

WINTER 2014

USS WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION

2013 Reunion in San Diego, CA Highlights



Front Row (L-R): Morgan Pulver, Arthur Rinetti, Tony Reiter, Don Seibold, James Downing, Hoy Little, Robert Andler; Back Row (L-R): John Brown, Gery Porter, Archie Kelley, Stu Hedley, Ron Aubry, Herbert Crask, Floyd Profit (absent from photo: William Dobbins)

We had a great turnout for the 2013 USS West Virginia (BB-48) Reunion that took place from September 20-22 in San Diego, California. We had more people this year than we've had in about 10 years. This is very encouraging! Special thanks are due to our reunion committee Tom Reiter, Joe and Barb Reiter, and Tim Dege. We also thank Vision Ventures, Inc. for donating funds used to cover hospitality room expenses.

During the three days in San Diego, the following events were enjoyed:

- Welcome aboard pizza party
- City Tour of San Diego, luncheon, visit to Mount Soledad
- Tour the aircraft carrier USS Midway, Harbor Cruise
- Banquet dinner where it was decided that we will have a reunion in 2014 in San Antonio, Texas
- Memorial service for crew members who have passed since the last reunion

More pictures are available on the website at: <http://www.usswestvirginia.org/reunion/2013>

At the 2013 reunion, taps was played for the following crew members who passed since our last meeting:

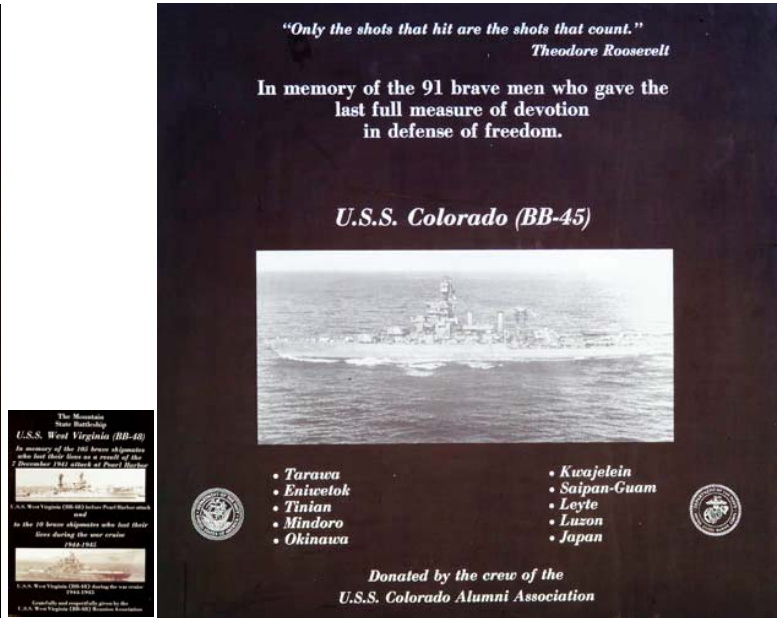
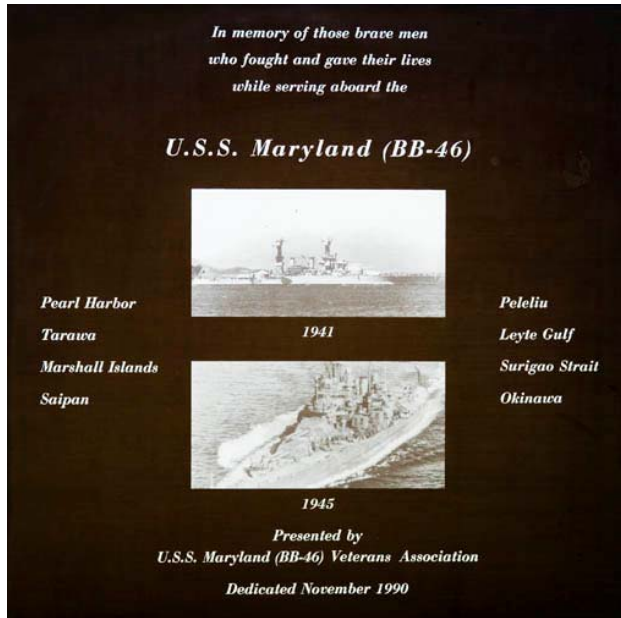
Alton Wiggs
Walter Christiansen
Scott Coulson
Howard Gist
Leonard Gilbert
Virgil Reeve

Harold Lacy
George Geci
James W. King
Sylvester Puccio
Adolph Krenn
Bernard Brown

John Holt
Louis Balbinot
Robert Christy
Stanley Idzerda
Ed Matlock
Richard Robinson

Memorial Plaque at the Nimitz Museum

Many of you have been to the National Museum of the Pacific War, also known as the Nimitz Museum, in Fredericksburg, Texas. It has been brought to our attention that the memorial plaque that was placed by our group many years ago in the Veterans Walk of Honor is much smaller than the plaques of our sister ships USS Colorado and USS Maryland. The size of our plaque is 5" X 7" while the others are 20" X 20". The images below indicate the size differences. It has been proposed that we undertake a collection to fund the dedication of a full-sized plaque in memory of our crew members and our ship. The total cost for the project is \$2,500. A vote was taken at the reunion, and a request for donations to cover the cost was approved. It was also decided that any shortfall in the donations would be covered by the general fund. The 2014 reunion will be held in San Antonio, Texas so that we can travel to the museum to have a ceremony to dedicate the new memorial.



USS West Virginia Memorial Plaque Donation Form

Please use the form below to send in a donation to help with the cost of the new memorial. Any amount is appreciated.

Send a check or money order payable to **USS West Virginia Association** to: USS West Virginia Association, Attn.: 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 _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

USS West Virginia Small Stores

We maintain an inventory of USS West Virginia related items that are available for sale at our reunions or via mail. Use this form to order. Send the completed form along with a check or money order to USS West Virginia Association, Attn: Mike Mullins, 2933 Cottonwood Lane, Chester Springs, PA 19425

*Shipping is a flat \$8.00. Please note available sizes. Call Mike Mullins with any questions or concerns at 610-952-3542.

Item	PRICE	QTY. & SIZE	TOTAL (\$)
USS West Virginia (BB-48) Coffee Mug	\$6.00		
USS West Virginia Polo Shirt pre 1941—M, L, XL, 2XL	\$25.00		
USS West Virginia Polo Shirt post 1941—M, L, XL, 2XL	\$25.00		
USS West Virginia Denim Shirt (short sleeve) - L	\$35.00		
USS West Virginia Denim Shirt (long sleeve) - M, 2XL	\$38.00		
USS West Virginia Jacket— M, L, XL, 2XL	\$35.00		
USS West Virginia (BB-48) Baseball Cap	\$20.00		
Battle of Surigao Strait Baseball Cap (I Was There) w/ Eggs	\$15.00		
Battle of Surigao Strait Baseball Cap (I Was There) w/o Eggs	\$15.00		
Battle of Surigao Strait Baseball Cap (My Father Was There) w/ Eggs	\$15.00		
That Night at Surigao (book)	\$20.00		
The Mountain State Battleship USS West Virginia (Book)	\$18.00		
Mountaineer Battlewagon (Book)	\$7.95		
USS West Virginia Crosses the Equator 1940 (Book, Reprint)	\$25.00		
USS West Virginia Crosses the Equator Again 1944 (Book, Reprint)	\$25.00		
USS West Virginia Reunion 2004 Tucson, AZ—hatpin	\$4.00		
USS West Virginia 1923/1944 two ship's hatpin	\$4.00		
American Flag Sticker	\$1.00		
USN Iron/Sew patch	\$2.00		
USMC Keychain	\$2.00		
USN Keychain	\$2.00		
SHIPPING	\$8.00	1	\$8.00*
		Grand Total:	

Shipping Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

We're planning a reunion in 2014!

At the 2013 reunion, a vote was taken and it was decided that a 2014 reunion would be planned in San Antonio, Texas. Part of the reason for choosing San Antonio is to visit the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg Texas to dedicate a new memorial to the ship.

Our 2013 reunion committee, Tom Reiter, Joe Reiter, and Tim Dege, has agreed to arrange the next reunion as well. They will be traveling to Texas over the winter to find the best activities for us to enjoy as well as finding another great hotel for the reunion. There are many great activities in San Antonio. It's a fantastic historic location.

More details will be published in the Spring 2014 newsletter.

Annual Dues

As January approaches, 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.

Send a check or money order payable to **USS West Virginia Association** to: USS West Virginia Association, Attn.: 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.



USS West Virginia Association

Mike Mullins – Curator

2933 Cottonwood Lane
Chester Springs, PA 19425

Phone: 610-952-3542