



THE CORAL SEA BREEZE

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association

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WELCOME ABOARD

**Stanley
Borgeson**
OS3, OI Div.
7/69 – 9/72

**Dennis R.
Salvi**
BT3, B Div.
1273 – 6/77

Last-minute Reservations Still Possible for 2026 Annual Reunion in Nashville!

You thought you procrastinated long enough to miss the Association's Annual National Reunion. But maybe not!

Reservations for all the tours have a final cut-off date of Oct. 15. So, you may still have time to secure your spot for some Nashville sightseeing. The reunion reservation form can once again be found on page 3 of this issue.

Our reunion hotel is the Radisson Hotel Nashville Airport. Guest rooms have been recently refreshed and feature all the amenities you would expect from a property of this caliber.



You'll also appreciate the no-cost 24/7 airport shuttle service.

The special annual reunion rate is \$126 per night, plus taxes. To check availability and make your reservation, call **615-889-9090**. Be sure to mention our reunion as well as event number **RY87M8**.

President's Ballast

OK, shipmates, the reunion is around the corner. Everyone should be signed up. We can extend the hotel sign up, but all the tour selections should have been made by September 15. Admiral Allen and his family are planning on being there on Friday evening and again he will be our guest of honor.

As you know, the USS FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT is attending the same hotel as ours and they will enjoy the same benefits as Coral Sea Association members. Get

to know them as we plan on joining up for future reunions. By combining our reunions, we can get better prices on hotel and tours. This joint reunion should increase our attendance. Let's just call it "two-thirds" of a Three Sisters reunion.

Our annual reunion next year will be in Dayton, Ohio. I plan on going up there after the reunion to confirm hotel plans and tour details. John Ranson lives close by and he has agreed to help me.

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TAPS

**David L.
Steele**

ABF3, V-4 Div.
1959 – 1962

Nashville Reunion Tour Options.

If this issue of the *Sea Breeze* arrived on time, it may still be possible to make your tour reservations for this year's reunion. The reservation cutoff date is September 15. Your tour options include:

- **The General Jackson Paddlewheel Showboat Lunch Cruise**...October 14 from 1015 to 1500; \$105 per person.
- **Nashville Nightlife Dinner Show**...October 15 from 1630 to 2100; \$99 per person.

- **The Famous Grand Ole Opry Show**...October 16 from 1730 to 2130; \$110 per person.

At this late date, your best option to confirm availability and payment would be a phone call to Association Treasurer Bill Bomar at 615-598-5900 or Association Secretary John Ranson at 859-250-3727.

Both officers would be able to discuss the status with you of tour availability and payment options.

Secretary's Ballast

Greetings Shipmates,

The reunion is just around the corner and it looks like there'll be a good turnout this year. As you know, this is the first time that we'll have another ship attending with Coral Sea. The FDR members have registered quite a nice number of their Shipmates. I'm really looking forward to meeting them. I've already had several nice conversations with some of them. Please make sure that you give them a big Coral Sea welcome.

At the business meeting we'll be discussing a change of reunion sites after 2027. Of course, next year we'll be in Dayton, Ohio near Wright-Patterson Air Force base. The Air Force museum is located there and it is not to be missed. It's

worth the time so see all that's there. Also, next year we'll welcome USS Constellation and USS Hornet to the reunion. We're doing this to get the best room rates possible. There's strength in numbers and I look forward to talking to Shipmates.

Please check your dues expiration date. I'll be glad to collect dues payments any time at the reunion.

Godspeed to y'all and I'll see you in Nashville!

John

John H. Ranson
CVA-43 Assoc. Secretary

USS Coral Sea / USS Franklin D Roosevelt Reunion Reservation Form.

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association 48th Annual Reunion, Oct. 13—Oct. 18, 2026

Please make your reservation online at: www.usscoralsea.org

Or complete form with payment to USS CORAL SEA ASSOC., and mail to:

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

Name _____

Spouse/Guest _____

City _____ **State** _____

Zip Code _____ **Phone** _____

Email _____

Emerg. Contact _____ **Phone** _____

Served On: USS Coral Sea ____ **USS Franklin D Roosevelt** ____

Name Badge Identification

Name _____ **Rate/Rank/Div** _____

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

Special Needs (Wheelchair Lift, Dietary, Etc.): _____

- Required Registration Fee; (____) @ \$25 per person
- Wednesday, Oct. 14; General Jackson Paddlewheel Showboat Lunch Cruise; (____) @ \$105 per person
- Pizza Night at 1800, paid by Association; (____) @ NO CHARGE
- Thursday, Oct. 15; Nashville Nightlife Dinner Show; (____) @ \$99 per person
- Friday, Oct. 16; The Famous Grand Ole Opry Show; (____) @ \$110 per person

Farewell Banquet Dinner; choice of:

- Flank Steak; (____) @ \$69 per person
- Chicken Piccata; (____) @ \$55 per person
- Vegetarian Stacker; (____) @ \$50 per person

Please Note:

Reservation Cancellation Insurance (non-refundable); \$20 per person
Late Reservation Fee (after 8/26/26, non-refundable; \$20 per person)

Amount Encls. \$ _____

Please Note: Reservation money is non-refundable after due date unless Tour Cancellation insurance is purchased above.

Please Note: Insurance holders are eligible for refund (less processing fee) until Midnight 3 days prior to start of the reunion.

Please Note: Watch for an email confirmation of your order and online roster update as your proof of payment.

SALTY HUMOR

Be careful
about
reading the
fine
print...there's
no way
you're going
to like it.

SALTY HUMOR

I just asked my husband if he remembers what today is...scaring men is easy.

VA Resumes Rollout of Health Record System.

On April 11, VA deployed the new Federal Electronic Health Record (HER) system at four hospitals in Michigan – the first in years after the rollout was paused in 2023, and the first wave of 13 planned deployments in 2026. This accelerated schedule is aimed at fulfilling the promise of a more connected, efficient and patient-centered experience across all VA facilities.

With this launch, veterans across Michigan can now benefit from:

- The seamless, hassle-free transfer of military health records among VA, DoD and other federal partners
- The integration of health information from private-sector facilities into VA's care for veterans
- Medical appointments where doctors and

nurses spend more time with patients and less time struggling with outdated technology

- Less time undergoing duplicative tests
- An increased ability of facilities to share best medical practices with each other
- Improved continuity of care when veterans transfer among facilities or need emergency care at facilities they've never visited

Additional 2026 deployments will take place at facilities in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Alaska. For more information about the HER program, visit digital.va.gov/ehr-modernization.

(Reprinted from the June 2026 issue of The American Legion Magazine.)

Plan Ahead for VA National Cemetery Burial.

In 2025, the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) launched its first nationwide ad campaign promoting pre-need burial eligibility at VA national cemeteries (cem.va.gov) and all burial and memorial benefits available for eligible veterans and their families.

The Plan Today, Honor Forever campaign has exceeded expectations, with a record number of pre-need applications for eight consecutive months. In January, nearly 12,000 applications were re-

ceived. Applying online takes fewer than 10 minutes and saves families from having to look for a veteran's DD-214 at time of death.

Upon approval, veterans will receive a link to their own personal Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) page, giving them the opportunity to tell their stories in their own words before they die through autobiographies, photos, and military and life milestones. VA keeps the content hidden until the

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Association Scholarship Program Update.

Association members or their eligible relatives may now request entry forms for the USS Coral Sea Remembrance Scholarship program 2026 contest. Requests must be sent to Committee Chairman Guy Dunbar godunbar@outlook.com or at 700 Harrier Hawk,

Edmond, OK 73003-3180, or give me a call (405) 820-5302. 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 de-

ceased member in good standing at the time of death, or of a nonmember 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 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 post-secondary technical vocational school.

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SALTY HUMOR

Doctor asks the nurse, "How is the little girl doing who swallowed ten quarters last night? The nurse responded, "No change yet."

Treasurer's Ballast

Greetings Coral Sea shipmates! In a little over a month, our Coral Sea Reunion will be getting underway here in Nashville! Wayne has lined up some excellent events for attendees. Raffle ticket sales have been steady. Please remember, if you're going to purchase tickets via mail, please have your payment and ticket stubs in the mail no later than October 2, 2026. This will allow time to get the payment processed and deposited. We will have additional tickets on sale at the Reunion

and remember, you don't have to be present to win. For those of you who have purchased extra tickets, thank you for sending your return address labels! Please get your Reunion reservations sent in I hope to see many of you here in Nashville in a little over a month!

Bill

Bill Bomar
Association Treasurer

SALTY HUMOR

Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

'Dustoff' Crews Receive Congressional Gold Medal.

Military medicine has had a profound influence on medical innovation, from Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, to Florence Nightingale, the mother of nursing. Both developed their skills in combat, as have others – including U.S. Army Maj. Charles Kelly, who pioneered aeromedical evacuation during the Vietnam War. One caring individual alone can inspire monumental improvements.

Time, the 'golden hour,' can be life or death, and a timely evacuation system is often the cornerstone of effective and efficient medical care – indeed, military readiness.

Medical evacuation, or medevac, began on the backs of soldiers. It progressed to horses, then horse-drawn "flying ambulances" developed by Dominique Larrey, Napoleon's surgeon. Larrey, who once performed 200 amputations in a 24-hour period, also developed a system of triage designed to conserve fighting strength by sorting casualties by wound gravity and evacuating only as far as necessary.

Medevac further evolved in World War I and World War II, but with minimal effect on casualty survival. They were

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Putin's 'Spy Whale' Found Dead.

A beluga whale nicknamed "Hvaldimir" was found dead recently near Stavanger, Norway. As NPR reports, animal-rights groups believe the celebrity whale may have died due to unnatural causes related to its very un-whale like mission: spying for Russia.

"The beluga – whose name combines the Norwegian word for whale (hval) and Russian President Vladimir Putin's first name – rose to international prominence after he was discovered by fisherman off the coast of Norway in 2019 wearing a camera harness that read 'Equipment St. Petersburg.'"

Researchers conclude that the whale escaped captivity in Russian waters. Many, pointing to

the label on his camera harness and his responsiveness to humans, believe he was involved in espionage.

With the permission of Norway's government, an animal-rights organization known as OneWhale tried to relocate Hvaldimir to a wild beluga population in the Arctic, where they are normally found. But those efforts fell short when the whale was found floating in the water and bleeding.



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Dustoff Crews...

more effective in the Korean War but remained pretty much in the echeloned evacuation system, limited by the machines available.

The ultimate successor to Larry's flying ambulance was the magnificent UH-1 "Huey" and "Dustoff," designed, developed and saved by Kelly, who is rightly considered the father of modern combat evacuation and gave his life to save his incredible resource. The slowness of echeloned evacuation and triage was replaced by direct, lightning-fast transport of wounded from battlefield to

appropriate medical care day and night in all manners of weather. Kelly's dying words, "When I have your wounded," inspired Dustoff, the greatest advance in combat medicine, producing unprecedented survival rates.

Dustoff crews are credited with evacuating more than 900,000 people from 1962 to 1973.

In 2015 I discovered that no unit from Vietnam had been awarded a Congressional Gold Medal, the only such war in our history. I brought this to the attention of Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and he asked me to help his office write a

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Vice President's Ballast

Greetings,

All is quiet in the VP's office. I'm anticipating the upcoming Nashville reunion. I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

This joint reunion with Roosevelt, CV-42, will give us ample opportunity to make new friends. Tours and events are planned, so it will be a memorable time.

The deadline for raffle ticket purchases is rapidly approaching so, if you haven't already sent in your raffle ticket entries, now's the time!

Hope you and yours are well...see you in Nashville,

Clarence

Clarence Neander
Association Vice President

(Continued from page 4)

VA Cemetery Burial...

veteran's death and approves a request for a burial or memorial benefit. Following the approval, the content becomes public.

VLM is the nation's largest online memorial space dedicated to veterans, with more than 10 million interactive pages already searchable on the site

(vlm.cem.va.gov) in memory of those interred in VA national cemeteries, Department of Defense-managed cemeteries, National Park Service cemeteries, VA grant-funded state, tribal and territory cemeteries, and private cemeteries around the world.

(Reprinted from the May 2026 issue of The American Legion Magazine.)

SALTY HUMOR

Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.

SHIP

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Assoc.

STORE



Hat.....\$25

T-Shirt.....\$38

Polo Shirt.....\$40

Denim Short Sleeve.....\$49

Denim Long Sleeve.....\$49

Wind Breaker.....\$45

Jacket.....\$60

Hoodie.....\$48

Coffee Cup.....\$16

Patches.....\$12

License Plate Holder.....\$18

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 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**					
			SHIPPING CHARGES	\$ _____	UP TO \$24.99.....\$7.00 \$25.00 TO \$50.00.....\$9.00 \$51 TO \$75\$12.00 \$76 & UP\$15.00					
			TOTAL CHARGE	\$ _____						

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 Company Store

SALTY HUMOR

It ain't the jeans that make your butt look fat!

Under the "Time Flies" Category.

Here are just a few of the iconic things turning 50 in 2026:

The 5¼-inch floppy disk: Smaller, cheaper and holding more data than its 8-inch predecessor, the "minifloppy" revolutionized a fast-changing computer industry.

Big Gulp: At the suggestion of some Coca-Cola representatives, the struggling 7-Eleven chain introduced the 32-ounce cup in Orange County, Calif., to great success.

Digital Camera: A Kodak engineer's experiments with a new kind of integrated circuit led to the first functioning film-less digital camera.

Golden Grahams: Produced by General Mills, these toasted wheat and corn squares, flavored with honey and brown sugar, were an instant hit.

Hotel California: Cited as one of the greatest albums of all time, the Eagles' *Hotel California* has sold in excess of 42 million copies worldwide.

Nespresso: In 1976, a Swiss Nestle' engineer designed an at-home coffee machine that uses individually sealed foil coffee capsules. Today, more than 14 billion pods are sold annually.

(Reprinted from the March 2026 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 _____ Hop stop****_ 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 [] 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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903.288.4455 (home)

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859.250.3727 (cell)

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615.598.5900

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None

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John H. Ranson
859.250.3727

Committees

Reunion Committee

Members:

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

By-Laws Committee

Chairman:

Members:

John Ranson, jr3843@fuse.net
Bob Nerbetski, 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

Publisher: **Wayne Addkison**

Copy Edit/Layout: **Ed Williams**, edwscsm@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.

Copy Submission Deadline:

Material for the December issue of *The Coral Sea Breeze* is due into the publisher or copy editor by November 5, 2026.

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 Ballast...

If things work out, the USS HORNET and USS CONSTELLATION associations will be joining us. They will have their own reunion agenda but will combine with our membership to maximize benefits for tours, hotel rates, hospitality room costs and our Friday night banquet. More information will be available in our next issue of the *Sea Breeze*.

Not much more to tell, so have a safe trip to Nashville. I look forward to seeing you all in October.

Wayne

Wayne Addkison
Association President

(Continued from page 7)

Dustoff Crews...

bill that would recognize, collectively, the pilots, crew chiefs and medics who served under the radio call sign Dustoff. My goal was to honor Kelly, and the Gold Star families of those crews who died that others might live.

Sen. Cornyn visited Fort Sam Houston – the home of Dustoff – in late October to celebrate the realization of a Congressional Gold Medal for Dustoff crews, established by bill S. 2825 on September 26, 2024.

--by Patrick H. Brady, retired Army major general and Medal of Honor recipient who commanded the 57th Medical Detachment A and the 54th Medical Detachment during the Vietnam War.

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The first-place winner will receive a \$2,000 prize and second place \$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.