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# Welcome Aboard!

David D. Cassady ABEAN, V-2 Div. 9/60-5/61

> Matthew D. Gellman AG3, OA Div. 4/82—3/85

Raymond J. Griffith ABH3, V-1 Div. 4/85—10/88

Gerald E. Muller DSC (SW), OED 4/87—5/89

**Eugene R. Wiesbeck** BT1, B Div. 8/72—6/75

# Saddle Up for the Oklahoma City Annual Reunion.

Oklahoma City, is the site of this fall's Annual Reunion, running from Oct. 7-11, 2020.

Come enjoy all the amenities of the Wyndham Garden Hotel Oklahoma City Airport, Our discounted rate is \$111.84 (\$98 plus 14.125% room tax), which includes two breakfast buffet

coupons per room. The cutoff date for this special rate is Sept. 7, 2020. Call 888-862-2116 to make your direct reservation and be sure to mention the USS Corral Sea to ensure this special rate. You can also visit:

www.afrreg.com/ coralsea2020 and click on the reservation link at the top of the page.

The hotel provides compliment

tary parking and a free airport shuttle. Cancelations are accepted to hours prior to arrival.

Don'Net this Coral Sea Annual Reunion sail without you!

# President's Corner

Howdy from Texas to all shipmates,
Our reunion 2020 in Oklahoma City has been officially cancelled, with a majority vote from the board. This was to be an election year, so the board voted to extend all officers and board members for one year. Elections will

be held in Colorado Springs at our 2021 National Reunion. The hotel reservations have been cancelled but, to be on the safe side, call and make sure. We made an agreement with the hotel if they helped us out with this cancellation, we would hold our 2023 reunion in Oklahoma City, with rates to

be the same as 2020. The scheduled date is October 4-8, 2023.

I have been in contact with Ted Day with AFR concerning refunds. Their policy is to return all money sent to them for the 2020 reunion. While I have no timeline on the return, Ted said it would be ASAP.

(Continued on page 6)

# Battle of the Coral Sea.



**TAPS** 

Dennis A. Bowin SN, 1st & 3rd Divisions 1968—1970

Sheldon J. Nadeau AO3, V3-O 1951—1954

The Japanese battle plan, developed by the battle staff of Admiral Yamamoto, was set into motion. Called Operation MO, the plan involved the Invasion of Port Moresby on the Coral Sea. The fall of Port Moresby would lead to an easy conquest of the rest of New Guinea and thereby place Australia itself in great peril. As a preliminary move, a Japanese force seized Tulagi, a small island some 20 miles North of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands and began construction of a seaplane base there. Since January, Japanese forces had been staging for regional Pacific operations at Rabaul. On 4 May, the Port Moresby Invasion force consisting of fourteen invasion troop transports, escorted by a light cruiser and six destroyers and a covering force consisting of the light carrier Shoho, four heavy cruisers and a destroyer, departed the Rabaul staging area and headed to sea. Most of this information was already known by Admiral Nimitz, whose crypto analysts had broken the Japanese fleet crypto codes. Nimitz had already dispatched a naval force, designated Task Force 17, consisting of two carriers, six heavy cruisers, two light cruisers and eleven destroyers under command of Rear Admiral Frank Fletcher. Their mission--to intercept the Japanese fleet now steaming from Rabaul. On the afternoon of the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, enemy forces had become sufficiently consolidated in the Bismarck Archipelago-New Guinea region to indicate amphibious operation to the southward. As enemy forces moving against Port Moresby, the most likely target, would have to round the southeastern end of

New Guinea. Rear Admiral Fletcher stationed an attack group within striking distance of the probable track of the enemy fleet and the remainder of his force moved northward to locate the enemy covering force.

Admiral Fletcher's forces had reached the Coral Sea of northeastern Australia by the time of the Tulagi landing. Fletcher immediately launched a ninety-three -plane air attack toward Tulagi from his flagship, the carrier Yorktown. To counter the unexpected threat from Task Force 17, Japanese Vice Admiral Takeo Takagi was sent south from Bougainville with an additional reinforcing force consisting of two heavy carriers, the Zuikaku and the Shokaku, two heavy cruisers and six destroyers.

As the two opposing forces drew inexorably closer, the first contact was made by Takagi. On the morning of 7 May. one of his search planes spotted the oiler Neosho and a destroyer. Excited by his discovery, the spotter erroneously reported the two ships as an enemy carrier and a cruiser. Responding quickly, two waves of high-level bombers and 36 dive bombers attacked, sinking the destroyer, and leaving the oiler mortally wounded and drifting helplessly.

While Takagi concentrated on these relatively minor targets, a strike force of 93 planes from the Yorktown and Lexington found the light carrier Shoho and began an intense bomb and torpedo attack. As the command elements on the United States mother ships strained to make sense of the garbled and excited radio conver-

(Continued on page 4)



February 14, 2020

Mr. Wayne Addkison President USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association 12856 FM 1391, Kemp, TX 75143



Dear Mr. Addkison,

Thank you for the USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) Association's \$1,567 donation to the USS Midway, received 1/30/2020, as part of the 'Three Sisters' reunion \$4,700 fundraising effort. The proud USS Midway Museum is so very fortunate to enjoy the continued support of these three special associations. It is because of the generosity that we can continue our great cause of teaching visitors of all ages about the history of our great country and its stand for strength, freedom and peace.

They much!

Thank you again for the USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) Association's commitment to Midway.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Beintema

President, USS Midway Foundation

(619) 398-8282

dbeintema@midway.org

This letter may act as a receipt of your tax-deductible donation. The USS Midway Museum is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, our Federal tax ID is #33-0556416. The USS Midway Museum acknowledges that we have not provided you with any goods or services for your donation.



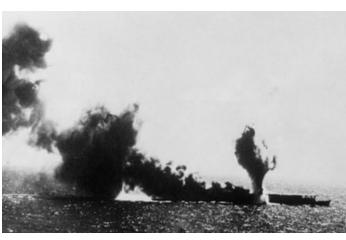


(Continued from page 2)

### The Battle of Coral Sea...

sations between engaged aircraft, the voice of Lieutenant Commander Robert Dixon came in loud and clear, reporting

"Scratch one flattop! Dixon to carrier. Scratch one flattop!" At last, after five long and discouraging months, a Japanese ship larger than a destrover had been sunk.



The Japanese aircraft carrier Shoho under attack by US Navy aircraft in the Coral Sea.

In Rabaul, Vice Admiral Shigeyoshi Inoue, overall commander of Operation MO, ordered the transports to turn back and wait until the seas were cleared of the Americans. As the afternoon wore on, visibility decreased and

squalls developed, limiting visibility and aerial observation. By midnight, the two fleets had lost contact.

Takagi then signaled Rear Admiral Tadaichi Hara, commander of the

two Japanese carriers, querying if he could launch a night air attack. Hara replied that he was prepared to send a force of 27 aircraft. Just prior to dusk they took off but because of limited visibility and

worsening weather, they found nothing. However, on the way back to the carriers, the returning Japanese raiders were set upon by a group of Fletcher's fighters. In

(Continued on page 5)

# Conversation stopped, and the customers stared at him. He limped a few steps

more and barked, "I'm

looking for the

man who shot

my paw!"

Salty Humor

An angry dog

limped into a

bar and

snarled.

Treasurer's Corner

Greetings Shipmates,
Our annual reunion
has fallen victim to
Covid-19 so that our
members would not.
This would have
been my 20th consecutive reunion.
Raffle ticket returns
have been the fewest
since I've been
treasurer; about
50% of last year.
The plan is to still

have the drawing as scheduled on Saturday Oct. 10, 2020. Winners will receive their prize by mail and be announced in the December Breeze. There is still time to participate, right up until October 10.

Not much to report this issue. The Association is staying steady financially, the taxes are filed, and the scholarship awards have been sent out.

Going to miss seeing old friends and making new ones.

Stay well, stay safe, things will get better.



Clarence Neander Association Treasurer (Continued from page 4)

### The Battle of Coral Sea...

the ensuing battle, nine Japanese aircraft were shot down; the others dispersed and attempted to return to their home carriers. One cluster of six eventually found a carrier and entered the landing pattern. As the first Japanese aircraft skimmed the deck with its landing hook extended, he was blasted by a hail of gunfire. The aircraft carrier was the Yorktown.

Takagi, reviewing the situation, decided to retire to the north temporarily. After several hours, he doubled back toward the American carriers and just before dawn on 8 May, he dispatched a force of 27 search planes. The first pure carrier battle in the history of warfare was now imminent. Admiral Fletcher had radar, but his carriers had operated together as a team for less than a week. Takagi had no radar, but his forces had been together as a coordinated division for more than six months. Fletcher now had one 122 planes; Takagi had 121. The overcast weather gave a slight advantage to the attacking Takagi.

The first break, however, went to Fletcher. At 0815 one of his search pilots reported sighting the Japanese Strike Force, radioing that he had spotted two carriers, four heavy cruisers, many destroyers, steering 120 degrees, 20 knots. Their position 175 miles roughly northeast!" Fletcher ordered airstrikes launched from both carriers and around 1100 hours 39 planes from the Yorktown attacked the Shokaku, now screened by heavy cruisers and destroyers. Zuikaku, ten miles away, was hidden by a dense squall. Shokaku avoided hits by torpedo planes, but dive bombers scored two direct hits which started raging fires. Twenty-four planes from the Lexington made up a second wave and found the carriers and attacked aggressively. The Shokaku was hit one more time. As the aircraft returned to the Lexington, the Shokaku's fires were brought under control and, seriously wounded, she left the field of battle and headed for home.

However, the Japanese found the

(Continued on page 6)



# Salty Humor

Found
written on
a dentist's
grave:
"He's filling
his last
cavity."

# Secretary's Corner

Greetings Shipmates, As you all have noted from the Association President's article in this issue, the 2020 reunion has been cancelled. The Board Members regret that this decision had to be made, but as you all know, due to covid19, there's a lot of concern for everyone's health. We plan to have a great reunion in 2021 in Colorado Springs, CO. Please start making your plans now.

As always, I look forward to talking to Shipmates. If you have anything that needs my attention, please don't' hesitate to call or e-mail me. Also, if any of you know of the passing of a Shipmate, please contact me. That helps keep the Association records up to date.

Lastly, please look at

your mailing label on this issue of "Sea Breeze". If your dues expire soon, please send your payment to me. Also, please check that the label is correct.

Have a safe year and Godspeed!

John

John H. Ranson CVA-43 Association Secretary (Continued from page 5)

### The Battle of Coral Sea...

American force almost simultaneously with the American discovery of the Japanese fleet. Seventy planes attacked Fletcher's two carriers. One bomb hit he Yorktown's flight deck, however the fires were quickly brought under control by the Yorktown damage control crews. The Lexington, however, was not so lucky as two torpedoes exploded on her port side and small bombs struck forward on the main deck and into the smokestack structure.

The air attacks had been costly to both sides. By noon, the battle was over. It was the first naval engagement in which posing ships never saw each other or changed gunfire.

At this time, it appeared that Fletcher had won. He had sunk a light carrier, a destroyer and three small vessels while losing one destroyer and an oiler. Then, two explosions rocked the stricken Lexington and set off fires that could not be brought under control. Around 1700 hours, the Lexington now was almost impossible to control. Rear Admiral Aubrey Fitch, commander of the Carrier

Group, informed the Lexington's skipper, Captain Frederick C. Sherman, that it was time to "get the men off."

Nearly all personnel were saved and once everyone was clear of the stricken Lexington, four torpedoes from the destroyer Phelps were fired into the carrier's starboard side. The carrier shuddered and, as steam continued to rise from within her, she slid sternfirst beneath the waters--head up and refusing to roll over even at the very end.

With the sinking of the Lexington, the battle now became a tactical victory for Takagi; however, the strategic triumph belonged to Fletcher. Admiral Inoue was forced to postpone the Port Moresby operation. Fletcher had accomplished his mission and, for the first time since Pearl Harbor, a Japanese invasion had been thwarted.

Takagi, however, was reluctant to give up. He was preparing to engage the Americans in a night battle when he learned that his own destroyers were almost out of fuel. He then turned back to-

(Continued on page 7)



# Salty Humor

The world is full of willing people. Some are willing to work, and the rest are willing to let them.

(Continued from page 1)

## President's Corner...

I have proposal for our 2022 reunion in Norfolk, Va. or Louisville, Ky. As you know next year is Colorado Springs. I would like to thank all for their prayers and thoughts with the death of my middle son in June. he served four years in the US Navy, from

1992-1996, aboard the USS Teddy Roosevelt (CVN-71). His daughter now serves aboard the USS Chafee (DD-G72) out of Pearl. He will be greatly missed and thank you all.

All of us are disappointed about the current events. But the decision to cancel was made as a matter of Association

member safety. Hopefully, next year will be a different story. Wish all of you a good year and see you in Colorado Springs.

Wayne

Wavne Addkison President

# (Continued from page 6) **The Battle of Coral Sea...**

ward Rabaul. Yamamoto was still resolved to pursue the Americans, however, and through communications facilities at Rabaul ordered Takagi to attack despite the fuel shortage. Takagi reversed his course to engage, but too late. Fletcher had already vanished.

Thus ended the first major engagement in naval history in which surface ships did not exchange a single shot. Although the loss of the Lexington was keenly felt, the engagement in the Coral Sea effectively checked

the Japanese in their advance southward. Our losses of one carrier, one tanker, one destroyer and a total of 66 planes were considerably less than the estimated Japanese losses. Our personnel casualties totaled 543.

Tactically, the Battle of the Coral Sea was a Japanese victory. The United States carrier Lexington, plus the Neoshe and Sims were lost during the fight, far outweighing the loss of the Japanese light carrier Shoho. Strategically, however, Coral Sea was a stun-

(Continued on page 10)



# Salty Humor

I thought air was free.
Then I bought a bag of potato chips!

# Chaplain's Corner

Dear Shipmates, I suppose that all such newsletter columns like this one try to address the current pandemic in which we find ourselves . . . I like to call it The Virus. As I talk with family and friends, I discover that some take this very seriously while others do not. And then every now and then I run into vet another conspiracy theory. So, for me the big question is, "What will I do about

I can't help thinking about our days onboard USS Coral Sea. Social distancing? Didn't exist. Masks? Yes, there were masks, but they

this?"

were mainly worn while fighting a fire or other such hazardous evolutions. Gloves? Only if you were doing welding. And we could go on and on.

Somehow, we survived! If you recall, for most of us our biggest worry at the time was getting good chow and having enough time to sleep a few hours when not on watch.

Truly "The Virus" has

reminded us that life on this planet is interwoven. And if I can carry the example a little further, we Coral Sea sailors and marines knew that already! We looked out for each other and we did all we could to make shipboard life safe and healthy. Now

we're doing that same thing for a much wider "crew", our family, friends, and fellow citizens. So, as your chaplain I say don't give up! We have faced worse than this and we have prevailed. Pray for your family and friends and pray especially for those whose responsibility it is to lead us through these days of "The Virus".

May God's blessings and peace be with you all!

Your chaplain and shipmate,

Michael

Michael D. Halley Association Chaplain MAKE CHECKS FAYABLE TO D & F Embroidery ATTN. \*\*CVA-43 SMALL STORES\*\* CREDIT CARDS WILL FROCESSED THRU FayFal WB ACCEPT: Mastercard - VISA - AMERICAN EXPRESS - DISCOVER < We can also process any order thru YOUR PayFal ACCOUNT>

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

CAF ITEM #001 - \$19.99 MEN POLO'S ITEM #002 - \$23.99 MEN SWEATSHIRTS ITEM #003 - \$\$24.50

MEN TEB'S ITEM #004 - \$13.00 CAP ITEM #005 - #19 99

MBN POLO'S ITEM #006 - \$23.99 MEN SWEATSHIRTS ITEM #007 - \$2450 TER'S ITEM #003 . \$13.00

ASSOCIATION FATCH ITEM # 009 - \$20.00



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

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TBB'S ITEM #021 - \$13.00 ADDITIONAL USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION LOGO ITEMS

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

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### USS CORAL SEA CVB, CVA, CV-43 NAVY JOB RATE CAPS

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POLO ITEM #062 - \$30.00 TER'S ITEM #043 - \$13.00 SWBATSHIRT ITEM #064-82250







### LADIES AFFARREL CORAL SEA GIRL

POLO ITEM #065 - \$30.00 TEB'S ITEM #066 - \$13.00

SWBATSHIRT ITEM #007-822-50







### YOUTH CORAL SEA MY GRANDPA SERVED

POLO'S ITEM #008 - \$20.50 SWEATSHIRT ITEM #069 - \$13.50 TRR'S ITRM #070 . \$15.50







POLO'S ITEM #071 - \$20 50 SWBATSHIRT ITEM #072 - \$18.50 TEB'S ITEM #073 - \$15.50







### YOUTH CORAL SEA MY FAWFAW SERVED

POLO'S ITEM #074 - \$20.50 SWBATSHIRT ITEM #075 - \$18.50 TEB'S ITEM #070 - \$15.50







ITEM #077 - \$15.99 ITEM #078 - 815.99







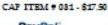


### YOUTH CAPS \$18.99

ITEM #079 - \$15.99 ITEM #030 - \$15.99



USS CORAL SBA CVB, CVA, CV-43 CAF WITH BLANK CENTER









### USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 VIETNAM COMBAT CRUISE FATCHES

COMBAT CRUISE ONE ITEM #032 - \$20.00 COMBAT CRUISE TWO ITEM #083 - \$20.00 COMBAT CRUISE THREE ITEM #034 - \$20.00 COMBAT CRUISE POUR ITEM #085 - \$20.00 COMBAT CRUISE FIVE ITEM #036 - \$20.00 COMBAT CRUISE SIX ITEM #037 - \$20.00



### ADDITIONAL CORAL SEA FATCHES

ITEM #088 - \$25.00 ITEM #039 - \$20.00 ITEM #090 - \$2000 ITEM #091 - \$20.00











### WESTERN-FACIFIC CRUISE FATCH

ITEM #092 - \$35.00



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

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





### "MAYAGUEZ RESCUE" PATCHES 7"X7"

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# CORAL SEA ASSOCIATION SMALL STORES ORDER FORM #

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	** USPS PRIORITY MAIL - S/H CHARGES** UP TO \$24.99\$7.00 \$25.00 TO \$50.00\$9.00 \$51 TO \$75\$12.00 \$76 & UP\$15.00
PRICE	es es es
COLOR	SALES TOTAL SHIPPING CHARGES TOTAL CHARGE
SIZE NOTE: CAPS - ONE SIZE FITS MOST FOR LARGER HEADS ADD \$3.00 FOR LG/XLG FLEX- FIT CAPS	Place Ship Store Orders Here!  Wayne Addkison 12856 FM 1391, Kemp, TX 75143  Ph: 903.288.4455  Fx: 903.675.0086  Email: nijarm2@yahoo.com
QTY.	p Store /ayne A 1391, H 903.2 903.6 ijarm2
ITEM #	Place Shi 12856 FM Ph: Fx: Email: n

All Credit Cards Will Be Processed Through The Ship Store All Credit Cards Accepted: Visa, Master Card, Discover, American Express Make Checks Payable To The Ship Store



# **Salty Humor**

Why is the person who invests your money called a "broker?"

(Continued from page 7)

# The Battle of Coral Sea...

ning American victory. The Japanese invasion force headed for Port Moresby was forced to turn back, the first such withdrawal of the war. Japanese expansion effectively ended with the turning back of that invasion force, although the war would continue for many more years. And, for the first time, the United States had sunk a major Japanese ship. Additionally, two other large Japanese carriers, the Shokaku and the Zuikaku, were forced to return to port for repairs and replacement of lost aircraft. The forced return to port would keep them from participating in the upcoming Battle of Midway. Had those two large carriers been

players in that strategically decisive battle, their presence could have made a significant difference in altering the outcome. Alter the Battle of the Coral Sea, the carrier became the focus of naval weaponry. Other ships of the fleet now supported the carrier. The carrier became the first true strategic weapons system. It could execute the full range of strategic options, from establishing a "show-the-flag" presence to the projection of both surgical, tactical, and strategic power on a global basis in support of national

And thus is the heritage of the USS Coral Sea...

policy and military strategy.

—Reprinted from the Association web site: www.usscoralsea.org

# USS Coral Sea Association Membership Application/Renewal Form

Membership in the USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATON 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 <u>original commissioning crew</u> (plank owner), even if they spent fewer than 90 days aboard, shall be eligible for membership. <u>DUES</u>: 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.



New Member: [ ] I apply for membership fo		
Renewal: [ ] Renew my membership for	or year(s). Enclosed is a	check/money order \$
Name		Birth Date
(Please PRINT First name, mide	dle initial, last name)	(mo/day/year) STATE
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Spouse's Name	Birthday	Anniversary
ON BOARD SHIP AS CREW MEMBER:		
From to	DivisionRa	ank/Rate On Board
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I do [ ] do not [ ] want my complete ma I do [ ] do not [ ] want an Association be		blished roster.
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Copy Submission Deadline:

Material for the December issue of *The* Coral Sea Breeze is due in to the publisher or copy editor by Nov. 5, 2020.

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Reunion Committee 2020 Reunion, Oklahoma City

Members: John Ranson & Clarence Neander

**By-Laws Committee** 

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Scholarship Committee

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The Sea Breeze—Official Coral Sea Newsletter

Publisher: Wayne Addkison

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# USS Coral Sea Awards and Recognition.

- The Armed Forces
   Expeditionary Medal
   - for the action of
   the Coral Sea in the
   evacuation of South
   Vietnam.
- Navy Occupation
   Service Medal for
   actions of the Coral
   Sea in the Mediter ranean. Awarded
   six times between
   1949 and 1955.
- Meritorious Unit Commendation - for the support provided by the Coral Sea

- in the SS Mayaguez rescue.
- Navy Unit Commendation (2 awarded)

   for the April 1986
   raid (worked with the America)
   on Libya
- Golden Anchor Award (5 awarded)
   for the retention of personnel
- Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross)
- Admiral Flatley

- Award for aviation safety.
- National Defense Service Medal
- Humanitarian Service medal
- During the Coral Sea's 14th deployment in the Western Pacific, the 300,000 arrested landing was made. This is a record for aircraft carriers.

—Posted from www.usscoralsea.org. Note that the website has been updated and is now mobile friendly.