

# SQUADRONS & SHIPMATES NEWSLETTER

Good Evening Everyone,

MARCH 19, 2010

Well I must admit I did receive a lot of responses to the March 17th newsletter although there are still over 100 members who have not responded. When someone brings up a question, it triggers the notion that maybe we should pass the question on to the entire membership. Learning to use a computer is part of the experience we are all going through. I was wrong in assuming all of you must know all the "ins and outs" of using computer just because you have an e-mail address. Many of you have told me that you don't know much about these wonderful contraptions. If we had these things when we were in the navy and aboard ship we would all be experts by now. Remember how exciting "Mail Call" was and the designated person in our group had an ID card and could go to the Post Office to pick up our mail? Many of you got frustrated that you could not write on the newsletter I sent you. I did not tell you that you must first left click on the "reply" or "forward" key before you can change an e-mail. I was wrong in assuming everyone knew they needed to do this. In the future I will make sure I include any directions needed to reply to an e-mail. The members who are experts will just have to bear with those not so familiar with the computer. I now go to class once a week to learn about the new iMac and had a class yesterday. When I finish one class, I can book another one so since they had a cancellation for today, I grabbed it and attended another class this morning.

Now for some very interesting news, as you all know it is my hope that this will be a very transparent organization. We will not keep secrets here; when I know something, you will know something. I have been extremely busy working on the list of former Original Midway Association members and therefore, there are other things that are not getting done. Fifty more members from that list were found last night and those letters went out today. Mr. Robert Kelly from California e-mailed me another 50-55 additional names of original USS Midway shipmates and he says there

are more coming. After the newsletter was sent on March 17th, I received a phone call from the President of USS Coral Sea Reunion Association, Mil Phillips. We had a good conversation about the differences and similarities of both organizations. Although he never served on USS Midway, he is still eligible to join Squadrons & Shipmates because he has accumulated 2,500 volunteer hours on the Midway Museum. As you may know, our By-Laws state that docents, who are volunteers on the Midway Museum, are eligible to join. After our conversation he sent me an e-mail and suggested the possibility of holding a joint reunion in the future. As you know, Coral Sea, Midway and FDR were the only three carriers built during World War II with a CVB rating and this will never be done again. We already have two members who work aboard the Midway Museum and who served aboard USS Midway. They are Dale Elledge and James Edward Brown who just joined this month.

Late Wednesday evening I received an on-line application from Mr. Donald Colwell. His application indicated he was on "both" ships. I found him on the Midway in 1974 but could not find him on the Roosevelt so I called him as he lives in Fresno, California. I then learned he was on USS Coral Sea and USS Midway. He is the Secretary of the Coral Sea Reunion Association and heard about our organization from Mr. Phillips.

Many of you have asked me, "What about the Coral Sea?" My reply has been that they have a reunion group and are doing fine. I never wanted to impose on them. They have been in existence for 30 years and have gone through some rough times. As Mr. Phillips put it, "I calmed the waters." They had a membership of 2,700 men but their ranks are dwindling while ours are growing very nicely. Mr. Phillips said, "There is strength in numbers." His term runs out within the year. He and I agree on many things and I was invited to their next reunion.

Before we explore the idea any further, I want to get a consensus of the membership as to how you feel about having a joint reunion with USS Coral Sea. This is your organization; you have contributed the funds to help it grow. It does not belong to me and I don't want to proceed down a path if I don't have your support. Again, I do need to hear from everyone so please let me know your thoughts on this as I will need to get back to Mr. Phillips. I want to be very clear that this only refers to having the

reunions in the same city at the same time. There has been no discussion about combining the two organizations. Please keep in mind that if we would hold a joint reunion, one advantage would be that we could negotiate better rates from the hotel(s). Another advantage is that with a larger number of attendees we would also be able to attract more prominent guest speakers. I have sent a copy of this e-mail to Mr. Phillips.

I do have the next 100 ID Cards in my possession and will try and get them signed and laminated this weekend.

With regard to the hats, we have had two members step up to the plate and volunteer to be the storekeeper for our hats. Sergio Frost from San Diego, California will handle Midway hats and John Schwinghamer from Las Vegas, Nevada has agreed to handle Roosevelt hats. That's all for now. Thanks,

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