



JUNE 2025

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THE CORAL SEA BREEZE

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Welcome Aboard!

2025 Reunion Hotel Highlights.

The Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Downtown Marina is a well-located hotel in downtown Corpus Christi, Tex., offering picturesque views of Corpus Christi Bay and Marina. It's across the street



from the historic seawall and within

walking distance of local nightlife, restaurants, and fishing spots. Features and amenities include:

•Indoor & Outdoor Pool:

A third-floor pool

(Continued on page 6)

Saul Gutierrez
VAW-113
3/83—7/83

President's Corner

Ahoy shipmates, Just three months until our 47th annual reunion. Everything is finalized and the registration form is in this issue. Get your reservation in asap as I have to schedule enough buses for the tour and the dinner. I also need a correct number of attendees for both dinners. This reunion will feature the dedication of our memorabilia aboard the Lexington. We will have two hours of tours

before dinner. Make sure you have your badge to get aboard for free. Also, the aquarium tour is very interesting, and I do recommend it. After dinner on Friday night, we will have our silent auction. I have several items but still need more. If you want to donate anything either bring it with you or send it to me. We don't have a guest speaker yet, but I am talking to the last commanding officer of NAS Corpus Christi who is now in charge of the

museum aboard Lexington. Make sure when making hotel reservations to mention the reunion of the USS Coral Sea. The Holiday Inn Marina has gone overboard to help make this a great reunion, and the city also is rolling out the red carpet. This reunion would be a great opportunity to bring family, kids, grandkids and friends. They will be entertained seeing memorabilia from our ship. This

(Continued on page 12)

Texas State Aquarium Tour Oct. 2



TAPS

Daniel D. Dahl

HMCS, H Div.
1963—1969

Juanito Delacruz

SDC, S-5 Div.
1960—1963

Norman W. Demers

DC2, R Div.
1953—1956

James R. Duncan

MM3, M. Div.
1966—1969

William J. Wilson

RD2, O-3 Div.
1950—1955

Your annual reunion Texas State Aquarium tour is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The tour cost is \$45 per person, and you'll find the registration form on page 4 of this issue.



The aquarium is a non-profit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation and education. It offers a variety of exhibits, including Dolphin Bay, Stingray Lagoon, and the Caribbean Sea, where visitors can interact with animals and learn about marine life.



Secretary's Corner

Greetings Shipmates, The 2025 reunion is coming up soon and I hope to see many of you there. This will be the first time that we'll be able to see the USS Coral Sea room on USS Lexington. The Saturday dinner will be on Lexington. Included in the dinner price is a tour of Lexington. This will be a great event that I hope that you all will participate in and enjoy. We're still looking for items for the Coral Sea room so if you've got anything to

donate, please bring it to this reunion. Also, as usual there'll be an auction at this reunion, so if you've got anything for this please bring that also.

At the 2024 business meeting it was decided to change the Association by-laws so that the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary will be 4-year terms. Please see the notice of this by-laws change in this issue of "Sea Breeze". This change to the by-laws will be voted on at this year's business meeting, making the change official.

We all enjoy the Assoc. hospitality room so I'm asking that you volunteer to help with the room setup and break down. Many hands make light work.

Lastly, I always welcome your dues payments. I'll again be prepared at this reunion to accept your cash or check. Bumper stickers will also be available.

Enjoy the summer and I'll see you all soon. Godspeed!

John

John H. Ranson
Association Secretary

Corpus Christi Reunion Hotel Reservation Details.

Our 47th Annual Reunion runs from September 30—October 5, 2025. Please note that your hotel reservation must be made individually, and it is separate from your Annual Reunion reservation located on the previous page.

The reunion hotel is the:

Holiday Inn-Downtown Marina
707 N. Shoreline Drive
Corpus Christi, Tex.

Call for your hotel reservation at:
361.452.5129

Be sure to mention that your reservation is for the USS Coral Sea Assoc. reunion.

The room rate in effect for Coral Sea Reunion attendees from Sept. 27 to Oct. 8 is \$119 per night, plus 17% tax.

These amenities are also available to reunion attendees:

- Free breakfast will be available in the Coral Sea Association's Hospitality Room.
- Parking is available in the hotel's garage at no charge.
- For those arriving by airline, the hotel offers a free shuttle service to and from the airport.

The hotel reservation deadline to receive this negotiated special rate is September 15, 2025. Please call soon to secure your Annual Reunion Holiday Inn lodging.



Salty Humor

If I had to describe myself in one word, it would be, "Not very good at following instructions."

Plan of the Day...47th Annual Reunion.

Registration and Small Store Sales: 1st Floor Hospitality Room, near hotel registration desk, from 1200-2200 daily. Signs will direct you to its location.

Thursday Oct. 2, 0900-1400: Aquarium tour, \$45 per person.

Friday Oct. 3, 1500: Board of Directors meeting.

Friday Oct. 3, 1800-2100: Buffet Dinner & Silent Auction.

Saturday Oct. 4, 0900-1100: Business Meeting in hospitality room.

Saturday Oct. 4, 1630-2000: Dinner on USS Lexington (Guest speaker pending availability.)

Please Note:

- There is no charge for the tour on USS Lexington.
- A free breakfast will be served in the hospitality room Wednesday through Sunday morning.

Corpus Christi Reunion Reservation Form.

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association
47th Annual Reunion, Sept. 30—Oct. 5, 2025
Corpus Christi, Texas

Please complete form, include payment, and mail to:

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

Name _____

Guest _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip Code** _____

Ph. _____ **Email** _____

Name Badge Identification

Name _____ **Rate/Rank** _____

Dates Aboard (month/year) _____ **to** _____

Note: Required registration fee (per person) for hospitality room, name badge and commemorative pin: \$30 each

- Required Registration; (____) @ \$30 per person
- Thursday Oct. 2, Texas Aquarium; (____) @ \$45 per person
- Friday Night Buffet; (____) @ \$45 per person
- Saturday Banquet on hanger deck of USS Lexington, choice of:
 - New York cut steak with ginger glaze and pistachio gremolata (____) @ \$75 per person
 - Chicken Wellington, mushroom duxelles wrapped in puff pastry (____) @ \$75 per person
 - Salmon Filet with cioppino sauce and rosemary olive tapenade (____) @ \$75 per person

NOTE: All meals include transportation to and from the ship, as well as access to the hanger bay and facilities.

Amount Encls. \$ _____

Make Reunion Checks payable to USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Assoc.

NOTE: Deadline for Reunion Registration is September 1, 2025

****NO CHANGES CAN BE MADE AFTER THIS DATE****



Salty Humor

If at first
you don't
succeed,
look in the
trash for
the
instruc-
tions.

Chaplain's Corner

Dear Shipmates,

As the years go by, I find myself thinking of the little things that happened while I was onboard our Ageless Warrior. During my time aboard we had three chaplains assigned plus our very valuable and capable religious program specialists (RPs). Our office was located just under the flight deck, across from the photo lab.

My desk, I was warned, was right beside the waist catapult (though there was a thin bulkhead between). It didn't take long for me to figure out how loud that cat could be when they launched a plane. So, somehow, I developed a "sixth sense" and could hear the distinctive sound of the launch and I discovered I had just about enough time to get both hands over my ears before it roared by just feet away. If someone was

with me, they got my hurried instructions to do the same.

Of course, that wasn't my biggest problem during my tour of duty, but it was just one of those little accommodations we all had to make. Thankfully, I don't recall that we ever "ran out of fresh water" ("fresh" being a relative term!) and I never went hungry. And I have never forgotten the hard work of my fellow crew members who made our old girl a formidable weapon in the never-ending pursuit of peace.

So, let me say it once more:
Thanks Shipmates! You done good!

Michael

Michael Halley
Association Chaplain

Treasurer's Corner

Greetings Coral Sea shipmates!

Hope everyone has managed to safely make it through the Winter months and are now enjoying the warmer days of Spring.

Our Corpus Christi Annual Reunion is now only a little over four months away. Raffle ticket sales have been somewhat slow to date in coming in so, if you're planning on purchas-

ing tickets, please go ahead and do so now. Checks should be made payable to "USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association". Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. The deadline for mailing tickets is Monday, September 15, in order to receive them and get them processed before the Reunion. Remember, you don't have to be present to win!

Not too much else to report on currently. Our bank accounts are in reasonably

good shape. Reminder: Please get your Corpus Christi Reunion reservations to our Association Secretary, John Ranson, as soon as possible. Looking forward to seeing many of you in Corpus Christi in September!

Fair winds and following seas to one and all!

Bill

Bill Bomar
Association Treasurer



Salty Humor

There are no new sins. The old ones are just getting more publicity.

(Continued from page 1)

Reunion Hotel Highlights...

with panoramic bay views.

•**Dining & Drinks:** Coastline Café serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner, while the Terrace Lounge offers drinks and snacks.



•**Fitness Center:** Well-equipped for guests looking to stay active.

•**Business & Event Space:** 12,000 square feet of meeting and banquet space for corporate, social, and wedding events.

•**Nearby Attractions:** Close to

the Texas State Aquarium, USS Lexington, Museum of Science and History, Whataburger Field, and the American Bank Center.

Guests most frequently praise its location and views.



Salty Humor

I've reached the age where "happy hour" is a nap.

Vice President's Corner

Greetings Shipmates, With Spring upon us, the annual reunion is just four months away. After San Diego, I'm looking forward to a great reunion in Corpus Christi.

Although the office of Vice President has been quiet, there is a need to improve participation in our annual cash raffle. Treasurer Boman says returns are very

slow, so please, if you haven't already purchased or would like additional tickets, do so now, so you don't forget.

Enjoy the nice weather! See you in Corpus Christi,

Clarence

Clarence Neander
Association Vice President

Proposed CVA-43 Assoc. By-Laws Change

Revise Article VII, Sec. 1, Paragraph A as follows:

The Offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary will be 4-year terms.

2025 Coral Sea Scholarship Winners.

The winners of the 2025 USS Coral Sea Remembrance Scholarships have been selected. Our first-place recipient of the \$2000.00 scholarship is Taylor Zapata. Her grandfather was aboard the USS Coral Sea in Korea. The second-place award of \$1000 goes to Rylan Wobken. He is the grandson of John Beaver. The winning essays will be printed in the next issue of the *Sea Breeze*.

Association members or their eligible relatives may now request entry forms for the 2026 USS Coral Sea Remembrance Scholarship contest. Requests must be sent to Committee Chairman Guy Dunbar at godunbar@outlook.com or mailed to 700 Harrier Hawk, Edmond, OK 73003-3180. The contest officially opens on Nov. 1, but entry requests should be sent as soon as possible.

An eligible applicant must be a high school senior with at least a B or 3.0 grade point average. Applicants must be a son, daughter, step-child, grandchild, step-grandchild or great-grandchild of an Association member in good standing on the date the scholarship is awarded, or of a deceased member in good standing at the time of death, or of a non-member who died in the line of duty while serving aboard the USS Coral Sea in ships company or air group, or such a nonmember who was captured as a prisoner of war, or such a nonmember who was injured in the line of duty to the extent that separation from the U.S. Navy was required.

The applicant must submit a completed entry form accompanied by an essay of at least 800 but no more than 1,000 words on one of the three given topics. Applicants must also agree to use the scholarship for their personal education at

an accredited two-year or four-year United States college, university, or postsecondary technical vocational school. The first-place winner will receive a \$2,000 prize. The second-place finisher is awarded \$1000.

Entry forms from prior-year contests are not acceptable. The forms are not printed in this newsletter or on the Association website. Entry packets will be mailed or emailed by the chairman as soon as he receives entry requests. Entry material must be returned to the chairman no later than April 1. Essays will be judged by the three elected members of the Scholarship Committee. The applicant's identity will be known only to the committee chairman, who does not vote on the essays. Additional information will be sent to each entrant in the entry packet.

A FRESH COAT OF PAINT.

You will see a "refreshed" *Coral Sea Breeze* when your September issue arrives. The redesign became necessary with Microsoft's announcement that support would be ending soon for its Publisher software, which we use to produce the *Sea Breeze*.

While that news was not well-received on our end, it does provide the necessary incentive to update and modernize the *Breeze* for your reading enjoyment. Our goal is to create a slightly more modern look and layout for easier reading. But we promise not to "go overboard" with our updates.



Two old sailors were sitting in their favorite bar-room. The place had been completely refurbished, and they were reminiscing. "I suppose this is all right," one said, "but I miss the old spittoon." His buddy nodded. "You always did."

SHIP STORE

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Assoc.



SALE

Hat.....\$23

T-Shirt.....\$35

Polo Shirt.....\$38

Denim Short Sleeve.....\$45

Denim Long Sleeve.....\$45

Wind Breaker.....\$42

Jacket.....\$55

Hoodie.....\$42

Coffee Cup.....\$15

Koozie.....\$Ask Storekeeper

Patches.....\$8

Coins.....\$Ask Storekeeper

License Plate Holder.....\$16

CORAL SEA ASSOCIATION SMALL STORES

ORDER FORM #1

ITEM #	QTY.	SIZE NOTE: CAPS - ONE SIZE FITS MOST FOR LARGER HEADS ADD \$3.00 FOR LG/XLG FLEX- FIT CAPS	COLOR	PRICE	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
Place Ship Store Orders Here! Wayne Addikson 12856 FM 1391, Kemp, TX 75143 Ph: 903.288.4455 Fx: 903.675.0086 Email: nijarm2@yahoo.com			SALES TOTAL \$ _____	** 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	
			SHIPPING CHARGES \$ _____		
			TOTAL CHARGE \$ _____		

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All Credit Cards Accepted: Visa, Master Card, Discover, American Express

Make Checks Payable To The Ship Store



Salty Humor

No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.

National Medal of Honor Museum Opens.

Capt. Chris Cassidy, a retired Navy SEAL and NASA space shuttle commander, knows all about challenging missions.

That's why he was chosen in 2021 to pilot the creation of the National Medal of Honor Museum as its president and CEO. The museum opened to the public in Arlington, Tex., on March 25, Medal of Honor Day. It aims to engage visitors of all ages and inspire them through the stories of America's Medal of Honor recipients, from the Civil War through the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"It's not just a military history museum," Cassidy says. "It's a place where we learn about courage, commitment, sacrifice to others

and service of self, and be inspired for those concepts, perhaps, in everyday life."

The museum honors "people who are normal Americans, everyday citizens, who did something extraordinary on a day when the nation needed them to do it," he adds. "Those are the stories we're going to showcase. There are 3,526 of those stories to tell. We're super excited to deliver this project to the nation."

With the museum open, Cassidy is now focused on building a National Medal of Honor Monument near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

— Reprinted from the April issue of *The American Legion Magazine*.

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 (CV/CVB/CVA-43) for a period of at least 90 days. Also, any person who was assigned to the original commissioning crew (plank owner), even if they spent fewer than 90 days aboard, shall be eligible for membership. **DUES:** 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 program.

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) (mo/day/year)

Address _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____

ZIP+4 _____ **PHONE:** (_____) _____ **Email** _____

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 ☐ USCG ☐
 (Rank/Rate) USNR ☐ Air Force ☐ Army ☐

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

I do ☐ do not ☐ want an Association bumper sticker.

Please make check payable to: **USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOC.**

Mail application to:

John Ranson, Secretary, USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOC.
52 Woodland Pl.
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1605 Email: jrsr3843@fuse.net

Office Use Only

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



USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) Association.

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None

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James Turner—2027

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Jon Lickey 309.688.3939 (home)
jjlickey47@yahoo.com

Committees

Reunion Committee

Members:

2025 Reunion, Corpus Christi, Tex.
Guy Dunbar & John Ranson

By-Laws Committee

Chairman:

Members:

John Ranson,
Bob Nerbetski

jr3843@fuse.net
cvb4312@verizon.net

Scholarship Committee

Chairman:

Guy Dunbar

godunbar@outlook.com
405.820.5302 (cell)

Audit Committee

Chairman:

TBD

Nominating Chair:

TBD

Parliamentarian:

John H. Ranson 859.781.2536

The Coral Sea Breeze—Official Coral Sea Newsletter

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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.



Copy Submission Deadline:

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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

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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 1)

President's Corner...

will immerse them in the history of our Navy "home" while they visit another great aircraft carrier with a lot of history. So, remember to get your reunion and hotel reservations confirmed today. See everyone soon; have a safe summer!

Wayne

Wayne Addkison
Association President

Carrier News

The Navy will name its next two Ford-class aircraft carriers after presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, Militay.com reports. "The future *USS William J. Clinton* and the future *USS George W. Bush* will become the fifth and sixth ships of the *Ford* class—the class of ships that is slated to eventually replace the venerable *Nimitz*-class carriers that are in operation today," according to the website. Names for the other *Ford*-class carriers include *USS Gerald Ford*, *USS John F. Kennedy*, *USS Enterprise* and *USS Doris Miller*.

Ford was commissioned in

2017 and made its first deployment in 2022. *Kennedy* and *Enterprise* are both under construction. This will be the second carrier named after President John F. Kennedy, and the ninth Navy vessel and third aircraft carrier to bear the name *Enterprise*.

Doris Miller will be named in honor of Messman 2nd Class Doris Miller who fought valiantly during Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and was killed in action in 1943.

— Reprinted from
The American Legion Magazine
April 2025