

MARCH 2025

Volume 30, 2nd. Qtr.

# THE CORAL SEA BREEZE

## This Issue's Ports of Call:

Corpus Christi Reunion	1
President's Corner	1
Secretary's Corner	2
USS Lexington Museum	2
Texas State Aquarium	3
Reunion Reservation	4
Treasurer's Corner	5
Reunion Hotel Details	5
Vice President's Corner	6
Assoc. Membership Form	10

## Welcome Aboard!

**Benjamin E. Moody, Jr.**  
1st Lt., VMA-224  
2/72—6/72

**James A. O'Quinn, Jr.**  
AT2, VF-154  
4/63—11/65

## Corpus Christi 2025!

Homeport for our Association's 2025 Annual Reunion is Corpus Christi located in southern Texas on the Gulf Coast.

Known for its sparkling beaches, diverse wildlife, and vibrant cultural scene, it offers an array

of activities for visitors of all ages.

Named by Spanish explorer Alonso Alvarez de Pineda in 1519, the city has grown from a small settlement into a bustling metropolis with a deep connec-

tion to its maritime roots.

Much more than just a welcoming beach town, the many attractions of Corpus Christi include:

- The Texas State Aquarium

*(Continued on page 10)*

## President's Corner

Good day shipmates, With the help of Clarence Neander, John Ranson and Bill Bomar, we have the 47th annual Coral Sea Reunion plans finished for our Corpus Christi adventure.

The action starts on September 30 and runs through October 5. The POD and Registration forms are in this issue of the *Breeze*. I encourage you to start making hotel reservations now and read the POD for reunion schedule details. Make sure to mention USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association reun-

ion when making your hotel reservation.

We have made a few scheduling changes this year which should improve the flow of the events and provide more opportunities for shipmates to swap sea stories. First, we have planned a chicken dinner on Friday night at the hotel. Our silent auction will follow dinner. Speaking of which, if you have an item to put up for the auction, please bring it with you or send it to me and I will see that it gets into the auction. The only scheduled activity will be our tour at the Texas

State Aquarium located near the USS Lexington. We need to know before September 15 how many will take this tour so that I can reserve enough buses. The tour will start at 10 a.m. and return to the hotel at 2 p.m. I enjoyed this tour when I went down to Corpus Christi in October, and it is really interesting. It is well worth the price, which includes the bus fare.

The Saturday-night banquet will be in the hanger bay of the USS Lexington. You have several dinner choices and there will be an open bar. It all

*(Continued on page 12)*

# USS Lexington Museum.



## TAPS

**Jon E. Lickey**

RD3, OI Div.  
1968—1971

**Loyal E. Smith**

MM3, M Div.  
1959—1962

**Joseph Wallace**

ABE3, V-2  
Div.  
1969

—Editor's Note, edited for brevity.  
Originally posted online Oct. 10, 2024  
By Emily Banks Wooten  
editor@polkenterprise.com

We had the opportunity to tour the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay in Corpus Christi earlier this year and it exceeded our expectations immensely. A visit there should be high on the bucket list for anyone who is a WWII enthusiast or a military history buff.

Built by Bethlehem Steel Corp., the USS Lexington was launched Sept. 26, 1942, and commissioned Feb. 17, 1943. She set more records than any other Essex Class carrier in the history of naval aviation. The ship was the oldest working carrier in the U.S. Navy when decommissioned in 1991.

After training maneuvers and a shake-down cruise, the USS Lexington joined the Fifth Fleet, formerly the Central Pacific Force, at Pearl Harbor. During World War II, the carrier participated in nearly every major operation in the Pacific Theater and spent a total of 21

months in combat. Her planes destroyed 372 enemy aircraft in the air, and 475 more on the ground. She sank or destroyed 300,000 tons of enemy cargo and damaged an additional 600,000 tons. The ship's guns shot down 15 planes and assisted in downing five more.

The Japanese reported that the USS Lexington sank no less than four times. Yet, each time she returned to fight again, leading the propagandist Tokyo Rose to nickname her "The Blue Ghost." The name is a tribute to the ship and the crew and air groups that served aboard her. "The Blue Ghost" was also the first aircraft carrier to welcome women serving aboard in 1980.

After the war, the USS Lexington was briefly decommissioned (1947-1955). When reactivated, she operated primarily with the Seventh Fleet out of San Diego, Calif. Although not involved in actual combat, she kept an offshore vigil during tensions in Formosa, Laos

(Continued on page 6)

## Secretary's Corner

Greetings Shipmates,  
Here's hoping that all of you are surviving this winter. Personally, I hate cold weather.

Your 2025 reunion information is in this issue. This should be a great event as we're going to celebrate the grand opening of the USS Coral Sea display space aboard USS Lexington. Also, the Saturday night dinner will be in the hanger bay of "The Blue Ghost", as Lexington was called in

WWII.

A tour of Lexington will be free to all Coral Sea Association members on that Saturday. Please note that the published POD is subject to revision, but any changes will be updated in the June and September issues of "Sea Breeze".

If you've got any questions, please contact me by my cellphone# 859-250-3727, or at email: [jrs-r3843@fuse.net](mailto:jrs-r3843@fuse.net). Please spread the info about this reunion to any of your fellow Shipmates

who may not be Association members.

Speaking of membership, we need to work harder at recruiting. None of us are getting any younger and our ranks are slowly thinning. We have a great association, and we need to work to keep it in good shape. Also, if any of you learn of the passing of any shipmates, please contact me so that they can be recognized in the "Taps" section of *The Coral Sea Breeze*.

(Continued on page 3)

# The Texas State Aquarium.

The Oct. 2 highlight at our Annual Reunion has us exploring the Texas State Aquarium—an underwater wonderland on land! It's one of the most impressive aquariums in the United States.

The aquarium boasts a range of exhibits from the Gulf of America to the Caribbean, and home to dozens of fascinating creatures.

It also engages in wildlife rehabilitation, with programs to rescue and rehabilitate injured marine animals. An educational gem, the aquarium offers enriching experiences for visitors of all ages, from touch pools to behind-the-scenes tours.

Here are some of the featured exhibits at this world-class aquarium:

1. H-E-B Caribbean Sea: Dive into the Caribbean Sea National Marine Sanc-



tuary.

2. Otter Creek: Watch playful river otters splash and play in their habitat.

3. Tortuga Cay: Discover sea turtles in their sanctuary habitat.

4. Ocelots: Meet Mil-la, the aquarium's resident ocelot, part of the Species Survival Plan.

5. Coral Reef: Vibrant fish and coral of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef.

6. Dolphin Bay: Get up close with dolphins like Shadow, Liko, Schooner, and Merlin.

7. Aquatic Nursery: Learn about baby seahorses and jellies in their life stages.

8. Stingray Lagoon: Touch and feed stingrays in this interactive exhibit.

9. Saving Sharks: Touch and track real sharks in this educational exhibit.

10. Islands of Steel: Explore an ocean

habitat created around an old oil platform in the Gulf of America.

11. Tentacles: Get hands-on with jellyfish and learn about cephalopods.

12. Swamp Tales: Enjoy an up-close look at young alligators and turtles.

13. Nearshore Experience: Discover shorebirds, stingrays, and fish varieties.

14. Living Shores: Interact with a variety of smaller animals in touch pools and aquariums.

15. Explore the Snorkel with a Shark experience.

Don't miss this Annual Reunion adventure!

(Continued from page 2)

If you have any memorabilia that can be placed in the silent auction that will be held following dinner Friday night, we would love to hear from you. Proceeds from the auction and raffle ticket sales help defray the cost of the hospitality room.

We'll probably have a split-pot raffle during the reunion. And you never know, Popeye may show up for donations also. I'm not sure who has Popeye, but


whoever does, please bring him to the reunion.

Thanks to all Ship-mates who have paid your dues. As always, check the mailing label on this issue of "Sea Breeze" for your dues expiration dates. Don't hesitate to contact me if that info is in error.

Looking forward to seeing y'all in Corpus Christi...Godspeed!

*John*

John H. Ranson  
Association Secretary



**Salty Humor**

Money can't  
buy  
happiness  
but  
somehow  
it's more  
comfortable  
crying in a  
Cadillac  
than a Ford.

## Corpus Christi Reunion Reservation Form.

**USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association**  
**47th Annual Reunion, Sept. 30—Oct. 5, 2025**  
**Corpus Christi, Texas**

Please complete form, include payment, and mail to:

**John Ranson**  
**52 Woodland Place**  
**Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1605**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_

**State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ph.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Name Badge Identification**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rate/Rank** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dates Aboard (month/year)** \_\_\_\_\_ **to** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Required registration fee (per person) for hospitality room, name badge and commemorative pin: \$30 each**

- Required Registration; ( \_\_\_\_ ) @ \$30 per person
- Thursday Oct. 2, Texas Aquarium; ( \_\_\_\_ ) @ \$45 per person
- Friday Night Buffet; ( \_\_\_\_ ) @ \$45 per person
- Saturday Banquet on hanger deck of USS Lexington, choice of:
  - New York cut steak with ginger glaze and pistachio gremolata ( \_\_\_\_ ) @ \$75 per person
  - Chicken Wellington, mushroom duxelles wrapped in puff pastry ( \_\_\_\_ ) @ \$75 per person
  - Salmon Filet with cioppino sauce and rosemary olive tapenade ( \_\_\_\_ ) @ \$75 per person

**NOTE: All meals include transportation to and from the ship, as well as access to the hanger bay and facilities.**

**Amount Encls. \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Reunion Checks payable to USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Assoc.**

**NOTE: Deadline for Reunion Registration is September 1, 2025**

**\*\*NO CHANGES CAN BE MADE AFTER THIS DATE\*\***



### **Salty Humor**

Money will  
 buy a fine  
 dog, but  
 only  
 kindness  
 will make  
 him wag his  
 tail.

## Corpus Christi Reunion Hotel Reservation Details.

Our 47th Annual Reunion runs from September 30—October 5, 2025. Please note that your hotel reservation must be made individually, and it is separate from your Annual Reunion reservation located on the previous page.

The reunion hotel is the:

**Holiday Inn-Downtown Marina**  
**707 N. Shoreline Drive**  
**Corpus Christi, Tex.**

Call for your hotel reservation at:  
**361.452.5129**

Be sure to mention that your reservation is for the USS Coral Sea Assoc. reunion.

The room rate in effect for Coral Sea Reunion attendees from Sept. 27 to Oct. 8 is \$119 per night, plus 17% tax.

These amenities are also available to reunion attendees:

- Free breakfast will be available in the Coral Sea Association's Hospitality Room.
- Parking is available in the hotel's garage at no charge.
- For those arriving by airline, the hotel offers a free shuttle service to and from the airport.

The hotel reservation deadline to receive this negotiated special rate is September 15, 2025. Please call soon to secure your Annual Reunion Holiday Inn lodging.



### Salty Humor

The office holiday party is a great opportunity to catch up with people you haven't seen for 20 minutes.

### Treasurer's Corner

Greetings Coral Sea shipmates!

Final plans for the Corpus Christi Reunion are complete and you'll find information in this issue of the *Sea Breeze*.

Also, raffle tickets and return envelopes have been enclosed as well. Please fill out the tickets with your name, address and phone number and return them to me. (I've found it very helpful--since many of us have those return address labels--to use them instead of writing in all the address infor-

mation.) But, if you must print, please be as legible as possible as that would be greatly appreciated! The old eyes just aren't what they used to be! Checks should be made to "USS Coral Sea Association" and, as always, cash will be gladly accepted.

If you wish to purchase additional tickets, return the enclosed tickets and make out your check for the total number of tickets you wish to purchase. Tickets are six for \$5. It would be helpful, if you do have those return address labels, to send them in with your tickets and check and I will

put them on your additional tickets and get them entered for the drawing.

John Ranson, our Association Secretary, is continuing to purge our membership roster of members whose dues are delinquent. Please, if you aren't current with your dues, try to get those to John soon. Hope we'll soon be past these last few weeks of winter and getting on to warmer spring weather. Fair winds and following seas to all!

*Bill*

Bill Bomar  
 Association Treasurer

(Continued from page 2)

### **USS Lexington Museum...**

and Cuba.

As one of the longest serving and most decorated aircraft carriers in the world, the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay offers a truly unique experience to all who visit. While guided

tours are available, we opted instead for a self-guided tour so we could explore at our own pace. There are five different tour routes covering

100,000 square feet and eleven decks, with each beginning and ending on the hangar deck. The routes may be taken in any order. Each one is unique and features multiple interactive displays.

The most popular of the five tour routes is the "Flight Deck" which includes an up close look at 20 aircraft aboard from the National Museum of

Naval Aviation. You'll also get a look at the anti-aircraft guns, landing gear, and get a true education in naval history.

This 910-foot long and 142-foot-wide airport's original flight deck was a long rectangle, but in the 1950s she underwent major modifications, which allowed her to serve another 36 years.

Flight deck points of interest are take-off and landing control stations, arresting gear, anti-aircraft gun mounts and vintage aircraft.

The second

tour route is the Foc'sle Tour, beginning on the starboard side of the hangar deck forward. One of the highlights in this area is a multi-media exhibit that features a film montage that retells the story of the attack on Pearl Harbor. A graphic map of Pearl Harbor at a 1/2400 scale sets the scene with models of the ships docked in position, just as they were on the day of that

(Continued on page 7)



### **Salty Humor**

Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious!

### **Vice President's Corner**

Hello Shipmates, Spring is just around the corner and that means it's time to start preparations for the 2025 reunion in Corpus Christie, Tex.

It's also time for the reunion cash raffle. You have received three books of raffle tickets with your *Coral Sea Breeze*. I would encourage you to purchase those tickets now, so

they don't get set aside and forgotten. It's also an opportunity to win some cash. Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. If you would like to purchase additional tickets just include the money for the additional tickets along with return address labels, if you have them, to Treasurer Bill Bomar in the envelope provided.

The office of Vice President has been very quiet as of late, so no up-

dates or changes to report.

Looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at this year's reunion. Hope all is well with you and yours.

See you in Corpus Christie,

*Clarence*

Clarence Neander  
Association Vice President

(Continued from page 6)

### **USS Lexington Museum...**

fateful attack. The events unfold in front of your eyes through realistic battle animations and transducers that shake the walkway with each rumbling explosion.

Near the multi-media exhibit is the complete Pearl Harbor survivor license plate collection, a display that took over 20 years to complete and is one of only a handful ever assembled. The collection is dedicated to the members of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

Just below the flight deck is the Combat Information Center (CIC), which collected and evaluated all information on the status of USS Lexington, other friendly ships and enemy forces. The CIC directed the ship's performance in close coordination with the air operations center (AirOps) and the carrier air traffic control center (CATCC) next door. The CIC is located on the tour route referred to as the "Gallery Deck," which also includes the captain's gallery and cabin and a library.

The "Lower Decks," the fourth tour route, features the "Warbirds & Warships Scale Model Gallery." Five years in the making and with over 490 pieces on display, it is the largest publicly exhibited model collection in Texas. More than 120 talented craftsmen spent many thousands of hours creating the models displayed in this must-see exhibit.

Also included on the lower decks are the crew's galley, dental clinic, engine room, sick bay and chapel.

The fifth and final tour route is the "Hangar Deck." During wartime this deck stored as many as 60 aircraft. Maintenance, refueling and rearming took place here. Unchanged in size since WWII, the hangar deck measures 654 feet by 70 feet, is 17.5 feet high, and covers 40,000 square feet. The deck is divided into three bays that could be sealed off by electrically operated fire doors. Each bay

contains its own conflagration station for station damage control.

Sprinkled throughout are numerous interesting bits of trivia about the USS Lexington. For example, you could park more than 1,000 automobiles on the Lexington's flight deck. She has more sleeping space than the largest hotel in the world and carried enough fuel to sail a distance of 30,000 miles nonstop. The flight deck is equal to more than two acres.

During her 40 years, she steamed a total of 209,000 miles which is the equivalent to eight times around the world. She has crossed the equator 14 times and the International Date Line six times. She has more telephones than a city of 5,000 and can produce enough electric power to supply a city of 150,000.

We spent about four and a half hours touring the USS Lexington. However, there is so much to see that one could easily spend the entire day.

## **Scholarship Report**

There have been six scholarship packets requested so far this year. It is not too late to request a scholarship application packets for your seniors. At this late date I will email the requested packets out as soon as I get the request. Complete the application and get it in the mail NO LATER THAN **April 1**. I will also accept your applications by email if I receive them by the April 1 deadline. My email address is [godunbar@outlook.com](mailto:godunbar@outlook.com). When you send your application, please call me at 405-820-5302 to verify I have received it.

—Guy Dunbar  
Scholarship Chairman  
700 Harrier Hawk  
Edmond, Ok 73003-3180



Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again!

# **SHIP STORE**

**USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Assoc.**



**SALE**

**Hat.....\$23**

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

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

**Denim Short Sleeve.....\$45**

**Denim Long Sleeve.....\$45**

**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

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
<b>Place Ship Store Orders Here!</b> Wayne Addikson 12856 FM 1391, Kemp, TX 75143  Ph: 903.288.4455 Fx: 903.675.0086 Email: nijarm2@yahoo.com			<b>SALES TOTAL</b> \$ _____	<b>** USPS PRIORITY MAIL - S/H CHARGES**</b> UP TO \$24.99 .....\$7.00 \$25.00 TO \$50.00 .....\$9.00 \$51 TO \$75 .....\$12.00 \$76 & UP .....\$15.00	
			<b>SHIPPING CHARGES</b> \$ _____		
			<b>TOTAL CHARGE</b> \$ _____		

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

There is a fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness!"

(Continued from page 1)  
**Corpus Christi...**

- The USS Lexington Museum
- Padre Island National Seashore
- Art Museum of South Texas
- South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center
- Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History

With only a visit to the Texas State Aquarium currently scheduled as an "official" reunion activity, you should have



plenty of free time to explore the city's many attractions.

Keep Corpus Christi's Downtown Entertainment District on your

short list of options. It offers a lively night-life with an array of bars, clubs, and live music venues. The vibrant atmosphere is perfect for those looking to enjoy

a night out, with options ranging from trendy rooftop bars to laid-back pubs featuring local bands.

## 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** \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 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.

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](mailto:jrsr3843@fuse.net)

### Office Use Only

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

# USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) Association.

## President:

**Wayne Addkison**  
12856 FM 1391  
Kemp, TX 75143  
nijarm2@yahoo.com  
903.288.4455 (home)

## Vice President:

**Clarence Neander**  
27684 N 725E Rd.  
Cornell, IL 61319  
accrane@msn.com  
815.341.5928 (cell)

## Secretary/Parliamentarian:

**John H. Ranson**  
52 Woodland Pl.  
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1605  
jr3843@fuse.net  
859.250.3727 (cell)

## Treasurer:

**Bill Bomar**  
1040 Blue Mountain Ln.  
Antioch, TN 37013  
bill@bomarcentral.com  
615.598.5900

## Immediate Past President:

**None**

## Board of Directors:

**Steve Ohlund—2025**  
s.ohlund@yahoo.com  
**Robert D. Schoff—2026**  
rdschoff@hotmail.com  
**James Turner—2027**

## Chaplain:

**Rev. Michael D. Halley**  
U.S. Navy Chaplain Ret.  
841 Colonel Mead Dr.  
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mhalley43@gmail.com

## Storekeeper:

**Wayne Addkison**  
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nijarm2@yahoo.com  
903.288.4455, Fax 675.0086

## Master-at-Arms/Historian

**Mike Pfeffer**  
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Chicago, IL 60630  
mpfeff53@aol.com  
773.612.7107 (cell)

## Historian:

**Mike Pfeffer**  
mpfeff53@aol.com

## Retention Chairman:

**Jon Lickey** 309.688.3939 (home)  
jjlickey47@yahoo.com

## Committees

### Reunion Committee

Members:

2025 Reunion, Corpus Christi, Tex.  
Guy Dunbar & John Ranson

### By-Laws Committee

Chairman:

Members:

**John Ranson,**  
**Bob Nerbetski**

jr3843@fuse.net  
cvb4312@verizon.net

### Scholarship Committee

Chairman:

**Guy Dunbar**

godunbar@outlook.com  
405.820.5302 (cell)

### Audit Committee

Chairman:

TBD

### Nominating Chair:

TBD

### Parliamentarian:

**John H. Ranson** 859.781.2536

## The Coral Sea Breeze—Official Coral Sea Newsletter

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Copy Edit/Layout: **Ed Williams**, edwscsm@comcast.net

**Read this issue in color on the Coral Sea website: [www.usscoralsea.org](http://www.usscoralsea.org)**

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 June issue  
of *The Coral  
Sea Breeze*  
is due in to the  
publisher or  
copy editor by  
May 5, 2025.

## USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association

Wayne Addkison, Publisher  
12856 FM 1391  
Kemp, TX 75143

Email: nijarm2@yahoo.com

**Please Note:** Send Address  
Corrections to Association Sec.  
John Ranson

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
JOLIET IL  
PERMIT #349

### THE AGELESS WARRIOR

Enjoy Your Association Online at  
[www.usscoralsea.org](http://www.usscoralsea.org) and see  
this issue of the *Sea Breeze* in  
full color!

(Continued from page 1)

#### **President's Corner...**

begins with a free bus ride to the ship at 4 p.m. and a free 2-hour tour of the ship. Dinner will be served at 6:30. The bus ride back to the hotel will be at 8 p.m.

Special accommodation will be provided for those shipmates who need assistance. We will dedicate the memorabilia wall that the Lexington has provided for our ship, and all items donated to this memorial will be on display either on the flight deck during our dinner or in the area dedicated for use by Coral Sea.

So come one, come all; this will be a special reunion. Our guest speaker will be Captain Steve Banta, USN, Ret., who previously served

as CO of NAS Corpus Christi. He assumed his current role as Executive Director at the USS Lexington Museum in 2018. Also, I've again asked Admiral Allen if his health permits, to be my special guest.

Also invited for dinner will be the staff of the USS Lexington and the director of the visitor's bureau for the city of Corpus Christi. The help these ladies provided during our reunion planning is the reason my job was so easy! Their efforts will make this reunion memorable, so please make sure you thank them after dinner.

A request from the executive committee--especially me--asks that our association members make time to call all your shipmates and get them to attend this reunion.

We need new members! And remember that family members are encouraged to attend our reunion and join our association.

In closing, I have contacted the hotel for our 2026 annual reunion in Nashville. It will be held at the Radisson, off I-40 near the airport. The new special events planning company we've selected will be coordinating this reunion. If they do a good job, their services will be considered for our Dayton annual reunion in 2027.

Until September, be safe, have a good spring and GOD bless AMERICA and our Ship,

*Wayne*

Wayne Addkison  
Association President