

2017 USS Nimitz Association History

The USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association held our 20th Reunion in Norfolk Virginia from September 13th through September 16th 2017. Our Host and Hostess were Rob and DeeDee Jamison. The first night at the hotel, the Blue Angels did a fly over, what a rousing way to start a Reunion.

Wednesday, 13 September 2017: The Bud Scott Hospitality Room was open to all hands and guests. President Wood commenced Executive/Full Board meeting to discuss the Agenda for Thursday's All Hands and Membership Business meeting.

Thursday, 14 September 2017

President Wood opened All Hands meeting and welcomed members, spouses and guests. Introductions were conducted and first time attendees were recognized. We had 97 members and guests attending. Note: We had seven Shipmates who attended the reunion and all became members with Admiral Jeffrey Ruth became a Life Member!

President Wood conducted the Business Meeting in accordance with the Association's By-laws, with discussion of Audit of the Association financials, old and new business and selection for the 2020 reunion site. Nominations were taken from the members for the 2020 reunion site and Las Vegas, Nevada was selected, John Wider will be the Reunion Coordinator.

The membership business meeting commenced and the women were excused to meet with Dottie Wilder (Spousal Advocate) to conduct their meeting/activities. President Wood made a motion that the 2016 minutes be approved; they were seconded and approved unanimously.

VP/PAO/ Newsletter Editor Rich Galecki updated the membership on the newsletter. Four issues of the Newsletter were published in 2017. They were distributed through email using Constant Contact to send out which has provided a significant savings to the Association. Approximately 30 members still receive their issues through snail mail.

Secretary/Treasurer Ed Deats updated the membership on the Association's Financials. End of year balance was \$8,220. We had (15), new members and (10) new Life members for the year. President Wood made a motion nomination to accept the financials subject to audit. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Tim Gildea – Scholarship Chair discussed the candidates for this year's scholarship. Our winner of the 2017 Scholarship was Jesse Chaison and his sponsor was John Wilder.

One By-Law change was proposed for the Scholarship Program. "Any member who wants to sponsor a scholarship applicant must be a "Member In Good Standing" for no less than two consecutive years preceding the application submission and have attended at least one reunion during their membership. A "Member in Good Standing" is defined as a Member who is current on their dues. The change was voted on and passed by the members attending.

The USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association again participated in the annual National U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier Month in November 2017. An article describing the launch of the month-long series of events appeared in the Association's Newsletter, as did a historical feature on the use of "Angled Decks" on aircraft carriers.

Friday 14 September 2017

The Business/Voting meeting was held and all business was settled. Dottie Wilder announced that Laurie Crabtree was voted in as the new Spousal Advocate.

Saturday 16 September 2017

Saturday evening our Banquet was held commencing with a Cocktail Reception and Group Pictures. President Wood welcomed everyone to the Reunion Banquet. He introduced FC2 Andrew Toncraay the son of Shipmate David Toncraay who led the attendees in The Pledge of Allegiance. Per the Association's tradition, Father Peter Norris and VP Rich Galecki conducted the Two Bell Ceremony and then Father Peter led us in prayer. Our guest speaker this year was Commander of CSG-2, Admiral Kenneth Whitesell who briefed us on various aspects of the carrier force.

After dinner, Rob and DeeDee Jamison were thanked for hosting and coordinating the 20th Annual Reunion. Dottie Wilder (Spousal Advocate) presented DeeDee Jamison with a bouquet of flowers.

Captain Lennox (Commanding Officer USS Nimitz) provide the Association with an update video. As the banquet ended, Father Peter Norris conducted the Benediction. President Wood closed this year's Reunion and we look forward to next year's reunion in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania September 12 – 15 2018 at the Marriott Navy Yard Hotel.

With great sadness, the third Commanding Officer of our Great Ship Nimitz passed away on 20 December 2017. RADM John R. "Jack" Batzler had undergone a procedure to correct a recurrent condition in his heart and passed a blood clot, which cause a stroke. His wife Carolyn and their children were at his side when he passed. Three members of the Association attended his funeral and the Association provide a flower wreath. He was a great supporter of the Association and will surely be missed by all who knew him.