

NEWSLETTER

Good Morning Ladies & Gentleman,

MARCH 7, 2010

REUNION NEWS

I hope everyone made their hotel reservations for the reunion. According to Bob Wrobel, the rooms with two beds are already gone. Remember the hospitality room and banquet will be at the Hilton. The hotels are just across the street from each other. For those members who are single we do have a buddy system on the web site to help share expenses, see the web site for details.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

I received all the necessary paperwork in from our most senior member yesterday, Gilbert Cecil Thiel, who is 93. To my surprise he signed up as a Lifetime Member. He does want his ID card as soon as possible to show to all his friends in the nursing home. I asked Pete Klestinec to add him in this batch he is running now. Yes, we moved him to the head of the line and when you turn 93 we will do the same for you. I hope you all responded to Pete about your ID cards if your membership number is between 0 1 2 1 and 0 2 1 9

LOCAL GET TOGETHER - ILLINOIS and SURROUNDING AREAS

I asked LCDR Tom Drake, who is the Intelligence Officer with VA-172, to plan the first meeting with Mr. Thiel. He graciously agreed because he lives close to Mr. Thiel. It will be in Grayslake, Illinois so Mr. Thiel will not have to travel very far. Tom will be inviting all the members from Illinois and the adjacent states. Gladys Thiel has a restaurant in mind and has already spoken with the restaurant manager and also has a room at the restaurant already in mind. Tom Drake will decide on the date but he said, it will be after April 15th. Tom would be a great state representative but he still teaches and has a full time job. Tom and I were on the one and only Wes-Pac deployment of FDR. Yes, he is the officer who gave the pilots the

targets to bomb. He did just that in 1966-67 in Viet Nam. I only live 4 miles from the Indiana border in Boone County Kentucky so I hope to get an invitation too. Kentucky does border Illinois somewhere so I guess I qualify. I know Missouri borders Illinois too as I used to live in St. Louis but that just may be too far. I want my picture taken with a man who went through all of World War II. Can't wait to hear his stories. The letters he sent me are attached to this e-mail. All you guys in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin and any other state who want to attend let Tom Drake know now so he can make plans.
tdrake811@aol.com

Gladys Thiel, said Saturday afternoon will work best for her son who will help Mr. Thiel get around. I hope Jim Wehrly and Raleigh Plesko can make it too. James Bucklew I know it is a long drive for you from southern Illinois but I would sure like to meet you too. For the other members who I had the pleasure of talking to also, I would sure like to put a face with the voice. That means you too Tiny, Speedy, Phil Zeigler, Robert Burnsworth and Paul Badker. If I left someone out please forgive me as this organization is getting quite large.

LADIES OF SQUADRONS & SHIPMATES

I now have the help of two ladies who want to help find more 1945 plank owners of USS Midway, Arlene Zeiter who is the widow of George Zeiter and Pat Kochenburger who is the wife of John Kochenburger. We had a great time yesterday explaining the process of how to find these men. Their assistance is greatly appreciated!! We now have close to 70 plank owners from 1945. If any of the other ladies of the organization want to help too, please call me. By the way, you don't have to be a lady to help.

I do appreciate all the letters and e-mails I receive from many of you. I know I have your support and that is what keeps us going. Have a great day.

Al