

# THE CORAL SEA BREEZE

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## Welcome Aboard!

## Check Late Availability Now for Your 3 Sisters Reunion Reservation.

If you've been sitting on the fence about attending the upcoming 3 Sisters Reunion, there may still be time to get your reservation in. The 3 Sisters Reunion is set to take place in San Diego from Sept. 23 to 27, 2024.

Association members and their guests from the three carriers—USS Midway, USS Coral Sea, and

USS Franklin D. Roosevelt—are invited to attend. While the announced deadline for reservations was Aug. 19, you may still be able to attend on a space-available basis.

The reunion will be held at the Wyndham San Diego Bay-side hotel, located at 1355 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. If available, you can book your

room at the group rate by calling 800-996-3426 and referencing "USS MIDWAY/3 SISTERS" or by booking online. Since this is the second time a 3 Sisters Reunion has been held in recent years, it is unlikely to be repeated. More information is available at: <https://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/MidwaySisters2024>.

**Larry A. Gelatt**  
EM1, E. Div.  
3/68—9/72

### President's Corner

Good day shipmates, Summer is over and our 3 Sisters Reunion is around the corner. I am looking forward to seeing all of you there.

I went to Corpus Christi in August and delivered some more memorabilia, took some pictures and met with ships company for our 2025 Reunion. Also, I met with the city and did a final check with the two hotels I will furnish all info to you at

our general meeting at the reunion.

I had lunch with Admiral Allen in June. He said he would like to come to San Diego but just doesn't think can make the trip. He wishes us a very memorable reunion. He did say that, if possible, he will definitely be at our Corpus Christi reunion. As a reminder, you can buy his book on Amazon, and it's well worth the price. I am planning on having lunch with him and his lovely wife,

Donna, right after we return from San Diego.

As of last count we have over 600 signed up for our San Diego reunion. That is for all three ships. We guaranteed the hotel 800 attendees, so if you plan on going, please make your reservation today! The cut-off day is 5 September, which is probably upon us as you read this! The ice cream party has been cancelled; not enough sign ups. If

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## TAPS

**Ronald H. Roberts**  
PN3, X Div.  
1962—1964

## COVID Settlement Protects Sailors.

A recent settlement protecting about 4,300 Navy sailors from being negatively affected by COVID-19 policies in the future is the latest example of how the consequences of the pandemic are still unfolding—specifically in terms of how the military dealt with it.

Reportedly, over “8,400 troops were kicked out of the military for refusing the vaccine,” which became a requirement for all service members under the Biden administration’s Defense Department in August 2021.

In 2022, President Joe Biden repealed the mandate put in place by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. And in November 2023, the Army sent out letters requesting their return.

As a result, each branch of the military suffered from tremendous recruitment shortages. According to reports last year, the Navy missed its goal by over 7,450 sailors. The military missed its recruitment target by 41,000 recruits.

The most recent win for service members seeking reconciliation was the legal settlement announced July 24, at least for sailors.

As summarized by former Rep. Jody

Hice, R-Ga., “The settlement “ensures that Navy service members who refused to have the COVID vaccine for religious reasons, now have an opportunity to have both their records corrected and their careers protected.”

Hice added, “The Navy also agreed to post a statement affirming the Navy’s respect for religious service members, and they also had to pay \$1.5 million in attorney fees.”

The settlement with the Navy came because of sailors “who filed a lawsuit over the service’s COVID-19 vaccine mandate, ending a nearly four-year saga that pitted Navy SEALs and other service members against their commander in chief,” Military.com reported.

First Liberty has been involved with helping service members rectify COVID-19 repercussions for a couple of years now. What started as a potential lawsuit turned into First Liberty Institute’s seeing “how the discrimination was just across the board, across the services,” she said.

“We had several Navy SEALs that had

*(Continued on page 10)*

### Secretary’s Corner

Greetings Shipmates, Here’s hoping that many of you will be attending the reunion this year. Unfortunately, I’ll have to miss this one. I’ll miss seeing you all.

I appreciate all of you who have recently paid your dues. As usual please look at the mailing label of this issue and see when you are due to pay up again.

At the business meeting this year in San Diego we will determine the hotel for the 2025 reunion in Corpus Christi, Tex., as well as the election for Association officers. I am a candidate once again for Association Secretary. I enjoy this job, and it’s always fun to reconnect with old Shipmates.

Recruiting is always needed. If any of you still maintain contact with your former Ship-

mates, and they’re not members of the Coral Sea Association, please try to get them to join. The more, the merrier!

Have a great time at the reunion and God-speed!

*John*

John H. Ranson  
Association Secretary

## First Place Scholarship Essay Winner.

*Madisyn Morris is the granddaughter of Assoc. member Al Ching.*



### Why We Need to Keep Our Armed Forces Strong

Our founding fathers recognized the need for a strong national defense. The importance of this need is emphasized by it being placed within the first sentence of the United States Constitution. The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America states that "We the People" are to "Provide for the common defense."

This is achieved by the Legislative branch of government in its ability to raise taxes, and to raise and support armies. On August 7, 1789, President George Washington signed into law legislation from congress establishing the Department of War. On August 10, 1949, today's Department of Defense was established to provide the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's security. The security of our nation relies on a strong-armed force to serve as a deterrent to aggression by our enemies, to achieve "Peace Through Strength", and to guarantee our freedoms as enumerated in the "Bill of Rights."

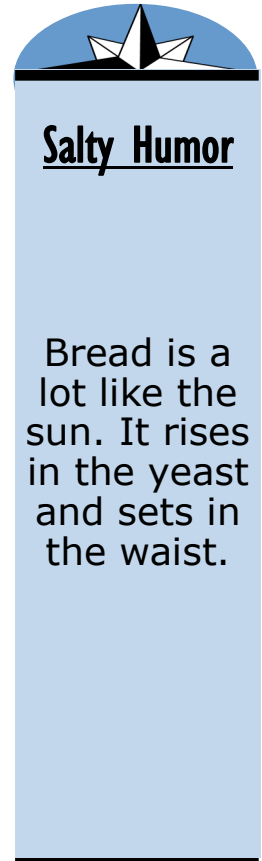
According to the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, between the years 1775 to 1991, a total of 41,892,128 Americans had served in our armed forces during times of armed conflict. Of those, 1,190,085 have died and 1,423,090 were wounded. During the Global War on Terrorism, our

longest war (2001 - 2024), the armed forces suffered 7,085 deaths with 53,532 wounded. Since the founding of our great nation, the armed forces have been extremely successful in their mission of defending our country. This success has been a costly, but necessary task to provide us, the citizens, with the freedoms we enjoy.

The importance of a strong military is evident in the fact that not since The War of 1812 has a foreign power successfully invaded and occupied the United States of America. During this war, the British captured Washington D.C. and burnt the White House and Capitol Building. Without a strong military, it is quite possible that we would have lost our newly won freedoms and fallen back under British rule. There have been other attacks to our homeland, most notably the Japanese attack of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941, which triggered U.S. involvement in World War II. In 1945 the United States armed forces were able to guarantee our freedom with the Allied victory over the Axis powers (Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan, and Fascist Italy).

The United States along with its NATO allies, then entered a "Cold War" (1947 - 1991) with the Soviet Union, the Warsaw Pact alliance, and their proxy states. The objective was to halt Communist expansion through the policy of "Containment". This triggered an "Arms Race", which was the buildup of conventional and nuclear arsenals. This served as a deterrence to escalation of the war from a "Cold One" to a "Hot One". Under the Reagan Doctrine, Defense spending greatly increased to facilitate the military expansion called for by the idea of "Peace through Strength". Nuclear war seemed inevitable.

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## Second Place Scholarship Essay Winner.



*Gwen McCloughan is the granddaughter of Assoc. member James McCloskey.*

### What it Means to Me to be an American Citizen

Being an American citizen is much more than simply being born in the United States or passing a citizenship test. It means you hold the honor of being a member of one of the greatest nations to date, but with this honor comes extraordinary responsibility.

As a citizen, it is our duty to hold up our end of the bargain and fulfill these responsibilities of societal betterment through service and kindness to ensure the future of our glorious country. It is our obligation to better ourselves every day in order to benefit the country as a whole. Another thing we must do as citizens is adhere to the Constitution in order to maintain an organized and civilized democratic society.

While everyone has both good and bad days, it is of the utmost importance that our goal is to make ourselves better citizens. Whether this betterment is a small act of kindness--like holding the door or volunteering--it doesn't matter. It's important. The service that we perform out of selflessness is what creates a better community.

Often when one person performs an act of kindness it creates a chain reaction leading to other people performing an act of kindness. This chain reaction continues to spread

throughout communities and beyond. It is this chain reaction that is so important to being an American citizen. Holding the door for someone may not seem like a big deal, but it can lead to bigger and more widespread effects.

As a Girl Scout I was able to partake in widespread acts of kindness by helping flood and hurricane victims by organizing food and clothing drives. Some of my most meaningful acts of kindness were creating turkey boxes for the local food bank for Thanksgiving and providing gifts for children with cancer at a hospital during the holiday season. My favorite and most meaningful project was helping build a Buddy Bench for the elementary school I attended. A Buddy Bench is used to combat bullying and loneliness during outside recess time. I feel honored as a U.S. citizen to be able to do these acts of kindness for people in my community.

Having US citizenship also gives us the freedom to spend time serving others instead of worrying about when women will be able to vote or when our country will stop fighting itself. Being able to vote or choose almost any career as a woman is something that is truly taken for granted. In many other countries, women have no say on their education--if they even have any--or on the way their country is run.

These basic rights are not guaranteed and are a luxury to American citizens. I take my voting responsibilities as a citizen seriously and the first thing I did when I turned eighteen was registered to vote. I know how much of a difference one vote can make which is why I registered. With these rights, I can volunteer at the Flemington-Raritan First Aid and Rescue Squad. Through this opportunity, I am able to help people in

*(Continued on page 6)*



### Salty Humor

I told my niece I saw a moose on the way to work this morning. She said, "How do you know he has a job?"

## Scholarship Entry Forms Now Available.

Association members or their eligible relatives may now request entry forms for the USS Coral Sea Remembrance Scholarship program 2025 contest. Requests must be sent to Committee Chairman Guy Dunbar [godunbar@outlook.com](mailto:godunbar@outlook.com) or at 700 Harrier Hawk, Edmond, OK 73003-3180. The contest officially opens on Nov. 1, but entry requests should be sent as soon as possible.

An eligible applicant must be a high school senior with at least a B or 3.0 grade point average. Applicants must be a son, daughter, step-child, grandchild, step-grandchild or great-grandchild of an Association member in good standing on the date the scholarship is awarded, or of a deceased member in good standing at the time of death, or of a non-member who died in the line of duty while serving aboard the USS Coral Sea in ships company or air group, or such a nonmember who was captured as a prisoner of war, or such a nonmember who was injured in the line of duty to the extent that separation from the U.S. Navy was re-

quired. The applicant must submit a completed entry form accompanied by an essay of at least 800 but no more than 1,000 words on one of three given topics. Applicants must also agree to use the scholarship for their personal education at an accredited two-year or four-year United States college, university, or postsecondary technical vocational school. The first-place winner will receive a \$2,000 prize and second place \$1000. Entry forms from prior-year contests are not acceptable. The forms are not printed in this newsletter or on the Association website. Entry packets will be mailed or emailed by the chairman as soon as he receives entry requests. Entry material must be returned to the chairman no later than April 1. Essays will be judged by the three elected members of the Scholarship Committee. The applicant's identity will be known only to the committee chairman, who does not vote on the essays. Additional information will be sent to each entrant in the entry packet.

—Guy Dunbar, Scholarship Chairman



### Salty Humor

Artificial intelligence is no math or natural stupidity!

### Treasurer's Corner

Greetings Coral Sea shipmates! Just a few weeks away from the 3 Sisters Reunion in San Diego. Hope to see many of you there. Raffle ticket sales have been somewhat slow and slightly less than in previous years. If you plan on purchasing raffle tickets, please do so as soon as possible. Please, do not mail ticket stubs/payment

after Monday, September 9. I will not have time to process them if received any later than Friday, September 13. There will be a very limited number of tickets for sale at the Reunion. The raffle drawing will be held at the general business meeting on Wednesday, September 25. Also, as previously reported, there will be no auction at the 3 Sisters Reunion as the banquet is a joint event, nor will

there be the 50/50 distribution. The past quarter, we paid out the respective scholarship awards of \$2,000 to the first-place winner and \$1,000 to the second-place winner. Our best wishes to both scholarship recipients. Fair winds and following seas. Hope to see you in San Diego!

*Bill*

Bill Bomar  
Association Treasurer

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**Gwen McCloughan Essay...**

my community with medical emergencies. Although I am not an EMT yet, I use my skills such as communication and friendliness to help patients stay calm during a scary time. Having experienced my own medical emergency, I know how scary it can be and using my own experience I know how to help the patient and family members stay calm and distracted from the situation at hand.

I love being able to see my service affecting others in a positive way. While this type of service has value to me, it has so much more value to the people around me. We show up no matter the circumstances with only one goal in mind: helping the patient. The help we can provide can save lives and this is the value in it. Being able to help people to live, even if it is for a short amount of time, can mean the world to family members and loved ones. To me, the value of life is the greatest value of all. And being able to extend this value to others through my service means so much.

While I may never join the military, I can still give back to my great country. I understand the sacrifices that are made by men and women daily as I have seen through both my grandfathers and my brother.

Volunteering gives me the opportunity to give back in a different way. After my grandpa was discharged from the Navy, he volunteered at his local rescue squad which is one of the reasons I joined my local rescue squad. I love being able to make him proud by following in his footsteps and it helps me feel more connected to him. My father also set an example by serving his community as a career firefighter and first responder for thirty years. This was another reason I felt a strong calling to serve my community as a part of the local rescue squad.

Being a citizen of this amazing country means many different things. This country gives outstanding opportunities to its citizens. As a female citizen in the United States, I feel as though my opportunities are endless. Furthermore, I feel a strong obligation to care for the people in my community by performing acts of kindness and offering a helping hand to those in need of help. I am forever grateful for the right to vote in the upcoming elections as I just turned eighteen. In summary, being an American citizen means serving those around you and appreciating all the opportunities that we have as citizens of this great country.



**Salty Humor**

For every action there is an equal and opposite government program.

**Chaplain's Corner**

Dear Shipmates,  
I don't know about you, but the older I get the more I think about and remember with great fondness my tears in the Navy. (I suspect you do this, too.) I was privileged

to serve onboard and deploy with three ships (including our Ageless Warrior) and was a Plankowner on a fourth ship but never did get underway.

I attended the decommissioning ceremony of USS PUGET SOUND (AD-38), in the pouring rain, I might add!

Plus, I attended (with a huge lump in my throat) the decommissioning ceremony of our beloved CORAL SEA on April 30, 1990. It was a beautiful sunny day and in my eyes our ship never looked better. Of course, I had to remind myself

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**Madisyn Morris Essay...**

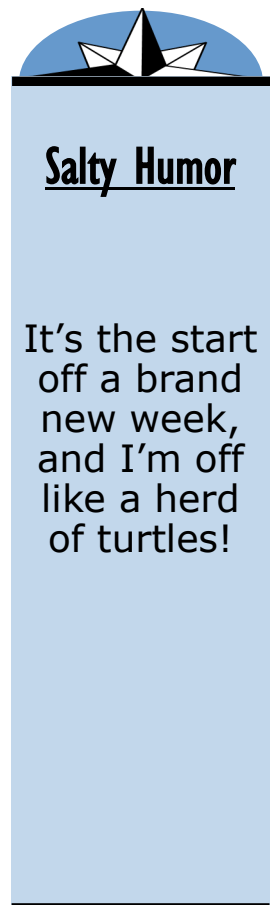
However, the military doctrine of "Mutual Assured Destruction" ensured that no superpower would use its nuclear weapons because the enemy, which also had them, would be forced to use theirs, thereby annihilating all. The Peace through Strength idea of the Reagan Doctrine demonstrates that a strong armed force serves as a deterrent to war.

The Department of Defense utilizes "show of force" as a method of deterrence, of which the U.S. Navy's Aircraft Carrier Strike Group is a good example. It maintains a presence or can be deployed to hot spots around the world, quickly responding to emerging threats to our national security and interests.

The United States currently faces many threats around the world. Armed conflicts, like the Russian-Ukraine War, the Israel-Hamas War, and China's ambition to invade Taiwan have the potential to escalate, drawing our nation into war because of our support of Israel, Ukraine, and Taiwan. Our strong armed forces ensure that our nation can meet these threats head-on and triumph over our enemies. An alliance of Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea raises the fear of another world war.

The United States and NATO must maintain strong militaries to confront this threat if diplomacy fails. To ensure the strength of our military, congress must ensure that the Department of Defense is adequately funded. Ships and aircraft do not run on batteries, but fossil fuels. We must increase the exploration for, and drilling of domestic petroleum sources and other natural resources. We must be self-sufficient in time of war. Our information technology must be secure to eliminate the theft of our intellectual property, and damage to critical infrastructure. Finally, the military must be properly manned to be effective. Recruitment efforts must be improved.

In closing, a strong military is vital to ensuring that our constitutional rights and freedoms won during the American Revolution are preserved. History illustrates the cost in shed blood that Americans have spilled defending our great nation against our enemies in time of war. Efforts must be made to ensure that our military remains strong. Funding, natural resources, information technology, and well-trained manpower are key to that success. The armed forces of the United States are vital in our efforts to achieve peace through strength, deter war and ensure our national security.



**Salty Humor**

It's the start off a brand new week, and I'm off like a herd of turtles!

**Vice President's Corner**

Hello Shipmates,  
In the midst of summer, all is quiet in the office of the VP. Looking forward to the 3 Sister's Reunion and seeing old friends again.

Just a quick reminder to return your raffle tickets to Association Secretary Bill Bomar by 13 Sept 2024.

Hope all is well with you and your loved ones.

See you in San Diego,

*Clarence*

Clarence Neander  
Association Vice President

# SHIP

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Assoc.

# STORE



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**T-Shirt.....\$35**

**Polo Shirt.....\$38**

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**Wind Breaker.....\$42**

**Jacket.....\$55**

**Hoodie.....\$42**

**Coffee Cup.....\$15**

**Koozie.....\$Ask Storekeeper**

**Patches.....\$8**

**Coins.....\$Ask Storekeeper**

**License Plate Holder.....\$16**



# CORAL SEA ASSOCIATION SMALL STORES ORDER FORM #1

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**Salty Humor**

I remember being able to get up without making any sound effects!

*(Continued from page 2)*

**COVID-19 Settlement...**

come to us and said, "Our careers are in jeopardy, and we don't know what to do." So, instantly, we decided to represent 35 of them," Runyan said.

That was the beginning of the institute's helping thousands of sailors, setting "the stage for all the other cases," which is what Runyan says she hopes this settlement will do.

"Not only will this benefit the 4,300 clients that we have," she said, "but we really think this is going to help the other service branches as well."

In reality, she said, "If one service branch is recognizing that there was significant harm here, and that things needed to be corrected, it's undoubted that the other service branches are recognizing that as well."

"I mean, we had people who were ready to retire, who almost lost everything that they had sacrificed over the past 19 years to 20 years of their careers," she said. "We were able to protect those service members."

Even now, Runyan noted, some service members "still have claims that they can bring in" to court. "But in terms of the relief, ...we achieved everything that we possibly could have out of this case," which is "a significant victory."

Ultimately, she stressed, "It was a long, hard-fought battle, but every step of the way we achieved excellent case law precedent. And now, a settlement agreement that people can walk away with to say, 'My career is protected and here are the reasons why.'"

*Originally published by The Washington Stand. Edited for brevity.*

**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 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** \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

I do [ ] do not [ ] want an Association bumper sticker.

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

Mail application to:

**John Ranson, Secretary, USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOC.**  
**52 Woodland Pl.**  
**Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1605 Email: jrsr3843@fuse.net**

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Guy Dunbar & John Ranson

By-Laws Committee

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Members:

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Chairman:

**Robert Gaston**

Nominating Chair:

TBD

Parliamentarian:

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**The Sea Breeze—Official Coral Sea Newsletter**

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

**NOTE: Please send all mailing address changes to John Ranson at the address shown top right.**



**Copy Submission Deadline:**

Material for the Dec. issue of *The Coral Sea Breeze* is due in to the publisher or copy editor by Nov. 5, 2024.

**USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association**

Wayne Addkison, Publisher  
12856 FM 1391  
Kemp, TX 75143

Email: nijarm2@yahoo.com

**Please Note:** Send Address  
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John Ranson

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this issue of the *Sea Breeze* in  
full color!

*(Continued from page 1)*

**President's Corner...**

you have paid for that event already, AFR will provide a refund.

This will be our last reunion run by AFR. I have a meeting with another company in October to discuss taking over.

I have already done all the work for Corpus Christi, so we will discuss take-over needs with the new planning company for our Nashville and Dayton reunions.

As always have a safe trip and really looking forward to seeing all of you there.

*Wayne*

Wayne Addkison  
Association President

*(Continued from page 6)*

**Chaplain's Corner...**

that what I was looking at was a fresh coat of paint on that port side and that much of the rest of the ship was being dismantled. Still, she looked magnificent!

Finally, the crewmembers who were onboard began to cross the brow to the pier until the last man, our commanding officer, Captain L. E. Allen, stood on the middle of the brow and slowly turned aft to salute the ensign for the final time. Such experiences don't come along frequently but when they do, we can never forget them.

I also recall my final under-way evening prayer, given on March 2, 1989. I thanked

God for all my shipmates and all my leaders, all of whom overlooked my faults, accepted me, and taught me a lot about being a sailor.

Those days are in the past, of course, but they live on in my vivid memories. I pray that you, too, have wonderful Navy experiences that give you a smile, a chuckle, or sometimes a tear.

God bless you!

*Michael*

Michael D. Halley  
Association Chaplain