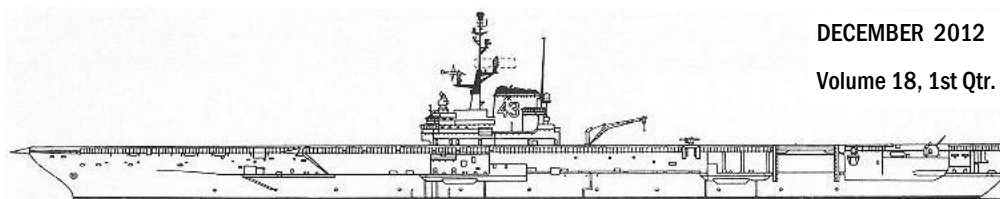


# THE CORAL SEA BREEZE



## This Issue's Ports of Call:

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| President's Corner         | 1   |
| VP & Secretary Corners     | 2   |
| Member Info Form Needed    | 3   |
| Treasurer Corner           | 3   |
| Midwest Spring Fling       | 3   |
| Annual Meeting Minutes     | 4   |
| Chaplain's Corner          | 5   |
| Polliwog to Shellback      | 7   |
| Small Stores Products      | 8-9 |
| Assoc. Officer's Directory | 11  |

## Welcome Aboard!

**Richard A. Crager**  
SA, B Div.  
1963-64

**Larry M. Carlson**  
MM3, M Div.  
1960-64

**Peter Callahan**  
AO3, G Div.  
1959-61

**Kenneth Christiansen**  
AF3, Photo Div.  
1952-53

**David Lechuga**  
QM3, Navigation Div.  
1964-67

## San Antonio Annual Meeting Report.

The Coral Sea Association's 34th annual national reunion, held in San Antonio, Tex. from October 3-7, is history. All indications are that those shipmates attending and their guests had a good time. This was the best turnout of attendees since 2008. This is very encouraging, especially since a large number of first-timers were there. The Association also picked up several new members.

Tours of the City of San Antonio and Fredericksburg were well attended. The biggest attraction had to be the Riverwalk. There's something for

everyone there, and the weather was great.

Several important items of business were taken



*Shown l. to r.—Guy Dunbar, Jon Lickey and Jim Johnson explore the Alamo at San Antonio, TX reunion.*

care of during the business meeting on Saturday. The site of the 2013 reunion is Omaha, Neb. at the Double Tree suites

by Hilton. See the reunion notice for location information. Dates for the reunion are Oct. 9 - 13, 2013. The minutes of the business meeting in this issue has more information.

Several very active members of the Association were not in attendance, so it was fitting that they be recognized: Bob Mackey, Sal Avellino, Herman and Carol Dornbach, and Marilyn Garnett, wife of Orville Garnett. Cards were sent to these great members that were signed by all attending the reunion.

See you all in Omaha in 2013!

## President's Corner

Greetings shipmates, The Holiday season is now upon us. Here's wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May prosperity be with all of you throughout this year.

Thanksgiving Day has come and gone, and rest

assured that yours truly had a great time! We all have much to be thankful for just because we're all citizens of the USA.

Many things happened at the last reunion. They are detailed in the minutes of the business meeting. Rather than recap all that in this article, I ask that all of you read the minutes, par-

ticularly regarding the Association dues increase. Changes are needed in order to keep the Association financially solvent for the years to come.

Also, note that this coming year we will make emailing "Sea Breeze" an option to those who

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Association Membership Information Form.

Please return this form by U.S. Mail or email to: **Don Colwell ( doncolwell@att.net )**  
**10658 S Fruit Avenue**  
**Fresno, CA 93706**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St./Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please say "none" if you have no email address)

Send My Issue of the "Sea Breeze" by Email: YES or NO

Rate/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Div./Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

Aboard Coral Sea from: \_\_\_\_\_ (mo.) \_\_\_\_\_ (yr.) TO \_\_\_\_\_ (mo.) \_\_\_\_\_ (yr.)



## Welcome Aboard

**Maury Lee**  
 FN, M Div.  
 1970-74

**Gary Sturges**  
 ADJ4, VA-153  
 1964-65

**Edmund Stinson**  
 RD2, 03 Div.  
 1950-53

**Joseph Toms**  
 DC3, R Div.  
 166-70

**John Young**  
 FA, R Div.  
 1971-75

## Vice President's Corner

Shipmates,  
 I am writing this while the San Antonio reunion is still fresh on my mind. The attendance was good and we really had a great time. There were also a lot of first time people there. It was also nice to see Captain Bill Trevillion, a Marine that flew off the ship. He is the only Marine that we had at a reunion since Rev. Blaine Miller passed away. I still miss him; he was a great shipmate.  
 Lynn and I enjoyed our trip to Texas. If you were unable to attend, but will ever be in the area, please take the time to go to Tri-chary of Cross (?) and, of course, visit The Alamo. If traveling back east, be sure

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Secretary's Corner

Hello Shipmates,  
 Hope all are well and every one who was able to attend our reunion in San Antonio, TX enjoyed themselves. Sandra and I, accompanied by the Pfeffers and Doc Dockery, did a walking tour of downtown. We really enjoyed the Riverwalk, The Alamo, and the restaurants. The Holiday Inn at Riverwalk was very nice. We also went to a car show on Saturday, and while there went to lunch at a Mexican restaurant which had some of the best Mexican food I've had!  
 Thanks to all our members and wives who made our stay so nice! Both our Board of Directors and business meetings were

very constructive. There will be some Bylaws changes coming up so read our President's Corner to find out what they are. All association officers were voted back in for new terms.  
 Getting ready to fly to Chicago to see Navy kick some Army butt next month. Going to stay at the Pfeffers, and see all my 'snipe' brothers and even a cook; love 'em all!  
 Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!  
 In service, your Secretary,

*Don*

Don Colwell  
 New address:  
 10658 S Fruit Avenue,  
 Fresno, CA 93706

## Midwest Spring Fling Reunion Set for April 25-28.

Take a spring-fling trip back in time with you Navy shipmates at the Midwest Spring Fling reunion in Grand Rapids, MI.

The reunion will be held April 25-28 at the Grand Rapids Airport Hilton Hotel, 4747 28th Street SE. It is located just two miles from the airport and complimentary airport transportation is available.

Guest room rates are only \$89 for a single/double, plus tax. Rates include a full American breakfast buffet in the Spinnaker Restaurant for each person, each morning.

You can make your reservations by calling 1-800-HILTONS. Mention you are part of the USS Coral Sea reunion to ensure your special rates.

Some great area attractions are worth put-



ting on your 'to do' list while participating in the reunion: The Gerald Ford Presidential Museum, USS Silversides Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum and Frederick Meijer Gardens, to mention a few.

A Saturday evening banquet buffet will be served for \$32.28, including tax and gratuity. Please mail your payment for the buffet by April 12, 2013 to **Garry Maddox, 2366 Riley, Hudsonville, MI 49426.**

Also, please note that your hotel reservations should be confirmed by April 12, as well.

If the longer travel keeps you from attending your Association's annual reunion each year, here's your chance to 'meet and greet' old shipmates in a convenient, more centrally located region. Don't miss out!

### Treasurer's Corner

Greeting Shipmates,

Another great reunion has concluded. A big, "ATTA BOY, JOB WELL DONE!" to John and Sandy Ranson for all their hard work.

Besides a great time, our shipmates generosity was remarkable. Raffle ticket sales totaled \$2,263.00. Congratulations to William Price, Don Gold and Albert Perez who were our first, second and third place raffle winners.

A heartfelt "thank you" to Ed Hamilton and Jack Devor for donating their winnings of \$247.00 and \$301.00 from the Friday and Saturday 50/50 drawings back to the Scholarship fund, and to Wayne Addkison and Earl Neall for their generous cash donations.

To sum it all up:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Raffle tickets (after payout)                 | \$1,363.00        |
| Fri. & Sat. 50/50, Combo raffle and donations | \$1,817.00        |
| Balance of reunion proceeds after expenses    | <u>\$1,149.83</u> |
| Total increase to Scholarship fund is:        | \$4,329.83        |

This will go a long way toward covering the scholarship awards for 2012 and 2013! Hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year,

*Clarence*

Clarence Neander  
Treasurer



#### Taps

**Richard Clayton Elliot**  
Spokane, WA  
1971-73

**Gary D Fields**  
Presque Ilse, MN

**Milton J Miller**  
Braintree, MA

**Tom Reinhold**  
Bettendorf, IA  
1960-62

## Association Annual Reunion Business Meeting Minutes.

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association  
Business Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

Date: 6 October, 2012

From: Secretary Don Colwell

Call to Order:

Opening prayer led by John Lickey

Pledge of Allegiance led by our President John Ranson

Introduction Of all Shipmates. We were honored with 2 plank owners and 4 first time attendees

Treasurer Report read by our treasurer, Clarence Neander

Minutes from 2011 Board of Directors and Business Meetings were read by Secretary Colwell. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried.

Unfinished business:

It was discussed that we are spending approximately \$5500.00 a year in mailing newsletter, postage etc. With a need to reduce costs, it was suggested that in Decembers' issue of The Breeze that we ask who would prefer receiving

their newsletter by mail or by email.

Shipmate George Rogers and his wife were recognized for their work in small stores.

USS Ranger CVA-61 is going to be made into a floating museum in Portland, Oregon. Shipmate Don Hagan was asked to keep an eye on the progress of that move.

Shipmate Bob Gaston brought up the issue of a new ship being named after Coral Sea. That question was answered by Past President Mil Phillips.

New business:

It was discussed that starting 10-01-2013 that members who reach the age of 80 years and older be asked to pay yearly dues. With that change in the Bylaw, plank owners and members 80+ be grandfathered so that they won't be required to pay unless they want to. Those members who cannot pay will not be required to pay. We do not want to lose members who are not able to pay. This change will be brought up in the June 2013 issue and will begin in October 2013. The motion was made by Earl Neall and seconded by Bob Nerbetski.

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

### President's Corner...

wish to receive it that way. In this issue you will find a form to indicate your preference for this money-saving option. I ask all shipmates take the time to fill out this form and mail it to Sec. Don Colwell. We want to correct any address mistakes that the current roster may contain. This should go a long way toward meeting that goal. The officers of the USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association want to make it the best such organization that there is.

Please make your hotel reservations early for the 2013 reunion in Omaha, Neb. More information with reunion details will be in the March 2013 issue of "Sea Breeze". Make your plans to attend now!

PLEASE read the minutes regarding the Scholarship program. Since there were no awards made last year, the Association membership voted to make four awards

this year. We need the four shipmates who submitted entries last year to do so again. Those four entrants will be judged separately. All other entries for this years judging will also receive awards. If you have questions, please contact Chairman Jon Lickey or myself.

Lastly, please don't forget that we have many Shipmates in distress after Superstorm Sandy (not named for my wife!) Many of our members live in the northeast part of the USA. Here's wishing a quick recovery to those of you affected.

Late-breaking news: Keep Ben and Bettie Bernardy in your prayers. Ben has had a heart attack and requires multiple by-passes. Godspeed!

*John*

John H. Ranson  
CVA-43 Assoc. President



### Taps

**Karol Bielawski**  
AE3, X Div.  
1953-54

**Thomas J. Purcell Jr.**  
ME2, R Div.  
1950-53

**Robin L. Zevotek**  
SA, Rep-8 Div.  
1951-52

(Continued from page 4)

**Annual Meeting Minutes...**

The motion passed.

A report was given by Shipmate Shelby Gaul on the Sea Cadet program. There has been lots of training aboard The USS Lane Victory. There was a sea cadet exchange between the U.S. and England. A motion was proposed by Vice President Bill Johnson that the Assn. donate 12 Assn hats be donated to the program as incentives to cadets, 3 per quarter. This motion was seconded by all. The motion passed. A motion was made and seconded to contribute \$1000.00 to the Sea Cadet program. Under discussion Ben Bernardy asking our treasurer, Clarence Neander if the Assn can afford the contribution, with treasurer assuring Ben that we could. The motion passed.

**Scholarship Fund:**

Chairman Mike Perry could not be found through the year so nothing could be done. A proposal was made by shipmate Earl Neall to recognize four college freshmen, and also recognize four high school seniors, with 4 awards

this year going to two college freshmen and two high school seniors. Shipmate John Lickey was made scholarship committee chairman.

All Assn officers were voted in by acclamation, with 1 yr director John Lickey, 2 yr director Andy Wright, 3 yr director Wayne Atkisson.

A motion was made by Vice President Bill Johnson to have our 2013 reunion in Omaha, Nebraska on Columbus day weekend. With proposals in Indianapolis, IN. as too busy in October, and Kansas City, Missouri too expensive. It was seconded by all members. The motion passed.

**Good of the Association:**

Get well cards be passed around foe members Sal Avellino, Bob Mackey, Marilyn Garnett, wife of shipmate Orville Garnett and Herman and Carol Doernbach

With no new business to discuss, meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Colwell, Secretary  
USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Assn.



**The U.S. Navy, Then and Now...**

Then: If you smoked, you had an ashtray on your desk.

Now: If you smoke, you get sent outside and treated like a leper, if you're lucky.

**Chaplain's Corner**

Dear Shipmates,

It is that time of year when our thoughts turn to very special holiday celebrations. Hopefully you and your family will have a very blessed Christmas season or Hanukkah celebration or whatever other holiday you celebrate.

As we all look back on our Navy career, we remember all those special days and holidays that we spent away from family and friends. My last deployment onboard USS CORAL SEA found me in the Bay of Naples at Christmas

time. Fortunately, a chaplain friend ashore arranged

for me to call home to Virginia Beach . . . remember when such a call was a true luxury??

On Christmas Eve, we gathered for an ecumenical worship service, in the chapel (which I was told was the former Warrant Officer Wardroom, across the passageway from the XO's stateroom). We took a few moments to let everyone share a special memory about how they celebrated the Christmas holiday through the years. Although we would NEVER admit it, I am sure that most of us discreetly wiped a few tears from our eyes.

But it was worth it, wasn't it? It was worth it to

spend a few holidays away from home over the years because we were serving our country and it was a privilege to do so.

As you and your family gather during these holiday celebrations, please take a few moments to remember our service members of today and the sacrifices they are making for all of us.

God bless you all!

From your CORAL SEA chaplain,

*Michael*

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

# 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 commissioning crew (plank owners), even if they spent fewer than 90 days aboard, shall be eligible for membership. **DUES:** Association membership dues is \$15 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 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** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthdate** \_\_\_\_\_ **Anniversary** \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

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

**Don Colwell, Secretary, USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOC.**  
**10658 S Fruit Avenue**  
**Fresno, CA 93706** Email: doncolwell@att.net

**Office Use Only**

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



**The U.S. Navy, Then and Now...**

Then: Your girlfriend was at home, praying you would return safely.  
 Now: She is on the same ship, praying your condom worked!

*(Continued from page 2)*  
**Vice President's Corner...**

to stop by Luckenbach, Texas, the home of Willie, Waylon and the Boys. It was election year for the officers. All of the current officers that wanted to continue serving were re-elected. The new three-year board member is Wayne Addkison from Kemp, TX. Thanks for your service, Wayne! I was re-elected Vice President; and I would personally like to thank you for your vote. Jon Lickey has always given a great deal of himself to the association and I wish to personally say, "Thank you for a job

well done." Our next reunion will be in Omaha. Our President, John, will be sending the information out in the next edition of *The Shipmate*.

I would also like to remind everyone to contact your local schools to set up a time to go and tell the military story. Veteran's Day is November 11<sup>th</sup> and this is a wonderful time to share our story and the history of our nation's military with the school-age children.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner. We would like to wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving and a

very Merry Christmas. It would be impossible to send best wishes for Thanksgiving and Christmas without knowing that 2013 is just around the corner as well; in that case, we wish you a Happy New Year as well. Whatever your traditions are (or may be) for this holiday season, we send wishes of safety for you and yours, as well. Until I see you again, smooth sailing.

Your shipmate,

*Bill*

Bill Johnson  
 Vice President

## Polliwog to Shellback in King Neptune's Domain.

*Ed. Note—Part 2 of 2*

Most of us noted that "blood" was all over the deck, under the table, and a few other places. As more discussion continued, stories became exaggerated as polliwogs finished crossing the hangar deck. The uncertainty of not knowing the truth made it much worse in our young imaginations. (Later we realized that this action by shellbacks was our first true encounter with psychological warfare. It's not what we actually saw, but what we believed we saw.) The proof of the effectiveness of this phase of initiation is that we all saw the same things; however, very few could agree on the application of anything. (Shellbacks probably laughed long into the night while polliwogs were up most of the night worrying about tomorrow.)

### INITIATION DAY, CROSSING THE EQUATOR.

I asked myself, "Why did I ever join the Navy?" I could have enlisted in any other service and avoided all this, but now I have to accept my medicine like a man.

About 4:30 a.m., dawn was slowly creeping up on the eastern horizon. The PA loud speakers shattered the silence: "All shellbacks must show their cards to the Chief Boatswain Mate at the forward 8" gun turret and then proceed to your duty

at sea. All polliwogs, report immediately to the mess hall and strip down to under shorts."

A special sea duty was now in effect, with all stations battle ready even while the initiation ceremony was under way. All hatches to chow hall were closed and guarded.

The hangar deck was prepared as a gauntlet. Three lines of shellbacks extended



from the base of the bridge to the hangar on ship's starboard line. Another line of shellbacks went diagonally across the hangar deck to the port side of the ship at the base of the bridge. The third line was from bridge port side and straight back to the hangar. In the diagonal line was the 10-foot canvas tunnel full of raunchy, stinky stuff creating unbearable odors. And near the end of the diagonal line was King Neptune's throne and court. We had no clue of

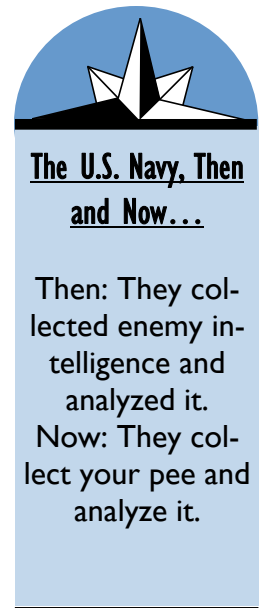
this arrangement until we were let out of the chow hall and went through the 'torture' gauntlet, laid out in a big Z-shape.

The hatch was opened long enough to let one polliwog out onto the deck, and allow the next one in line to see the bloody table and large butcher knife, then slammed shut again. They grabbed me and laid me on my back on the table, blindfolding me just as I observed the knife coming close to my stomach. Then I felt a strange tingling surge, making me think I was being cut. They took off my blindfold, pushed me off the table and the first shellback of this gauntlet hit me from behind with that sleeve of paint rags. That sharp pain was followed quickly by more of the same from the next shellback in line with another sleeve! I was getting some severe bruises from those

'deadly weapons' of hard paint rags in the canvas sleeves.

Finally, after being hit by six or seven shellbacks, I arrived at the hangar end of the first leg of the Z-shaped gauntlet. A shellback gave me a push and told me to keep moving, which I did. Then, about one third of the way along the longest part of the "Z", which went from starboard hangar all the way across mid-ship, I saw the canvas

*(Continued on page 10)*



### The U.S. Navy, Then and Now...

Then: They collected enemy intelligence and analyzed it.

Now: They collect your pee and analyze it.

# 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.

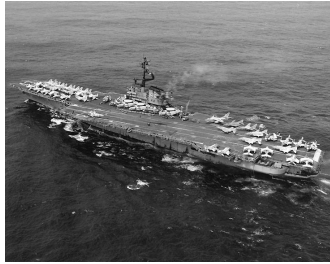
6/09

**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 |
|--------|------|--|------|-----------|-------------|
|        |      |  |      |           |             |
|        |      |  |      |           |             |
|        |      |  |      |           |             |

**Method of Payment**

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

Merchandise Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shipping Charge\*\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_



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."

(Continued from page 7)

**Polliwog to shellback...**

tunnel.

The odor was horrendous! A shellback pushed me into the guts, blood, and stench. I held my breath, but halfway through that tunnel a high pressure hose of sea water hit me in the face and pushed me back into the tunnel. This continued quite a while as I fought to overcome the pressurized water pushing me back into the slime. They eventually shut off the water to let me through, and then started to give the same treatment to the next polliwog. Covered with that filth and stench, I noticed King Neptune's throne in front of me. I got hit with three more shellback canvas paint rag sleeves, which pushed me up to the throne.

There on the throne was King Neptune himself. Big, fat and oily, the bearded and nearly nude king sat on the highest part of the throne. He had two mermaid 'daughters' in his court, one on each side of the throne. They both had *beautiful* light gray hair; thick, shoulder length and very straggly. Amusingly, their hair looked ex-actly like a swab we used to mop the deck!

I noticed other odd things about them the longer I looked (remember, these are mermaids). The one on my right had a beard about two inches long, a very hairy chest, arms and legs, and a skirt made of the same material as their hair! The other was less conspicuous, having only a long bra that reached down past 'her' belly button, filled with small square bricks (but she tried to tease us by almost showing her 'boobs').

King Neptune asked me (and all other polliwogs that came before his throne), "What are you doing here?"

I simply replied, "I want to become a shellback."

"Okay," he said, "Then you must dine on the nectar of the Gods, seaweed clusters direct from Davy Jones locker."

One of the court mermaids pushed one of the suspicious-looking "balls" into my mouth and told me to chew it and swallow all of it. (It tasted like s\*\*t...what a terrible

taste!) They said if I spit it out or did not swallow all of it, I could not become a shellback. So, in spite of the taste, I swallowed it, trying hard not to gag.

The King said, "Now you have earned the right to kiss my stomach and my two daughters on their lips."

Ugh, ugh! So, very reluctantly, I kissed that oily, stinky lard belly, without vomiting. But his court said I didn't do it with love, so I had to perform the belly kiss all over again. GROSS!

Now I had to kiss both of his daughters on the lips. But this wasn't so bad because they had wax lips held in place with a small bar that their teeth clamped onto. After we "kissed" them, they removed the lips, dipped them in some kind of solution, wiped them off and got ready for the next victim.

Then the king wacked my head pretty hard with a tightly strung tennis racket and said, "Get him out of my court!" I was flushed away with another high pressure hose and a couple of painful hits from two more sleeves of dried paint rags.

I now noticed I no longer had any of that "tunnel" garbage hanging on me as I got ready for the last initiation leg, going aft on the port side of the ship. Near the end of this last leg of the gauntlet I see an 8-foot high curtain around the station. A shellback pulled the curtain aside just far enough for me to enter. There I faced a plank nearly 4-feet long and 2-feet wide extending over the ocean, with the other end secured to the deck. They blindfolded me, stood me on the secured end of the plank and twirled me around several times to disorient me. And it worked, because I had no idea what direction I was facing.

I was instructed to move forward and take short steps as I "walked the plank." I was told to go a little left or a little right to stay centered on the plank. As I approached the end of the plank, I was told to get on my hands and knees and crawl. Was it scary? You bet! Because I had no assurance I

(Continued on page 12)



**The U.S. Navy, Then and Now...**

Then: Mail took weeks to come to the ship.  
Now: If the ship is near land, there's a mob topside to see if their cell phones work.

# USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) Association

## Officers

### President:

**John Ranson** (859-781-2536)  
52 Woodland Place  
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1605  
jrsr3843@fuse.net

### Vice President:

**Bill Johnson** (941-485-4360)  
322 N Portia Street  
Nokomis, FL 34275-2342  
cva43bill@hotmail.com

### Secretary:

**Don Colwell** (559-304-3679)  
10658 S Fruit Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93706  
doncolwell@att.net

### Treasurer:

**Clarence A. Neander**  
47 Redwood Manor  
Pontiac, IL 61764  
accrane@msn.com  
815-341-5928

### Immediate Past President:

**Mil Phillips** (858-452-0161)  
4995 Maynard Street  
San Diego, CA 92122  
milphillip@aol.com

### Board of Directors:

**Jon Lickey—2014**  
jjlickey47@yahoo.com  
**Andy Wright—2015**  
andrewwright08@comcast.net  
**Wayne Addkison—2016**  
redrocktx2@yahoo.com

### Chaplain:

**Rev. Michael D. Halley**  
U.S. Navy Chaplain Ret.  
mhalley43@gmail.com

### Storekeeper:

**George Rogers**  
5075 Hopeland Drive  
Powder Springs, GA 30127  
GeorgeRogers@bellsouth.net

### Master-at-Arms:

**Mike Pfeffer** (773-631-375)  
5311 N Manila Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60630  
mpfeff53@aol.com

### Historian:

**Mike Pfeffer**  
mpfeff53@aol.com

### Retention Chairman:

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

## Committees

### Reunion Committee

**John Ranson, Chairman—2012** Reunion in San Antonio, TX

### By-Laws Committee

Chairman:  
Members:

**John Ranson,**  
**Bob Nerbetski**  
**Bill Eanetta**

jrsr3843@fuse.net  
cvb4312@verizon.net  
cvb43@rochester.rr.com

### Scholarship Committee

Chairman:

**Jon Lickey**

jjlickey47@yahoo.com  
309-688-3939

### Audit Committee

Chairman:

**Chuck Whitcomb**

cwhitcomb1877@charter.net

### Nominating Chair:

**Bill Johnson**

cva43bill@hotmail.com

### Parliamentarian:

**Bob Mackey**

708-891-6771


### The Sea Breeze—Official Coral Sea Newsletter

Publisher: **John Ranson** - Copy Edit/Layout: **Ed Williams**, ed.williams@ibpromos.com  
Printing/Mailing: **Bob Cummings**, rbcummings2@hotmail.com

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

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

**(Please send all address changes to Don Colwell at the address shown top right.)**

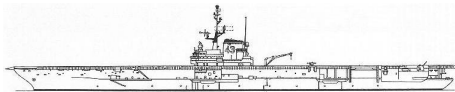


**Copy Submission  
Deadline:**  
Material for the  
March issue of *The  
Coral Sea Breeze*  
is due in to the  
publisher or copy  
editor by  
February 20, 2013.

## The Coral Sea Breeze

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

Email: [jrsr3843@fuse.net](mailto:jrsr3843@fuse.net)  
**Please Note:** Send Address  
Corrections to Association  
Sec. Don Colwell



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 10)

### **Polliwog to shellback...**

wouldn't go head first into the drink!

Then one shellback hollered, "Stop!" I stopped, frozen in one position and shaking. The blindfold was quickly removed and there I was at the end of a plank that was resting on two buckets about a foot above the deck. The plank had been placed on the buckets as soon as I was blindfolded. But I had no way of knowing I was actually walking on the plank that was never over the water. Your imagination does amazing things, especially when you are half terrified!

The only things that got wet during this phase were my knees and feet, and they were wet during the entire initiation. Afterward, the rear part of the curtain was pulled aside to let me out the back part of the

station. There was a ladder only a few feet aft of that curtain attended by another shellback. He told me to go up the ladder, which reached the top port section of the hangar. Reaching the top, I was greeted by a smiling shipmate who gave me a big bear hug while saying five words that were music to my ears: You are now a shellback!

Wow, wow! Can it really be over? I actually made it?!? Gosh, what a feeling! Bruised all over, but I'm a shellback! I can hardly believe it, but it's not a dream!

Later the same day I got my card and certificate. Now I am an official sailor! Not yet an "old salt", but that will come in time. Bon voyage!

—Submitted by

**George Williams**

*Ed. Note: The author, who served in the Pacific during WWII, is the father of the editor of The Coral Sea Breeze.*

## 35th Annual Reunion in Omaha, Nebraska.

Your Association has selected Omaha, Neb. as the site of our 35th annual reunion.

Our 2013 reunion will be held October 9-13, at the Double Tree Suites by Hilton, 7270 Cedar St., Omaha, Neb. 68124.

Room rates will be \$105.16 per night, including all current taxes. And this rate applies from Oct. 7-13.

The room reservation deadline for this rate is Sept. 9, 2013. Call 402-255-9147 to reserve your room. Please mention "USS Cora Sea" when making your reservation. The hotel provides arrival/departure transportation at peak travel times with prior arrangements. Call 402-397-5141 with details after booking your flight.

Look for more reunion details in the March issue of *Sea Breeze*.