



SPRING 2016

USS WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION

2015 Reunion in New Orleans, LA Highlights



Back Row: Tony Reiter, Art Rinetti, Ron Aubry, Herb Crask, John Brown, Jim Paris, Bob Halley
 Front Row: Joe Variot, Bob Benafel, George Gackle, Don Siebold, Jim Downing, Wayne Kizer

We had a great time in New Orleans for our 2015 reunion. We had a very good turn out and we welcomed members of the crews of our sister ships the USS Colorado and USS Maryland.

During the three days in New Orleans, the following events were enjoyed:

- Welcome aboard pizza party
- Steamboat Natchez River Cruise
- National World War II Museum
- Activities along Bourbon Street and other great tourist attractions around New Orleans
- Banquet dinner where it was decided that we will have a reunion in 2016 in Seattle, WA
- Memorial service for crew members who have passed since the last reunion

At the 2015 reunion, taps was played for the following crew members and friends who passed since our last meeting:

Thomas Boyd
 Lewis LaGessee
 Billy J. Zastrow
 Leon Marshall
 Lewis Brunick
 Millard Thomas Fuller

Leo Warner
 John Matheson
 Jack Whited
 Hoy Little
 Floyd Williams
 William McCombs

Ray Albers
 Max Perry
 John Annis
 Lucille Grosinger
 Ina Todleben

2016 USS West Virginia Reunion—Save the Date!

Our reunion will be held in Seattle, Washington October 6 – 9, 2016 (Thursday to Sunday)

We will kick-off the gathering on Thursday October 6th with a Pizza Party sponsored by the Reiter family and will close on Saturday evening with our banquet and memorial service. Sunday is an open day for individual activities. Friday and Saturday activities include a visit the Puget Sound Navy Museum in Bremerton and the USO.

Detailed registration information will be available in the June Newsletter. We hope everyone can attend.

Annual Dues

January has come and gone, and it is time again for everyone to send in their annual dues.

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. 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. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mike Mullins by phone: 610-952-3542 or by mail at the address below.

Dues will cover the calendar year starting in January 2016.

Send a check or money order payable to **USS West Virginia Association** to: USS West Virginia Association, Attn.: Mike Mullins, 21397 Springwell Drive, Ashburn, VA 20148. 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.



USS West Virginia Association

Mike Mullins – Curator

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