

THE CORAL SEA BREEZE

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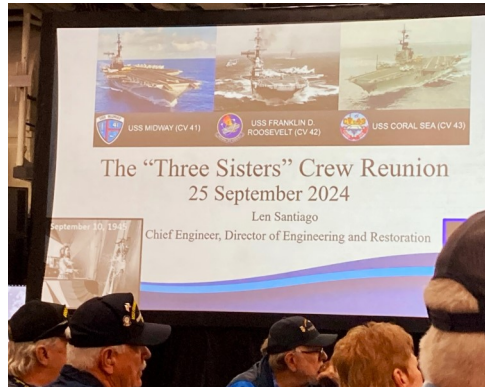
Welcome Aboard!

USS Midway Museum Tours Were Highlight of 3 Sisters Reunion.

The USS Midway Museum in San Diego is a floating time capsule of naval history. Our tours and time aboard spent walking through the aircraft carrier was a stroll down memory lane for Association members of the USS Coral Sea, USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, and USS

Midway attending the 3 Sisters National

first time in decades to get an up-close look at what was once our "home away from home" and life onboard an aircraft carrier. The interactive exhibits aboard Midway are very well done too—some letting you climb into the cockpits of various aircraft. The jet



Roosevelt, and USS al Reunion. For many, this was the

(Continued on page 2)

President's Corner

Michael F. Dion
CW04, MBSN
1st Div.
1/64—6/67

Good day shipmates, The Three Sisters Reunion was a success. I have not received the final accounting from AFR, but it should be coming soon.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the crew members from all three ships for all their assistance. It was a rewarding time, and it would not have been as successful without

your help. It's too soon to know if there will be another 3 Sisters Reunion in the future but will see what the other two ships have in mind.

I plan on going to Corpus Christi mid December to finalize all details for the 2025 Annual Reunion. We will set the exact dates for the reunion and complete plans for our dinner aboard the Lexington. As of now we will be allowed aboard for

tours at 4 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. At 8 p.m. we'll depart the ship, returning to the hotel for our auction and final goodbyes. We expect to have all prices and registration forms in the March issue of the *Sea Breeze*. Our hotel will be the Holiday Inn Downtown. Look for more details in the next issue.

I was in Nashville af-

(Continued on page 12)



TAPS

Robert L. Gaston
DPC, VAH-2
1961–1963

Joseph Wallace
ABE3, V-2
Div.
1966-1969

(Continued from page 1)

USS Midway Tour Highlights...

flight simulators were a popular attraction for many.

The panoramic views of San Diego bay from the flight deck were absolutely stunning. It was a fascinating place to explore for history buffs, aviation enthusiasts, and families alike.



The USS Midway Museum offers a wealth of fascinating exhibits and experiences. Here are some of the highlights that brought back so many old memories:

- Flight Deck—Explore the expansive flight deck where aircraft were launched and recovered. You can see restored aircraft, including jets, propeller planes, and helicopters.

- Hangar Deck—This area features a collection of

World War II aircraft and enlisted sailor's bunks. You can climb into the

bunks if you want to rekindle some memories of our spacious living conditions onboard.

(Continued on page 3)

Secretary's Corner

Greetings Shipmates, I've got very little to report at this time. Please accept my apologies for being slow in getting dues processed. It's been a busy year. As of today, Nov. 13, 2024, I'm all caught up.

As always, please check your mailing label for this issue of "Sea Breeze" for your dues expiration date.

A report on the business meeting at the 2024 3 Sisters reunion is as follows:

The current Association Officers were all re-elected for the next 4 years. The Association By-laws will be revised at the 2025 reunion in Corpus Christi, Tex. to include this change.

James Turner was elected to the office of a 3-year Board Member. Future reunion locations are:

- 2025 Corpus Christi, Texas
- 2026 Nashville, Tenn.
- 2027 Dayton, Ohio.

It was suggested that we have the 2028 re-

union in Pensacola, Fla. That option remains open for discussion.

I wish to thank Guy Dunbar for taking my place at this year's reunion since I was unable to attend. B-Z Shipmate Guy!!

I hope that all of you had a fine Veterans Day!

Godspeed to all; have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

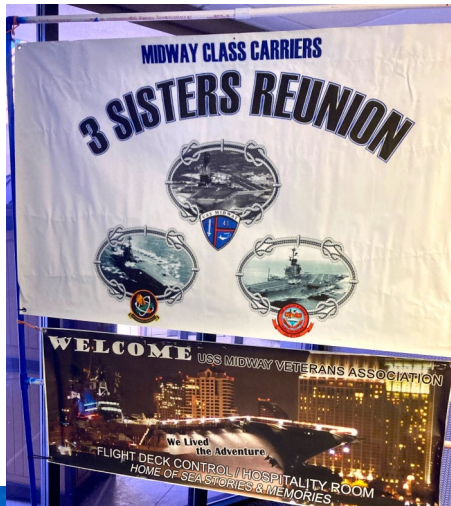
John

John H. Ranson
Association Secretary

(Continued from page 2)

USS Midway Tour Highlights...

- Battle of Midway Theater— Watch a 15-minute film about the historic Battle of Midway, featuring the voices of individuals who participated in the battle.
- Fo'c'sle—The enormous anchor chains were an up-close reminder of this great



- taste of what it's like to pilot an aircraft.
- Audio Tours—Take a self-guided audio tour narrated by Midway sailors in multiple languages, offering insights into life aboard the ship.

- Visitor Center—Learn more about the history of the USS Midway and its role in various military operations.

Standing on the vast flight deck or in the enormous hanger bay, surrounded by historic military planes and helicopters, it's a fantastic place to spend a day, and reliving some of your personal naval history.



You can explore the intricate workings of these aircraft, including climbing into the cockpits of some. The views of San Diego from the flight deck are

carrier's size.

- CIC—Tour the Combat Information Center, the tactical/electronic heart of the aircraft carrier that includes the Carrier Air Tracking Control Center (CATCC).



spectacular and provide a breathtaking backdrop to your experience.

The flight deck displays showcased the impressive technology and history that was created on this floating city, and the significant

- Flight Simulators—Experience flight simulators that give you a

role played by our 3 Sisters carriers. Altogether, it helped make our 3 Sisters Reunion an unforgettable experience.



Salty Humor

I went to visit a psychic. When I knocked on her door, she yelled, "Who is it?" So I left.

Where the High Winds Sing: A Naval Aviator's Poetry of War and Reflection.

Winner of a 2021 Military Writers Society of America Gold Medal. *Where the High Winds Sing* weaves a vivid tapestry of flight from the experiences of a naval aviator who lived through the bloody brawl that was the air war over North Vietnam. Its compelling verse soars beyond the limits of prose to draw the reader into a visceral appreciation of the sights, sounds, and passions of aerial combat. The poetry ranges from the pure celebration of flight to the always demanding, sometimes humorous, often tragic drama of wartime carrier operations. But it also presents evocative images of transformative interludes at sea and reflections on the effects of combat, especially the loss of close friends.

—Submitted by Doug Bohs. Available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle.

Burial At Sea

The ship turns downwind.
The wind dies.
Flags hang lifeless.
Silence shrouds the deck.

Weary of war's
Recurrent theme,
wary of the cracks
in fragile miens,
the crew gathers,
in ordered ranks.

A service begins.

Words spoken over the
1MC
carry over a sunlit sea.

Rifle shots crack.
A bugle plays Taps.

After silent moments
pass...a barely audible
splash.

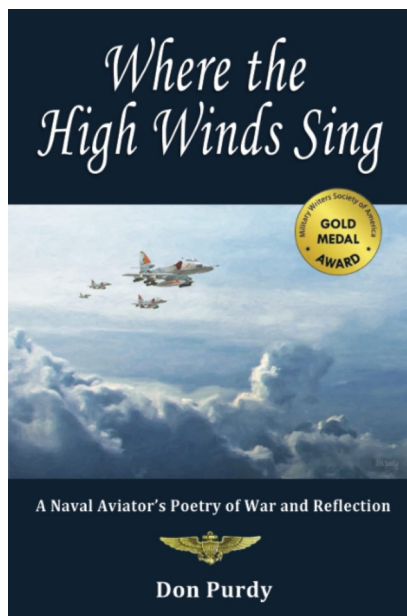
The crew disperses,
filling heavy hearts
with empty words.

The ship resumes course and speed.
Engines thrum.

The deck shudders.
The wind rises.
Flags flutter and snap.
The day's work begins

As a shipmate plunges, tumbles,
circles down through darkening
depths until...

a silent swirl of sand
marks his mortal
repose.



The Last Full Measure

We launched day and
night
from a seaborne lair,
soaring to fight
In the war-torn air.

Our courage a lever
in a political game,
still we gave the last full measure
and filled a Wall with our brothers'
names.



Salty Humor

"I gotta
stop say-
ing, 'How
stupid can
you be?'
I'm begin-
ning to feel
like people
are taking
it as a
challenge."
—Kevin Hart

Unexplained Cancers and Diseases Related to Military Service.

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are human-made chemicals found in many products, including firefighting foams like aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), used by civilian and military firefighters. Often called “forever” chemicals, they do not break down in the environment.

The government has been aware of PFAS contamination around military bases for many years. In 2021, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) released a report of PFAS-identified military fire training areas as one of the principal sources of contamination in the United States. Although the greatest exposure to these chemicals involves those who worked with the substances as part of their MOS—especially firefighters and service-members who employed AFFF for training—contamination is believed to be widespread, including in drinking water.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, PFAS can be detect-

ed in blood of most people. The likelihood of health problems from PFAS depends on several factors, including the concentration, frequency and duration of exposure. More research is needed to understand the link between exposure of PFAS and health effects in humans.

Testing for PFAS

Some veterans may want blood testing to find out their PFAS levels. Although PFAS testing is not currently available at VA medical centers, VA is re-evaluating blood testing in accordance with new federal research. ATSDR has suggested that certain PFAS exposure may be associated with:

- Fertility issues and pregnancy-induced hypertension/preeclampsia
- Increased cholesterol
- Changes in the immune system

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Salty Humor

I spent a lot of time, money and effort childproofing m house, but the kids still get in.

Treasurer's Corner

Greetings Coral Sea shipmates!

It was good to see some of you at the 3 Sisters Reunion in September in San Diego. After printing costs for the raffle tickets and return envelopes, we made a small profit on this year's raffle, which was primarily due to the fact we weren't able to sell tickets at the Reunion. Raffle winners were:

1st Place, Jim Turner, \$500; 2nd Place, Tim Woudstra, \$250; 3rd Place, ironically, Jim Turner, \$150. Thanks to Jim's generosity and benevolence, he donated his 1st Place and 3rd Place raffle winnings back to the Association, in addition to his \$500 donation. Thank you, Jim, for your contributions to the Association. It is greatly appreciated.

And certainly, thanks to everyone who par-

ticipated in this year's raffle. Not a whole lot else to report on. We are in good shape in our finances as we head into 2025.

The best of Thanksgiving and Christmas wishes to one and all. And a Happy New Year as well. Fair winds and following seas!

Bill

Bill Bomar
Association Treasurer

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Unexplained cancers...

- Increased risk of certain cancers (e.g., testicular, breast, bladder, ovarian, kidney and leukemia and other blood cancers)
- Changes in fetal and child development
- Liver damage
- Increased risk of thyroid disease
- Increased risk of asthma

In addition to reviewing the potential health effects of PFA, ATSDR is also involved in several communities with documented contamination. It conducts exposure assessments and provides technical assistance to local officials to help inform members of these communities about their exposure.

Veterans of family members who may have lived on base, and who believe they may have been exposed to PFAS chemicals and are suffering from a disease or illness related to this exposure, may speak to someone personally by call toll-free 877-838-2889, or going to Bergmann & Moore's website at vetlawyers.com/toxicexposure. Their staff will evaluate the claim and provide a no-cost assessment of the merits of a potential case.

Bergmann & Moore is a national law firm managed by former VA attorneys, and has worked with The American Legion over the past seven years providing veteran service officer training and litigation support. Over the past 20 years, the firm has successfully represented more than 12,000 veterans and their family members in VA disability compensation claims in federal court.

—Reprinted from the September 2024 issue of *The American Legion Magazine*.

VA Program Aims for "Happier" Vets.

DJ is a Marine Corps veteran who served more than a decade, through operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and later faced challenges with PTSD connected to his service. "I was really struggling after I got out and started getting mental health care from VA," he says.

Through the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, Fla., DJ was referred to the THRIVE program by his VA primary care provider. THRIVE (Transforming Health and Resiliency through integration of Values-based Experiences) is an immersive experience rooted in positive psychology and values-based-living concepts. As one of VA's whole health programs, THRIVE was founded by a Nav veteran, VA OBGYN and integrative medicine physician who had experienced depression. With a group of multidisciplinary professionals, she wanted to establish new programs to help veterans find and explore a new life purpose.

Guided by VA facilitators, THRIVE gives veterans an opportunity to be among a group of peers, guided on a transformative 14-week journey toward living their best lives. THRIVE sessions focus on veterans' self-esteem, whole health and life satisfaction by exploring topics such as sleep, mental health stress reduction, healthy relations, sexual health, spirituality and more. "THRIVE helped open my eyes to things I don't often think deeply about," DJ says.

THRIVE also recognizes the importance of community, with a

(Continued on page 10)



Salty Humor

The problem with being punctual is that nobody's there to appreciate it.

Meaningful Support from Celebrity Vet.

Marine Corps and Navy veteran Montel Williams is active in raising awareness of non-medical treatment to help veterans, first responders and others overcome PTSD.

The TV host and motivational speaker is passionate about Reconsolidation of Traumatic Memories therapy, a non-drug, non-traumatizing treatment. "I took the time to read the studies...and understand that there is a cure here,"



he says. "There is hope here."

For more details and other featured podcasts, you can find more than 200 episodes at legion.org/tangoaphalima on the Legion's YouTube channel, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and anywhere else you get your podcasts.

—Reprinted from the February 2024 issue of *The American Legion Magazine*.

Chaplain's Corner

Dear Shipmates,
As Veterans Day approaches, I looked up the history of this great federal holiday to refresh my memory. It was on the 11th hour of the 11th month in 1918 that the hostilities of World War I ceased. Thereafter, November 11 of each year was commemorated as Armistice Day until 1954 when "Armistice" was struck in favor of "Veterans".

I am fortunate to live in a city (Suffolk, Virginia) which is the location of one of three state veterans' cemeteries, plus a very historic municipi-

pal cemetery. Thus, we have two public commemorations of Veterans Day, one at each cemetery. Of course, our local veterans' service organizations are very active in the planning process for these commemorations.

As you well know, when we veterans gather to celebrate and commemorate the sacrifices of veterans of every generation, we are not glorifying war in any way. Rather, we are honoring the selfless sacrifices of those who answered the call of our nation and waged the wars to ensure peace for all our citizens.

And, just to remind you, we veterans (as well as active-duty personnel) are permitted by law to render a hand salute in civilian clothing during the hoisting, lowering, or passing of the United States flag, as per Section 9 Title 4 of the United States Code.

So, not just on Veterans Day, but upon every occasion, let's stand up as proud veterans! Thank you for your service!

God bless you,

Michael

Michael D. Halley
Association Chaplain



Salty Humor

Two guys are out drinking when one of them falls off his bar stool. "One thing about Fred," his buddy says to the bartender. "He knows when to stop."

SHIP

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Assoc.

STORE



SALE

Hat.....\$23

T-Shirt.....\$35

Polo Shirt.....\$38

Denim Short Sleeve.....\$45

Denim Long Sleeve.....\$45

Wind Breaker.....\$42

Jacket.....\$55

Hoodie.....\$42

Coffee Cup.....\$15

Koozie.....\$Ask Storekeeper

Patches.....\$8

Coins.....\$Ask Storekeeper

License Plate Holder.....\$16

CORAL SEA ASSOCIATION SMALL STORES ORDER FORM #1

ITEM #	QTY.	SIZE NOTE: CAPS - ONE SIZE FITS MOST FOR LARGER HEADS ADD \$3.00 FOR LG/XLG FLEX- FIT CAPS	COLOR	PRICE	ADDITIONAL INFO FOR ITEM # - HULL DESIGNATION CVB, CVA, CV, JOB RATE(BT,MM,AB,...etc.) OFFICER RANK/PAY RATE (CAPT,LTCDR,EN/E4,E5,E6,E7,...etc.) USMC DESIGNS - (A,B,C, OR D) THREAD COLOR FOR WATCH CAP DESIGN
<h1>#1</h1>					
<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>					
SALES TOTAL				\$ _____	** USPS PRIORITY MAIL - S/H CHARGES**
SHIPPING CHARGES				\$ _____	UP TO \$24.99\$7.00
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					\$51 TO \$75 \$12.00
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All Credit Cards Accepted: Visa, Master Card, Discover, American Express
Make Checks Payable To The Ship Store



Salty Humor

No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes.

(Continued from page 6)
Happier vets...

group format that helps veterans to connect and develop supportive networks.

"Diverse groups of veterans come together and build a sense of community again, similar to what they had in the military" says Candis Connell, an Army veteran, psychologist at Haley and director of THRIVE. "The group helps engage them with their health-care teams as well, giving them a sense of control over their own health" Veterans participating in the workshops report a reduction in depression and anxiety and an improvement in life satisfaction.

"I've been to the bottom and finally feel at eye level with the sea," DJ says. "I'm not drowning any-

more. I can breathe. I still use the work-life purpose and healthy relationship principles every day...I (make) more family time now than I used to, when I would sleep in on the weekends and not really talk to anyone."

THRIVE is now available to veterans at 23 VA facilities, with plans to expand. "I would tell any veteran to give THRIVE a try," DJ adds. "Until the program pushed me to think about things like nutrition and mental health I didn't know what help I needed. THRIVE reinforced what I did."

—Reprinted from the 'Living Well' section in the February 2024 issue of The American Legion Magazine.

USS Coral Sea Association Membership Application/Renewal Form

Membership in the USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION is open to all Navy, Marine Corp and Air Force personnel who served aboard the ship (CV/CVB/CVA-43) for a period of at least 90 days. Also, any person who was assigned to the original commissioning crew (plank owner), even if they spent fewer than 90 days aboard, shall be eligible for membership. **DUES:** Association membership is \$20 per year. Dues for membership are not limited to one year when submitted for renewal or first-time application. Any amount submitted over the annual dues will be automatically earmarked for the Association's Scholarship program.



New Member: [] I apply for membership for _____ year(s). Enclosed is a check/money order \$ _____
Renewal: [] Renew my membership for _____ year(s). Enclosed is a check/money order \$ _____

Name _____ **Birth Date** _____
(Please PRINT First name, middle initial, last name) (mo/day/year)
Address _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____
ZIP+4 _____ **PHONE:** (_____) _____ **Email** _____

ON BOARD SHIP AS CREW MEMBER:

From _____ to _____ Division _____ Rank/Rate On Board _____
(Month/Year) (Month/Year) (Lt/RD/FN/SN/Sgt)
Military Retirement: No [] Yes [] Retired as: _____ USN [] USMC [] USCG []
(Rank/Rate) USNR [] Air Force [] Army []

I do [] do not [] want my complete mailing address printed on the published roster.
I do [] do not [] want an Association bumper sticker.

Please make check payable to: **USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOC.**
Mail application to:
John Ranson, Secretary, USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOC.
52 Woodland Pl.
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1605 Email: jrsr3843@fuse.net

Office Use Only
Received: _____
Check: _____
Amount: _____
Expires: _____

USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) Association.

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Reunion Committee

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2024 Reunion, San Diego, Calif. (Three Sisters Reunion)
Guy Dunbar & John Ranson

By-Laws Committee

Chairman:

John Ranson,

jr3843@fuse.net

Members:

Bob Nerbetski

cvb4312@verizon.net

Scholarship Committee

Chairman:

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Chairman:

Robert Gaston

Nominating Chair:

TBD

Parliamentarian:

John H. Ranson 859.781.2536

The Coral Sea Breeze—Official Coral Sea Newsletter

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

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



**Copy
Submission
Deadline:**

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USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association

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Email: nijarm2@yahoo.com

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

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THE AGELESS WARRIOR

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www.usscoralsea.org and see
this issue of the *Sea Breeze* in
full color!

(Continued from page 1)

President's Corner...

ter San Diego and had a chance to inspect hotels for our 2026 reunion. The Radisson at the airport has offered the best deal. With help from the new meeting planning company replacing AFR, it should be a great time. We will give this new company a try for Nashville and our Dayton reunion. We'll evaluate their performance afterward to decide whether we use them again after that. At this point, I have done all the planning work for our Corpus Christi reunion, and I'm hopeful all those bases are covered.

Some thoughts for discussion. I proposed at our business meeting in San Diego to change by-laws to

elect the executive board to a four-year term instead of the two-year terms we have now. We value your input and opinion regarding this suggestion.

Due to the increasing cost of all products that we are experiencing, I have been forced to raise prices in the Ship Store. I plan on keeping prices as low as possible while still providing you with quality merchandise and good service.

As always shipmates, have a great New Year. May God bless and keep all safe and well.

Until next issue,

Wayne

Wayne Addkison
Association President

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

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