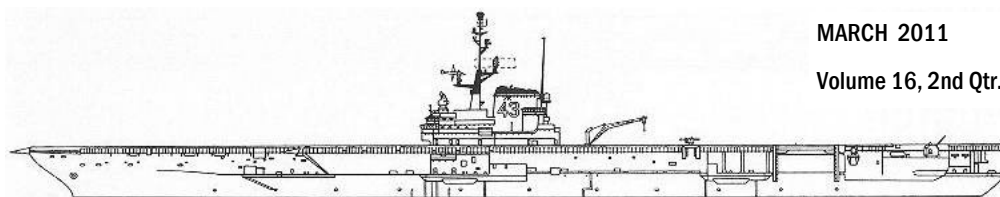




# THE CORAL SEA BREEZE



## The Gateway to Our Next Great Reunion!

### This Issue's Ports of Call:

President's Corner	1
NJ Spring Fling	2
Florida Spring Fling	3
Midwest Spring Fling	4
Motor Launch Batteries	5
Membership Form	5
Shipmates List Update	7
Small Stores Products	8-9
A Student's Dreams	10
Assoc. Officers Directory	11

### Welcome Aboard!

**Charles B Beidleman Jr**  
CYN3  
CR DIV., 66-68

**Robert J Bolte**  
GMGSN  
5TH DIV., 67-70

**David R Cline**  
DP3  
S7 DIV., 87-90

**Larry M Davis**  
BT2  
B DIV., 67-71

**Don Colwell, Association Secretary, reports that his P.O. Box is being canceled. Direct all correspondence to: 651 E Saginaw Way, Fresno, CA 93704**

The USS Coral Sea Association's 2011 national reunion is set for October 6-9 in St. Louis, MO.

Our 33rd annual reunion will take place at the Crowne Plaza St. Louis Airport. And you won't believe the Association's negotiated rate for this great hotel: Just \$80.35 per night, including sales tax and two breakfasts per room for each night! You almost can't afford not to join the fun. And if you want to make a full-blown vacation out of this year's reunion, that rate is good for three days prior to and after our reunion dates.

Amenities will include

free shuttle service to and from the airport and metro system every half hour. RV parking is available, but there are no



hook ups.

We suggest you make your reservations early

by calling (314) 291-6700. Ask for "in house reservations" and tell them you are attending the USS Coral Sea Reunion.

You'll appreciate our efforts to rein in meal costs for this reunion as well. They should run \$45 less per person than our D.C. reunion and about \$25 less than last year's Tampa trip.

Tour details are still being finalized, but count on at least one military tour option along with historic site visits and a phenomenal tour of the Anheuser Busch Brewery. You'll find a registration and meal selection form on the back page of this issue. Fill it out and mail it!

### President's Corner

Hi Shipmates,  
Here's hoping that this winter hasn't been too hard on you. Many events are upcoming soon and I hope that many of you can participate in them. The Spring Flings in Venice, FL and Grand Rapids, MI will be here soon, as well as the main reunion Oct. 6-9, 2011 in St.

Louis, MO. I hope to see you at any of these events, especially the St. Louis reunion.

Shipmate Mil Phillips has a great reunion planned. The event entry form is in this issue of *Sea Breeze*. As you can see, the reunion prices are very reasonable. Additionally tours are being scheduled that will make your stay in St. Louis that much more fun. There will be a

ladies tour on Saturday during the Association business meeting.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel is located close to the airport in St. Louis so those of you flying to the reunion will have easy access to the hotel. Our treasurer, Clarence Neander, and I visited the hotel the end of February. I'll give you a detailed

(Continued on page 10)

## 20th Annual New Jersey Area Spring Fling is April 30

**When:** Saturday, April 30, 2010 from 11:30 AM – 4 PM

**Where:** Sir Johns Restaurant, 230 Washington Place, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

**Phone:** (732) 297-3803

Sir Johns will again be the site of our annual Spring Fling gathering. A sit-down dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m. at a cost of \$40.00 per person (including tax and gratuities). A cash bar is available.

Our guest speaker this year will be Capt. Samson, a naval artist. After a short program there will be time to swap sea stories with old and new shipmates.

For those unable to go to the yearly Association Reunion, this is a great way to stay in touch with some of our Coral Sea shipmates.

Please fill out the form and return with a check by April 14. Please note that no letters will be sent to New Jersey people.

**Mail to:** Bill Radogna  
4 N Garden Terrace  
Milltown NJ 08850  
Ph. (732) 821-9225

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
St./Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations at:

\$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Encls. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Make check payable to Bill Radogna**  
I served on Coral Sea CVB-43, CV-43, and CVA-43 from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Div \_\_\_\_\_ Rate \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### Taps

**Claude Bounds**  
1962-66  
Centennial, CO

**Claude Cassler, Jr.**  
Viet Nam Era  
Des Moines, IA

**Raymond Lewis**  
1951-53  
Plantation, FL

**Vernon I. McClure**

**Horatio F. Reyes**

### Vice President's Corner

Shipmates,

I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. More so, I pray for a very rich and rewarding 2011.

The association is moving forward with the next reunion in St. Louis, MO.

The Association officers will be in charge. Mil Phillips has gladly accepted to be the responsible chairman. The rest of us will help out at his request. Anyone willing to volunteer in the area, please come forward to help us

organize the reunion. To have a successful reunion we must have more people volunteer.

With the reunion being held in centrally located St. Louis, we are looking for a huge turnout. If you run into anyone who was on the Coral Sea, make sure to let them know of the upcoming reunion.

This past week, I was at the movie theatre waiting for my wife. A gentleman approached me when he spotted my Coral Sea jacket and asked me about us. Remember, when out in public, people spot the

car magnets, jackets, and caps which could contribute to a growing organization. As all of you know, the lifeline to any organization is membership. Always be on the alert for any new members and give them any useful information that could encourage them to become a member.

Smoothing sailing till we meet again,  
Bill Johnson

*Bill*

Vice President

## Florida Spring Fling Mini-Reunion is March 12

The Florida Spring Fling Mini-Reunion of USS Coral Sea Association members is March 12. If this will be your first time, welcome and have fun! We look forward to swapping "Sea Stories" with you. Bring a good one! Social hour begins at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served between 12 and 12:30 and we will remain at the Post until 4 p.m.

- **When** - March 12, 2011
- **Where** - Venice VFW Post #8118, 832 East Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34292
- **Cost** - Dinner is \$20.00 per person, tax included.

Contact : Bud McKay, 151 Hoosier Place, Sarasota, FL 34232  
(941) 371-3790, or  
Bill Johnson, 322 N Portia Street, Nokomis, FL 34275  
(941) 485-4360 (leave message)

The meal will include social hour nibbles. Buffet includes barbecue pork and chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, bread, beverage and desert. For meal reservations, complete this portion and return to Bud McKay at the address above.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. Attending** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ )** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Reservations @ \$20.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_  
 (please make your check payable to USS Coral Sea Reunion)  
**I served on the Coral Sea: CVB-43, CV-43, CVA-43 Years Aboard** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Division** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rate** \_\_\_\_\_  
**OR, name your ship** \_\_\_\_\_

### Chaplain's Corner

Dear Shipmates,  
 Is there ever a day that we don't think of our beloved "Ageless Warrior"?  
 Thanks to the wonder of email, I (along with many of you) am privileged to be in frequent contact with shipmates who have meant a lot to me over the years. Thus, hardly a day goes by that I don't think of my days onboard USS CORAL SEA.  
 In fact, one of my daily email contacts is a retired naval aviator and former CORAL SEA safety officer; who better to talk to about life on an aircraft carrier, right? Now, we are both aging warriors and our battles today are far more tame than those we poten-

tially faced while on active duty. In both our cases, the main object of our affection now is not a ship but our grandchildren!  
 Shipmates, I hope your memories of our ship are good ones and I hope that you talk about your adventures and your daily routine with your family and friends. Let's preserve those memories, either by audio recording or writing them down. You don't have to be a trained wordsmith, you just have to have a story to tell and it is YOUR story!  
 So, to all the shipmates who served onboard USS CORAL SEA from 1986 to 1989 (my years of service), I want to thank each one for making my time aboard so meaningful in my life.

There were hours and hours of routine daily activities punctuated every now and then with something really exciting. We had a couple of tragedies to deal with, but thankfully, no warfare during these years. We lost only one plane, but that was one too many. And most of us lived to walk down the brow for the last time, unassisted and on our own two feet.  
 We miss you, Grand Lady! Shipmate, what is YOUR story??  
 God's blessings to you all this spring,

*Michael*

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



### Welcome Aboard

**Richard M. Dailey**  
 SGT.  
 MarDet, 53-55

**Mike Deatherage**  
 OS3  
 OI DIV., 73-76

**Mike Perry**  
 BTFN  
 B DIV., 74-75

**Bob Pethers**  
 V3 DIV., 51-52

**Richard Pratt**  
 YNSN  
 OI DIV., 68-71

**David J. Smith**  
 YN2  
 ADMIN, 75-79

**James R. Williams**  
 AMS2  
 V6 DIV., 60-63

## Midwest Spring Fling Moves to Grand Rapids Location

The April 29—May, 1 2011 Midwest Spring Fling Reunion has relocated to the Airport Hilton Hotel in Grand Rapids, MI. Come enjoy the change of scenery and enjoy good food and the good company of your fellow Association shipmates from throughout the region. It's a great way to catch up on scuttle butt if you didn't make the recent National Reunion in Tampa.

The hotel address is 4747 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids 49512. It's located only two miles from the airport and complimentary transportation

will be offered. To make your reservations,



call 1-800-HILTONS and mention you are part of the USS Coral Sea Reunion. Or go to Hilton's personal online group web page at: <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/grojps/personalized/>

GRRHIHF-USSC-20110428/index.jhtml?WT.mc\_id=POG.

Guest room rates are \$85 for a single/double, plus tax. That rate includes a full American breakfast buffet in the hotel's Spinnaker Restaurant for each person, each morning. The Saturday evening banquet will be a prime rib and

pasta buffet for \$16.95, plus tax and gratuity.

Area attractions include the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum and USS Silversides Museum.



### 'Salty' Humor

Mature Truths: Sometimes I'll look down at my watch three consecutive times and still not know what time it is!

## Play That Funky...Ship's Bugle

Early in 1954, I transferred from the electric shop to Nav division because they were short one bugler. Well, I couldn't blow the ship's bugle, so my dad sent my trumpet. As soon as I received my horn I was was waking them up and putting them to sleep. I think I had the best job aboard.

I remember one particular time during my shipboard service when we were tied up at pier nine in Norfolk. I was warming up for movie call with a Dixieland version of that long call. When Ensign Territola heard my version, he said play it that way; the guys will really get a kick out of it. I argued that I'd get thrown in the brig! But I can't disobey a direct order. So he gave the order and I played the best Dixieland that I could muster for that really long bugle call.

Well the two phones started ringing off the bulkhead and then the bos'n said, "The cap-

tain wants to speak to the bugler!" Well I thought I'd had it this time. But Captain MacDonald said, "That's the damndest thing I've ever heard! Keep up the good work."

After that, every once in a while the Captain would call me and ask if I could play something special for the ship's company for a special holiday. Naturally, I was always glad to oblige every request he made. He was a sailor's sailor.

There are many other great stories too numerous to mention, but I can honestly say those four years I spent in the Navy were the very best! And those are memories that will last a lifetime.

—Submitted by Jerry DeGayner  
Ships Bugler, E-Div., N-Div.



## Dead Motor Launch Batteries...Summer of 1954

*U.S.S. Coral Sea (CVA 43)* returned to NOB, Norfolk on a Friday after several weeks at sea. Every member of the crew with week-end liberty would want to get off the ship as soon as possible (especially if you had a 300 mile drive home.) Our planes had flown ashore in the morning, along with sufficient liberty boat crew members to man the 50' motor launches borrowed from the Norfolk fleet boat pool to augment our forty-footers. If memory serves correctly, the 40' boats could carry ninety sailors and the fifty-footers 120 or more.

Being an EMI at the time, I joined the chiefs and other first class petty officers as we made our way down the port-side accommodation ladder to one of the boat pool 50' launches. We moved forward to the bow to make room for the rest of the men following closely behind. In a very short time the O.O.D. called down to the boat coxswain to take us to the fleet landing, unload and return immediately to the *Coral Sea*.

The coxswain instructed the engineer to start the engine. The starter would not make a sound. Someone in the stern hollered, "Where's Portzline?" I answered, "Up here,"



and almost immediately it was similar to the parting of the Red Sea as 119 sailors made room for me (along with my AWOL bag) to walk, climb over, around and through to get to the stern.

I asked the engineer for a hammer from his tool kit and told the guys sitting on seats over the four battery compartments to get up. I then raised the lids and tapped every battery terminal. The engineer tried the starter again and the engine kicked over and roared to life.

The cheer that went up was deafening. I could have been elected President of the U.S. by those guys at that moment. I often wonder how long (in the minds of those 119 ship-mates) I would have been swimming in Hampton Roads dressed in liberty whites if my quick solution had failed to start the engine. Luckily for all of us, I didn't have to take that imaginary swim.

—Submitted by Len Portzline  
EMI, 1954



The first testicular guard—the 'cup'—was used in hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974. That means it only took 100 years for men to realize that their brains also are important!

(Continued from page 10)

### **Coral Sea fulfills dreams**

chair.

We were so fortunate; a jet – a real Navy carrier jet – was on the flight deck. I wheeled John over to the right landing gear where he was able to reach out and touch it. Looking at him I said, "John, this is the best we can do." He and his mother were overwhelmed. I was never so

proud of the U.S. Navy, and the men who man the ships, as I was that Sunday afternoon.

Those men on the gangway watch helped me make it possible for John to realize one of his fondest dreams. He crossed the decks of a great ship that would sail two million miles in forty years and be home to 75,000 crewman during that period.

John Shearer completed his home-bound studies and graduated from West Perry High School, New Bloomfield, PA in 1957. He was the recipient of the science award. My wife, Barbara, and I proudly sat in the commencement audience as his guests that day.

He passed away at age 27.

—Submitted by Len Portzline  
EMI, 1954

# 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 (CVB/CVA/CV-43) for a period of at least 90 days. Also, any person who was assigned to the commissioning crew (plank owners), even if fewer than 90 days were spent aboard, shall be eligible for membership. **DUES:** Association membership dues are \$15 per year. Dues for membership are not limited to one year. The Association is a Non-Profit Organization formed by former crew members.



**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)

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZIP+4** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**NEXT OF KIN** \_\_\_\_\_

**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  SCG   
 (Rank/Rate) USNR  USAF  USA

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

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

**Secretary, USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION**  
**PO BOX 4235**  
**Fresno, CA 93744**

**Office Use Only**

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

## Shipmate 'Adopts' Omaha School on Association's Behalf



**Salty Humor**

Mature Truths:  
 I can't remember  
 the last time I  
 wasn't at least  
 kind of tired!

I live in Eastern Iowa, but was in Omaha over Veteran's Day. A local grocery chain was serving free breakfasts to all veterans so I had a free breakfast.

In addition, I received a handmade thank you card made by a student at Millard Central Middle School in Omaha. Of course my card was only one of many that the school or schools must have had their students make.

The card was a very simple thank you for serving and thanked the recipient for making it possible for the child to grow up in a free

country. It touched me deeply. So, today I finally got around to doing something about it. I rounded up some information and photos on The Ageless Warrior and sent a letter and packet of items to the school.

I included an extra Coral Sea Assoc. bumper sticker I had that I thought would look wonderful on a bulletin board at the school. I also related that I was designating their school and all students, faculty, and staff as honorary members of our Association. I also sent some color photocopies of insignia from my cruise on CVA-43 (my

squadron patch, squadron detachment patch, and a Coral Sea patch).

I wanted all fellow members to know this. I think when our children do something of this sort we should recognize it in some manner. If anyone else has anything to send our "adopted" school, you could send it to: The Principal, Millard Central Middle School, 12801 "L" Street, Omaha NE 68137. I hope I did not overstep any limits by telling the school people they were honorary members.

—Submitted by Maurice Wadle, AT2, VAW-11, 1964-65 Cruise

## Can You Confirm Any Shipmate Addresses For Us?

William C. Bishop  
3054 Morel Rd.  
Columbia, Tn. 38401-7111

Matthew A. Kiernan.  
6182 79th. St  
Middle Village, Ny. 11379-1338

Thomas E. Smith  
23151 7 Mile Rd.  
Muskego, Wi. 53150-6111

Regenald G. Boone  
104 Gayle Dr.  
Millen, Ga. 30442-7110

Ellen A. Lane  
756 Anne Ln.  
Henderson, Nv. 89015-1508

Peter P. Spellbring  
1219 Hilltop Dr.  
Annapolis, Md. 21409-5128

Rick Allen Bynum, Jr.  
P.O. Box 886582  
Great Lakes, Il. 60088-6582

Ronald M. LaVerdiere  
43585 Medea Dr.  
Clinton Township, Mi. 48036-1297

Elaine Terrell  
408 Kansas St.  
Yates Centers, Ks. 66783-1344

Marian F. Dingus  
232 Trace Dr. Apt. B  
Lancaster, Oh. 43130-4153

Thomas J. Lentz  
1763 Harrison St. Apt. 12  
Neenah, Wi. 54956-4592

Nraxton W. Therrel  
108 Laran Rd.  
Jacksonville, Nc. 28540-5726

Raymond P. Foley  
1780 Avendia Del Mundo Unit 508  
Coronado, Ca. 92118-3058

John A. Lochner  
27958 Pueblo Serena  
Hayward, Ca. 94545-4516

Okey C. Trusty  
2 1/2 Harrison Av.  
Westfield, Ma. 01085-4212

Robert H. Fuchs  
P.O. Box 557  
Port Byron, Ny. 13140-0557

L.R. Mar-  
7840 Antelope Rd. Apt. 46  
Citrus Hgts., Ca. 9561-2354

John O. Walstad  
113 Tamarisk Way  
Leesburg, Fl. 34748-8614

Leonard J. Golub  
1815 215th. St. Ph. G  
Bayside, Ny. 11360-2154

Jeffrey E. Mitchell  
32934 Rancho Vista Dr. Apt. 1  
Cathedral City, Ca. 92234-4353

Michael D. Wellington  
17900 St. Rt. 45  
Wellsville, Oh. 43968-9793

George E. Hagen  
1712 12th. St. SW  
Minot, Nd. 58710-6116

Ronald T. Mooney  
48 School Rd.  
Andover, Ct. 06232-1525

Ellen Wetherall  
P.O. Box 703  
Westfield, Ma. 01086-0703

Francis W. Hendley  
5911 County Road 8  
Woodville, Al. 35776-7670

William A. Moore  
6474 Old Bradford Rd.  
Pinson, Al. 35126-3201

Herman Whitcomb  
15 Chateau Thierry Av. Apt. 401  
Madison, Nj. 07940-1168

Robert C. Houser  
3733 Sand Wedge Dr.  
Gastonia, Nc. 28056-6628

Paul W. Norris  
5640 Autry Av.  
Lakewood, Ca. 90712-020

Jay J. Willis  
2400 W. Canton St.  
Broken Arrow, Ok. 74012-7325

John L. Jankovsky  
1204 Pipers Cres. Apt. 332  
Virginia Beach, Va. 23454-4960

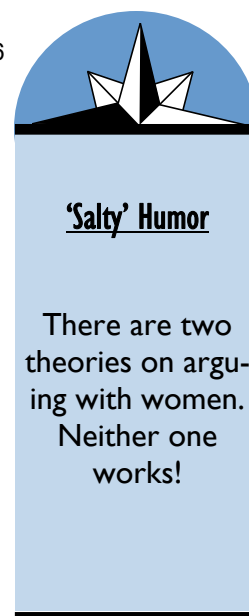
Ronald L. Phillips  
405 S. Morrison Rd. Apt. 180  
Mincie, In. 47304-4022

Thomas Workman  
6212 Dara St.  
North Las Vegas, Nv. 89081-6563

George Kan, Jr.  
6361 Obannon Dr.  
Las Vegas, Nv. 89164-3042

Leonard D. Pratt  
3510 Grange Hall Rd. Apt. 101  
Holly Mi. 48442-1014

Andrew Wynants  
P.O. Box 621258  
Las Vegas, Nv. 89162-1258



# Coral Sea Association Small Stores Product & Price List



Association Logo



Ship's Logo—CVB, CVA, CV

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Price</u>
1001	Reg. Style Cap (Blue or White), CVB/CVA/CV	\$12.00
1002	Mesh Back Cap (Scrambled Eggs) CVB/CVA/CV	\$14.00
1003	Marine Cap (Red) Marine Det., CV	\$14.00
1004	Windbreaker Jacket (Blue), all sizes**	\$42.00
1005	Micro Poly Casual Jacket (Blk, Dk Grn, Maroon, Navy, Red, Royal or Stone) all sizes**	\$46.00
1006	Sweatshirt (Blue or White), all sizes**	\$25.00
1007	T-Shirt (Blue or White), all sizes**	\$17.00
1008	Denim Shirt (SS or LS), all sizes**	\$32.00
1009	Titan Twill Shirt (SS or LS), (Navy, Dutch Blue, French Blue, Khaki, Black, Butter, Crimson, new Olive, Smoke or White), all sizes**	\$32.00
1010	Polo Shirt (Blue or White); all sizes	\$28.00
1011	Pin, CV-43 (Hat/Lapel)	\$ 5.00
1012	3-inch Patch (Older Bolder, CVA-43, Decomm)	\$ 4.00
1013	4.5-inch Patch (Older Bolder, CVA-43)	\$ 6.00
1014	License Plate Frame (Chrome-Plastic), CVA-43	\$12.00
1015	Photo, Coral Sea Straight Deck (8" x 10")	\$ 4.00
1016	Photo, Coral Sea Angle Deck (8" x 10")	\$ 4.00
1017	Coral Sea Mouse Pad	\$ 6.00
1018	Coral Sea Coffee Mug	\$ 8.00
1019	Watch Cap, CVB/CVA/CV	\$12.00
1020	Coral Sea Decals	\$ 2.00
1021-1	Optional Embroidery (Name, Div, Year, etc.)	\$ .50/ltr.
1021-2	Full Back Logo for Jackets	\$30.00
1022	Coral Sea Challenge Coin	\$12.00
1023	Coral Sea Pin (CV-43 or CVA-43)	\$ 3.00

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

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

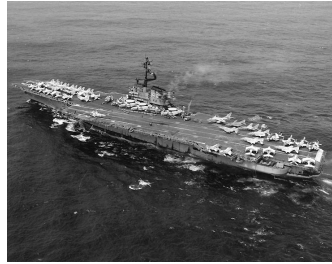
6/09

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

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



# Coral Sea Association Small Stores Order Form



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Method of Payment**

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



Association Logo



Ship's Logo  
CVB, CVA, CV

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

## Coral Sea Fulfills Student's Passion and Military Dreams

*Coral Sea* was preparing for a 6-month deployment to the Mediterranean in the fall. My enlistment was entering the last stages and I lacked enough time to make the cruise.

I had taken my entrance exam aboard *Coral Sea* to matriculate at Penn State in the fall. The Navy was transferring me to the *U.S.S. Bennington (CV-20)* which was berthed in the Brooklyn Navy Yard after a catapult room explosion off Rhode Island killed 103 men.

Prior to reporting aboard the *Bennington*, I took my remaining leave time in central Pennsylvania. That gave me the last opportunity to drive a 15-year-old boy and his mother to Norfolk to see the *Coral Sea*.

John Shearer lived in Perry County near Harrisburg, PA and had a great interest in anything involving the military, but especially ships. He was a sharp young man, very alert and a joy to converse with. John also had cerebral palsy and needed a wheelchair to move about. Most of his schooling was provided by tutors who came to his country home.

We drove the 315 miles to Norfolk on a Sunday morning and arrived at the NOB main gate in the early afternoon. The Marine at the gate gave us permission to drive to pier 7 where the *Coral Sea* was tied up, just as it was a few days earlier when I signed off.

Of course, John and his Mother were amazed with the sight of that huge fight-

ing ship. I climbed the gangway, saluted twice and told the Officer of the Deck about my friend John and our wish to come aboard.

As most of us will remember, Sunday afternoons on a carrier in port with three-quarters of the crew on liberty can be rather boring. Just like that, the OOD assigned most of the quarterdeck watch the task of showing John and his mother around the *Coral Sea*.

Two men lifted John out of the car on the pier and carried him up the gangway. Another carried John's wheelchair, and still another assisted John's mother. They gave us a tour of the hanger deck. Next, they picked him up and carried him to the flight deck, along with his wheel-

*(Continued on page 5)*



### 'Salty' Humor

Some days  
you're the bug,  
some days  
you're the wind-  
shield.

*(Continued from page 1)*

### President's Corner

report on our assessment of the facilities in the next issue. I'm confident that all will be "ship shape" for us.

So far, no one has come forward with a reunion proposal for 2012. If you have ideas, please contact me. We need to get plans for 2012 in gear very soon. We need your help.

Some time ago the board discussed the idea of a questionnaire to gauge Shipmates' interests. Hopefully this will also be in the

next issue as well. In the mean time, I solicit your input as to what you want to see done. All suggestions will be given due consideration. After all, this is your Association as well as mine.

We're trying to get the membership roster and addresses as accurate as possible. Approximately 40 copies of the last issue of the *Breeze* were returned as undeliverable. Please look at the undeliverable address list in this issue. If you know any of these Shipmates, please let me know so that we can cor-

rect the records. Your help in this matter is appreciated.

Finally, if any of you want to submit stories of events that occurred during your service aboard *Coral Sea*, please submit them to me. A few Shipmates have already done so. We'll put these stories in the newsletter on a space-available basis.

Godspeed to all!

*John*

John Ranson  
President

# USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) Association

## Officers

### President:

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**TBD**

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## Committees

### Reunion Committee

**Mil Phillips, Chairman—2011** Reunion in St. Louis, MO

### By-Laws Committee

Chairman:  
Members:

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**Bob Nerbetski**  
**Bill Eanetta**

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cvb43@rochester.rr.com

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Chairman:  
Members:

**Mil Phillips**  
**Bill Williams**  
**David Yokley**

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### Audit Committee

Chairman:

**Chuck Whitcomb**

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### Nominating Chair:

### Parliamentarian:

**Bill Johnson**  
**Bob Mackey**

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708-891-6771

### The Sea Breeze—Official Coral Sea Newsletter

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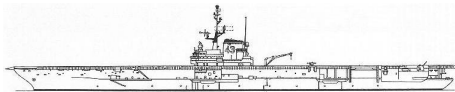
## Copy Submission Deadline:

Material for the June issue of *The Coral Sea Breeze* is due in to the publisher or copy editor by May 20, 2011.

## The Coral Sea Breeze

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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!

### St. Louis Annual Reunion Registration

Complete and mail to: **Clarence Neander**  
**47 Redwood Manor**  
**Pontiac, IL 61764**

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

**Spouse/Guest** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate meal selection and number of meals:

**Friday:** Crowne Plaza's Signature Italian Buffet \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday, Banquet:** Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Cardinale \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost:** One person, \$95.00; Two people, \$190.00  
Banquet only, \$45.00

Hospitality room only, \$25.00

**Note:** Crowne Plaza Hotel Phone Reservations: (314) 291-6700

### Spring Fling Mini-Reunions

- **Venice (Tampa), Florida**  
March 12, 2011  
Call Bud McKay at  
941-371-3790, or  
Bill Johnson at  
941-485-4360
- **Grand Rapids, Michigan**  
April 29—May 1, 2011  
Airport Hilton Hotel  
For reservations, call  
1-800-HILTONS
- **North Brunswick, New Jersey**  
April 30, 2011  
Call Bill Radgona at  
732-821-9225

We look forward to seeing you at  
one of our mini-reunions this year