

Quarterly Newsletter
USS Washtenaw County Veterans Association
Quarter Four, 2021

Greetings fellow members. I am the newly elected Secretary and this will be my first newsletter. I served aboard Washtenaw County from late 1970 until the final official “striking” from the fleet on August 30, 1973.

First of all, my very best wishes for a wonderful Holiday Season – I hear that radio stations are already filling the air waves with the familiar holiday tunes!

2021 Reunion – Rapid City South Dakota. Well attended in a very interesting, historic, and scenic venue. Bob and Suzie Hatfield did a super job planning and orchestrating the event, August 21st thru the 27th. Attendees enjoyed a fine hotel with a comfortable well-stocked Hospitality Room, a Chuckwagon Dinner with some fun musical entertainment, the special twilight presentation at Mount Rushmore, and the traditional Banquet and Silent Auction. The local area was replete with great places to visit, such as Deadwood SD, Ellsworth AFB with an extensive display of retired military planes, the Crazy Horse monument, and downtown Rapid City itself featuring the unusual life-size statues of our nation’s Presidents. A hearty “Bravo Zulu” to Bob and Suzie.

Elections. This reunion saw the biannual Officer elections. President – Mike Shaw. Vice President – John Maine, Secretary – Chris Nintzel. Treasurer – David Vicknair. Historian – Greg Pierceall. The normal two-

year tour of duty. Bob Coombs retained his quasi-official post as the Webmaster.

LST Trivia – did you know? Washtenaw County was one of 15 ships in the Terrebone Parish (LST 1156) class of LST's. The Navy's shipbuilding program during the early 1950's time frame called for three separate ship-building "yards" to build five LST's each. The intent was surely to get the entire class into commission in a short amount of time as well as sparking three different area economies. The 1156 through 1160 were built in Bath Maine. The first keel was laid in January 1952, and the fifth commissioning was held in December 1953. LST 1161 through 1165 were built in Pascagoula Mississippi. Here the first keel was laid in April 1952, and the final commissioning was in November 1953. The last group, 1166 through 1170, was built at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Here the first keel was laid down in November 1951, and the fifth commissioning was held during December 1954. So, each of the fifteen ships took about a year to a year-plus to build.

2022 Annual Reunion. Per usual, a vote was taken on the site of the 2022 reunion. It will be held in September, at Williamsburg Virginia. Details will be forthcoming. David and Roz Vicknair will be the hosts.

Williamsburg is situated on one of the "Tidewater" peninsulas, between the James and York Rivers. A very historical region. A quick google review will reveal that we will see many outstanding tour areas.

- Colonial Williamsburg is described as "the World's Largest Living History Museum". Visitors are exposed to an immersive and authentic 18th Century program. Includes two art museums.
- The Jamestown Settlement.
- Yorktown Revolution Battlefield – where Washington's army won the Revolutionary War against the British.
- Busch Gardens.

- The Berkely Plantation.
- A famous nautical museum, The Maritime Museum, located in nearby Newport News.

2023 Reunion. This event will be held out west. Ron and Cynthia Stettler have volunteered to start pulling =together locations and time frames.

More Navy Trivia. Did you know? The enlisted White Hat. Formally known as the US Navy White Service Hat, but widely known as the “Dixie Cup Hat”. Introduced in 1886 to replace the straw hats commonly worn in the fleet during the summer months. The first white hats were constructed using canvas. Later the material became cotton twill, lighter and much less expensive. The nickname “Dixie Cup” came into use during the early 20th Century, when the ubiquitous paper cup was invented. As of October 2016, the white hat became standard apparel for junior female sailors.

Tax Deductible Donations. For those of you who are still dealing with Federal and State income tax, did you know that the Association qualifies for deductible donations? Since Federal deductions are now oriented towards the large Standard Deduction, charitable sums are probably not applicable to most of us. But some States give tax payers a choice between Standard Deduction or Itemized Deductions. Regardless of the Federal choice. My home State of Oregon offers this. My itemized deductions for Oregon are easily the smart choice, which means I can donate to charities which offset earnings. If this applies to you, consider a donation to the Associatiuon before December 31. Mail your check to David Vicknair, 42472 Evangeline Drive, Hammond LA 70403. Add a note explaining that the check is a tax-deductible contribution.

Annual Dues. Dues are still \$25, and are expected to be paid during the month of March. It is entirely permissible to pay up several years in advance. Please place this on your calendar. Checks are to be mailed to David Vicknair, 42472 Evangeline Drive, Hammond, LA, 70403.

Taps. I haven't received any reports or news, since August, of members passing. Any such information in this regard should be mailed or emailed to me. Address is 780 NW Grouse Street, Seal Rock, OR 97376. Email is chrisnintzel@gmail.com.

Quarterly Newsletters. The next newsletter will be published during February 2022