



The Fantail Scuttlebutt

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USS Salamonie AO-26

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“Any Time, Any Where, Any Weather” Spring 2015

www.usssalamonie.org

A Message from the President

Charles Wazenegger

Dear Shipmates, Spouses,
and Significant Others,

The Washington Reunion was well attended and we all had a fantastic time. We had too much to see and too little time to do it. Obviously, the highlight was the dedication of the Salamonie plaque at the Navy Memorial. We received a warm welcome from Paul Haley, Director of Planning & Giving at the Memorial who also provided for a delicious lunch. Paul was one of the speakers as was John Moliere, our shipmate who made the plaque and dedication a reality. Roger Reller tolled the bell as the names of our departed shipmates since the last reunion were read. This was a solemn and memorable event with the Salamonie now having an everlasting place in the Memorial. This indeed will be a very special memory.

The other very special highlight was the attendance of Mrs. Ingrid Beach, widow of Capt. Ned Beach, who delivered a very inspiring and heartwarming talk.

Mrs. Beach is a delightful lady who stole the hearts of all of us. Everyone was so very grateful for the opportunity to meet her and talk to her. Her visit was arranged by John and Dorothy Lichoff.

We are most grateful. The manager of the Comfort Inn was a most gracious host. He went out of his way to ensure our comfort and make our stay a very pleasant one. We were delighted to welcome back widows Pat Selmer, accompanied by her daughter Becky and Beverly (Cruz) Madore, accompanied by her sister-in-law LaVonne.

While not yet confirmed, we anticipate the Warren Reunion dates to be July 2nd through July 5th. We expect the parade to be Friday evening and the banquet Saturday night. We would truly encourage you to take advantage of this reunion while you can hopefully still travel. We will reaffirm that you will not be disappointed. As I have said on numerous occasions, the relationship between we Vets and the community is very, very special.

We are blessed to have been part of this holiday event and we are anxious to be in Warren again this year.

If anyone has suggestions for the 2016 Reunion, we would appreciate your input. So far, Philadelphia and New York have been mentioned, but no decisions have been made. We will probably vote for a destination while we are in Warren

If anyone still owes their 2015 dues we would ask that you please mail your \$25.00 check to Mike Seidel as soon as possible. The funds are needed for the newsletter, Lilly, museum, and "my salary"!

As usual, we want to thank Dorothy & John Lichoff, Jan & Mike Seidel, Rita & Dave Wood, Marlene & Barry Stark, Beverly & Roger Reller and Duane & Donna Wampler for their contributions to and their efforts on behalf of this Association.

Without them this association would cease to exist. We are most grateful for all that they do.

Until we see you in Warren we wish you fair winds and following seas.

Best Wishes,

Chuck Wazenegger.

A Message from John Lichoff

Shipmates:

Some of you know that I just had emergency gall bladder surgery. The doctor in the hospital told my wife that I would have died within two days if I hadn't been in the hospital.

I had to miss the reunion trip (DC) and I want to thank everyone who pitched in and did my job for me.

Thanks for the many cards.

I hope to see you in Warren in July.

John



Sick/Surgery

Please keep in your prayers:

Leonard Buck

John Herald SR.

Roger Reller

Ken Linebaugh

Charlie Stephanic

Al Jirik

John Lichoff

George Perrault

Our Thoughts and Sympathy
Go out to Tom Seliecki on the recent
loss of his wife.



Honor Roll

We have added these names to the
Honor Roll.

Please say a silent prayer for them.

Henry M. VanDomelien	SK3	47
Boyd Phillip Williams		44
Albert H. Goings	SN	45
Roy J. Arnold	CWTP	47
Frederick Bell	STM1	47
Redus H. Braynon	FC3	47
Alfred Mello	CGMP	47
Theodore M. Lockrem	RM1	47
Aldolph L. VanDame	CCMP	47
James Marsh	BMSN	55-56
Barrington (Barry) Nauts		57-59
Richard Posey Ross	LT	42-45

Please note:

Rita Wood will send a get well or sympathy card to people needing one from the USS Salomonie Association. Send the details to her at RLW313@aol.com.



An item from Jack Kaufman

A MOST INTERESTING READ....and that is the reason why some of us are still around...

Pearl Harbor:

What God did that day.

Tour boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii every thirty minutes. We just missed a ferry and had to wait thirty minutes. I went into a small gift shop to kill time.

In the gift shop, I purchased a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war.

On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked.

As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?" Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his

voice.

Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or *God was taking care of America*. Which do you think it was?"

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?" Nimitz explained:

Mistake number one:

The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave.

If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

Mistake number two:

When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired.

As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America . And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake number three:

Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or *God was taking care of America* .

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, who was born and raised in

Fredericksburg, Texas. He was a born optimist. But anyway you look at it, Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism.

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.

There is a reason that our national motto is, *IN GOD WE TRUST*.

Why have we forgotten?

A note from Lilly Nutter



During the year 2002, a letter from a grandson serving "over there" arrived asking if I could get friends to send "mail" to troops who were homesick and never received mail or other items. So a few of my friends helped me send a few shoeboxes filled with goodies to the names that were given to me.

At that time I received word from our town clerk (Marilyn Morrison) that she had had an out of state phone call from a John Lichoff of Norwalk, OH.

He was looking for a location for the planned museum for their dearly beloved ship, the USS Salamonie. Bottom line, she invited them and I had my ladies help serve them a meal. When she mentioned my "boxes for the troops" they adopted me, offering to pay the cost of all postage.

I was overwhelmed at their generosity and never dreamed what would materialize in the years following. I received checks from 30 states (1 from Canada). They trusted me completely and to date have spent in excess of \$13,000!! Our 1,437th box will be in tomorrow's mail.

The beautiful part is what this has meant to the recipients. There are two giant albums containing more than 700 letters of thanks. These are in the treasured Museum, nestled on the banks of the Salamonie River here in Warren.

You would be astonished at the many thank you letters from the governors of Ohio and Indiana, a lovely appreciation letter and photo of the president of the National Veterans of Foreign War in Kansas, and a letter of thanks from our President Obama. Indiana US Senator Richard Lugar telephoned a personal thanks to me and then carried the story to Washington, read it to the Legislators and it is in the Congressional record dated 28 Feb. 2011.

I have a treasured album of my own. It is hard to believe that this 102 year old lady should have been so blessed to be adopted by the treasured veterans of the USS SALAMONIE. God bless every single veteran who has contributed so liberally to accomplish this for our country. To each veteran accept my thanks, love and prayers.

Lilly Nutter

USS Salamonie Model

Dick Wirin has completed his scale model of the USS Salamonie and hopes to bring it to the Museum for the July reunion.

Did you know this?

At the time she was decommissioned the USS Salamonie was the longest serving USS Navy ship since the USS Constitution. Since then it was surpassed by the USS New Jersey. The USS Constitution is still in commission and is currently being restored in Massachusetts.



USS Salamonie Association July 2015 Reunion in Warren, Indiana

Quality Inn

2820 Hotel Ave.

Huntington, IN

260-359-9000

Contact for Reservations: Tara Garretson

As you come in the front door, you are greeted very nicely by front desk. To the right is a small sitting area w/computer and internet which leads to the café/breakfast area. Just to the left of front desk is the beautiful pool area w/hot tub. I was shown a couple of rooms which have been well kept and clean.

- Rooms need to be reserved by June 22nd. After that date, remaining rooms will be open to public for reservation.
- Hotel is 16.84 miles from center of Warren; took us 20 minutes.
- There are many restaurants and a Wal-Mart within 1 mile of hotel. (Applebee's is walking distance from hotel)
- This is a "choice hotel" so can use card to continue to build points for future stays.
- 26 rooms set aside and under the name of "USS Salamonie Group."
- Dates set aside are for July 2,3,4th
- Rate is **\$72.80** per night (includes taxes)

- There are King size, Double & Handicap accessible rooms available (rooms 106 & 107 are the only two Handicap Accessible rooms onsite)
- No elevator, stairs to second floor.
- Indoor pool/hot tub
- There are plenty of rooms on the main level available just down hall from pool.
- If you want a room w/a microwave and refrigerator it is available upon request at time of reservation at no extra charge.
- Hospitality Room is 100.00 per day. However, if we have at least 10 rooms reserved per day from our group, the room will be free.
- Plenty of parking and easily accessible to main entrance.
- Free Full Breakfast (eggs, sausage, toast, cereal, yogurt, fruit, coffee, juice)
- Pet Friendly: 10.00 per night per pet; pet limit 2 per room
- Coffee Makers
- Ironing board

For further information and directions go to:

<http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-huntington-indiana-IN281>

Or call them at **260-359-9000**

Reunion Schedule

The parade will be held on
Friday, July 3, 2015

The Banquet will be held on Saturday,
July 4, 2015

The schedule for the hours that the
museum will be open and times for
other events will be posted in the
Hospitality Room in the hotel.

Banquet "Spring Buffet"

Apricot Glazed Pork Loin
Herb Crusted Chicken
Red Potatoes
Rice Pilaf
Vegetable Medley
7 Layer Salad
Dinner Rolls w butter
Dessert (Red Velvet Cake and Cherry
Cheesecake)
Coffee, water and lemonade

Cost per person

\$17.50

(price includes meal, tableware
and gratuity)

Nota Bene

Make your reservation and
payment to Mike Seidel when you arrive
at the hotel. If you wish you can e mail
him your reservation(s) .

Thanks to Donna Wampler (Don and
Dee Bond's Daughter) for making the
many arrangements for our July 2015
Reunion in Warren, Indiana.



Where were you August 7, 1958?

The U.S.S. Salamonie was
anchored in Newport Harbor when the
call came for search and rescue
assistance for two burning tankers in the
harbor. A picture has been uncovered
showing some of our crew with
survivors, along with newspaper articles
and other memorabilia. We are in the
process of making a scrapbook of the
news articles, ships log, etc.

We would like to add memories
from our shipmates of that day. We
have a couple of notes already, but
would like to add your thoughts. Please
respond to Don Bond via E-Mail (using
the title Salamonie Memories) at
dbondin@aol.com; or you can mail a
note to him at 18940 Fillmore Drive,
Goshen IN 46528.

Don Bond

574-533-8835



**If you wish to purchase the
Ship's Patch contact:**

George A. Cusick

276 Manor Rd.

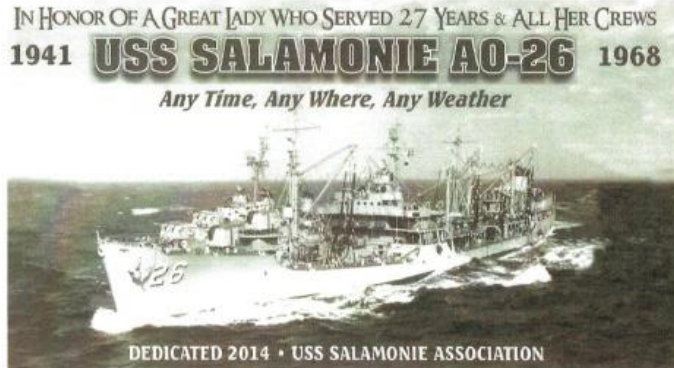
Staten Island, NY 10314

(718) 273-6956

georgeacusick@yahoo.com

The price is \$8.00

USS Salamonie Ship's Plaque



The dedication of the USS Salamonie ship's plaque took place at the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC during the reunion held there in April 2015.

USS Salamonie Association Officers:

President –

Chuck Wazenegger
(bear1151@verizon.net)

Vice President/Records/Honor Roll
- **John Lichoff** (jlichoff@neo.rr.com)

Treasurer – Mike Seidel
jqq2042@gmail.com

Trustee – Roger Reller
reller1g@hotmail.com

Chaplin – Barry Stark
barrylamar@comcast.com

Editor/Newsletter – Rita Wood
RLW313@AOL.COM



USS Salamonie Association
Dues are \$25.00.

Make your check out to USS Salamonie and send it with this form to
Mike Seidel
3211 Northern Valley Drive NE
Rochester, MN 55906
(507- 226-8698)

Additional donations
can be made to the:
Knight-Bergman Civic Center
USS Salamonie Postage Fund
Troop Care Packages

USS Salamonie Association
Dues 2015

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

E Mail: _____

I prefer to get my newsletter via:

_____ snail mail

_____ e mail

Your dues and donations help to keep the Association afloat.

USS Salamonie Association

c/O Rita L. Wood, Editor
47 Brown Terrace
Portsmouth RI 02871

John F. Kenney said:

**“I can imagine no more rewarding
a career. And any man who may be
asked in this century what he did to
to make his life worthwhile, I think
can respond with a good deal of
pride and satisfaction:**

**I served in the
United States Navy.”**

Be Proud that you served.



Things to do ASAP:

- **Pay your 2015 dues
and/or make a donation.**
- **Make your reservations
for the July 2015 reunion
in Warren Indiana.**