



THE CORAL SEA BREEZE

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association

PORTS OF CALL

Nashville Reunion
Hotel Details
President's Ballast
Secretary's Ballast
Reunion Reservation
Form
Nashville Reunion
Tour Options
Treasurer's Ballast
Scholarship Update
Vice President's
Ballast
Ship Store
Lavoot Commenda-
tion
Membership
Application
Officer's Page

WELCOME ABOARD

Michael L. Vickers
CS3, S-2 Div.
1/66 – 8/69

Glen E. Steiner
RD1, OI Div.
5/65 – 4/68

Nashville Reunion Hotel Reservations.

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. 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

(Continued on page 2)

President's Ballast

Proud to say I have all tours booked and deposit made, thanks very much to Bill Bomar for all his help.

To all that plan on taking one or more of the tours, I must have your reservations in by September 15, as that is the cutoff date to make final payments.

Our Reunion schedule summary is: 10/13 arrival, 10/14 River Tour, 10/15 Nashville Nite, 10/16 Grand Ole Opry, 10/17 Banquet Dinner, 10/18 check out and

farewell. The hotel will honor our rates three days before and after our reunion. We will have our silent auction close after the banquet. Each ship will have its own auction and each ship can bid on any item. Anyone that has something to donate, please bring it.

I had lunch recently with Admiral Allen and his family. He brought a friend who was a pilot aboard Coral Sea. This aviator used the call sign MAD DOG and was

(Continued on page 12)

TAPS

Thomas J. Bennis
 ABM2, V-1F Div.
 1949 – 1950

Victor C. Lamontagne
 MMCM, M Div.
 1968 – 1970

Theodore Lavoot
 AT3, HU2/V6
 1956 – 1957

Thomas A. Miller
 SN, 4th Div.
 1950 – 1953

(Continued from page 1)

Nashville Reunion Hotel...

from BNA and within easy 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 615-889-9090.** Be sure to mention the Coral Sea reunion and event number **RY87M8**.



Secretary’s Ballast

Greetings Shipmates,
 Business is picking up with our registration for the 2026 reunion in Nashville. The FDR Sailors are definitely planning to attend. I’ve also received several Registrations from Coral Sea Shipmates. Hopefully this joint reunion with FDR will be a success as the Association is planning to continue doing this.

Next year in Dayton, Ohio, we’re planning to also have USS Constellation and USS Hornet in attendance. Since our membership numbers are declining, it’s our feeling that there’s strength in numbers when it comes to getting the best deals from hotels when we’re negotiating for reunion sites.

Please note the change of phone

number for the hotel. Call 615-889-9090 and mention USS Coral Sea reunion. Also mention event number RY87M8. I recently made my reservation using this number and it worked well.

As always I’m glad to receive your dues payments. Several Association members are in arrears with their dues. Please check the mailing label on this issue of “Sea Breeze”.

Godspeed to y’all and I’ll see you in Nashville!

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

A bookstore I visited had a book titled "How to Solve 50% of Your Problems." I bought two.

Nashville Reunion Tour Details.

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 sightseeing, music, and dining into a relaxed mid-day 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.



- **Southern-Style Lunch:** A hearty buffet typically includes barbecue favorites, sides like macaroni and cheese, sal-

ads, and Southern deserts.

- **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 enter-

(Continued on page 6)

SALTY HUMOR

What do you call 10 rabbits walking backwards? A receding hare line.

Association Scholarship Program Update.

For 2026 there was only one application requested. That application, however, was not returned for entry into the scholarship contest.

Association members or their eligible relatives may now request entry forms for the USS Coral Sea Remembrance Scholarship program 2027 contest. Requests must be sent to Committee Chairman Guy Dunbar godunbar@outlook.com or at 700 Harrier Hawk, Edmond, OK 73003-3180. The contest officially opens on Nov. 1, but entry requests should be sent as soon as possible.

An eligible applicant must be a high school senior with at least a B or 3.0 grade point average. Applicants must be a son, daughter, step-child, grandchild, step-grandchild or great-grandchild of

an Association member in good standing on the date the scholarship is awarded, or of a deceased member in good standing at the time of death, or of a non-member who died in the line of duty while serving aboard USS Coral Sea in ships company or air group, or such a nonmember who was captured as a prisoner of war, or such a nonmember who was injured in the line of duty to the extent that separation from the U.S. Navy was required.

The applicant must submit a completed entry form accompanied by an essay of at least 800 but no more than 1,000 words on one of the three given topics. Applicants must also agree to use the scholarship for their personal education at an accredited two-year or four-year United States *(Continued on page 12)*

SALTY HUMOR

My wife and I argued about whose turn it was to do the laundry. Finally, I threw in the towel.

Treasurer's Ballast

Greetings Coral Sea shipmates! Our Nashville Reunion is just a few short months away and raffle ticket sales have been steady. Please remember, if you're going to purchase tickets via mail, please have your payment and tickets in the mail no later than October 2, 2026. This will allow time to get the payment processed and deposited.

We will have additional tickets on sale at the reunion and remember, you don't have to be present to win. For those of you who have purchased extra tickets, thank you for sending your return address labels!

Some extremely good financial news for the Association: we have now received the distribution payment from the Estate of

Mr. Juanito de la Cruz in the amount of \$17,630! This special gift from our shipmate has been deposited in our Association Operating account. We are extremely grateful to Mr. de la Cruz and his family for this generous gift and extend a most heartfelt "thank you" to them for remembering the USS Coral Sea.

Please remember to get your Reunion reservations mailed in to our Secretary, John Ranson. Best wishes to all and hope to see many of you here in Nashville in October.

Bill

Bill Bomar
Association Treasurer

SALTY HUMOR

If you don't have a sense of humor, you may not have any sense at all.

Continued from page 4

Nashville Reunion Tours...

tainment takes place inside the theater depending on the show schedule.

- Accessibility: The vessel is wheelchair accessible.

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 intimate 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
(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Nashville Reunion Tours...

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.

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 2130; \$110 per person.

You’ll find the tours reservation form on page 3, ready for you to fill out and return with payment.

SALTY HUMOR

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

Vice President’s Ballast

Good Day Shipmates,
 After an uneventful winter, all is quiet here.
 Looking forward to seeing everyone in Nashville.
 Just a reminder that if you haven't already done so, please purchase your raffle tickets. Maybe you'll win some cash while providing financial support for our Association at the same time.
 Hope all is well with you and yours.
 Safe travels to Nashville

Clarence

Clarence Neander
 Association Vice President

Agroterrorism Charged.

The Justice Department has charged two Chinese nationals with smuggling into the United States a fungus capable of destroying corn, wheat, barley and rice crops. As ABC News reports, the fungus causes a disease called “head blight” in those crops.

Charged with bringing what the Justice Department calls an “agroterrorism weapon” into the country, the two received “Chinese government funding for their research, some of it at the University of Michigan,” according to ABC. Documents with one of the accused described her membership in and loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party.

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 |
|---|------|--|-------|----------|--|
| #1 | | | | | |
| <p style="margin: 0;">Place Ship Orders Here!</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Wayne Addikson 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 \$25.00 TO \$50.00.....\$9.00 \$51 TO \$75\$12.00 \$76 & UP\$15.00 |
| 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

Shipmate's Service Commendation Arrives 58 Years Later.

SALTY HUMOR

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

This is an interesting story about a Coral Sea Shipmate who recently passed away. Theodore "Ted" Lavoot served aboard Coral Sea from June 1955 to February 1957 as an AT in what was V-6 Division.

For being involved with the aviation rescue team he was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps medal for rescuing a F2H Banshee pilot who ditched near the ship. He received this award through the mail on July 14, 2014. The Navy reviewed his service record and determined he deserved to be recog-



nized. Better late than never!

Thanks to his widow, Terri Lavoot for sending the newspaper article that contained this information. Godspeed to Shipmate Lavoot. He is listed in the Taps section of this issue.

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: jrsr3843@fuse.net

Office Use Only

Received: _____
 Check: _____
 Amount: _____
 Expires: _____

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association.

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859.250.3727 (cell)

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Immediate Past President:

None

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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**, edwscm@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 September issue of *The Coral Sea Breeze* is due into the publisher or copy editor by August 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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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...

credited with a Mig kill during Vietnam. I invited him to be a guest at our reunion. However, he lives in California but told me he would join us if possible. Admiral Allen and his family plan on being there Friday and Saturday.

We are looking forward to having the Roosevelt with us as a two-ship reunion. We agree that if it is a success, we will continue forward with joint reunions. With the Hornet and Constellation possibly joining us next year, I see good times moving forward. I will be attending their reunion this year and will have better feel for how we can make it work.

Let's really welcome the FDR members into this reunion.

After all, this is their reunion also. They are our "sister ship", so let's treat them as members of our crew. I have attended their reunion for six years and have been accepted as an Honorary FDR Crew Member. It's a great opportunity to make new friends among fellow seamen.

With uncertain times ahead with what is happening in the Middle East, keep our military personnel in our prayers.

God Bless AMERICA and the UNITED STATES NAVY,

Wayne

Wayne Addkison
Association President

(Continued from page 5)

Scholarship Program Update...

college, university, or postsecondary technical vocational school. The first-place winner will receive a \$2,000 prize. The second place winner will be awarded \$1000.

Entry forms from prior-year contests are not acceptable. The forms are not printed in this newsletter or on the Association website. Entry packets will be mailed or emailed by the chairman as soon as he receives entry requests. Entry material must be returned to the chairman no later than April 1. Essays will be judged by the three elected members of the Scholarship Committee. The applicant's identity will be known only to the committee chairman, who does not vote on the essays. Additional information will be sent to each entrant in the entry packet.