

THE CORAL SEA BREEZE

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association

PORTS OF CALL

Nashville Reunion
Tours
President's Ballast
Secretary's Ballast
Reunion Reser-
vation Form
Treasurer's Ballast
Nashville Reunion
Hotel
Chaplain's Ballast
Vice President's
Ballast
Ship Store
Peacoat History
Membership
Application
Officer's Page

WELCOME ABOARD

No new members to report for this issue. If you have any prospects, we could use your help in getting out the word about our Coral Sea Assoc.

Nashville Reunion Tour Options

The General Jackson Paddlewheel Showboat Lunch Cruise

This classic Nashville river experience features scenic Cumberland River views, a freshly prepared Southern lunch, and lively country-themed entertainment aboard one of the largest showboats ever built. It blends sight-seeing, music, and dining into a relaxed midday outing perfect for visitors and locals alike.

Event Overview: What the Lunch Cruise Includes

- Scenic River Cruise: Enjoy panoramic views of downtown Nashville and the Cumberland River



from an authentic paddlewheel showboat.

- Live Entertainment: Performances often feature country, bluegrass, and Americana music in the two-story Victorian theater at the center of the boat. (Continued on page 2)

President's Ballast

From iceberg Texas, Digging out from ice storms and getting ready for the upcoming reunion. It seems like we finish one reunion and head right into another one.

Our 48th Annual Reunion will be held in Nashville this year, from October 13 through 18. We will be enjoying the Radisson Hotel at the airport. The "official" registration form is in this issue of the *Sea Breeze*. Look over the available options, choose your

tours and meal preference, and return your registration form today.

Last year's reunion was, in my opinion, a huge success! The hotel and USS Lexington staff did an outstanding job. They are looking forward to having us back in six years.

We have gotten together with the USS FRANKLIN D. Roosevelt (CV42) to combine our reunions. We will combine all activities

(Continued on page 12)

SALTY HUMOR

No matter how tempting, never lick a steak knife.

TAPS

Robert C. Stroupe
BT2, B Div.
1952 – 1955

(Continued from page 1)

Reunion Tous....

- Southern-Style Lunch: A hearty buffet typically includes barbecue favorites, sides like macaroni and cheese, salads, and Southern desserts.
- Relaxed Daytime Atmosphere: The lunch cruise is family-friendly and ideal for guests who prefer daylight sightseeing and a casual vibe.

About the General Jackson Showboat

- Design: A grand, Victorian-style paddlewheel showboat launched in 1985, inspired by 19th-century riverboats.

- Capacity & Features: One of the largest showboats in the U.S., featuring ornate décor, a central theater, multiple decks, and outdoor viewing areas.

Entertainment & Onboard Experience

- Music & Performances: Expect upbeat, Nashville-style shows with talented musicians and dancers.
- Indoor-Focused Experience: Much of the entertainment takes place inside the theater depending on the show schedule.
- Accessibility: The vessel is wheelchair accessible.

Continued on page 4)

Secretary’s Ballast

Greetings Shipmates,
Here’s hoping that all of you had a great Christmas and New Year. The plans are complete for this year’s reunion in Nashville. Hopefully we’ll have a good turnout of Shipmates and guests as we did in 2014 which was also at Nashville. There are definitely many good things to do in the Music City.

Plans are also in the works for the 2027 reunion in Dayton, Ohio. I’ve contacted a nice hotel near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base where we had the last Spring Fling. More details will be made available in future issues of the *Sea Breeze*.

As always, I’m glad to get dues payments. My apologies to those of you who paid recently because I got behind the 8 ball in processing in a timely manor. That will not happen again.

Please check the mailing label on this issue of *Sea Breeze* for the date when your dues expire. As always I’m glad to discuss any discrepancies with you if needed. It’s always fun to talk to Shipmates.

Again, if any of you were aboard Coral Sea when she stood off the coast of Vietnam in January 1969, and wish to file a claim with the VA for exposure to defoliant, please contact me and I’ll send you a copy of the Officer of the Deck’s log for this evolution. Looking forward to hearing from you at any time. Godspeed!

John

John H. Ranson
CVA-43 Assoc. Secretary

USS Coral Sea / USS Franklin D Roosevelt Reunion Reservation Form.

**USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association
48th Annual Reunion, Oct. 13—Oct. 18, 2026**

Please make your reservation online at: www.usscoralsea.org
Or complete form with payment to USS CORAL SEA ASSOC., and mail to:

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

Name _____

Spouse/Guest _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Emerg. Contact _____ Phone _____

Served On: USS Coral Sea ____ USS Franklin D Roosevelt ____

Name Badge Identification

Name _____ Rate/Rank/Div _____

Dates Aboard (month/year) _____ to _____

Special Needs (Wheelchair Lift, Dietary, Etc.): _____

- Required Registration Fee; (____) @ \$25 per person
- Wednesday, Oct. 14; General Jackson Paddlewheel Showboat Lunch Cruise; (____) @ \$105 per person
- Pizza Night at 1800, paid by Association; (____) @ NO CHARGE
- Thursday, Oct. 15; Nashville Nightlife Dinner Show; (____) @ \$99 per person
- Friday, Oct. 16; The Famous Grand Ole Opry Show; (____) @ \$110 per person

Farewell Banquet Dinner; choice of:

- Flank Steak; (____) @ \$69 per person
- Chicken Piccata; (____) @ \$55 per person
- Vegetarian Stacker; (____) @ \$50 per person

Please Note:

Reservation Cancellation Insurance (non-refundable); \$20 per person
Late Reservation Fee (after 8/26/26, non-refundable; \$20 per person

Amount Encls. \$ _____

Please Note: Reservation money is non-refundable after due date unless Tour Cancellation insurance is purchased above.

Please Note: Insurance holders are eligible for refund (less processing fee) until Midnight 3 days prior to start of the reunion.

Please Note: Watch for an email confirmation of your order and online roster update as your proof of payment.

SALTY HUMOR

Love is a lot like a backache. It doesn't show up on X-rays, but you know it's there.

—George Burns

(Continued from page 2)

Reunion Tous...

Lunch Menu Highlights (Typical)

- Barbecue entrées
- Macaroni-and-cheese
- Fresh salads
- Southern desserts
- Coffee, tea, and non-alcoholic beverages

(Menu may vary by season.)

Duration & Practical Details Approx. Duration: 3 hours, ideal for a midday outing.

Tour Details – Oct. 14, 1015 to 1500; \$105 per person.

Nashville Nightlife Dinner Show

The Nashville Nightlife Dinner Show is one of Music City’s long-running entertainment staples, offering a classic blend of Southern cooking and live country music in a relaxed, family-friendly setting. Located just minutes from the Opryland area, the venue is designed to feel like an old-school Nashville music hall—warm lighting, roomy seating, and a stage built for big voices and lively band performances.

Guests typically begin the evening with a hearty buffet-style dinner featuring comfort-food favorites like fried chicken, pulled pork, vegetables, salads, and homemade desserts. Once plates are full and everyone is settled in, the lights dim and the show kicks off with a rotating cast of talented local performers, tribute acts, and occasional guest appearances from Nashville recording artists.

The atmosphere is upbeat and welcoming, with a mix of classic country hits, gospel numbers, and contemporary favorites. The venue is spacious enough for groups and tour buses, yet inti-



mate enough that every seat feels close to the action. It’s the kind of place where audience participation is encouraged, birthdays get a shout-out, and visitors leave humming the last song of the night.

Whether you're looking for a fun night out, a taste of Nashville’s musical roots, or an easygoing dinner-and-show experience, the Nashville Nightlife Dinner Show delivers a nostalgic slice of Music City charm.

Tour Details – Oct. 15, 1630 to 2100; \$99 per person.

The Famous Grand Ole Opry Show

The **Grand Ole Opry** is Nashville’s most iconic live music experience—an American institution that has shaped country music for nearly a century. Held at the Opry House near Opryland, the show brings together a dynamic lineup of country legends, rising stars, bluegrass pickers, gospel groups, and comedic performers, all sharing the same storied stage that helped launch countless careers.

Each performance is structured like a live radio broadcast, complete with multiple hosts, short sets from each artist, and the unmistakable Opry energy that blends tradition with fresh talent. Audiences might hear everything from classic country hits to contemporary chart-toppers.

(Continued on page 5)

SALTY HUMOR

The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.

(Continued from page 4)

Reunion Tous....

The venue itself is part of the magic—comfortable seating, excellent sightlines, and a stage framed by the famous barn backdrop. Visitors often describe it as a place where music lovers from around the world gather to celebrate the roots and future of country music.

Tour Details – Oct. 16, 1730 to 21 30; \$110 per person.



Treasurer's Ballast

Greetings Coral Sea shipmates! Hope everyone has been able to make it safely through these cold winter months. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the warmer months of Spring.

Plans for the 2026 Nashville Reunion are basically finalized and information from Wayne is included in this issue of the *Sea Breeze*. Raffle tickets and return envelopes are included in this issue. As usual, tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.00. If you want to purchase additional tickets, please include the price for those extra tickets when you send in your payment and I will complete them for you and get them entered in the raffle. If you have those preprinted address labels available, and it seems we all have a bunch of them, please use them on the ticket stubs. Save yourself the task of handwriting them, plus they are much easier to read!

Our annual donation of \$1,000.00 has been made to the U. S. Navy Sea Cadets, USS Coral Sea Division.

And some really great information to report! Mr. Juanito de la Cruz, a Coral Sea Association member who passed away last

April, bequeathed our Association slightly more \$17,000.00 from his estate. In his will he left donations to former ships he served aboard, including the Coral Sea. John Ranson, our Association Secretary, has been in contact with the Executor of Shipmate Juan's estate and has submitted the necessary paperwork to complete the distribution. We are extremely grateful to Mr. de la Cruz and his family for this generous gift! And we extend both condolences and a most heartfelt "thank you" to them for remembering the Coral Sea in this very special way.

Bill

Bill Bomar
Association Treasurer

Editor's Note: Juanito "Juan" de la Cruz was a highly decorated U.S. Navy veteran whose service spanned three major conflicts—World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. He enlisted in 1945 after traveling from the Philippines to Hawaii and ultimately retired as a Chief Petty Officer after a 20-year career. Chief de la Cruz passed away April 8, 2025, at age 99.

SALTY HUMOR

Why does it seem like bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks?

SALTY HUMOR

A conscience is what hurts when all of your other parts feel good.

Radisson Hotel Nashville Airport Reservation Information

The Radisson Hotel Nashville Airport is a polished, modern property designed for convenience, comfort, and quick access to Nashville International Airport (BNA). With its strong satisfaction ratings, guests consistently praise the excellent location, friendly staff, and quiet, comfortable rooms. It's especially popular for overnight stays before early flights and visitors wanting easy access to the Grand Ole Opry and downtown Nashville.

Guest rooms have been recently renovated and include flat-screen cable TVs, spacious work desks, coffee/tea makers, climate control and blackout drapes, and high-quality bedding and pillows.

There are several on-site options for dining and drinks. These include the RBG Grille, an American-style restaurant, and a 24-hour lounge/bar. Both food quality and convenience earn consistently positive reviews. *(Continued on page 7)*

Chaplain's Ballast

Dear Shipmates,

Living in the Hampton Roads area we get a lot of Navy news. The most recent was the announcement of the pre-commissioning sea trials of the John F. Kennedy. Of course this makes me think of our Ageless Warrior, built over 80 years ago!

She was the best of her class (in my opinion) and had all the latest and greatest bells and whistles of the time. It wasn't a luxury liner, as we all know, but she was ready for whatever she had to face. In fact, I was onboard for the last full Med cruise. We met every obligation assigned to us and never lost fresh water even once!

Since Coral Sea was built in the same era as Mr. and Mrs. Halley's son, Michael (me), I can fully appreciate what time does

to the body's ability to meet obligations. Each one of us stands in a long line of Coral Sea Warriors who stepped up, saluted the ensign, and presented ourselves ready for service. None of us were unimportant because whatever our job, we were each one cog in the machine which was Coral Sea.

Would we do it again? For me, yes, in a heartbeat. Whatever your response, thank you for raising your right hand and swearing to uphold and defend our nation's Constitution.

God bless you all!

Your chaplain,

Michael

Michael Halley
Association Chaplain

(Continued from page 6)

Radisson Hotel Nashville...

The hotel provides a strong lineup of features for an upscale, value-priced property including free 24/7 airport shuttle service, indoor heated pool, fitness center, business center and meeting rooms, free Wi-Fi, RV parking, and a sun terrace with loungers.

The hotel is situated just minutes from BNA and within easy reach of the Grand Ole Opry, downtown Nashville, and the General Jackson Showboat.

The Radisson Hotel Nashville Airport will provide a comfortable and quite stay, despite its proximity to the airport. Although not a "luxury resort", it delivers great value, strong service, and a relaxing travel experience.

Radisson Hotel Nashville Airport is located at 1112 Airport Center Drive, Nashville, TN 37214



The special Annual Reunion guest rate is \$126 per night, plus taxes. This rate is offered for three days prior and after our reunion dates of Oct. 13-18. **Make your reservation by calling 615.798.0701.** Be sure to mention the Coral Sea reunion when you call.

Vice President's Ballast

Hello Shipmates,

Spring is just around the corner and that means it's time to start preparations for the 2026 reunion in Nashville, Tenn.

Looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. There will be many opportunities to meet new friends as we are being joined this year by shipmates from our sister ship, USS Franklin D Roosevelt CV-42. Let's make them feel at home.

It is also time for the reunion cash raffle. You have received three books of raffle tickets and I would encourage you to purchase those tickets now so they don't get set aside and forgotten. It's an opportunity to win some cash.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Prizes are \$500, \$250 and \$150. If you would like to purchase more tickets just include the money for the addition tickets along with return address labels, if you have them, to Treasurer Bill Bomar in the provided envelope.

With all the bad weather across the nation, hope all is well with you and yours.

See you in Nashville,

Clarence

Clarence Neander
Association Vice President

SALTY HUMOR

People that want to share either their political or religious views with you never seem to want you to share yours with them.

SHIP

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Assoc.

STORE



Hat.....\$25

T-Shirt.....\$38

Polo Shirt.....\$40

Denim Short Sleeve.....\$49

Denim Long Sleeve.....\$49

Wind Breaker.....\$45

Jacket.....\$60

Hoodie.....\$48

Coffee Cup.....\$16

Patches.....\$12

License Plate Holder.....\$18

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 Orders Here! Wayne Addikson 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**
				\$ _____	UP TO \$24.99.....\$7.00
				\$ _____	\$25.00 TO \$50.00.....\$9.00
				\$ _____	\$51 TO \$75\$12.00
				\$ _____	\$76 & UP\$15.00
SALES TOTAL				\$ _____	
SHIPPING CHARGES				\$ _____	
TOTAL CHARGE				\$ _____	

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 Company Store

SALTY HUMOR

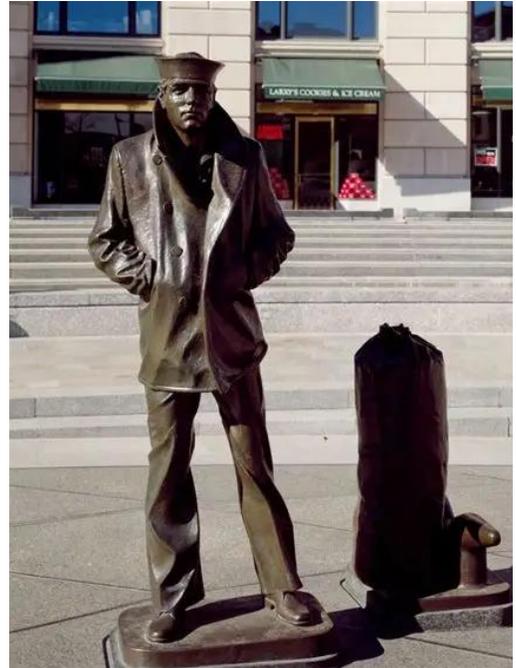
Opportunities always look bigger and better after they've passed.

Peacoat History

Known to stay warm even when wet, peacoats have been a staple for seafarers since the early 1700s.

Their earliest versions can be traced back to the Dutch. Peacoats have been standard issue for the Navy since the turn of the 20th century.

It is such an iconic element of the U.S. sailor's uniform that it is immortalized by the Lone Sailor statues at 19 locations around the world. The original statue, located at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., was sculpted by Stanley Bleifield. His original work was dedicated in 1987.



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 [] 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: jr3843@fuse.net

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

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association.

President:

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859.250.3727 (cell)

Treasurer:

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Antioch, TN 37013
bill@bomarcentral.com
615.598.5900

Immediate Past President:

None

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s.ohlund@yahoo.com
James Turner—2027
logcabin71@outlook.com
Robert D. Schoff—2026
rdschoff@hotmail.com

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Master-at-Arms/Historian

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Mike Pfeffer
309.688.3939 (home)

Retention Chairman:

John H. Ranson
859.250.3727

Committees

Reunion Committee

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

By-Laws Committee

Chairman: **John Ranson**, jrsr3843@fuse.net
Members: **Bob Nerbetski**, cvb4312@verizon.net

Scholarship Committee

Chairman: **Guy Dunbar**, godunbar@outlook.com
405.820.5302 (cell)

Audit Committee

Chairman: TBD

Nominating Chair:

TBD

Parliamentarian:

John H. Ranson 859.781.2536

The Coral Sea Breeze—Official Coral Sea Newsletter

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

Read this issue in color on the Coral Sea website: www.usscoralsea.org

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

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

Copy Submission Deadline:

Material for the June issue of *The Coral Sea Breeze* is due into the publisher or copy editor by May 5, 2026.

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association

Wayne Addkison, Publisher
12856 FM 1391
Kemp, TX 75143

Email: nijarm2@yahoo.com

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

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US POSTAGE
PAID
COAL CITY IL
Permit #5

THE AGELESS WARRIOR

Enjoy Your Association Online at www.uscoralsea.org and see this issue of the *Sea Breeze* in full color!

(Continued from page 1)

President's Ballast...

except for our general meeting. This combination has resulted in lower rates for our reunion facilities. FDR expect between 50-60 attendees and with our 60-70, we should have a good crowd. Next year, we'll be joined by FDR, USS HORNET and USS CONSTELLATION at our Dayton reunion. Hopefully this will help each ship secure better rates and help with cost sharing in general. We will discuss this approach with all our members in the general meeting.

I had lunch recently with Admiral Allen and he is looking forward to being our guest again in Nashville, along with his wife, Donna, and son, Mike. Let's make them as

welcome as we did in Corpus.

I want to tell everyone that without all the help I get, it would be a much tougher job putting on these reunions. I appreciate everyone's input and continued help...a big "Thank You".

With that being said, have a great day and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in October.

Until next time, signing off,

Wayne

Wayne Addkison
Association President

Only one scholarship packet has been requested so far this year. It is not too late! There is still time to request a scholarship application packet 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