

## 2018 USS Nimitz Association History

The USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association held our 21st Reunion in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from September 12 through September 15, 2018 at the Navy Yard Marriot Courtyard. Our Host and Hostess were Tim and Kathy Gildea.

Wednesday, 12 September 2018: 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. Due to Hurricane Florence hitting the East Coast during the reunion, a number of Shipmates were not able to attend or had to leave early. All members had paid in advance and they all donated their registration money to the Association.

Thursday, 13 September 2018: President Wood opened All Hands meeting and welcomed members, spouses and guests. Introductions were conducted and first time attendees were recognized. We had 85 members and guests attending. The members that attended were Joseph Anderson, Mark Baca, Marc Berlin, Ray Bigelow, Joe Brunner, Hank Byrnside, Matt Clouse, John Corriea, Jeff Crabtree, Steve Crabtree, Michael Culbertson, Ed Deats (Secretary/Treasurer), Al Descalso, Jeff Figel, Charles Foreman Jr., Jim Futtner, Rich Galecki (VP), Tim Gildea, Bob Hayden, David Hill, Kendall Hocker, Mike Hoover, Randall Hughes, Ken Nielsen, Fr Peter North (Association Chaplain), Pat O'Brien, Bill Paschall (President Emeritus), Mark Sanders, Frank Reusche, Gary Rollins, Gary Ruch, Myrl Wallace, John Wilder, Dave Wood (President).

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 2021 reunion site. Nominations were taken from the members for the 2021 reunion site. New Orleans (Marc Berlin), Saint Louis (Mark Baca and Austin, Tx (Dave Wood), and Saint Louis, Mo. was selected, Mark Baca will be the Reunion Coordinator.

The membership business meeting commenced and the women were excused to meet with Laurie Crabtree (Spousal Advocate) to conduct their meeting/activities. President Wood made a motion that the 2017 minutes be approved as noted; they were seconded and approved unanimously.

Ed Deats presented nominations for President (Rich Galecki and John Wilder), Vice President Dave Wood and John Wilder). Ed Deats ran unopposed for Secretary/Treasurer for his third and last term. Rich Galecki and Dave Wood became President and Vice President respectfully. Volunteers to become new members to the Executive Board were requested and Marc Berlin and Steve Crabtree stepped up.

President Elect/PAO/ Newsletter Editor Rich Galecki updated the membership on the newsletter. Four issues of the Association's Newsletter were published in 2018. All were published electronically and sent to members via email through Constant Contact. Those members without a computer/email account received a copy via U.S. Mail. There are about 24 members still receiving the newsletter via "snail mail". Additionally, the Newsletter is uploaded to the Association website and is accessible to members there. There has been substantial savings to

the Association by publishing vice having the Newsletter printed and mailed.

Secretary/Treasurer Ed Deats updated the membership on the Association's Financials. End of year balance was \$19,085. We had (12) new members, (19) new Life members and (1) returning member 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 2018 Scholarship was Kara Koenig and her sponsor was Ray Bigelow.

Changes to the By-Laws regarding the Scholarship Program were discussed during the reunion. The By-Laws will be updated to reflect items agreed to at the Norfolk reunion but not added to the document. These items related to the criteria applicants would have to meet before members in good standing could nominate them for the annual scholarship; this is an expansion of the population from which members could choose to nominate a candidate. The Association is also exploring opening the scholarship to students in certified trade school programs.

Members of the Association participated in an interview process to share their experiences on Nimitz with the U.S. Navy Memorial Organization.

Friday 14 September 2018: The Business/Voting meeting was held and all business was settled. Dale Jones came to the reunion and signed up as a New Life Member in the Association...

Saturday 15 September 2018: Saturday evening our Banquet was held commencing with a Cocktail Reception. The posting of the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance was conducted. 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 NAVSEA Philadelphia Division, Captain Francis Spencer.

After dinner, Tim and Kathy Gildea were thanked for hosting and coordinating the 21st Annual Reunion. Laurie Crabtree (Spousal Advocate) presented Kathy with a bouquet of flowers.

As the banquet ended, Father Peter Norris conducted the Benediction. President Wood closed this year's Reunion with his final remarks as President. We look forward to next year's reunion in Biloxi, Mississippi. May 6-9 2019 at Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino.