

THE CORAL SEA BREEZE

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Welcome Aboard!

Keith P. Dossey, Jr.
AO3, G4 Div.
1987-90

Richard 'Dickey' Kearney
BT3, B Div.
1972-75

David L. Ziesmer
ABH2, V3 Div.
1969-73

Fun Tours Await You at San Antonio Reunion.

A very unique series of stops are planned for your tour options during the Coral Sea Association's 34th annual national reunion, scheduled for October 3-7, 2012 in San Antonio, Tex. You'll find all the tour details in this issue of the *Sea Breeze*.

One sure winner for most of us will be the Nimitz Museum stop during the Fredericksburg Tour. And no San Antonio-area tour

would be complete without a stop at The Alamo. That will be

your first stop on Thursday's "Spotlight on San Antonio"



tour. In addition to the Nimitz Museum stop on Friday, you'll also enjoy the many antique shops

on Main Street in Boerne, Tex. See all the details in this issue!

Your hotel reservation deadline is Sept. 4, and the discounted room rates are just \$100.40 per night, including all taxes! That rate applies from Oct. 1 through Oct. 10, so you can take advantage of this special to extend your stay and enjoy a long vacation in San Antonio.

A reservation form can be found on page 2 for our hospitality room and banquets!

President's Corner

Good day Shipmates, Hopefully all of you are doing well and enjoying the warm weather. I know that I am.

The Midwest Spring Fling has come and gone. Many thanks to Gary

and Diane Maddox for a fine get together. The turnout was slim, but we all had a great time. We all enjoyed another visit to the USS Silversides (SS-236) and visit to the exhibits. As can be expected, the usual good camaraderie was enjoyed by all. The 2013

Spring Fling will be the same time and place. Please pay particular attention to the information in this issue regarding the 2012 reunion in San Antonio, Tex. Tour information includes as well as reunion

(Continued on page 10)

San Antonio 2012 Reunion Reservation Form.

Name: _____ Guest: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St./Zip: _____

Email: _____ Ph.: _____

In order to print your name badge correctly, please complete the following:

Name: _____ Rate/Rank/Rating: _____ Div.: _____

Aboard Coral Sea from: _____ (mo.) _____ (yr.) TO _____ (mo.) _____ (yr.)

Registration Fee (\$25/person): No. Attending: _____ Amount Encl.: \$ _____

(Note: Registration includes hospitality room.)

Friday Buffet (\$45/person): No. Attending: _____ Amount Encl.: \$ _____

Saturday Banquet Options & Cost:

A. Rib Eye Steak (\$45/person): No.: _____ Amount Encl.: \$ _____

B. Chicken Wellington (\$40/person): No.: _____ Amount Encl.: \$ _____

TOTAL Encl.: \$ _____

Please Note: A breakfast buffet is available daily for \$10 (includes tax and tip). No registration required.

Make your Holiday Inn-Riverwalk reservations today by calling (210) 224-2500

Please make out check or money order to **USS Coral Sea Assoc. Reunion** and mail to:

Clarence Neander, 47 Redwood Manor, Pontiac, IL 61764



Taps

Harry J. Foley
RADM, SWO Div.
USNA Class of '38

Gordon D. Galey
Carneys Point, NJ

Frank Shivak
RDI, OI Div.
1955-1956
Oceanside, CA

Ray (Nick) Walshaw
Est. 1954-1960
Pennsylvania

Vice President's Corner

Shipmates,

I will start this article by saying I hope you all had a good Easter Sunday, followed by a great Mother's day; belated Happy Mother's day to all of you.

Memorial Day is a day of remembrance as we must not forget those who give their all; as well as the birthday of our country, the Fourth of July. However, we tend to forget Father's Day sometimes.

Lynn and I have been traveling a lot for the past three months. We paid

(Continued on page 6)

Secretary's Corner

Ed. Note—Don Colwell reports a potential PC FUBAR on the home front. At the very least, he is experiencing serious computer problems that have prevented him from submitting a report for this issue.

Instead, he has asked that we pass along best wishes for a good summer to all shipmates, along with a request that all hands get their San Antonio Annual Reunion reservations in as soon as possible.

Repeating information from a prior issue of the Sea Breeze, please make note of this important mailing address change for

correspondence going to the Association Secretary: I am leaving my new address with all of you so please make note of it:

Don Colwell
2740 N. Farris Av.
Fresno, CA 93704

The telephone numbers may change but email stays the same.

Thank you!

In service, your secretary,

Don

Don Colwell
Secretary

San Antonio Reunion Tours: Something Special For All.

Spotlight on San Antonio

Oct. 4, 2012—9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Your group will board their motor coach as our guide begins the story of San Antonio's 250 years of fascinating history as we make our way to the heart of the River City! Our first stop will be **The Alamo**, "The Shrine of Texas Liberty" and San Antonio's first Mission. Today, it is one of the most photographed facades in the United States. We will tour the chapel and walk the grounds as we learn about the "Battle for Texas Independence".

From the Alamo, we drive by the **San Fernando Cathedral**, the original church of the Canary Island settlers built in 1731, and one of the oldest churches in continuous use in the country. Our group continues on by the **Spanish Governor's**



Palace, and on to the Mexican Market known as **El Mercado**. Here we will visit the shops and restaurants that offer arts, crafts and freshly baked Mexican pastries.

Then it is on to the **Guenther House**, the elegant restored home built in 1860. The house is located on a bend of the San Antonio River at the foot of the King William District, one of the oldest, historical districts in Texas. There will also be time for a visit to their wonderful cooking gift shop.

Lunch on their own.

From the **Guenther House**, it's back on your motor coach for a short trip to the beautiful **Southwest School of Art and Craft**, located on the banks of the San Antonio River.

Our tour ends here as you board your motor coach and return to your hotel after an afternoon with a "Spotlight on San Antonio".

\$60.00 per person (20 min. required)

Includes all admission fees, transfers and Capers certified tour guide.

Fredericksburg Tour

Oct. 5, 2012—9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Our Capers tour guide will meet the group in the lobby of the hotel and give a brief overview of the outing. Our motor coach waits with our uniformed Capers' staff person to escort everyone to the Texas Hill Country.

Just twenty (20) minutes up the road, we will stop in **Boerne Texas** for shopping and exploring the numerous antique shops up and down Main Street. After an hour in Boerne we will proceed to Fredericksburg in time for lunch. We arrive in **Fredericksburg, Texas**. This town settled by German immigrants in the early 1800's is rich with heritage. There are numerous historical buildings, restaurants and museums along the main streets. The many shops located along



the Main Street are in a four-block area and a delightful place to get unusual things from the Hill Country and from Texas. The **Nimitz Museum**, full of

WWII history, is part of this unique town.

Lunch can be at any of the numerous restaurants along the main street, on your own.

After lunch we continue our exploration of Fredericksburg and then board our coach to stop at the **Wild Seed Farm**. This is one of the nation's largest wildflower farms. You can cut your own bouquet during your self-guided, self-paced tour. There is also a Butterfly Haus, featuring Texas native butterflies, when in season.

\$60.00 per person (20 min. required)

Includes motor coach, certified tour guide and all taxes and gratuities.

Fill in your tour registration today on page 4!



'Salty' Quotes

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend...if you have one."

—George Bernard Shaw (to Winston Churchill)

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second...if there is one."

—Winston Churchill (in response)

Capers Tours San Antonio Reservation Form.

Tour Dates are Oct. 4 & 5, 2012, departing the Holiday Inn River Walk
Registration Deadline: September 15, 2012

Capers is coordinating the Associations' tours during the annual reunion in San Antonio.
Please contact the Capers representative at 210-226-6652 with any questions regarding the planned events.

If you would like to participate in a tour, please complete this form by Sept. 15, 2012 and mail with your check or fax with your credit card payment to:

Capers, 825 E. Locust St., San Antonio, TX 78212
Ph. 210-226-66542, Fx. 210-223-9933, Email: Jean @capersdmc.com



'Salty' Quotes

“Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it.”
 —Moses Hadas

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **St./Zip:** _____
E-mail: _____
Phone: _____ **Fx:** _____

Spotlight San Antonio: 9 a.m.—3 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012 at \$60 per person.
Fredericksburg, Texas: 9 a.m.—3 p.m., Friday, Oct. 5, 2012 at \$60 per person.
 # of Tickets: _____ @ \$60 each for a total cost of \$ _____.
Please Note: No Refunds. A minimum of 20 total must be met on each tour.
Method of Payment: () Check () AMEX () Visa () MasterCard

Cardholder Name: _____
Credit Card No. : _____
Expiration Date: _____ **Three Digit Code (on back):** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



2012 Spring Fling CVA-43 Assoc. members present in photo:

Sitting: Dan Jones, Jon Lickey, Jim Johnson & Mike “Oscar” Pfeffer. Standing: John Ranson, Jim Francisco, Wally Elgert, Sid “Doc” Dockery, Mike “Yogi” Medjec, Brad Deegan, Dick Parker, Don Colwell, Gary “Mad dog” Maddox & Clarence Neander.



2012 Spring Fling guests in photo:

Seated: Pam Neander, Sandy Ranson, Debbie Pfeffer & Cheryl Jones. Standing: Lori Medvec, Janet Lickey, Lilah Francisco, Diane Maddox & Sandra Colwell.

Naval History You May Not Know...The USS William D. Porter

—Ed. Note: Part 2 of a 2-part article

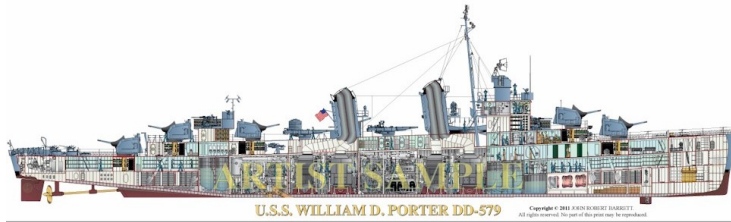
Shortly thereafter, a freak wave inundated the ship, stripping away everything that wasn't lashed down. A man washed overboard and was never found. Next, the fire room lost power in one of its boilers. The Captain, at this point, was making reports almost hourly to the Iowa about the William D's difficulties. It would have been

merciful if the force commander had detached the hard luck ship and sent her back to Norfolk. But, no, she sailed on.

The morning of 14 November 1943 dawned with a moderate sea and pleasant weather. The Iowa and her escorts were just east of Bermuda, and the president and his guests wanted to see how the big ship could defend herself against an air attack. So, the Iowa launched a

number of weather balloons to use as anti-aircraft targets. It was exciting to see more than 100 guns shooting at the balloons, and the President was proud of his Navy.

Just as proud was Admiral Ernest J King, the Chief of Naval Operations. He was large in size and demeanor, a true monarch of the sea. Disagreeing with him meant the end of a naval career.



U.S.S. WILLIAM D. PORTER DD-579

Up to this time, no one knew what firing a torpedo at him would mean. Over on the William D, Captain Walker watched the fireworks display with admiration and envy.

Thinking about career redemption and breaking the hard luck spell, the Captain sent his impatient crew to battle stations. They began to shoot down the balloons the Iowa had

(Continued on page 7)

Chaplain's Corner

Dear Shipmates,

Every year on the Sunday closest to Memorial Day, I have a children's sermon with the title, "Plant' A Flag". I talk to the children about the meaning of Memorial Day and how we remember American soldiers, sailors, marines, coast guardsmen, and airmen, and how they sacrificed for their country.

And then I give each child a small American flag and ask them to have their parents take them to a local cemetery and "plant" their flag at the grave of a

veteran. Most of our parents take their child to a relative's grave -- an uncle, grandfather, etc.

This is a powerful object lesson for our children. Although they are too young to understand war and death, they learn that many people have sacrificed in years past so that we can be free today. Children thrive on activity, on actually doing something. This little project we have involves them directly and creates a memory they will come back to over and over. And, hopefully, it will be impressed upon

them that we ALL have to do our part to be good citizens of a free nation.

My best wishes to all of you, my CORAL SEA shipmates, as you remember those who sacrificed their all. "All gave some; some gave all."

Fair winds,

Your shipmate and chaplain,

Michael

Michael D. Halley
CDR, CHC, USN,
Retired
Association Chaplain



'Salty' Quotes

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial."
—Irvin S. Cobb

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 (CVB/CVA/CV-43) for a period of at least 90 days. Also, any person who was assigned to the commissioning crew (plank owners), even if fewer than 90 days were spent aboard, shall be eligible for membership. **DUES:** Association membership dues are \$15 per year. Dues for membership are not limited to one year. The Association is a Non-Profit Organization formed by former crew members.



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)

ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____

ZIP+4 _____ **PHONE:** _____ **E-MAIL** _____

NEXT OF KIN _____

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 SCG
 (Rank/Rate) USNR USAF USA

I do do not want my complete mailing address printed on the Published roster.

Please make check payable to: **USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION**
 Mail application to:

Secretary, USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION
651 E. Saginaw Way
Fresno, CA 93704

Office Use Only

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



'Salty' Quotes

“He has Van Gogh’s ear for music.”
 —Billy Wilder

(Continued from page 2)
Vice President’s Corner...

visits to each of our granddaughters; one in Boston at Lesley University where she is studying to become a middle school math teacher. We then flew out to Phoenix and drove down to Melanie’s college, Central Arizona in Casa Grande, Arizona. Both granddaughters have had the opportunity to continue their pitching careers throughout college. After visiting Casa Grande, we continued to Las Vegas to visit Mr. John Pritchard and family and Ms. Loraine Caldron. We had a splen-

did time visiting with all. John and I discussed the association, the shipmates, and the reunion. John wishes to make it to San Antonio despite being ill. He said to give each big of you a big hello and smooth sailings till we meet again.

If you are planning on attending the reunion in San Antonio, it’s time to start making your reservations. President John Ranson will have more information in a following newsletter in regard to tours and reservations. It’s time that we have a big reunion, therefore let’s all try and attend. Remember

it’s an election year. If anyone is willing to run for office you should contact me, as I am the chairman of the nomination committee.

Until I see you again, smooth sailing.

Bill

Bill Johnson
 Vice President

(Continued from page 5)

Naval History You May Not Know...

missed as they drifted into the Porter's vicinity.

Down on the torpedo mounts, the crew watched, waiting to take some practice shots of their own on the big battleship, which, even though 6,000 yards away, seemed to blot out the horizon.

Lawton Dawson and Tony Fazio were among those responsible for the torpedoes. Part of their job involved ensuring that the primers were installed during actual combat

and removed during practice. Once a primer was installed, on a command to fire, it would explode shooting the torpedo out of its tube.

Dawson, on this particular morning, unfortunately had forgotten to remove the primer from torpedo tube #3. Up on the bridge, a new torpedo officer, unaware of the danger, ordered a simulated firing. "Fire 1, Fire 2," and finally, "Fire 3." There was no Fire 4 as the sequence was interrupted by an unmistakable whooooooshhhing sound made by a successfully

launched and armed torpedo. Lt H. Steward Lewis, who witnessed the entire event, later described the next few minutes as what hell would look like if it ever broke loose. Just after he saw the torpedo hit water on its way to the Iowa and some of the most prominent figures in world history, Lewis innocently asked the Captain, "Did you give permission to fire a torpedo?" Captain Walker's reply will not ring down through naval history, although words to the effect of Farragut's immortal "Damn the torpedoes" figured centrally within. Initially there was some reluctance to admit what had happened, or even to warn the Iowa. As the awful reality sunk in, people began racing around, shouting conflicting instructions and attempting to warn the flagship of imminent danger.

First, there was a flashing light warning about the torpedo which unfortunately indicated the torpedo was headed in another direction. Next, the Porter signaled that the torpedo was going reverse at full speed! Finally, they decided to break the strictly enforced radio silence. The radio operator on the destroyer transmitted "'Lion (code for the Iowa), Lion, come right.'" The Iowa operator, more concerned about radio procedure, requested that the offending station identify itself first. Finally, the message was received and the Iowa began turning to avoid the speeding torpedo.

Meanwhile, on the Iowa's bridge, word of the torpedo firing had reached FDR, who asked that his wheelchair be




The Coral Sea Div. of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corp. shown at Camp Pendleton during recent Flagship competition.

CORRECTION

Our last issue misidentified the CO of the Coral Sea Div. of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Lcdr. Bob Dickson serves as commanding officer of the division, and the Association appreciates his role in guiding these young men and

women. The Association's liaison chief to the Sea Cadets is Richard Satchell, CPO, USN (Ret). The Sea Breeze is fortunate to receive ongoing reports and observations about the progress of our Sea Cadets in this worthwhile program. Thanks for your service!



'Salty' Quotes

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork"
—Mae West

(Continued on page 10)

Coral Sea Association Small Stores Product & Price List



Association Logo



Ship's Logo—CVB, CVA, CV

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Price</u>
1001	Reg. Style Cap (Blue or White), CVB/CVA/CV	\$12.00
1002	Mesh Back Cap (Scrambled Eggs) CVB/CVA/CV	\$14.00
1003	Marine Cap (Red) Marine Det., CV	\$14.00
1004	Windbreaker Jacket (Blue), all sizes**	\$42.00
1005	Micro Poly Casual Jacket (Blk, Dk Grn, Maroon, Navy, Red, Royal or Stone) all sizes**	\$46.00
1006	Sweatshirt (Blue or White), all sizes**	\$25.00
1007	T-Shirt (Blue or White), all sizes**	\$17.00
1008	Denim Shirt (SS or LS), all sizes**	\$32.00
1009	Titan Twill Shirt (SS or LS), (Navy, Dutch Blue, French Blue, Khaki, Black, Butter, Crimson, new Olive, Smoke or White), all sizes**	\$32.00
1010	Polo Shirt (Blue or White); all sizes	\$28.00
1011	Pin, CV-43 (Hat/Lapel)	\$ 5.00
1012	3-inch Patch (Older Bolder, CVA-43, Decomm)	\$ 4.00
1013	4.5-inch Patch (Older Bolder, CVA-43)	\$ 6.00
1014	License Plate Frame (Chrome-Plastic), CVA-43	\$12.00
1015	Photo, Coral Sea Straight Deck (8" x 10")	\$ 4.00
1016	Photo, Coral Sea Angle Deck (8" x 10")	\$ 4.00
1017	Coral Sea Mouse Pad	\$ 6.00
1018	Coral Sea Coffee Mug	\$ 8.00
1019	Watch Cap, CVB/CVA/CV	\$12.00
1020	Coral Sea Decals	\$ 2.00
1021-1	Optional Embroidery (Name, Div, Year, etc.)	\$.50/ltr.
1021-2	Full Back Logo for Jackets	\$30.00
1022	Coral Sea Challenge Coin	\$12.00
1023	Coral Sea Pin (CV-43 or CVA-43)	\$ 3.00

** These are embroidered items; please choose either the Association Logo or Ship's Logo

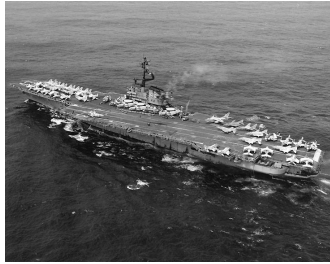
Please Note: Additional embroidery of your choosing is available on any item. Add \$.50 per additional letter.

6/09

Mail: USS Coral Sea Association
Small Stores Account
PO Box 1697
Powder Springs, GA 30127

Fax: 770-222-4833
E-mail: georgerogers@bellsouth.net
For more information: 770-943-3818

Coral Sea Association Small Stores Order Form



Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Item #	Qty.	Description (Color, Logo, Sleeve Length)	Size	Price Ea.	Total Price

Merchandise Total \$ _____

Shipping Charge** \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Method of Payment

- Check (make payable to USS Coral Sea Assoc.)
- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express



Association Logo



Ship's Logo
CVB, CVA, CV

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name as it Appears on Card _____

Signature _____

Fax: 770-222-4833
 E-mail: georgerogers@bellsouth.net
 Mail: USS Coral Sea Association
 Small Stores Account
 PO Box 1697
 Powder Springs, GA 30127

****Priority Mail S/H Cost**

Up to \$24.99.....\$ 7.00
 \$25—\$50.....\$ 9.00
 \$51—\$75.....\$12.00
 \$76—Up.....\$15.00

Credit card orders will appear on your statement as "ICU Stitching."

(Continued from page 7)

Naval History You May Not Know...

moved to the railing so he could see better what was coming his way. His loyal Secret Service guard immediately drew his pistol as if he was going to shoot the torpedo. As the Iowa began evasive maneuvers, all of her guns were trained on the William D. Porter. There was now some thought that the Porter was part of an assassination plot.

Within moments of the warning, there was a tremendous explosion just behind the battleship. The torpedo had been detonated by the wash kicked up by the battleship's increased speed.

The crisis was over and so was Captain Walker's career. His final utterance to the Iowa, in response to a question about the origin of the torpedo, was a weak, "We did it." Shortly thereafter, the brand new destroyer, her Captain and the entire crew were placed under arrest and sent to Bermuda for trial. It was the first time that a complete ship's company had been arrested in the history of the US Navy.

The ship was surrounded by Marines when it docked in Bermuda, and held there several days as the closed session inquiry attempted to determine what had happened. Torpedo man Dawson eventually confessed to having

inadvertently left the primer in the torpedo tube, which caused the launching. Dawson had thrown the used primer over the side to conceal his mistake. The whole incident was chalked up to an unfortunate set of circumstances and placed under a cloak of secrecy. Someone had to be punished. Captain Walker and several other Porter officers and sailors eventually found themselves in obscure shore assignments. Dawson was sentenced to 14 years hard labor. President Roosevelt intervened; however, asking that no punishment be meted out for what was clearly an accident. The destroyer William D. Porter was banished to the upper Aleutians. It was probably thought this was as safe a place as any for the ship and anyone who came near her. She remained in the frozen north for almost a year, until late 1944, when she was re-assigned to the Western Pacific. However, before leaving the Aleutians, she accidentally left her calling card in the form of a five-inch shell fired into the front yard of the American Base Commander, thus rearranging his flower garden rather suddenly.

In December, 1944, the Porter joined the Philippine invasion forces and acquitted herself quite well. She distinguished herself by shooting down a number of attacking Japanese air-

(Continued on page 12)



'Salty' Quotes

"He has all of the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire."
—Winston Churchill

(Continued from page 1)

President's Corner...

and hotel reservation information. **PLEASE** do not send tour payments to the Association treasurer. Payments must go to the tour operator. Doing otherwise just creates more work for shipmate Clarence.

A lot of work is involved in setting up and operating the reunions. The Association officers thank all of you for all that you do to make things work, but we need your help for future events. If you can put together a reunion proposal

for a city where you live, more power to you. We need input for the future. So far the only reunion proposals that I've received are for Omaha, Nebr. Your Association officers want to do the best that we can for all members. Your input will be greatly appreciated. We're trying to get the mailing list mistakes resolved. If there are any inaccuracies in your mailing address on "Sea Breeze", please contact Assoc. Secretary Don Colwell regarding this matter. Don is the proper

contact for this need. Thanks!

Lastly, we need some volunteers for various committees. Please contact me if you wish to add a helping hand. In particular, we need help with the Scholarship Committee. Please contact me if you can help. See you all in San Antonio! Godspeed!

John

John Ranson
President

USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) Association

Officers

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jrsr3843@fuse.net

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cva43bill@hotmail.com

Secretary:

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ghaase@msn.com
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thewhitehouse@cox.net

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Committees

Reunion Committee

John Ranson, Chairman—2012 Reunion in San Antonio, TX

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Chairman:
Members:

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Bob Nerbetski
Bill Eanetta

jrsr3843@fuse.net
cvb4312@verizon.net
cvb43@rochester.rr.com

Scholarship Committee

Chairman:
Members:

Mike Perry
Bill Williams

coralmaru7475@gmail.com
welsh877@comcast.net

Audit Committee

Chairman:

Chuck Whitcomb

cwhitcomb1877@charter.net

Nominating Chair:

Bill Johnson

cva43bill@hotmail.com

Parliamentarian:

Bob Mackey

708-891-6771

The Sea Breeze—Official Coral Sea Newsletter

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Copy Submission Deadline:

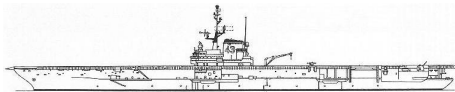
Material for the
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*The Coral Sea
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is due in to the
publisher or copy
editor by
August 21, 2012.

(Please send all address changes to Don Colwell at the address shown above right.)

The Coral Sea Breeze

John Ranson, Publisher
52 Woodland Place
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1605

Email: jrsr3843@fuse.net
Please Note: Send Address
Corrections to Association
Sec. Don Colwell



THE AGELESS WARRIOR

Enjoy Your Association Online at www.usscoralsea.org and see this issue of the *Sea Breeze* in full color!

(Continued from page 10)

Naval History You May Not Know...

craft. Regrettably, after the war, it was reported that she also shot down three American planes. This was a common event on ships, as many gunners, fearful of kamikazes, had nervous trigger fingers.

In April, 1945, the destroyer Porter was assigned to support the invasion of Okinawa. By this time, the greeting "Don't Shoot, We're Republicans" was commonplace and the crew of the Willie D had become used to the ribbing. But the crew of her sister ship, the USS Luce, was not so polite in its salutations after the Porter accidentally riddled her side and superstructure with gunfire.

On 10 June, 1945, the Porter's hard luck finally ran out. She was sunk by a plane which had (unintentionally) attacked it from underwater. A Japanese bomber made almost entirely of wood and canvas slipped through the Navy's defense. Having little in the

way of metal surfaces, the plane didn't register on radar. A fully loaded kamikaze, it was headed for a ship near the Porter, but just at the last moment veered away and crashed alongside the unlucky destroyer. There was a sigh of relief as the plane sunk out of sight, but then it blew up underneath the Porter, opening her hull in the worst possible place. Three hours later, after the last man was off board, the Captain jumped to the safety of a rescue vessel and the ship that almost changed world history slipped astern into 2,400 feet of water. Not a single soul was lost in the sinking. After everything else that happened, it was almost as if the ship decided to let her crew off at the end.

—Submitted by
Kit Bonner, Naval Historian

Make Your Reunion Room Reservations.

The room reservation deadline is September 4. Just call (210) 224-2500 and mention USS Coral Sea reunion to get your discounted Riverwalk room rate of just \$100.40 per night, including all taxes! Parking is free. Also, complete and mail in the hospitality room and banquets reservation form on page 2 of this issue!

Coral Sea Family News

Please be aware that Carol, the wife of long-time Association member, former secretary and shipment Herman Doernbach, fell recently, fracturing her hip. Hip replacement went well and she is recovering nicely with therapy. Friends of Herman may wish to call and give him (and Carol) some encouragement.