



2010 Reunion in Spokane, WA Highlights

Features:

- 2010 Reunion in Spokane, Washington
- 2011 Reunion in Galveston, Texas
- Captain Arthur J. Hepburn, USN
- We need your help!



Front Row (L-R): Neal Jones, Ernest Mangrum, George Gackle, Tony Reiter, Marvin Childress, James Downing, Orval Aylesworth; Back Row (L-R): Gene Domienik, Herbert Crask, Ron Aubry, Tom Boyd, Don Seibold, Morgan Pulver, Hoy Little, John C. Brown

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Arthur J. Hepburn, Captain USN, USS West Virginia, 1925-1926

Arthur Japy Hepburn (October 15, 1877-May 31, 1964) was an admiral in the United States Navy, whose active-duty career included service in the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II. He held a number of high posts in the years between the World Wars, including Director of Naval Intelligence, a U.S. representative to arms control conferences, and Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet.

"The 'Hepburn Board Report' served as the basis for the massive U.S. defense expansion of the late 1930s."

He was born on October 15, 1877 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1897 and served in the Spanish-American War. He participated in the defeat of Admiral Cervera's Spanish Squadron off Santiago, Cuba and was subsequently commissioned at the rank of Ensign.

Thereafter, Hepburn assisted in surveys of the Pacific and performed a variety of other duties, until the First World War, where he commanded the seized German liner Kaiser Wilhelm II and as a sub-

marine commander, until he was ordered to Europe in July 1918 to command the naval base at Queens-town, Ireland. After the armistice, he served in Chester, inspecting German naval ships and aircraft as set out in the terms of the Armistice Treaty.

In 1919 he was appointed the Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Steam Engineering, until 1922 when he became Chief of Staff of the American Naval Detachment in Turkey. Thereafter, he served a wide variety of important posts. He took command of the battleship USS West Virginia (BB-48) in May, 1925; became Director of Naval Intelligence in July, 1926; he served as Chief of Staff with Battle Fleet and U.S. Fleet from 1927 to 1930; and in May, 1931 he took command of Submarine Forces, U.S. Fleet. Between 1932 and 1933, he served as a naval member to the Limitations of Arms Conference as Naval Adviser to the Geneva Delegation in Switzerland and as the American Representative at the London Naval Conference.

After commanding the 4th Naval District, and destroyers of the U.S. Fleet, he became Commander in Chief of the entire U.S. Fleet on June 24, 1936, at the rank of Admiral. In the years leading up to the



Second World War, as it became increasingly clear that international relations were deteriorating, Hepburn was charged with the task of heading the board (eventually known as the "Hepburn Board") which reviewed the United States defense capabilities. The "Hepburn Board Report" served as the basis for the massive U.S. defense expansion of the late 1930s.

In 1942, Hepburn was appointed Chairman of the General Board of the Navy, serving in that capacity throughout the war. He also later served as a delegate to the Dumbarton Oaks meetings, which established guidelines for founding the United Nations. Hepburn retired in December, 1945. He died on May 31, 1964.

From: <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/ajhepburn.htm> 08-28-2007

Interested in Volunteering?

As our members get along in years, we find it more difficult to coordinate our reunions and gather information about our ship's history. We can use your help with planning reunions, researching information about the ship and her crew, fundraising, and finding content for and updating our web site.

This is a great opportunity for friends and family members to get involved and help preserve the history of the USS West Virginia.

If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Mike Mullins, Curator by email [here](mailto:mike@usswestvirginia.org) or 610-952-3542.

2011 Reunion in Galveston, Texas Details

Joe and Margot Variot have gone above and beyond once again to put together what promises to be a great reunion for us in 2011. We're putting out this early notice so that we can get as many attendees as possible. The dates for the reunion are October 16 to October 20. The Galveston Texas area is a great place for a reunion. There is a lot to do and a lot of great things to see. We will be touring the USS Texas (BB-35), a great old battleship. Her history includes service in World War I and World War II. She was the first battleship to become a permanent museum ship and she was also a stand in for the USS West Virginia in the 2001 film Pearl Harbor. A short distance from *Texas* is the San Jacinto Battleground, Monument, and Museum. Rounding out the first day, we will visit the Johnson Space Center where we will have an opportunity to visit the original Mission Control center where Gene Krantz sat to oversee the Apollo missions to the Moon.

On day two, we will visit the Lone Star Flight Museum. This aerospace museum displays more than 40 historically significant aircraft, many flight worthy, and hundreds of artifacts. It is also the home of the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame, honoring aviators including George H. W. Bush, Lloyd Bentsen, and Howard Hughes. Next on the day's agenda is a visit to Moody Gardens Aquarium Pyramid and Rainforest Pyramid. The Aquarium Pyramid is home to 8,000 species of fish, invertebrates, mammals, reptiles, and plants. At the time of our visit, the Rainforest Pyramid will have just completed a \$25 million enhancement project. It will contain more than 1,000 species of exotic plants, animals, fish, and butterflies. We will end the day with a luncheon at Fisherman's Wharf.

On day three, we'll enjoy a two hour narrated train tour of Galveston Island.

Thursday October 20, the final day of our reunion will be a free day to tour, shop, sunbathe, or spend time with old friends. We will have our Memorial service and banquet of Texas BBQ and Seafood on Thursday evening.



As always we will have a hospitality room for the group to gather in. We never know what other activities will come up when the group gets together!

The Holiday Inn Resort on the Beach will provide our accommodations and Hospitality room for the duration of the reunion. They are providing us with a group rate of \$79 per night and the rate is good for two days before and after our reunion. The cut-off date for accepting reservations into the group block is September 15, 2011. Check-in time is 4PM and check-out time is 12PM. The hotel can provide luggage storage for early arrivals or late departures. Reservations can be made by calling 409-740-5300. Be sure to mention USS West Virginia to get the group rate.

The hotel offers a free shuttle service to local attractions—this doesn't include the airports. There are two airports in Houston, George Bush Intercontinental (IAH) and William P. Hobby Airport (HOU). Hobby is the closest to the hotel.

For those interested in extending their trips, there are cruise services available that operate out of Galveston. If you are interested in cruises, contact Joe Variot for details on discounts. Joe can be reached at 231-584-2280.

The registration form for the reunion is on the next page. You will be sending your registration and payment to Mike Mullins and you can contact him with any questions at 610-952-3542.

Join us in Galveston! We're looking forward to getting together again!

2011 Reunion Activity Registration Form

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and the total amount. Send that amount payable to **USS West Virginia Association** in the form of a **check or money order** (no credit cards or phone reservations) to: USS West Virginia Association, c/o Mike Mullins, 2933 Cottonwood Lane, Chester Springs, PA 19425. Your canceled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before **September 19, 2011**.

DATE	PRICE (\$/PP)	NUMBER	TOTAL (\$)
10/17/2011 Monday San Jacinto Battleground, Monument, & Museum USS Battleship Texas BB-35 NASA Space Center	\$69.00 pp		
10/18/2011 Tuesday Lone Star Flight Museum Moody Gardens Aquarium Pyramid Rainforest Pyramid Fisherman's Wharf Luncheon	\$61.00 pp		
10/19/2011 Wednesday Train (2 Hours), Narrated Tour of the Island	\$15.00 pp		
10/20/2011 Thursday FREE Day on Your Own (Touring, Sunbathing, Shopping, Sea Stories, Etc.) Memorial Service Banquet, Texas BBQ and Seafood	\$38.00 pp		
Registration	\$35.00 pp		
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For hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn Resort on the Beach, call 409-740-5300. The special group rate is \$79.00 per night. This rate is good for two (2) nights before and two (2) nights after the reunion events. In order to obtain your special group rate, guests need to identify themselves as being associated with USS West Virginia BB-48.

ATTENDEES (For name tags)

NAME _____

DIVISION _____ YEARS ABOARD 19 ____ to 19 ____

GUEST NAME(S) _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME & PHONE _____

INDEMNITY CLAUSE (Must be signed regardless of payment method)

I, the undersigned, hereby assume liability for and shall indemnify, defend, protect, save and hold harmless the USS West Virginia Association and the Holiday Inn on the Beach, its parent, subsidiaries and affiliates, and their officers, agents, subcontractors, and employees, from and against any and all liabilities, claims, judgments, damages, losses, including all costs, fees, and expenses incidental there to caused by or arising out of the gross negligence or willful misconduct on my behalf and which are in any way related to the services or goods contemplated by this agreement.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PRINTED NAME _____ PHONE _____

Mike Mullins - Curator

You may have seen Mike at past reunions or seen his name in previous publications (especially the website!). Mike has been involved with the USS West Virginia Association since 1999, when he started the website to capture the rich history of the USS West Virginia.

Mike's uncle, Oscar Jacobson, was a Pearl Harbor Survivor on the USS West Virginia, serving in the 5th Division from 1940-1941. Since Mike is one of the younger members of the association, he is now taking on some of the administrative duties associated with reunions.

Mike and his wife Christina live in Strafford, PA. They are expecting their first child in March 2011!



We Want to Hear from You!

As the years go by, membership understandably is getting smaller. In years past, the costs of reunion coordination, activities, and newsletters were covered through the sale of small stores at the reunions. Now with smaller groups for the reunions, the association needs to ask for the help of our members to cover costs.

Annual membership dues were announced last year. Membership is open to anyone and we love to have new members at our reunions. **Annual membership dues are \$15.** Donations are also welcome and sincerely appreciated. If you would like your donation to be dedicated to a specific project, please let us know. Dues and all donations go directly to cover the following:

- Reunion coordination
- Newsletter printing/mailing
- Office supplies
- Archival and storage materials
- Research and records retrieval
- Website hosting services

This form and your payment will serve an additional purpose for us. It will let us know who you are and what your connection is with the USS West Virginia. There are many names on our mailing list that were added over the years. We want to ensure we are sending newsletters to those who are interested in receiving them. We will assume that anyone who does not pay the annual membership dues is not interested in receiving the newsletters and the name will be removed from the mailing list. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mike Mullins by phone: 610-952-3542, by email [here](#) or by mail at the address below. If you have already paid your dues, they are good until the next reunion.

Send a check or money order payable to **USS West Virginia Association** to: USS West Virginia Association, c/o Mike Mullins, 2933 Cottonwood Lane, Chester Springs, PA 19425. Or pay via credit card through our donation page at: <http://www.usswestvirginia.org/donate>.

Please send this section/form regardless of payment method.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Membership Dues \$ 15, and/or Donation Amount \$ _____

Connection to USS West Virginia: Crewmember Family Friend

If you are a crewmember, please include the following information:

Division _____ Years Aboard 19 _____ to 19 _____

Highest Rate While Aboard _____ Pearl Harbor Survivor: Yes No

All of this information is voluntary. If you would like to send more information or pictures, please send an additional sheet. We would love to add your information to the ship's history.

Join us in Galveston, Texas

2011 USS West Virginia (BB-48) Reunion - October 16-20, 2011

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS!!



USS West Virginia Association
Mike Mullins – Curator
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Chester Springs, PA 19425

Phone: 610-952-3542
Fax: 888-370-3238

We're on the Web!
www.usswestvirginia.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL