

MARCH 2021

Volume 26, 2nd Qtr.

# THE CORAL SEA BREEZE

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## Welcome Aboard!

**Colin F. Hanes**  
AN, V-1 Div.  
1/67-7/69

**Arnold V. Heighes**  
AN, V-1 Div.  
6/67-10/70

## Colorado Springs Annual Reunion Plans.

The Association's 2021 Annual Reunion is being planned for Oct. 6-10 at the Hotel Elegante in Colorado Springs, Colo. You can explore this property, its amenities and the surrounding area in more detail at their site: [hotelegante.com](http://hotelegante.com).



You will find the schedule of events, registration form and tour options in this issue. The pricing for tours is being finalized at this time and will be included in the next issue of *Sea Breeze*. Please email any Association officer with your reunion questions.

### President's Corner

Ahoy Shipmates,  
The 2021 reunion is going forward at this point in time. I talked with AFR and they have everything set except the tour prices; should have that completed by next issue.

The registration form is in this issue. Make your own hotel reservations but fill out registration form and mail the form and money for tours, banquet and registration fee to AFR. The cut-off date is 17th September.

Hotel staff assures me that they will be ready for us in Octo-

ber and will make our stay as memorable as possible. I'm still planning to take a visit in June or July; will follow up in next issue.

I have been in contact with the staff of the USS Midway Museum about a compartment for the display of USS Coral Sea artifacts. This is just in the talking stage, but it is looking good. I'll have more information after I



have a conversation with Admiral Mac in the coming days. I have not had any more contact with Midway or FDR associations about another "Three Sisters" reunion. I intend to follow up on that event and see what is happening.

The COVID lockdown last year put a kink in all three reunions. I don't know if Midway has scheduled one for this year. FDR is Jacksonville, Fl. the last week of July. All Coral Sea members are welcome to attend these reunions.

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Colorado Springs 2021 Reunion Tour Options.

*Please Note: Tour prices are being finalized at this time.*

### **AIR FORCE ACADEMY / GARDEN OF THE GODS**

Start the day at the Air Force Academy. Tour the Visitor Center, with exhibits on cadet life and academy history, a theater, and gift shop. Soaring 150 feet toward the Colorado sky, the Air Force Academy Chapel is an all-faiths house of worship designed to meet the spiritual needs of cadets. Visit the chapel, touring the Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic sections. Gather outside the Chapel to witness the daily meal formation of the cadets. Afterwards, reboard the bus for the Garden of the Gods Trading Post. Start with lunch featuring assorted sandwiches, soup, potato salad, cookies, and a beverage, and then shop a little for the finest in authentic Indian arts, crafts, and jewelry. Finally, explore the Garden of the Gods, a 1,350-acre park with magnificent red stone formations that date back 300 million years. **Note: For groups with more than two buses, an alternate timeline will be followed, and the price may be higher.**

**8:30am— board bus, 3:30pm— back at hotel**

### **ROYAL GORGE TRAIN RIDE**

Experience America's most spectacular rail journey aboard the Royal Gorge Route Railroad. In 1905, President Teddy Roosevelt described it best as "the trip that bankrupts the English language!" Come experience not just a memorable train ride through the Colorado Rockies, but enjoy gorgeous scenery on a narrated ride on the two-hour train ride through the "Grand Canyon of the Arkansas" - an unforgettable journey under the famous suspension bridge, which clings precariously to the steep granite walls of the Royal Gorge, towering over 1,000 feet above. You'll be served a box lunch which includes a sandwich, chips, fruit cup, cookie, and water. Don't miss the

train ride that has been called "The most spectacular 12 miles of railroad in America."

**10:45am—board bus, 4:15pm— back at hotel**

### **NATIONAL WWII AVIATION MUSEUM / AIRPLANE RESTAURANT**

Start the day at the National WWII Aviation Museum, the only museum in the world that focuses exclusively on the unique story of the role of aviation in World War II. The museum is located on an active airfield; the docent-led tours go through the workshops and aircraft restoration facilities. Aircraft include the B-25, P-47, and many more. Keeping with the theme of the day, stop for lunch at the Airplane Restaurant. Part of the restaurant is truly inside a Boeing KC-97 tanker, but the attached building is full of memorabilia too. Lunch includes a choice of Swiss Mushroom Burger, Corned Beef Reuben, or fried fish - all serviced with French fries (or slaw), or a Caesar salad with chicken.

**12:00pm—board bus, 4:45pm— back at hotel (Tues/Thurs/Sat)**

### **DRAGONMAN MUSEUM / AIRPLANE RESTAURANT**

Visit one of the most unique museums you'll ever see. This collection of military weapons and memorabilia is part of a private collection owned by Mel Bernstein, who claims to be the "most armed man in America", with 3,000 operational firearms, over 80 military-grade vehicles, a functional 40-ton T54 Russian tank, six 1000-pound bombs, and over 900 military uniforms. The latest addition to his collection is the D-Day Omaha and Utah Beach invasion reenactment display. After the tour, we'll keep the military history alive by stopping for lunch at the Airplane Restaurant. Part of the restaurant is truly inside a Boeing KC-97 tanker, but the attached building is full of memorabilia too. Lunch includes a

*(Continued on page 4)*



### **TAPS**

**Hugh F. Budd**  
EM3, E Div.  
1951—1954

**Harvey E. Lehn**  
MM3, M Div.  
1956—1957

**Thomas W. Smith**  
MM1, M Div.  
1962—1965

**USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION  
OCTOBER 6-10, 2021, HOTEL ELEGANTE – COLORADO SPRINGS, CO  
PLAN OF THE DAY**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6**

12:00pm—11:00pm	Hospitality Room Open
12:00pm—11:00pm	Ship's Store Open
2:00pm—7:00pm	Reunion Registration Open

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7**

7:30am—8:30am	Reunion Registration Open
9:00am—3:00pm	TOUR TBD
12:00pm—11:00pm	Hospitality Room Open
12:00pm—11:00pm	Ship's Store Open
3:30pm—6:00pm	Reunion Registration Open
5:00pm—8:00pm	Board of Directors Meeting

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8**

9:00am—3:30pm	TOUR TBD
12:00pm—11:00pm	Hospitality Room Open
12:00pm—11:00pm	Ship's Store Open

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9**

9:00am—12:00pm	Business Meeting
1:00pm—5:00pm	Hospitality Room Open
6:30pm—7:30pm	Cash Bar and Social Hour
7:30pm—10:00pm	Banquet Dinner

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10**

*Farewells and departures*

**Salty Humor**

"The second day of a diet is always easier than the first. By the second day, you're off it."

—Buddy Hackett

**CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.**

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$10 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.



## Salty Humor

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write and they won't let me talk!"

(Continued from page 2)

### **Reunion Tour Options...**

choice of Swiss Mushroom Burger, Corned Beef Reuben, fried fish – all serviced with French fries (or slaw), or a Caesar salad with chicken.

**8:30am— board bus, 1:30pm— back at hotel**

### **IRON SPRINGS CHATEAU**

For over 50 years, the Iron Springs Chateau Melodrama Dinner Theater has provided the region with evenings of hilarious comedy and quality entertainment. First though, dinner includes a choice of old fashioned pot roast or herb roasted chicken breast with salad, sides, and dessert. After dinner, head upstairs to the theater (wheel chairs can be accommodated with a little extra effort around the outside of the building and back in). Tonight's show: "Disturbance at the Delta... or...Here Fishy, Fishy, Fishy" is a turn of the century, classic melodrama. Enjoy a hilarious adventure where you'll boo the villain and cheer your hero. The melodrama is followed by a sing-along intermission and a fun-filled Vaudeville style musical review. Audience participation is a must. Enjoy the fun!

**5:30pm—board bus, 10:30pm— back at hotel**

Please Note: Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour

prices. Unless otherwise noted, all tours require a minimum of thirty-five people. Please be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time.

### **TOUR SCHEDULES**

#### **Air Force Academy**

8:30 Depart hotel for AFA Visitors Center  
 9:15 Free time at Visitors Center  
 10:10 Depart for chapel area and walk in at 10:20 (10:35). Tour Chapel  
 11:35 Cadet lunch formation march  
 12:00 Reload for Trading Post  
 12:45 Group Lunch and brief shopping  
 2:15 Begin driving tour through GoG  
 3:30 Back at hotel.

#### **Royal Gorge Train Ride**

10:45 Board bus for Canon City.  
 12:00 Arrive for train boarding.  
 12:30 Train ride until 2:30pm.  
 4:15 Back at hotel.

#### **WWII Aviation Museum**

12:00 Board for Airplane Restaurant  
 12:15 Lunch  
 1:45 Reboard for WWII Aviation Museum  
 2:00 Tour Museum

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## **Treasurer's Corner**

Greetings Shipmates  
 It's been an uneventful winter so far. Illinois has been on Covid lockdown for months. Association business has been normal; we are financially sound. I mailed out our annual \$1,000.00 donation to the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets, Coral Sea Division on 28 January. Thoughts are now turning to the 43rd Annual Reunion in Colorado

Springs. Covid forced the cancellation of the 42nd reunion scheduled for Oklahoma City, but hopes are high we'll be getting together in October.

Enclosed are three books of raffle tickets for the cash raffle. The drawing will be held at the reunion banquet on Saturday Oct. 9, 2021. I hope more members will participate this year as last year saw our fewest returns on record. Please join in and possibly win some

cash. If you would like to purchase more than the three books enclosed, include the extra money and I'll be happy to fill them out (address labels, if you have them, are much appreciated).

See you in Colorado Springs,

*Clarence*

Clarence Neander  
 Association Treasurer

(Continued from page 4)

### **Reunion Tour Options...**

4:15 Depart museum to return to hotel by 4:45pm

Or

9:30 Depart for Museum

10-12:15 Tour

12:30-2:00 Lunch

2:15 Back at hotel

### **Iron Springs Chateau**

5:30 Board bus

6:00 Be seated for dinner. WE NEED TO REQUEST MEAL CHOICES ON REG FORM.

7:30 Show doors open

8:00 Show

10ish Reboard, back by 10:30pm.

### **Garden Of The Gods / Old Colorado City**

9:30 Board bus for tour through the Garden of the Gods until 11:00am

11:15 Stop at Trading Post for shopping/restroom break until 12:00pm.

12:15 Arrive in Old Colorado City - shopping and lunch.

2:00 Reboard bus to return to hotel by 2:30pm

### **OR – Evening option**

4:30 Board bus for tour through GOG until 6pm

6:15 Arrive OCC

8:30 Depart to return to hotel by 9pm.

If doing lunch at Club.

Timeline for 2 buses max.

8:30 Board bus for the Air Force Academy.

9:15 Arrive at Visitor Center for bathroom break and brief visit.

10:30 Tour the Cadet Chapel

11:35 Cadet lunch formation march

12:15 Lunch at the Falcon Club

1:30 Reboard the bus to return to the hotel by 2:15pm

Above is best for 2 buses. If more, then need to flip Visitors Center and

(Continued on page 12)



## **Salty Humor**

Progress is made by lazy people who are looking for an easier way to do things.

## **Secretary's Corner**

Greetings Shipmates, Hopefully, all of you had a great Christmas & New Year, Let's hope that 2021 goes much better than last year did. Regarding 2021, due to a lack of response from the Assoc. membership, the 2021 spring fling has been cancelled. I hope that we can develop enough interest to have a spring fling in 2022. I'm open to all suggestions as to a site for this event. Personally, I've always enjoyed the flings. Please let me know your thoughts on this subject.

Thanks to all Shipmates who have paid your dues. Please note

the expiration date on the mailing label of this issue. If the date is in red, please pay up. Thanks!

Plans are in place for the 2021 reunion in Colorado Springs. Please see details for the reunion in this issue of "Sea Breeze". As always, I look forward to seeing many of you at reunions. In the June issue of "Sea Breeze" will be the proposed changes in the Assoc. By-laws if any are to be considered. Any proposed changes will be decided upon at the 2021 reunion business meeting. Just a little food for thought.

The hospitality room at reunions is always a very important part of the reunions. I'm ask-

ing that we get some assistance as needed to operate the hospital-ity room. Loading supplies & keeping the place in general good working order is necessary. Many hands make for light work. Many thanks to those Shipmates who have traditionally lent a hand. B-Z to you all!

As always, please contact me if you've got any questions or concerns. I always like talking to all Shipmates.

Godspeed!

*John*

John H. Ranson  
CVA-43  
Association Secretary

## History of The Ageless Warrior (continued)

*Ed. Note—This continues the article begun in the December issue of Sea Breeze.*

The ship embarked on her final Western Pacific deployment on 20 August 1981. After making port calls at Pearl Harbor and Subic Bay, the Philippines, she operated in the South China Sea. After a port call at Singapore, Coral Sea headed to the Indian Ocean where she relieved America at Gonzo Station and operated with Royal Navy units in Gonzo-Ex 2-81 (17-23 November).

The Coral Sea battle group, under Rear Admiral Tom Brown, was involved in exercises with the Royal Navy under Rear Admiral Sandy Woodward – who operated with HMS Glamorgan as his flagship. During one exercise, Woodward was able to maneuver Glamorgan into a position where he could have "sunk" Coral Sea with Exocet missiles. The result of this exercise played a part in the belief of Admiral Woodward that the British should sink the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano because of the fear of a similar situation arising between that ship and the British aircraft carriers Hermes and Invincible during the Falklands War.

Later, Coral Sea participated in Exercise Bright Star 82, an exercise involving the defense of Egypt and the Suez Canal (4-9 December). Relieved on 17 December 1981 by Constellation, she departed Gonzo Station and called at Pattaya, Thailand after 98 consecutive days at sea. After departing Pattaya the ship called at Subic Bay and Hong Kong. Coral Sea then operated in the Sea of Japan before making a port call at Sasebo, Japan. After departing Japan Coral Sea made another port call at Subic Bay, then again at Pearl Harbor before steaming to California.

The ship arrived at her home port of Alameda on 23 March 1982. Coral Sea then began upkeep, training,

and operations off of California. In late July 1982, she served as a movie prop in the filming of portions of the motion picture *The Right Stuff*.

### **World cruise, deployments to the Mediterranean, final years**

On 25 March 1983, Coral Sea, having been reassigned to the Atlantic Fleet, left Alameda for her new homeport of Norfolk. The Navy sent the ship on a six-month around-the-world cruise, with ports of call in five countries. Coral Sea was replaced on the west coast by Carl Vinson.

On 1 March 1984, Carrier Air Wing 13 was established. The wing would make three deployments aboard Coral Sea from 1 October 1985 to 30 September 1989.

On 11 April 1985, while on refresher training with her air wing in the Guantanamo Bay area, Coral Sea collided with the Ecuadorian tanker ship Napo and subsequently underwent two months of repairs at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia. This resulted in the skipper along with 4 other officers being relieved of duty.

On 13 October 1985, Coral Sea returned to the Mediterranean for her first Sixth Fleet deployment since 1957. Commanded by Captain Robert H. Ferguson, with CVW-13 embarked, it was also the first deployment of the new F/A-18 Hornet to the Mediterranean. The Hornets were assigned to VFA-131, VFA-132, VMFA-314 and VMFA-323 on Coral Sea.

On 2 January 1986, EA-6B Prowlers from VAQ-135 reported aboard. The Squadron was called on a "No Notice Deployment" by The Joint Chiefs of Staff to augment CVW-13 with Electronic Countermeasures/Jamming Support.

On 24 March 1986, Libyan Armed Forces units fired missiles at Sixth



### **Salty Humor**

People who think time heals all things haven't sat it out in a doctor's waiting room!

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### **History of The Ageless Warrior...**

Fleet forces operating in the Gulf of Sidra after declaring international waters as their own. A missile (originating from an SA-5 missile site at Sirte) attack on CV-43's aircraft (Prowler/Hornet package) conducting a "Blue Darter" fell short and dropped into the Mediterranean. VFA-131 F/A-18's from Coral Sea and America flew combat air patrols, protecting the carrier groups from Libyan aircraft. The Hornets were frequently called upon to intercept and challenge numerous MiG-23s, MiG-25s, Su-22s, and Mirages sent out by Libya to harass the fleet.

On 5 April 1986, in response to the US show of force, the La Belle Discothèque in the Federal Republic of Germany was bombed, resulting in the death of one U.S. serviceman and many injured.

On 15 April 1986, aircraft from Coral Sea and America, as well as USAF F-111Fs from RAF Lakenheath in the UK, struck targets in Libya as part of "Operation El Dorado Canyon." The Hornets went into action for the first time, flying several ship-to-shore air

strikes against Libyan shore installations that were harassing the fleet. During this action, the Hornets from Coral Sea attacked and destroyed the SA-5 missile site at Sirte which had been "painting" US aircraft on its radars. This was the combat debut for the Hornet, and incidentally marked the first combat use of the AGM-88 HARM anti-radiation missile. The Hornets attacked the SAM sites in bad weather and at wave top heights. All of them returned without mishap.

Coral Sea continued deployments to the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean area throughout the remainder of the 1980s. In 1987, she developed the "Coral Sea configuration" in which two attack squadrons on board used a shared maintenance program, helping to streamline aircraft maintenance. On 19 April 1989, while operating in the Caribbean, the ship responded to a call for assistance from the battleship Iowa, due to an explosion in her number two gun turret in which 47 crew members were killed. The explosive ordnance disposal team from

(Continued on page 10)

### **Chaplain's Corner**

Dear Shipmates,  
Do you remember the old Timex watch advertisements? News anchor John Camron Swayze was their national spokesman and the TV ads ended with this tag line: "It takes a licking and keeps on ticking!" Well, Shipmates, we have been taking a licking with this virus, haven't we? It has been a long and uncertain battle, and

many have suffered in many ways. Hopefully, we are coming into the home stretch and the finish line is in sight! One thing this virus has confirmed to me is just how interconnected we are. I can't entirely live my life on my own, without regard to others, because my actions can have implications and influence over others. Wearing a mask, for example. So, I add my voice to many others who are

encouraging you and speaking a word of hope. Let's pray for each other, pray for our leaders, and ask God to send a special blessing to all our front-line medical workers. Many blessings to you all! Keep on ticking!  
Your chaplain,  
*Michael*  
Michael D. Halley  
Association Chaplain



### **Salty Humor**

I don't mind coming to work. It's the eight-hour wait to go home I can't stand.

# USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION – OCTOBER 6-10, 2021

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at [www.afr-reg.com/coralsea2021](http://www.afr-reg.com/coralsea2021) (a convenience fee of 3.5% will be added to online registrations). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before **September 17, 2021**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis.

**Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.**  
**322 Madison Mews**  
**Norfolk, VA 23510**  
**ATTN: USS Coral Sea CV-43 Assn.**

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inputted \_\_\_\_\_ Nametag Completed \_\_\_\_\_

<i>CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/17/21</i>	Price Per	# of People	Total
<b>MANDATORY PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE</b> Includes Hospitality Room and reunion expenses	\$ 20	#	\$
<b>TOURS</b>			
THURSDAY: 10/7: TOUR TBD	\$	#	\$
FRIDAY 10/8: TOUR TBD	\$	#	\$
<b>MEALS</b>			
SATURDAY 10/9: Banquet Dinner – <i>Please choose your entrée below</i>			
ENTREE	\$ 42	#	\$
ENTREE	\$ 42	#	\$
Vegetarian Option	\$ 42	#	\$
Total Amount Payable to <b>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</b>			\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR NAMETAG

FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ LAST \_\_\_\_\_

YEARS ON BOARD \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ DIV/SQDN \_\_\_\_\_ RATE/RANK \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME/GUEST NAME (IF ATTENDING) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

*(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)*

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS?  YES  NO **(PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).**


For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.



# 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	
#1						
<p>Place Ship Store Orders Here! Wayne Addkison 12856 FM 1391, Kemp, TX 75143 Ph: 903.288.4455 Fx: 903.675.0086 Email: nijarm2@yahoo.com</p>						
				\$ _____	** USPS PRIORITY MAIL - S/H CHARGES**	
SALES TOTAL				UP TO \$24.99 .....	\$7.00	
SHIPPING CHARGES				\$25.00 TO \$50.00 .....	\$9.00	
TOTAL CHARGE				\$51 TO \$75 .....	\$12.00	
				\$ _____	\$76 & UP .....	\$15.00

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**

Worrying works! Ninety percent of the things I worry about never happen.

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**History of The Ageless Warrior...**

Coral Sea removed volatile powder charges from the ship's 16 inch (406 mm) guns. Coral Sea also dispatched a surgical team and medical supplies. Medevac and logistical support to Iowa were provided by Coral Sea's deployed helicopter squadron HS-17 (Neptune's Raiders) flying the Sikorsky SH-3H, along with VC-8 flying the Sikorsky SH-3G aircraft from Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. She returned to Norfolk for the final time on 30 September 1989.

**Decommissioning and scrapping**

Coral Sea was decommissioned 26 April 1990 and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register two days later. She was sold by the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) for scrapping on 7 May 1993 to Seawitch Salvage of Balti-

more, but scrapping was delayed by numerous financial, legal and environmental issues. Investigative reporting by the Baltimore Sun about the problems scrapping ex-Coral Sea and other navy vessels helped earn it the Pulitzer Prize in 1998. Nearly 70,000 tons by the time she was struck, Coral Sea was the largest vessel ever scrapped up to that date. The company attempted to sell the hulk to China for scrapping, but the Navy blocked the sale in court. The scrapping continued off and on for several years until finally completed on 8 September 2000.

One of her anchors is now on display in the Battle of Coral Sea Memorial, Townsville, Australia. It was presented to the memorial on May 8, 1992, by the Commander of the 7th Fleet and former commanding officer of Coral Sea, Vice Admiral Stanley R. Arthur.

**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 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.  
 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.

## Officers

### President:

**Wayne Addkison**  
12856 FM 1391  
Kemp, TX 75143  
nijarm2@yahoo.com  
(903) 288-4455 (home)

### Vice President:

**Robert L. Gaston**  
4407 S. Lanier Drive  
Tampa, FL 33616  
rgaston3@tampabay.rr.com  
(813)298-9774

### Secretary:

**John H. Ranson**  
52 Woodland Pl.  
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1605  
jr3843@fuse.net  
(859) 781-2536 (home)  
(859) 250-3727 (cell)

### Treasurer:

**Clarence Neander**  
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## Committees

### Reunion Committee

Members:

2020 Reunion, Oklahoma City  
John Ranson & Clarence Neander

### By-Laws Committee

Chairman:

**John Ranson,**

jr3843@fuse.net

Members:

**Bob Nerbetski**

cvb4312@verizon.net

**Bill Eanetta**

cvb43@rochester.rr.com

### Scholarship Committee

Chairman:

**Guy Dunbar**

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(405) 820-5302 (cell)

### Audit Committee

Chairman:

**Robert Gaston**

### Nominating Chair:

**Bill Johnson**

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### Parliamentarian:

**John H. Ranson**

(859) 781-2536

### The Sea Breeze—Official Coral Sea Newsletter

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**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, 2021.

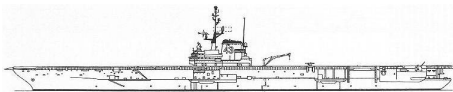
**USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association**

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Email: [nijarm2@yahoo.com](mailto:nijarm2@yahoo.com)

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**Scholarship Report**

There have been 8 scholarship packets requested so far this year. It is not too late to request a packet this year. You may 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 it by the April 1 deadline. My email address is [godunbar@outlook.com](mailto:godunbar@outlook.com)

—Guy Dunbar  
Scholarship Chairman

*(Continued from page 5)*

**Reunion Tour Options...**

Chapel. Give everyone chance for restroom break first at Visitors Center. The day will be longer. See below:

- 9:00 Depart hotel for AFA.
- 9:45 Quick restroom break at Visitors Center
- 10:15 Bus A/B spends time in Visitors Center, Bus C/D leaves for chapel
- 11:35 Cadet lunch formation march
- 12:15 Lunch at the Falcon Club until 1:30
- 1:45 Bus A/B arrives Chapel, Bus C/D arrives Visitors Center
- 2:45 Depart location to arrive back at hotel by 3:30pm

*(Continued from page 1)*

**President's Corner...**

We have acquired a flag that was one of the last ones to be flown before CVA-43 was decommissioned. It will be displayed at the Colorado Springs reunion.

I hope and pray that all members come through this Covid crisis okay. We have not been affected here as much as some parts of the country. All be safe and come to the reunion if at all possible. The USS Coral Sea staff is working hard to make this a memorable year.

Good luck and fair winds until we meet in October,

*Wayne*

Wayne Addkison  
President