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Welcome Aboard!

Daniel D. Dahl HMCS, H Div. 12/63—12/69

Robert H. Gaefe MM3, M Div. 9/54—10/56

Mark A. Himebrook SHSN, S-3 Div. 6/73—12/74

Thomas A. Hinson FN, A Div. 8/87—5/89

Steve R. Neagle IC2, E Div. 1/66—10/69

Curt G. Reus LCPL, VNFA-314 3/85—4/86

Countdown to Colorado Springs Reunion!

Deadlines are upon us for your participation in the Association's 2021 Annual Reunion being held Oct. 6-10 at the Hotel Elegante in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Make your hotel reservation today by calling **800-981 -4012 and refer-**



ence USS Coral Sea. The cut-off date is Sept. 15, 2021.

Also remember to submit the combined tour reservation form and Annual Reunion reservation form found on page eight.

This beautiful area of our great country is

the perfect place to reconnect with shipmates!

President's Corner

Greetings Shipmates, Only a few weeks left to register for the 2021 reunion. Cut-off date is September 15 to get the special rate at the hotel.

It has been a busy summer and I hope all have had a safe one. As you travel to the reunion, be vigilant and be careful.

The only change so far is that the Chapel at the Air Force Academy is undergoing remodeling and may not be open. AFR assures me that if that is the case, they have something else planned in its place.

I had the pleasure of being invited to the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt reunion last week and had a great time meeting with the staff and members. They put on a good program, and I have been invited back to their reunion in Portland Maine next year. Also, I had the honor of becoming an Honorary Member of the USS Franklin D Roosevelt crew. I consider it an honor and a privilege and will remember it always.

I have had several members wanting to attend our reunion in Colorado Springs, but I don't know how many will show up. Give some thought about next year's reunion in Norfolk or Louisville.

See all in Colorado Springs

Wayne

Wayne Addkison President

Colorado Springs 2021 Reunion Tours.



TAPS

Salvatore "Sal" Avellino

Association Secretary Emeritus CSSN, S2C Div. 1951—1953

Robert . Fuchs AB2, V-3 Div. 1951—1954

Sherrill F. Guidry MM3, M Div.

MM3, M Div. 1963—1967

Hubert "Bud" V. Harris LT, X Div. 1964—1966

Philip J. Leeney CPL, Marine Det. 1952—1954

AIR FORCE ACADEMY / GARDEN OF THE GODS

Start the day at the Air Force Academy. Tour the Visitor Center, with exhibits on cadet life and academy history, a theater, and gift shop. Gather outside the Chapel to witness the daily meal formation of the cadets. Afterwards, reboard the bus for the Garden of the Gods Trading Post. Start with lunch then shop the finest in authentic Indian arts, crafts, and jewelry. Finally, explore the Garden of the Gods, a 1,350acre park with magnificent red stone formations that date back 300 million years.

8:30am—board bus, 3:30pm—back at hotel \$77 per person, including bus, guide and lunch.

NATIONAL WWII AVIATION MUSEUM/AIRPLANE RESTAU-RANT

Start the day at the National WWII Aviation Museum, the only museum in the world that focuses exclusively on the unique storv of the role of aviation in World War II. The museum is located on an active airfield. Aircraft include the B-25, P-47, and many more. Stop for lunch at the

Airplane Restaurant. Part of the restaurant is inside a Boeing KC-97 tanker.

12:00pm—board bus, 4:45pm—back at hotel

\$80 per person, including bus, escort, admission and lunch.

TOUR SCHEDULES Air Force Academy—Thursday, October 7, 2021

8:30-Depart hotel for AFA Visitors Center



9:15-Free time at Visitors Center

10:10-Depart for chapel area and walk in at 10:20 (10:35). Tour Chapel

11:35-Cadet lunch formation march
12:00-Reload for Trading Post
12:45-Group Lunch and brief shopping
2:15-Begin driving tour through Garden of the Gods
3:30-Back at hotel.

WWII Aviation Museum—Friday, Oct. 8, 2021

12:00-Board for Air-

plane Restaurant

12:15-Lunch

1:45-Reboard for WWII Aviation Museum

2:00-Tour Museum

4:15-Depart museum to return to hotel by 4:45pm

USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION OCTOBER 6-10, 2021, HOTEL ELEGANTE – COLORADO SPRINGS, CO PLAN OF THE DAY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

12:00pm—11:00pm Hospitality Room Open 12:00pm—11:00pm Ship's Store Open

2:00pm—7:00pm Reunion Registration Open

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

7:30am—8:30am Reunion Registration Open

8:30am—3:30pm AIR FORCE ACADEMY / GARDEN OF THE GODS TOUR

12:00pm—11:00pm Hospitality Room Open 12:00pm—11:00pm Ship's Store Open

3:30pm—**6:00pm**5:00pm—8:00pm
Board of Directors Meeting

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

12:00pm—4:45pm NATIONAL WWII AVIATION MUSEUM / AIRPLANE

RESTUARANT

12:00pm—11:00pm Hospitality Room Open 12:00pm—11:00pm Ship's Store Open

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

9:00am—12:00pm Business Meeting
1:00pm—5:00pm Hospitality Room Open
6:30pm—7:30pm Cash Bar and Social Hour

7:30pm—10:00pm Banguet Dinner

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

Farewells and departures



Salty Humor

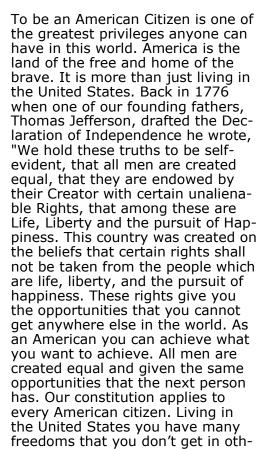
A guy walks into a bar...and is disqualified form the limbo contest.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$10 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays**. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

For Hotel Reservations, call Hotel Elegante at 800-981-4012 or 719-576-5900

CVA-43 Remembrance Scholarship \$2000 Winner.



Nate Mikulski, is from Bethlehem, Penn., He attended Freedom High School where he was a three-year varsity baseball player. He also was captain of MiniTHON which helps raise mon-



ey for pediatric cancer awareness and research. Nate will be attending Shepherd University in the fall where he will continue playing baseball. Free time is spent on weightlifting, fishing, and photography.

er countries. And as former President Ronald Reagan once said, "Freedom is rare, it's fragile." As an American citizen you have a responsibility of upholding these values, passing them on to younger generations.

Our country has seen many ups and downs, but we always find a

(Continued on page 6)



Salty Humor

Our computers went down at work, so we had to do everything manually. It took me 20 minutes to shuffle the cards for solitaire.

Secretary's Corner

Greetings Shipmates, By the time that you read this the deadline for registering for the 2021 reunion in Colorado Springs will be close. Please refer to the reunion information in this issue for all that you need in order to register. The deadline is Sept. 15. As always, thanks to all Shipmates who have paid their dues. And especially welcome aboard to all new Shipmates. I hope that you enjoy being a

member of this Association. As always, please check your dues expiration date on the mailing label of this issue.

There will be numerous important matters to discuss at the annual business meeting this year during the reunion so I hope that all of you will attend on Saturday. Among other matters we will determine the location of the 2022 reunion. I understand that Norfolk, Va., and Louisville, Ky., are the best choices. Also, due to not having a reunion

and election of Association Officers last year, quite possibly that will occur this year. That matter will be up to a vote of the Association membership since election of Officers normally occurs in the even numbered years.

I look forward to seeing you all soon! Godspeed!

John

John H. Ranson CVA-43 Association Secretary

CVA-43 Remembrance Scholarship \$1000 Winner.

Being an American citizen is something that means many things to many people. After all, the United States is massive, covering an incredible breadth of locations, ideas, and individuals. The reasoning of one person might be vastly different from that of another. I

believe it is this incredible fusion of different ideas, this freedom to choose what something means to you and you alone, that truly defines what it means to be an American citizen.

Since the very beginning of the United States, self-<determination has been a fundamental tenet of the American ethos. The Constitution itself guarantees the right to "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness," and the Revolutionary War was fought to give the country a right to govern itself. This right to choose and pursue our own goals has since become a hallmark of what it means to be an American citizen, something that still draws people to the United States to this day, spanning from the largest cities to the smallest towns.

I put forth my own experiences as an example; I grew up in a small village in southwest

Alaska. As a child, there were few activities available to me and my opportunities seemed slim. However, despite my unusual circumstances, I chose to take every chance presented

Kieran Bentley recently graduated from ZJ Williams Memorial School in Napaskiak, Alaska. Having lived in Alaska since birth, he will now be attending Ith-



aca College in upstate New York to study Computer Science. Kieran's goal is to work in the filmmaking industry, focusing on creating movies.

to improve myself and set out on my own path to achieve my goals. Participation in student council, robotics, speech, sports, and leadership training were all opportunities that were presented, grasped, and completed. Now, in my final year of high school, I see before me a bright future that I could have never imagined at a younger age, had I not exercised my right to set and attain my own goals. I honestly believe I could not have gotten to where I am today had it not been for the important American values of freedom, self-determination, and independence, values that I try to personify in my daily life.

Across the country, we see time and time again, people pursuing their

(Continued on page 7)



Salty Humor

I thought the dryer was shrinking my clothes. Turns out if was the refrigerator.

Treasurer's Corner

Hello Shipmates
First and foremost,
thank you all for the
great response to the
second mailing of raffle tickets. Thanks to
all of you who bought
extra tickets, those
who included donations to the scholarship and general
funds, and a special
thanks to Larry and

Ruth Carlson who sold 100 books! BZ, Well Done!! If you haven't purchased yours, it's not too late; after 30 Sept. it will be. The scholarship awards have been mailed and taxes will be filed on time. Financially, our Association is in good shape. The small trailer we ordered to transport memorabilia will not

arrive on time for the Colorado Springs reunion. It will be here for 2022.

Hope you're all enjoying your summer. See you in Colorado

Clarence

Clarence Neander Association Treasurer (Continued from page 4)

\$2000 Scholarship Essay...

way to come together and come back better. There are two numbers that this country will never forget, 9/11. As Americans we have not been that united since World War Two. Even though I was not born yet, I have heard that we all came together, we all flew our flags, we all donated blood for those who survived the attacks, and we all came together to mourn and pray for the thousands that were killed and injured during the horrific attacks against our nation. And that is what we are supposed to do as American citizens. It does not matter whether you are right or left, democrat or republican, person of color or white, we should always come together to fight for what is right. The one thing I do remember that was related to 9/11 was May 1, 2011. I was 8 years old and watching a typical Sunday Night Baseball game. The Philadelphia Phillies were playing the New York Mets in Philadelphia. During the ninth inning there was a short pause in play when all the fans in Citizens Bank Park came to their feet and Chanted U-S-A as people quickly found out the breaking news, President Obama

confirmed that Navy SEALs had shot and killed Osama Bin Laden, the mastermind behind the attacks on 9/11. We were again united as a country; everyone showed their patriotism that night.

Being raised in the United States of America has given me many opportunities that I know other kids around the world don't have. I can go to school to learn how to read and write. I can decide on where I go to school. I can go out into public wearing whatever I would like. I can believe in my own religion. And the list can go on forever. Being an American you are given opportunities like many great people before me have had. I am given the opportunity to help change the country like Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King once did. I can create inventions that change the world just like Albert Einstein, Nikola Tesla, or Henry Ford. I am humbled to live in a nation where brave men and women have sacrificed their lives on foreign and domestic soil to protect our freedoms. Living in the United States, gives me an opportunity to fight for those freedoms and the opportunity to apply to the United States Naval Acad-

(Continued on page 12)



Salty Humor

The dinner I cooked for my family was going to be a surprise, but the fire truck ruined it.

Chaplain's Corner

Dear Shipmates,
Well, we all hope that
the Virus News would
continue to get better
but now we have hit
some rough water due
to a thing called
"Delta".

All this talk -- and disagreements -- about vaccinations reminds me how they handled mandatory shots onboard our Ageless Warrior. I specifically remember lining up in the hangar bay, walking up to the corpsman (who held a

"gun" in his hand), stopping momentarily, then getting "shot". I don't recall hearing much griping . . . which is unusual for a bunch of sailors, right?? Then we went on about our business. I don't even remember what concoction we received that day but since I lived through it, I guess it was helpful to me.

In America, of course, we value our personal freedoms, and that includes the freedom to choose whether to take the vaccine or

not. I try to keep that in mind and at the same time pray that those who choose "no" will not suffer any ill effects from that decision.

In any event, shipmates, let's pull together in this great battle. Practice good health protocols, pray for each other, and go out and do a good deed every day!

Many blessings to you all,

Michael

Michael D. Halley Association Chaplain

Freshwater Flattops: The Corn Belt Fleet.

By W. D. Stevenson Reprinted from FRA Today Magazine. —Editor's Note...Freshwater Flattops continues from the June issue.

Training began at sunrise, with takeoffs and landings practiced throughout a 14-hour day. Training was conducted seven days a week and was only canceled because of fog, which made operations too risky. The program was so rigorous that 30 pilots could be qualified in a typical day. In a remarkable start to its training career, *SABLE* qualified 59 pilots within nine ours of its

first day of service. On May 28, 1944, the *SABLE* broke its own record by qualifying 59 pilots with 498 landings in a little les than nine hours. *Wolverine* celebrated its 7,000th successful landing on May 7, 1943, and in two years, the *SABLE* made 50,000 landings. By comparison, the Nimitz-class carrier *USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72)* recorded its 50,000th capture in 2012, 23 years after being commissioned.

One of the pilots who qualified Aug.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 5)

\$1000 Scholarship Essay....

rights and exercising their freedoms to attain this ideal of independence and self-determination. As American citizens, we have the right to choose our own paths and strive for success until we see our goals fulfilled. When we choose to do so, it comes down to three fundamental factors: self-determination, opportunity, and the right to work for success.

The first of these three is self-determination: the right to make our own choices, and consequently, to hold our own views about life. Simply put, we all possess the unalienable right to see the world as we will and to choose our own paths toward goals that we set. This right is yours and yours alone, and although you can certainly look to others for guidance and get support along the way, it is ultimately your own will that determines the road you set upon.

However, this choice of direction cannot be acted upon without a chance, the second factor of opportunity, to make that choice a reality.

Once we decide where we must go, we need a doorway to get there. We need a way in, a moment or chance to fully realize the potential of our choices. I strongly believe that being

an American citizen means that one is given the opportunity to do just this. Everyone receives opportunities, whether big or small, obvious or subtle, many or few. By embracing these windows of possibility, we can take the first step in the direction that we've set for ourselves. Granted, not everyone takes the opportunities given to them. Some don't recognize the chances given to them, some are hesitant to accept new responsibility, and some are fearful of the future. But if you can recognize the opportunities you're given, you'll be well on your way to achieving your aspirations. In school, college, employment and beyond, one is always given the chance to fulfill their dreams if they're willing to work for them. But once we've taken these opportunities, what more can we do? This brings us to the third, and cer-

This brings us to the third, and certainly most crucial, factor of them all. As an American citizen, I believe that you will always be given the right and the capacity to work towards your goals, no matter how lofty. As said before, making decisions and taking opportunities are an important first step, but to walk the long trail toward self-fulfillment, there is always a considerable



Salty Humor

When I call a family meeting, I turn off the house's Wi-Fi and wait for them all to come running.

(Continued on page 12)

USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION - OCTOBER 6-10, 2021

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/coralsea2021 (a convenience fee of 3.5% will be added to online registrations). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before September 15, 2021. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. 322 Madison Mews Norfolk, VA 23510 ATTN: USS Coral Sea CV-43 Assn.	OF Check # Inputted	FFICE USE ON Date Reco _ Nametag	eived	
CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/1	17/21	Price Per	# of People	Total
MANDATORY PER PERSON REGI Includes Hospitality Room and reu		\$ 20	#	\$
<u>TOURS</u>				
THURSDAY 10/7: Air Force Academy / Garden of	of the Gods	\$77	#	\$
FRIDAY 10/8: National WWII Aviation Museum a	nd Airplane Restaurant	\$80	#	\$
<u>MEALS</u>				
SATURDAY 10/9: Banquet Dinner – Please choo	se your entrée below			
Grilled Angus Steak with Peppercorn Demi		\$ 44	#	\$
Grilled Chicken Breast Piccata with Lemon C	aper Herb Sauce	\$ 44	#	\$
Vegetarian Option		\$ 44	#	\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunio	ns, Inc.			\$
PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE I				
YEARS ON BOARD to DI				
SPOUSE NAME/GUEST NAME (IF ATTENDING				
MEMBER ADDRESS				
CITY				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
PHONE NUMBER ()				
EMAIL ADDRESS				
DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS (Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed		ntel)		
MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONT TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ N BILITY).	O THE BUS WHILE SEATE	ED IN YOUR W		
For refunds and cancellations please refer to our	policies outlined at the bott	om of the reuni	on program	

CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY- FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays). Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6

weeks after reunion.

CORAL SEA ASSOCIATION SMALL STORES ORDER FORM

ADDITIONAL INFO FOR ITEM # - HULL DESIGNATION CVB, CVA, CV, JOB RATE(BT,MM,AB,etc.) OFFICER RANK/PAY RATE (CAPT,LTCDR,EN/E4,E5,E6,E7,etc.) USMC DESIGNS - (A,B,C, OR D) THREAD COLOR FOR WATCH CAP DESIGN	** USPS PRIORITY MAIL - S/H CHARGES** UP TO \$24.99\$7.00 \$25.00 TO \$50.00\$9.00 \$51 TO \$75\$12.00 \$76 & UP\$15.00
PRICE	es es es
COLOR	SALES TOTAL SHIPPING CHARGES TOTAL CHARGE
SIZE NOTE: CAPS - ONE SIZE FITS MOST FOR LARGER HEADS ADD \$3.00 FOR LG/XLG FLEX- FIT CAPS	Place Ship Store Orders Here! Wayne Addkison 12856 FM 1391, Kemp, TX 75143 Ph: 903.288.4455 Fx: 903.675.0086 Email: nijarm2@yahoo.com
QTY.	p Store /ayne A 1391, H 903.2 903.6 ijarm2
ITEM #	Place Shi 12856 FM Ph: Fx: Email: n

All Credit Cards Will Be Processed Through The Ship Store All Credit Cards Accepted: Visa, Master Card, Discover, American Express Make Checks Payable To The Ship Store



Salty Humor

I couldn't
work today
because I had
an eye
problem. I just
couldn't see
myself
working,

(Continued from page 7)

Freshwater Flattops...

24, 1943, on *SABLE* was 20-year-old lieutenant junior grade and future president George H. W. Bush. He was a TBM Avenger pilot who volunteered for flight training on his 18th birthday. While on the light carrier *USS SAN JACINTO*, he completed 58 combat sorties, which awarded him the Distinguished Flying Cross decoration and three air medals before V-J Day.

Carrier training was not limited to just pilots. The *SABLE* and *WOL-VERINE* trained thousands of deck crews and landing signal officers in how to move, launch and recover aircraft. Onboard experience was also given to carrier personnel before they were assigned to escort carriers.

—Editor's Note...Freshwater Flattops concludes in the December issue.

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Salvatore "Sal" Avellino. Shipmate Sal was a CSSN in S2C Div. aboard USS Coral Sea from 1951 to 1953. He also was one of the founders of the USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association. He was Secretary of the Association for many years. He had a great love for the Association, his Shipmates, the Coral Sea, the United States Navy, and the USA. Shipmate Sal was definitely one of the more interesting "characters" at the annual reunions. It was great seeing him at the 2019 reunion in Warwick, R.I. He passed to the roster of our Supreme Commander on July 12, 2021. He leaves his wife, Del, as well as many family members and friends. Godspeed Shipmate Sal. Fair winds and following seas to you. We have the watch.

—John H. Ranson CVA-43 Assoc. Secretary

USS Coral Sea Association Membership Application/Renewal Form

Membership in the USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATON is open to all Navy, Marine Corp and Air Force personnel who served aboard the ship (CV/CVB/CVA-43) for a period of at least 90 days. Also, any person who was assigned to the <u>original commissioning crew</u> (plank owner), even if they spent fewer than 90 days aboard, shall be eligible for membership. <u>DUES</u>: Association membership is \$20 per year. Dues for membership are not limited to one year when submitted for renewal or first-time application. Any amount submitted over the annual dues will be automatically earmarked for the Association's Scholarship Fund program.



New Member: [] I apply for membership for Renewal: [] Renew my membership for		is a check/money order \$is a check/money order \$
Name		Birth Date
(Please PRINT First name, middlease Address		(mo/day/year) STATE
ZIP+4PHONE: (Email	
Spouse's Name	Birthday	Anniversary
ON BOARD SHIP AS CREW MEMBER:		
From to D	Division	_Rank/Rate On Board
(Month/Year) (Month/Year)		(Lt/RD/FN/SN/Sgt)
(Month/Year) (Month/Year) Military Retirement: No [] Yes []	Retired as:	USN [] USMC [] USCG []
	(Rank/Rate)	USNR [] Air Force [] Army []
I do [] do not [] want my complete mai I do [] do not [] want an Association bu		published roster.
Please make check payable to: USS CORAL	SEA CVA-43 ASSOC.	Office Use Only
Mail application to:		Received:
John Ranson, Secretary, USS Co	ORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSO	
52 Woodland Pl.		Amount:
Ft Thomas KY 41075-1605	Fmail: irsr3843@fuse net	

USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) Association.

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Copy Submission **Deadline:**

Material for the Dec. issue of The Coral Sea Breeze is due in to the publisher or copy editor by Nov. 5, 2021.

Committees

Reunion Committee 2021 Reunion, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Members: John Ranson & Clarence Neander

By-Laws Committee

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Scholarship Committee

Chairman: **Guy Dunbar** godunbar@outlook.com

405.820.5302 (cell)

Audit Committee

Chairman: **Robert Gaston**

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Parliamentarian: John H. Ranson 859.781.2536

The Sea Breeze—Official Coral Sea Newsletter

Publisher: Wayne Addkison

Copy Edit/Layout: Ed Williams, edwcsm@comcast.net

Read this issue in color on the Coral Sea website: www.usscoralsea.org

Webmaster: **Bob Dorais**, cv43@usscoralsea.net

NOTE: Please send all mailing address changes to John Ranson at the address shown top right.

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association

Wayne Addkison, Publisher 12856 FM 1391 Kemp, TX 75143

Email: nijarm2@yahoo.com
Please Note: Send Address
Corrections to Association Sec.
John Ranson

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
JOLIET IL
PERMIT #349



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 6)

\$2000 Scholarship Essay...

emy. This will allow me to follow in the footsteps of my grandfather and join the Navy. Back in August of 2020 I made the decision to apply to the United States Naval Academy. Through this process I have gotten the experience most kids in the world will never get. But because I live in America, I also get the chance to apply to other schools. Being able to live in the United States gives me a sense of freedom, liberty, unity, and patriotism that you cannot find anywhere else in the world.

—Submitted by Nathan Mikulski, grandson of shipmate Bernard Mikulski (Continued from page 7)

\$1000 Scholarship Essay...

amount of work that one needs to be willing to invest. No matter the circumstances, we are given the chance to fulfill these goals if we are willing to work for them. Whether we want to study a new field of science, design the cities of the future, serve our country in the armed forces, direct a groundbreaking film, or represent our fellow citizens in all levels of government, we are all but guaranteed the right to pursue these aspirations. The forces of life may beat in from all sides, but we can vouchsafe our goals if we have the conviction to stay with them. More so than any I've mentioned before, I profoundly believe that this guarantee of a chance to strive for, and eventually achieve, our goals

and aspirations is the most foundational cornerstone of what it means to be an American citizen.

Being an American citizen means many things. I can't hope to sum up anything close to the full scope of its meaning. Moreover, who you are as a person can fundamentally affect how you choose to interpret this status. Throughout my life, if I have learned one thing about what my status as a citizen really means, it's that I will always have the ability to choose my own path, have the opportunity to set myself upon it, and the assurance that I'll always be able to work towards it.

—Submitted by Kieran Bentley, grandson of shipmate William Eanetta