At that time I lost contact with the Admiral until 1994. I saw his name on a membership roster for the **USS Coral Sea Association**. I sent him a note, thanking him for his service to our

Navy and our Nation. He replied forthwith. Thus began a twenty one year correspondence between two old shipmates, which has been the greatest honor and pleasure in my life.

He loved fast cars and motorcycles. When we first started corresponding, he owned two Corvettes, a Harley "74" and a Ford truck. Later he sold the Harley because of hip problems, and bought a Dodge "440 Hemi" wagon when they first came out. His lady friend, Julie, liked to go for Sunday rides in the '63 Stingray Coup that he had bought when he was still "Skipper" of Enterprise. He called it "Driving Miss Julie".

He had the reputation during his naval career of being a tough, hard-nosed officer

--and he was-- though he mellowed in later years. During the last several years of his life, he was primary care-giver for Julie, who suffered from diminishing health. I told him that I would pray for their health and well-being.

In his next letter he said, "Carl, normally, the only time that I seek to invoke the power of the All-Mighty is when I see flashing red lights in my rear view mirror". I didn't belabor the subject at the time. Down deep in my military mind, I know that as he approached the Pearly Gates, Saint Peter said: **GANGWAY FOR A FIGHTER PILOT!**

—Submitted by  
CF Fairchild, USN (Ret)



### Salty Humor

Dolphins are so smart that within a few days of captivity, they can train people to stand on the edge of a pool and throw them fish.

## Philippines, Leyte Gulf—Part I

The Japanese stormed through the Philippines about two-and-one-half years earlier. They were brutal and bloodthirsty. The Bataan "death march" revealed their atrocities. (This march was an indication of future Japanese mistreatment of US servicemen.)

General MacArthur was the highest ranking officer in the Philippines. When it became apparent that our meager number of troops could no longer defend the island, he was ordered to leave the Philippines and relocate his command in Australia. He took a PT boat out of Luzon and headed to Australia with two or three aides. (General Wainwright remained behind and he became one of the survivors of the death march.)

Few survived the Bataan Death March. The prisoners were brutally beaten, kicked in the face, and tortured in every imaginable way. Each person deserves a medal for dedication and perseverance

under extreme conditions. (Note: Bataan is a peninsula on the western end of Manila Bay.) After many land, air and sea battle victories throughout the Pacific, the U.S. was ready to reclaim the Philippines. Thousands of lives were lost in each of those encounters and even more were wounded.

We, however, had no choice in making a decision to drive the enemy out of the entire group of Philippine islands. It's important to remember that the morale of our troops and everyone on the home front was essential. We were now at the "front door" of the Philippines. Leyte Gulf would be the "front door" we would go through to boost our morale everywhere.

Leyte is an island located on the eastern side of the Philippines. It is approximately 120 miles long and nearly 50 miles wide.

*(Continued on page 7)*



### Salty Humor

You're never too old to learn something stupid.

*(Continued from page 1)*

### President's Corner...

costs.

Speaking of reunions in 2016 we will be in San Diego. The dates will be the week prior to Columbus Day weekend. We will be at the Crowne Plaza in Hotel Circle. It's about one mile west of the Towne & Country, our 2006 reunion site. It's a beautiful property, locally owned and managed. All rooms have balconies or patios, microwaves, refrigerators and safes. In both 2014 and 2015 shipmates who had stayed at the Crowne Plaza praised the hotel and staff as being first class. Room rate is \$105.00 + \$13.75 tax, a total cost of \$118.75. Rate will be good for 3 days prior and 3 days following. Tours will for sure

include one to the Midway. Details and registration info will be in the next issue.

Also at the business meeting we discussed the delays in getting the Breeze delivered in a timely manner. We are attempting to identify why, and we are working with our printer to find a way to speed up the process. FYI, the Breeze is posted on the web site 2 - 3 weeks before it's in your USPO mail box.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2016,

*Mil*

Mil Phillips  
President

### Chaplain's Corner

Dear Shipmates,

As we approach the holidays of the month of December, I am sure we all could tell a very moving story of the times we had to miss our Christmas or Hanukkah celebration with our family. And I am sure we all would conclude by saying something like, "But that's the kind of sacrifices we have to make if we are going to serve our country."

Fortunately, this great tradition of service continues today in those who currently serve in our armed

*(Continued on page 12)*

(Continued from page 6)

### Philippines, Leyte Gulf...

To the north of Leyte is Samar and a narrow strait separates Samar from Leyte. To the south of Leyte is the island of Mindanao, which is separated from Leyte by the Saragao strait. This strait is nearly 50 miles wide and deep enough for seagoing traffic to Leyte Gulf and Tacloban air field.

Leyte was "protected" by Samar and Mindanao, thereby making it the most practical place for our first return to the Philippines after two-and-a-half years of preparation.

A few weeks before Oct. 20, 1944, there was a massive

group of ships getting organized into one HUGE convoy. Every imaginable type of navy ship was included. It was estimated by our Admiral that several thousand vessels were ready to sail to Leyte Gulf. Most of our main fleets, the 3rd, 5th and 7th, were frantically searching for the Japanese navy task forces to the north and east of the Philippines. (It was overheard that our Admirals knew that a successful invasion at Leyte was entirely dependent on our fleets finding and destroying the Japanese task forces.)

These three main fleets were NOT part of the convoy of ships that were ready to sail to Leyte. A small group of ships--battlewagons, cruisers, tin cans and escort carriers--were sailing with and assigned the duty of protecting the convoy all the way into Leyte Gulf. It was reasonable to assume that one or more of our three main fleets would locate and engage the

Japanese. With the available air support from the other fleets, success was a definite conclusion. This also meant that a much smaller fleet of a few warships and two escort carriers could maintain security for the non-combat ships during the Leyte operation.

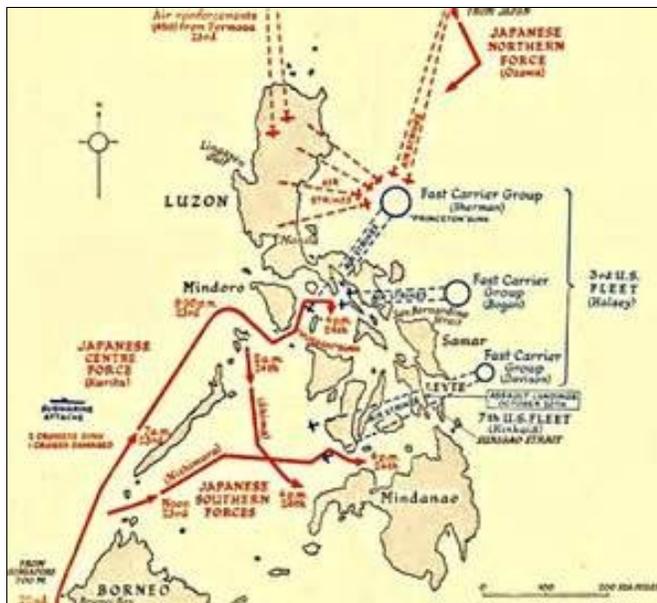
It should be understood that after all the ships entered

Leyte Gulf, there were only two ways out: Exit out to the east in the same direction they entered or through the Saragao Strait going westward. It would be impossible to get out of the gulf with thousands of ships if the Japanese dis-

covered where our invasion forces were being deployed before our fleets discovered their fleets.

As our convoy approached Leyte Gulf Oct. 20, 1944, more than 60 percent of the convoy was already anchored there and our combat forces were "hitting the beaches" all along the northeastern section of the island. Opposition was relatively strong and continued through the first two days. Before the second day's fighting wound down, our brave troops had pushed the enemy a few miles back, into the interior. At this point, Gen. MacArthur waded ashore (with water halfway up to his knees), raised his hand high over his head, and said, "Filipino people, I have returned." (It would have been better, I believe, if he had said, "The U.S. has returned to the Philippines.")

On the fourth invasion day a 'Jap' bomber



### Salty Humor

Hospitality:  
making your  
guests feel like  
they're at home,  
even if you wish  
they were!

(Continued on page 10)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO D & P Embroidery ATTN: \*\*CVA-43 SMALL STORES\*\* CREDIT CARDS WILL PROCESSED THRU PayPal  
 WE ACCEPT: Mastercard - VISA - AMERICAN EXPRESS - DISCOVER <We can also process any order thru YOUR PayPal ACCOUNT>

**USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION LOGO ITEMS**

- CAP ITEM #001 - \$19.99
- MEN POLO'S ITEM #002 - \$23.99
- MEN SWEATSHIRTS ITEM #003 - \$24.50
- MEN TEE'S ITEM #004 - \$13.00
- CAP ITEM #005 - \$19.99
- MEN POLO'S ITEM #006 - \$23.99
- MEN SWEATSHIRTS ITEM #007 - \$24.50
- TEE'S ITEM #008 - \$13.00
- ASSOCIATION PATCH ITEM # 009 - \$20.00



**USS CORAL SEA CVE-43, CVA-43, CV-43 SILHOUETTE ITEMS**

- CAP ITEM #010 - \$19.99
- POLO ITEM #011 - \$23.99
- SWEATSHIRT ITEM #012 - \$24.50
- TEE'S ITEM #013 - \$13.00
- CAP ITEM #014 - \$19.99
- POLO ITEM #015 - \$23.99
- SWEATSHIRT ITEM #016 - \$24.50
- TEE'S ITEM #017 - \$13.00
- CAP ITEM #018 - \$19.99
- POLO ITEM #019 - \$24.50
- SWEATSHIRT ITEM #020 - \$24.50
- TEE'S ITEM #021 - \$13.00



**ADDITIONAL USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION LOGO ITEMS**

- CAP ITEM #022 - \$19.99
- MEN POLO'S ITEM #023 - \$23.99
- MEN SWEATSHIRTS ITEM #024 - \$24.50
- MEN TEE'S ITEM #025 - \$13.00
- CAP ITEM #026 - \$19.99
- MEN POLO ITEM #027 - \$23.99
- MEN SWEATSHIRTS ITEM #028 - \$24.50
- MEN TEE'S ITEM #029 - \$13.00
- CAP ITEM #030 - \$19.99
- MEN POLO'S ITEM #031 - \$23.99
- MEN SWEATSHIRTS ITEM #032 - \$24.50
- MEN TEE'S ITEM #033 - \$13.00



**EMBROIDERY ON FRONT, SIDES AND BACK OF CAPS**

- CAP ITEM # 034 - \$24.99
- CAP ITEM # 035 - \$26.99



**USS CORAL SEA CVE, CVA, CV-43 NAVY JOB RATE CAPS**

- CAP ITEM #036 - \$19.99
- POLO ITEM #037 - \$23.99
- SWEATSHIRT ITEM #038 - \$24.50
- TEE'S ITEM #039



**NAVY RANK OR ENLISTED PAYGRADE INSIGNIA CAPS**

- CAP ITEM #040 - \$19.99
- POLO ITEM #041 - 23.99
- SWEATSHIRT ITEM #042 - \$24.50
- TEE'S ITEM #043 - \$13.00



**NAVY PAYGRADE INSIGNIA (SILVER)**

- CAP ITEM #044 - \$19.99
- POLO ITEM #045 - \$23.99
- SWEATSHIRT ITEM #046 - \$24.50
- TEE'S ITEM #047 - \$13.00



**CVE, CVA, CV-43 USMC MARDET DESIGNS CHOOSE (A,B,C,D)**

- CAP ITEM #048 - \$19.99
- POLO ITEM #049 - \$23.99
- SWEATSHIRT ITEM #050 - \$24.50
- TEE'S ITEM #051 - \$13.00



**CAPS WITH SCRAMBLED EGGS**

- CAP ITEM #52 - \$22.99

**JOB RATE WATCH CAPS CUPPED OR SKULL**

- WATCH CAP ITEM #053 - \$16.99
- WATCH CAP ITEM #054 - 14.99



**JACKETBACK DESIGNS/ MICRO FIBER ONLY**

- JACKET ITEM #055 \$79.00
- JACKET ITEM #056 \$83.00
- JACKET ITEM #057 \$80.00
- JACKET ITEM #058 \$80.00



**CORAL SEA WIFE**

- POLO ITEM #059 - \$30.00
- TEE'S ITEM #060 - \$13.00
- SWEATSHIRT ITEM #061 - \$22.50



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 WE ACCEPT: Mastercard - VISA - AMERICAN EXPRESS - DISCOVER <We can also process any order thru YOUR PayPal ACCOUNT>

**LADIES APPAREL CORAL SEA PROUD WIFE**

- POLO ITEM #062 - \$30.00
- TEE'S ITEM #063 - \$13.00
- SWEATSHIRT ITEM #064 - \$22.50



**LADIES APPAREL CORAL SEA GIRL**

- POLO ITEM #065 - \$30.00
- TEE'S ITEM #066 - \$13.00
- SWEATSHIRT ITEM #067 - \$22.50



**YOUTH CORAL SEA MY GRANDPA SERVED**

- POLO'S ITEM #068 - \$20.50
- SWEATSHIRT ITEM #069 - \$13.50
- TEE'S ITEM #070 - \$15.50



**YOUTH CORAL SEA MY PAPA SERVED**

- POLO'S ITEM #071 - \$20.50
- SWEATSHIRT ITEM #072 - \$13.50
- TEE'S ITEM #073 - \$15.50



**YOUTH CORAL SEA MY PAWPAW SERVED**

- POLO'S ITEM #074 - \$20.50
- SWEATSHIRT ITEM #075 - \$13.50
- TEE'S ITEM #076 - \$15.50



**YOUTH CAPS \$18.99**

- ITEM #077 - \$15.99
- ITEM #078 - \$15.99
- ITEM #079 - \$15.99
- ITEM #080 - \$15.99



**USS CORAL SEA CVE, CVA, CV-43 CAP WITH BLANK CENTER**

- CAP ITEM # 081 - \$27.50



**USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 VIETNAM COMBAT CRUISE PATCHES**

- COMBAT CRUISE ONE ITEM #082 - \$20.00
- COMBAT CRUISE TWO ITEM #083 - \$20.00
- COMBAT CRUISE THREE ITEM #084 - \$20.00
- COMBAT CRUISE FOUR ITEM #085 - \$20.00
- COMBAT CRUISE FIVE ITEM #086 - \$20.00
- COMBAT CRUISE SIX ITEM #087 - \$20.00



**ADDITIONAL CORAL SEA PATCHES**

- ITEM #088 - \$25.00
- ITEM #089 - \$20.00
- ITEM #090 - \$20.00
- ITEM #091 - \$20.00



**WESTERN-PACIFIC CRUISE PATCH**

- ITEM #092 - \$35.00



**EVACUATION OF SAIGON PATCHES - 7"X7"**

- ITEM #093 - \$35.00
- ITEM #094 - \$35.00



**"MAYAGUEZ RESCUE" PATCHES 7"X7"**

- ITEM #095 - \$35.00
- ITEM #096 - \$35.00



# CORAL SEA ASSOCIATION SMALL STORES ORDER FORM #1

ITEM #	QTY.	SIZE NOTE: CAPS - ONE SIZE FITS MOST FOR LARGER HEADS ADD \$3.00 FOR LG/XLG FLEX- FIT CAPS	COLOR	PRICE	ADDITIONAL INFO FOR ITEM # - HULL DESIGNATION CVB, CVA, CV, JOB RATE(BT,MM,AB,...etc.) OFFICER RANK/PAY RATE (CAPT,LTCDR,EN/E4,E5,E6,E7,...etc.) USMC DESIGNS - (A,B,C, OR D) THREAD COLOR FOR WATCH CAP DESIGN
#1					
<p><b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>  shop.cva43doc @ charter.net  Shop Phone - 205.330.7750  Cell Phone - 205.310.0330  12550 Oak Ridge Road  Northport, Alabama 35475-4327</p>					
			SALES TOTAL	\$ _____	** USPS PRIORITY MAIL - S/H CHARGES**
			SHIPPING CHARGES	\$ _____	UP TO \$24.99 .....\$7.00 \$25.00 TO \$50.00 .....\$9.00 \$51 TO \$75 .....\$12.00 \$76 & UP .....\$15.00
			TOTAL CHARGE	\$ _____	

**NOTE: ALL CREDIT CARDS WILL BE PROCESSED THRU D & P Embroidery PayPal Account**

Use your PayPal Account to PAY - Acct. email \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO D&P EMBROIDERY - ATTENTION CVA-43 SMALL STORES





**Salty Humor**

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

(Continued from page 7)

**Philippines, Leyte Gulf...**

flew over the gulf and dropped a few bombs. I was wounded with the shrapnel from an exploding bomb that hit the bridge of the USS Fremont. I was put in sick bay pending the arrival of USNHS Mercy (more of this story later).

Then, seemingly out of nowhere, a P-38 pilot began repeating this radio message over and over: "Japanese task force sailing at flank speed on western side of Philippines, going south." He frantically repeated that same message. This information was extremely important to our commanders who were not expecting the Japanese navy this far south. If the Japanese battle force could get to Leyte, virtually every ship in the gulf would be easy targets for their battleships and the entire Leyte operation would have been a devastating defeat. Morale would have plum-

meted.

Our three main fleets did not locate this Japanese fleet, as expected. The P-38 pilot was the first one informing us of the magnitude of the problem. This Japanese fleet could easily turn from southward to eastward toward Leyte Gulf. (The pilot's radio message also was being monitored in the U.S.A. Our president sent a message to Adm. Halsey, the Commander of one of our fleets: "Where is our Navy, the world wants to know?" It was rumored that Adm. Halsey was so upset by the comment, he cried when he read this message. Admirals Halsey, Spruance and Kinkaid each commanded one of the fleets.

Although not a priority at this time, the vessels that carried the aircraft fuel and belly tanks were the first ones being unloaded onto the beach very near the airstrip at Tacloban. This activity shifted

(Continued on page 12)

**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 original commissioning crew (plank owner), even if they spent fewer than 90 days aboard, shall be eligible for membership. **DUES:** Association membership is \$20 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.



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**John Ranson, Secretary, USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOC.**  
**52 Woodland Pl.**  
**Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1605 Email: jr3843@fuse.net**

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**Mil Phillips** (858) 452-0161  
(858) 401-3402 (cell)  
4995 Maynard Street  
San Diego, CA 92112  
milphillip@aol.com

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27684 N 725 E Road  
Cornell, IL 61319  
accrane@msn.com  
(815) 341-5928

### Chaplain:

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U.S. Navy Chaplain Ret.  
mhalley43@gmail.com

### Historian:

**Mike Pfeffer**  
mpfeff53@aol.com

### Vice President:

**Wayne Addkison** (903) 288-4455  
12856 FM 1391  
Kemp, TX 75143  
redrocktx2@yahoo.com

### Immediate Past President:

**Bill Johnson**  
322 N Portia St.  
Nokomis, FL 34275  
cva43bill@hotmail.com  
(941) 485-4360

### Storekeeper:

**Doc Dockery** (205) 330-7750  
12550 Oak Ridge Road  
Northport, AL 35475-4327  
Shop.cva43doc@charter.net

### Retention Chairman:

**Jon Lickey** (309) 688-3939  
jjlickey47@yahoo.com

### Secretary:

**John Ranson** (859) 781-2536  
52 Woodland Pl.  
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1605  
jr3843@fuse.net

### Board of Directors:

**Robert Hintze—2015**  
bobaleebob@yahoo.com  
**Larry Pennington—2016**  
nija6063@gmail.com  
**Robert Gaston—2017**  
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Master-at-Arms:  
**Mike Pfeffer** (773) 631-3750  
5311 N Manila Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60630  
mpfeff53@aol.com

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309-688-3939

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cva43bill@hotmail.com

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### The Sea Breeze—Official Coral Sea Newsletter

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Webmaster: **Bob Dorais,** cv43@usscoralsea.net

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## USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association

Mil Phillips, Publisher  
4995 Maynard Street  
San Diego, CA 92112

Email: milphillip@aol.com

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*(Continued from page 10)*

### **Philippines, Leyte Gulf...**

into 'overdrive' once news of the Japanese fleet spotting became known. The two escort carriers could, if it became necessary, bomb, strafe and drop belly tanks on the enemy.

About six hours later, the first P-38 was relieved of recon and another P-38 took its place. More shocking news soon came from the second P-38 pilot: "Japanese task force is entering the west end of Saragao strait with a heading toward Leyte Gulf." Like the first recon discovery, this message also was repeated over and over because of its obvious importance.

*Ed. Note—Part 2 continues in the next issue of Sea Breeze.*

—Submitted by  
George Williams  
USN 1941-46

*(Continued from page 6)*

### **Chaplain's Corner...**

forces. Yes, many of them will miss their families during these holiday celebrations. And we veterans will pray for them and for their families, thanking God for the sacrifices they are willing to make and asking for love and comfort for them all.

Whatever your favorite holiday greeting might be, I want to wish every one of you the very happiest and most meaningful of holidays this year. May God's favor rest upon each of you and your families!

Your chaplain,

*Michael*

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

*(Continued from page 3)*

### **Secretary's Corner...**

KY. You'll see hotel registration and meal information in the next issue. Erlanger is located in northern Kentucky, about 10 miles south of Cincinnati, Ohio. I hope that many of you can attend. We're planning a great time for all. Again, look for complete registration information in the March issue of *Sea Breeze*. Or contact me directly for this information soon. I'm still negotiating with the hotel as to dinner prices, etc. The reunion will be at the Holiday Inn-Airport in Erlanger. Please stay in touch.

Godspeed!

*John*

John H. Ranson  
CVA-43 Assoc. Secretary