

Association History for Calendar Year

2006 ▼

The Association Staff Consisted of the following:

Elected Officers

President
Joe Brunner
Secretary
John Wilder

Vice-President
Ray Bigelow
Spouses Advocate
Phyllis Deats

Public Affairs Officer
Ray Bigelow

Chairpersons

First Immediate Past President
William Nielsen
By-Laws
William Nielsen
Scholarship Chairman
Ray Bigelow

Third Immediate Past President
Bill Paschall
Membership
Joe Brunner
Reunion Coordinator
Michael Patras

Audit
William Nielsen
Nominating
Edward Deats

Special Assistants

Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator
Father Peter Norris
Webmaster
Leo Mrozek
Memorabilia Storekeeper(s)
Myrl & Sharron Wallace

Reunion 2007 Host & Hostess
Joe & Peggy Brunner (Austin, TX)
Reunion 2008 Host & Hostess
Hank & Rhonda Byrnside (Nashville, TN)

Newsletter Editor
Rich Galecki
Storekeeper
Vacant

Associate Newsletter
Charlie Jones, Patti Bigelow
Database Administrator
Leo Mrozek

Note: Each year's History covers events that occurred during the stated calendar year. However, the Association Staff's terms of office run from the last day of a reunion to the beginning of the next reunion as stated in the By-Laws.

GREETINGS SHIPMATES:

The Association continued on a steady growth pattern throughout 2006, with Joe Brunner as Chairman of the Membership Committee. The Association grew its ranks by adding 85 new paid members in 2006.

The Association remains on sound financial ground. The NFCU bank balance for regular Association Funds managed by the Secretary/Treasurer was at \$14,200.57 on 31 December 2006.

Reunion 2006 (our 9th) was held at the Hilton Gardens Inn in Mukilteo, Washington; 23-27 August. All in attendance enjoyed a

wonderful reunion, as Host & Hostess Myrl & Sharron Wallace ensured that “a good time was had by all.” Some of the places/events in which many of the reunion attendees participated in were, Seattle Mariners baseball games vs. both the Yankees and Red Sox at Safeco Field, taking a tour of the Museum of Flight, a Boeing Plant Tour, trying their luck at the Tulalip Casino, going to the top of Seattle’s Space Needle for that breath taking view, shopping at Pike’s Place Market, playing some golf, and numerous ferry boat rides to various other places around the Seattle area. Perhaps the hospitality room was the biggest hit, as between other events this was the place to be for beverages and sea-stories! Father Peter Norris once again traveled the longest distance to join us, traveling all the way from the Falkland Islands.

Joe Brunner was elected for another term as Association President. New appointments included: Myrl Wallace as Memorabilia Chairman and Ray Bigelow as Association Historian, Life membership was approved and will begin as an option in 2007. Honorary Life Memberships were awarded to Admiral Compton and Bill Paschall for their roles as the Association Founder’s.

As is tradition, our Two-Bell Ceremony was performed at the opening of our banquet to honor all deceased NIMITZ crew and Association Members by Father Peter & Ray Bigelow. Additionally, Father Peter delivered the principle address during our banquet. Ray Bigelow announced that Sarah Willits was selected as the \$2000 winner of the Association’s 2006 Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz college scholarship award. Sarah is the Daughter of Shipmate Marty and Gianna Willits of Kingwood, TX. Afterwards everybody reassembled in the hospitality room for a very successful silent auction.

In 2007, we are looking forward to our Tenth Reunion and returning to the Chester W. Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas. Joe & Peggy Brunner will once again be our Host & Hostess. In 2008, Nashville, Tennessee is slated to be our reunion site, and we’ve decided Reunion Number Twelve in 2009 will be held on a Cruise Ship out of a Florida port, more information on these upcoming reunions will be forthcoming.



USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association Association History



Association History for Calendar Year

The Association Staff Consisted of the following:

Elected Officers

President
Ray Bigelow
Secretary
John Wilder

Vice-President
Timothy Gardiner
Spouses Advocate
Phyllis Deats

Public Affairs Officer
Timothy Gardiner

Chairpersons

First Immediate Past President
Joe Brunner
Audit
William Nielsen
Nominating
Edward Deats

Second Immediate Past President
William Nielsen
By-Laws
William Nielsen
Scholarship Chairman
Dave Wood

Third Immediate Past President
Bill Paschall
Membership
Joe Brunner
Reunion Coordinator
Michael Patras

Special Assistants

Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator
Father Peter Norris
Associate Newsletter
Patti Bigelow
Database Administrator
Leo Mrozek

Veterans Service Officer
Jim Disney
Webmaster
Leo Mrozek
Memorabilia Storekeeper(s)
Myrl & Sharron Wallace

Newsletter Editor
Rich Galecki
Storekeeper
Myrl Wallace

Reunion 2008 Host & Hostess
Hank & Rhonda Byrnside (Nashville, TN)
Reunion 2009 Host & Hostess
Bill & Donna Nielsen (Caribbean Cruise--To be announced)
Reunion 2010 Host & Hostess
Myrl & Sharron Wallace (Hospitality Suites Resort, Scottsdale, AZ)

Year 2007 started with finances in good order. Our Regular Bank Account with the Navy Federal Credit Union revealed a balance of \$14,194.52, and the Ship's Store with a balance of \$850.00. The dollar value of Ship's Store stock to be determined prior to bringing the store back on line and posted on the web site.

The Association continued to grow slowly in 2007; however, the large numbers of members that were not current in their dues on 1 January was quite large.

A campaign to bring all Members up to date was undertaken to correct this deficiency. A one-time moratorium was voted by the Board of Directors present at the San Antonio Reunion to wave any past dues in arrears and permit delinquent Members to return to Members in Good Standing by paying their 2008 dues of \$20.00 by January 31, 2008.

Attendance was down dramatically at Reunion 2007. Our scheduled Host and Hostess, Joe and Peggy Brunner could not attend due to Peggy's failing health. Regrettably, Joe has

become a near full time care giver for Peggy; who had been a most cheerful addition at most all of our reunions until her health started to fail.

Although he had a full year remaining on his Term as President, Joe Brunner sent word that since he could not attend, and due to Peggy's health he relinquished the reins of the Presidency to Vice President/PAO Ray Bigelow.

We only had 25 members in attendance at San Antonio, but the group had a great time and those not in attendance missed a good one. Attending were; sixteen members, eight wives and one father-in-law: Ray Bigelow, Henry and Rhonda Byrnside, John and Sonia Correia, Ron Davis (father-in-law of Scott Patterson), Ed and Phyllis Deats, Jim Disney, Rich Galecki, Andy and Kaye Lewallen, Tommy Moore, Father Peter Norris, Bill and Carolyn Paschall, Scott Patterson, Frank Ruesche, Myrl and Sharron Wallace, John Wilder, Marty and Gianna Willits, and Dave and Carol Wood.

We had a full days outing when we traveled to Fredericksburg to tour the NIMITZ and Pacific War Museums. All items not directly associated with Admiral Chester W. Nimitz have been moved next door to the Pacific War Museum. The current Pacific War Museum consists of about 22,000 square feet, however, plans are underway to expand to 66,000 square feet. This expansion is scheduled for completion in 2009. When we conduct our third reunion in the Fredericksburg area, we should see a totally different look.

As our hotel, Amerisuites, was located right on the Riverwalk, it was only a short stroll to the exciting events along the walk, where you had a wealth of restaurants to chose from. Our second night out consisted of a Mexican dinner at the Casa Rio, located on the Riverwalk, followed afterwards with about an hours tour of the river itself by open motorized barge. There must be at least a hundred restaurants, hotels, shops, etc. along the walk, so if you have not seen it you have missed a real treat. Our Saturday night banquet was held at The Texas Land and Cattle Company, also located on the Riverwalk. Since a private banquet room was not available, we returned to our Hospitality Room and Bill Paschall filled in as Guest Speaker, and the Two Bell Ceremony conducted by Father Peter Norris to remember those Shipmates that have passed.

Elections brought on some new team members to the Association Staff as shown above. Tim Gardiner was elected Vice President/PAO to replace Ray Bigelow who fledged up to assume the President's billet with Joe Brunner's resignation. The ladies elected Carol Wood as the Spouses Advocate. Bill Paschall took over as Historian, with Dave Wood coming on board as Scholarship Committee Chairman for 2008.

The Board of Directors met to select the 2007 Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Scholarship Award. It was a tough selection from among several outstanding candidates and it took a lengthy period of time to score and determine the winning final winning score., The winner was Jared Gardiner, and his sponsor was his father; Shipmate Tim Gardiner.

A Silent Auction was held, with a total of \$433.00 raised for the Scholarship Fund.

Joe Brunner remained as Membership Chairman in that his former shipmate data base contains over 3500 former crew members of NIMITZ. He is making an effort to bring as many on board the Association as possible. In July, Bill Paschall sent our Reunion Notices to 2072 civilian newspapers across the nation, which resulted in an upsurge in new members.

Joe and Bill also submitted announcements to various military organization advertising the Association and announcing the 2008 Reunion in Nashville.

As of 31 December 2007, our Membership stood as follows:

Life Members: 24

Members in Good Standing: 179 (includes the 24 Life Members)

In arrears of dues: 480

Past Due: 51

Dues pending: 398

Spouses: 3

Widows: 2

Although we had a small reduction in finances, we ended the year in good shape financially:

Regular Bank Balance: \$11,721.00.

Ship's Store: \$983.00.

Ship's Store Inventory Value: \$ 8415.00.

Of note, Myrl "Big Wally" and Sharron Wallace have taken over the Ship's Store and now have it up and running full speed. Items for sale are now posted on our web site and can be purchased and receive shipment by mail. A reminder is that ALL profits from the Ship's Store accrue to our Scholarship Fund.

All Members in Good Standing are encouraged to give our Membership Chairman, Joe Brunner, a hand in bringing members in arrears of their dues by encouraging them to take advantage of the Amnesty period that expires on 31 January 2008 whereby he or she can pay 2008 dues of \$20.00 and all past dues in arrear are forgiven.

Regrettably we lost Dick Allen in December, one of our original members. Dick has lost his wife Ruth earlier in the year. We will surely miss Dick and Ruth at future reunions.



USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association Association History



Association History for Calendar Year

The Association Staff Consisted of the following:

Elected Officers

President
Ray Bigelow
Secretary
John Wilder

Vice-President
Timothy Gardiner
Spouses Advocate
Carol Wood

Public Affairs Officer
Timothy Gardiner

Chairpersons

First Immediate Past President
Joe Brunner
Audit
William Nielsen
Nominating
Edward Deats

Second Immediate Past President
William Nielsen
By-Laws
William Nielsen
Scholarship Chairman
Dave Wood

Third Immediate Past President
Bill Paschall
Membership
Joe Brunner
Reunion Coordinator
Michael Patras

Special Assistants

Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator
Father Peter Norris
Associate Newsletter
Patti Bigelow
Database Administrator
Leo Mrozek

Veterans Service Officer
Jim Disney
Webmaster
Leo Mrozek
Memorabilia Storekeeper(s)
Myrl & Sharron Wallace

Newsletter Editor
Rich Galecki
Storekeeper
Myrl Wallace

Reunion 2009 Host & Hostess
Bill & Donna Nielsen (Caribbean Cruise--To be announced)
Reunion 2010 Host & Hostess
Myrl & Sharron Wallace (Hospitality Suites Resort, Scottsdale, AZ)
Reunion 2011 Host & Hostess
Bill and Carolyn Paschall (Pensacola, Florida)

The amnesty program voted on by the Membership at the 2007 Reunion in San Antonio proved to be very successful. A total of 66 Shipmates who were two or more years in arrears of their dues, paid their \$20.00 dues for calendar 2008 and were again counted as "Members in Good Standing." Our Five Star News Editor (Rich Galecki) posted the Spring 2008 edition of the Association Web Site (which is in color) in mid-March, and was in the process of mailing out the black and white version to all members in good standing. Reunion Coordinators Hank and Rhonda Byrnside and Andy and Kaye Lewellen worked hard since the ending of our June 2007 San Antonio Reunion making arrangements for Reunion 2008, which was held June 18-21, at the Radisson Opryland in Nashville, Tennessee. Andy arranged for noted author and former Navy Pilot Austin Boyd to be guest speaker at the reunion. Austin Boyd, Nuclear Weapons Officer and spacecraft engineer, flew over 3000 hours in war and peacetime operations, designed satellites and invented classified devices to track terrorist. His three space novels include "The Evidence," "The Proof," and "The Return."

The title of Austin Boyd's speech was: "Turning Challenges Into Opportunity", and included the following salient comments:

"Vice Admiral Jerry Tuttle, COMSIXTHFLEET and CNO N-6, was fond of telling me that "great opportunities are brilliantly disguised as unsolvable problems." I was Jerry Tuttle's thirteenth aide when he was the most senior three star flag officer in DOD. From that wisdom, I learned to take a new look at challenges in life, and I had plenty.

I pursued a dream of being an astronaut from a very early age. Since I was 12, I put every ounce of effort into my schooling, my early Navy career as a pilot, and later, into the special skills I needed to make the grade as a Naval Astronaut. I applied for the astronaut program 8 times, more than any other officer except my friend and fellow P-3 pilot, Captain Mike Foreman. Mike made it into the astronaut corps in 1998. I was a finalist for selection in 1994, but never was selected for the program. Challenges abound! The challenge of not selecting almost crushed me, but I remembered VADM Tuttle's sage words. I looked for the great opportunity in the despairing defeat, and began to write about what I felt. Words led to paragraphs, then pages, and finally a novel. That novel, once edited through 3 years of extremely hard work, found its way to the bookstore after a fun bidding war between multiple publishers. Now, to my amazement, there are three books on the shelf that bear my name. All written about a Navy astronaut who works hard to get selected, then heads to Mars, but has to leave a wife and kids behind. He's stuck with that dilemma that most of us Navy folks face... to pursue marriage or mission. He chose mission, and life is not all rosy as a result.

Had I made astronaut, I might not have been a writer. But I believe that God needed me somewhere else. He needed me to walk that path of seeking astronaut selection so that I could one day write about it with passion, understanding, and technical accuracy. He used 40 years of 'wandering in the wilderness' to prepare me to do God's work as a novelist. Great opportunities... being a published novelist... were brilliantly disguised as unsolvable problems."

Through Hank and Andy's efforts, and in addition to our normal "Hostility Room" (so aptly named by our departed Shipmate Bud Scott), Ship's Store, Memorabilia Collection and open bar will prevail throughout the reunion Special events were arranged for the membership, wives and guest to enjoy, included are the "Grand Ole Opry Show," "River Cruise and Lunch on the General Jackson Showboat," "Cruise Book Pictures" and our usual wrap-up banquet on Saturday night.

Reunion attendees

: We had a wonderful group of Shipmates, Spouses and Guests this year. They include: Russell Andolina, Devin and Paige Arsenault (Guests of Tim and Lori Gardiner), John and Andrea Baker, RADM Jack and Carolyn Batzler, Marc and Doris Berlin, Ray and Patti Bigelow, Joe Brunner, Roseanne Bunch, Henry and Rhonda Byrnside, Kermit and Nell Carrick, Billy Chastain, John and Sonia Correia, Lewis and Patricia Cowden, RADM Brian and Maxine Compton, Ron Davis (father-in-law of Scott Patterson), Ed and Phyllis Deats, Joe Fairer (and a dinner guest), Jim and Joan Futtner, Rich and Eileen Galecki, Jared Gardiner (son of Tim and Lori), Tim and Lori Gardiner, Timothy and Kathleen Gildea, Carlton Harbaugh, John Ivie, Roger and Gay Landers, Andy and Kaye Lewellen, Roger and Wanda Mitchell, Joe Murphy, Tom Nelson, Father Peter Norris, Al and Sue Oberbeck (guests of Roseanne Bunch), Patrick and Libby O'Brien, Bill and Carolyn Paschall, Mike and Maggie Patras, Scott Patterson, Frank and Kim Ruesche, Carl Seyfarth, Bob and Judith Shepard, Jim and Joann Thomas, Myrl and Sharron Wallace, Robert Witham (and guest Ms. Myra Nichols), Dave and Carol Wood,

Scholarship Fund

. A significant amount of funds were raised for the Scholarship Fund: "Pour your Own Bar:- \$660; 50/50 Drawings: - \$390; Silent Auction: - \$1310, for a total of: \$2360.00.

2008 Scholarship Selection: We were fortunate this year to have three outstanding candidates. The deciding factor was the Essay. Otherwise, the three candidates scored basically even on all other traits.

John W Wilder-(Sponsor John F Wilder), Graduate of Medford High School, Medford, MA, with a 3.3 grade point average. Has been accepted at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA. John received numerous awards including band, three (3) citizenship awards and was on the Honor roll his last three years. He submitted his essay entitled "Just a Flag" which was outstanding.

Sarah M Willits-(Sponsor: Marty Willits) Sarah is a College Junior and is a previous winner of the Admiral Nimitz Scholarship. She is currently attending Sam Houston State University studying criminal justice, Huntsville, TX, where she is carrying a 3.1 grade point average. She received numerous honors over the years from National Honor Society to Presidents honor list and was a member of the JROTC. She submitted an essay entitled "True Patriots which was excellent.

Adam P Reusche-(Sponsor: Frank Reusche) Graduate of Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy in Erie, PA, with a grade point average of 3.89. He has been accepted to Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY, where he will start this year as a freshman. He has received numerous honors award including being on the Erie Junior Philharmonic Orchestra as well as numerous other awards for his work with the Orchestra and was a member of the National Honor Society for 2007 & 2008.

Our winner was John W. Wilder. John recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 421 in West Medford. He was a member of the Key Club (junior Kiwanis) and very active in the High School Band, Orchestra and Pep Band. He participated in many community projects throughout his high school career and worked part time for the past 4 years. He will be attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester Massachusetts where he will pursue an education in Aerospace Engineering.

Reunion 2011

. Several nominations were submitted by Reunion Coordinator Mike Patras, plus a couple more from the floor during the first General Meeting. At the second General Meeting (voting only), Pensacola, Florida was selected. Volunteer Coordinators will be Bill and Carolyn Paschall.

Passing of a Shipmate - Shipmate Ken Mantle passed away 20 November 2008, at the age of 70 in his home in Pensacola, FL. Ken served as the Command Master Chief of USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) from April 1979 to March 1982. Ken was actively involved with this building project at his church. A Mass was said by our Association Chaplain, Fr. Peter Norris in Ken's honor on Friday, 21 November 2008 at St. Mary's in the Falkland Islands. Fr. Peter told his Congregation that Ken was his Shipmate.



USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association Association History



Association History for Calendar Year

The Association Staff Consisted of the following:

Elected Officers

President
Ray Bigelow
Secretary
John Wilder

Vice-President
Timothy Gardiner
Spouses Advocate
Carol Wood

Public Affairs Officer
Timothy Gardiner
Treasurer
John Wilder

Chairpersons

First Immediate Past President
Joe Brunner
Audit
William Nielsen
Nominating
Edward Deats

Second Immediate Past President
William Nielsen
By-Laws
William Nielsen
Scholarship Chairman
Dave Wood

Third Immediate Past President
Bill Paschall
Membership
Joe Brunner
Reunion Coordinator
Michael Patras

Special Assistants

Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator
Father Peter Norris
Webmaster
Leo Mrozek
Memorabilia Storekeeper(s)
Myrl Wallace

Newsletter Editor
Rich Galecki
Storekeeper
Myrl Wallace
Veterans Service Officer
Jim Disney

Associate Newsletter
Patti Bigelow
Database Administrator
Leo Mrozek

Reunion 2010 Host & Hostess
Myrl & Sharron Wallace (Hospitality Suites Resort, Scottsdale, AZ)
Reunion 2011 Host & Hostess
Bill and Carolyn Paschall (Pensacola, Florida)
Reunion 2012 Host & Hostess
Ed and Phyllis Deats (Sacramento, California)

The start of 2009 saw our financial situation to be in excellent order, with a bank balance of \$10,939.00.

The Great Ship Nimitz

Your Historian felt it might be appropriate time to reiterate the Mission of the Great Ship Nimitz for all of our Members by publishing it in our 2009 History.

MISSION

Employ persistent, precise combat power from the sea to destroy or neutralize adversaries in all regions of the battle space.

VISION

USS NIMITZ is one of eleven capital warships in the United States Navy. As such, everything NIMITZ does is observed by others. NIMITZ achieves excellence in combat capability by relentlessly executing all tasks, both fundamental and advanced, with professionalism. This execution is enabled by a high degree of teamwork. The professionalism thus demonstrated is an indicator of combat capability that comforts friends and gives pause to potential adversaries.

GOALS

- Attain and maintain a high degree of professionalism and competent execution of all tasks, thereby achieving superior combat capability.
- Provide for the professional and personal development of the crew through training and covenant leadership.
- Promote the welfare of NIMITZ families using regular communication and facilitating the use of established support services.
- While preparing for our core missions, retain the flexibility and capability of conducting humanitarian tasks as directed.

Reunion 2009

The 2009 Reunion was held aboard Royal Caribbean's "Enchantment of the Sea" from 13-18 June 2009. We departed Port Everglades on 13 June at 1700 and returned to port on 18 June at 0800.

A Bon Voyage party was held in the Schooner Bar where each participant was handed a glass of Champagne as we departed Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The general meeting for the USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) Association was held at 0800, 14 June, and was called to order by Joe Brunner, Acting President, with the Members Only meeting commencing at 0900. The second business meeting was held on Wednesday, 17 June. Results of these meetings are as follows:

The first motion made was to suspend the By-Laws related to conducting a business meeting without a superior majority of the Association Officers present due to extenuating circumstances' regarding the economy, etc., by Dave Wood. The motion was seconded by Pat O'Brien. The motion carried.

John Wilder was nominated in absentia for Secretary/Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Ed Deats, Nominating Chairman. Since there was no opposition, the vote was unanimously approved.

Jim Wood was nominated for a second term as Spouses Advocate; the motion was seconded by Jim Futtner. Since there was no opposition, the vote was unanimously approved.

All applauded both John and Carol for their continued support to the Association.

A motion was made by Ed Deats for members of the Association to once again attend the Tail Hook Convention later this year using the President's discretionary fund. The motion was seconded by Tim Gildea. Discussion ensued.

The vote was taken at the second business meeting and passed with a majority vote.

Discussion ensued regarding the reunion in 2012, with the following cities recommended:
Sacramento, CA - Fort Mitchell, KY - San Diego, CA - St. Louis, MO

A vote was conducted on Wednesday, 17 June and the overwhelming winner was Sacramento, California. Ed and Phyllis Deats agreed to Coordinate the Reunion.

It was noted that the increase in membership was due in most part as a result of the letter and e-mail campaign last year, as well as our participation in the Tail Hook Convention, held in July 2008. Thanks to all who participated in getting new members for the Association.

The Treasurer's report was as follows:
Bank balance as of 31 December 2008 = \$10,900.00

Bank balance as of 1 June 2009 = \$11,500.00

Volunteers were recruited to review the Scholarship Applications. Each volunteer was given a blind scoring sheet.

Results: The 2009 winner of the Chester Nimitz Scholarship was Ross Pederson, son of Shipmate Mark Pederson. Mark served on board in Admin/X4 from August 1984 to June 1986. Ross was notified that he had won when we came ashore on 18 June.

A 50/50 Raffle was conducted, and \$130.00 was collected for the Scholarship Fund. The winning ticket was held by Doris Berlin, who donated \$20.00 back to the Scholarship Fund.

The Spouse's meeting was held after the General, All Hands meeting. The ladies decorated souvenir picture frames and discussed possible location for the 2012 reunion.

A Silent Auction was held and raised \$231 for the Association. Thanks to all who participated and brought Memorabilia/items for the auction.

The Captain of the Enchantment of the Seas was invited to attend our meeting and graciously accepted. He was presented with the Association Plaque commemorating the RCCL's hosting of the 2009 Association reunion. The plaque was supplied and created by our own Myrl Wallace. The Captain was very appreciative and remained at the meeting to speak and answer any questions that the members had for him. There were lot of humorous comparisons of an Aircraft Carrier vs. a civilian cruise ship. It was a great opportunity to meeting and talk with the Skipper.

Father Peter conducted a Mass on Sunday, 14 June in the Royal Crown Room.

Ports of Call included George Town, Grand Cayman and Cozumel, Mexico.

It was a great reunion; all participants commented on how much fun it was despite the low turnout. .

On 24 March 2009, Captain Paul O. Monger relieved RADM Michael C. Manazir (16 March 2007 - 24 August 2009), becoming the 15th Commanding Officer of the Great Ship NIMITZ (CVN-68). Captain Monger was commissioned an Ensign upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy in June 1982 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aerospace Engineering. The son of a career Naval Aviator, he attended flight school and was designated a Naval Flight Officer upon receiving his wings of gold in August 1983. He completed F-14A training with VF-124 at NAS Miramar and reported to the Bounty Hunters of VF-2 in March 1982. NOTE: Not wishing to refer to any of our Members as "old", but our Association Founder and Historian, Bill Paschall, completed 30 years of active naval service on 1 July 1980, about two years before Captain Monger graduated from the Naval Academy, and at this writing he is still with us at age 79.

Having been officially organized on 1 July 1997, our Association celebrated its 12th Birthday in 2009. Our first reunion was held 18-22 March 1998, at the Lake Wright Resort,

Norfolk, Virginia.

Ed Deats, Joe and Bea Brunner, Joe Murphy, representing the Association, attended this year's Tailhook Convention at the Nugget in Sparks, Nevada from Wednesday, September 9th through Saturday, September 12th. The coordinator of this event, Marc Ostertag ("Tag"), invited our group to participate again at no charge to the Association. We are still the only carrier shipmates organization that participates in recruiting. The USS RANGER Foundation purchased a booth space to promote itself but did not recruit. Although our participation was roundly received we regretfully only signed up one new member. Exposure, however, was priceless!! Former NIMITZ skipper, Rear Admiral Jack Batzler, attended as well as another previous NIMITZ CO, Rear Admiral (LH) Ted "Twig" Branch, who is now the new Commander of Carrier Group 1 and will be home ported in San Diego. Even though our recruiting was not as good as last year we still feel that our presence was a success and look forward to attending the 2010 convention 9-12 September 2010

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet awarded USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) the Retention Excellence Award, also known as the Golden Anchor, for the fourth year in a row.

On 2 December 2010, NIMITZ changed homeport to Bremerton, Washington.

Our Ship's Store Inventory shows a well stocked Ship's Store. Although we do not include a dollar value of store items, it is in addition to our end of year bank account balance:

USS Nimitz Ships Store Inventory (Store Items are available on the Association Web Site)

Hats 2807 8 Gold;

2808 9 Child;

2809 5 Lowrise

2810 Watch Cap 11 Visors

2904 5 Blue; 2911 5 Khaki

2901 Golf Shirts Black Pique 9 sm; 8 med; 3 lg; 0 xl; 0 xxl

2902 J Golf Shirts Blue Jersey 11 lg; 10 xl; 10 xxl

2902P Golf Shirts Blue Jersey with Pocket 6xl; 6 xxl

2902 Golf Shirts Blue Pique 8 sm; 12 med; 6 lg; 10xl; 5 xxl

2903 Golf Shirts White Pique 8 sm; 9 med; 5 lg; 12 xl; 6 xxl

2904 Golf Shirts Royal Blue Pique 6 lg; 11 xl; 12xxl; 2xxxl

2905 Golf Shirts Royal Blue Jersey 6 xl; 6xxl

Grey T Shirts 0 sm; 0 med; 1 lg; 0 xl; 0 xxl

White w/gold T Shirts 0 sm; 0 med; 2 lg; 0 xl; 2 xxl

White w/blue T Shirts 0 sm; 0 med; 3 lg; 4 xl; 0 xxl

2816 Ladies Sleeveless White Pique 2 sm; 2 med; 2 lg; 4 xl

2817 Ladies Sleeveless Navy Blue 1 sm; 2 med; 4 lg; 3 xl

2815 Ladies Sleeveless Lt Blue 3 sm; 2 med; 3 lg; 4 xl

2814 Ladies Golf Shirts Aqua 2 sm; 3 med; 3 lg; 3 xl

2906 Windshirts Blue 1 lg; 1 xl; 2 xxl

2810 Windbreaker Jackets, Brushed Twill, Royal Blue 1 lg;

Micro Fiber Navy Blue 2 sm; 2 med; 2 lg; 6xl; 1 xxl

2920 Sweat Shirts Blue 0 sm; 0 med; 0 lg; 0 xl; 1xxl

Childs White w/blue T Shirts size 10 to 12 - 2

Childs White w/gold T Shirts size 6 to 8 - 1; size 10 to 12 - 2

2809 Totes 6 Blue;

2813 5 Khaki

2811 USS Nimitz CVN-68 Challenge Coins 59

Mouse Pads 7

3000 Lapel Pins 294

3010 Shave Kit 12

The Association ended 2009 on solid financial grounds with a bank balance of \$ 13,686.00.



USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association Association History



Association History for Calendar Year

The Association Staff Consisted of the following:

Elected Officers

President
Ed Deats
Secretary
John Wilder

Vice-President
Joe Murphy
Spouses Advocate
Carol Wood

Public Affairs Officer
Joe Murphy
Treasurer
John Wilder

Chairpersons

First Immediate Past President
Ray Bigelow
Audit
William Nielsen
Nominating
Edward Deats

Second Immediate Past President
Joe Brunner
By-Laws
Rich Galecki
Scholarship Chairman
Dave Wood

Third Immediate Past President
William Nielsen
Membership
Joe Brunner
Reunion Coordinator
John Correia

Special Assistants

Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator
Father Peter Norris
Webmaster
Leo Mrozek
Veterans Service Officer
Jim Disney
Reunion 2011 Host & Hostess
Bill and Carolyn Paschall (Pensacola, Florida)
Reunion 2012 Host & Hostess
Ed and Phyllis Deats (Sacramento, California)
Reunion 2013 Host & Hostess
Andy & Kaye Lewallen (Savannah, Georgia)

Newsletter Editor
Rich Galecki
Storekeeper
Myrl Wallace
Historian
Bill Paschall

Associate Newsletter
Patti Bigelow
Memorabilia Storekeeper(s)
Myrl Wallace

GREETINGS SHIPMATES

As we ended year 2010, our finances were in decent order; however, our Membership seems to be in melt down. We ended the year with 108 Regular Members and 36 Life Members for a total of 144 active members, however, our total of former and now inactive members total a disappointing 547. We need all Members in Good Standing to step up and become recruiters, bring back former members and sign up new members. An Association like ours should have a Membership in excess of 1000 as other carriers do. At our very first reunion at the Lake Wright Resort, Norfolk, Virginia in 1998 we had an attendance of 160, and as the word went out in the

Norfolk/Virginia Beach Area, by the time our reunion was over we had a total of 220 Members on board, compared to just 144 fourteen years later.

In spite of our low membership, our finances are in fairly good order. Our half & half drawings at reunions, silent auctions and small profits from the "Pour Your Own Bars" have kept pace with the annual \$2000 paid out to Scholarship Winners. As of January 1, 2010 our bank total at the Naval Federal Credit Union was \$12,063.95. A small profit was realized at the Scottsdale Reunion in October: Income: \$2749.00, Expenses: \$968.24, leaving a profit of \$1760.76. The payment of annual dues assists in keeping us solvent. As our Treasurer, John Wilder is doing a great job in managing our finances.

Those that have attended a reunion prior to Scottsdale know that our Saturday night banquet we always had a speaker with a well know name, e.g., a former Skipper. At the suggestion of Secretary/Treasurer John Wilder, he recommend a former winner of two Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Scholarships while a student at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, who was also a combat veteran of Iraq, and just happened to live in the Scottsdale area. The Board agreed and she was well received at our Saturday night banquet. To preserve this speech for future members to enjoy, is it printed below for you to read.

Reunion 2010, Scottsdale, AZ: Our Host and Hostess this year were Myrl "Wally" and Sharron Wallace. They decided in lieu of a laundry list of "structured events", this was to be our first, and proved to be a very successful, informal reunion. This was also one of our most inexpensive reunions. The owner of the huge Resort is an old friend of Wally, and we received the best of the best. Our rooms were grouped in the back of the resort where we had almost exclusive use of a large pool, sheltered picnic pavilion for "swapping sea stories", etc. etc. Our room rate included a "cooked to order" breakfast and a free cocktail hour (more like two hours) adjacent to the Resort's main swimming pool. We gathered here everyday at 1700 for fun, frolic, free adult beverages, just getting acquainted again and getting to know first time attendees. Groups ventured out to see local attractions, and the area is loaded, e.g., Sedona Red Rock Country (one of the most beautiful places in this great country), the Commemorative Air Force (a very large hanger loaded with vintage airplanes from a bi-wing Red Baron of WWI aircraft), a Navy F-4 and others, WWII bombers, etc., the Grand Canyon, Apache Trail and many others. Our Saturday night banquet was a real hit.

Attendees. Myrl and Sharron Wallace (our Host and Hostess), Ed and Phyllis Deats (our newly elected President), Dave and Carol Wood (our Scholarship Chairman and Spouses Advocate), Rich and Eileen Galecki (our highly touted Five Star News Editor), Ray and Patti Bigelow (our outgoing President), John Wilder (our Secretary/ Treasurer), Father Peter Norris (our always present Chaplain), Joe Murphy (our newly elected Vice President/Public Affairs Officer) Andy and Kaye Lewallen (our Host and Hostess for our 2013 Reunion, Savannah, GA), John and Sonia Correira (wedded at the Reunion by Father Peter), Henry and Rhonda Byrnside (attendants to the Bride and Groom), Frank Reusche, Timothy and Kathleen Gildea, Michael Hoover, Stephen Crabtree, Scotts Patterson and Father-in-Law Ronald Davis, Jim Disney, Leo and Dana Mrozek and your humble Historian Bill and Carolyn Paschall.

Our Banquet Guest Speaker

"Freedom has a flavor that the protected will never know."
By Megan Welter, 1LT, USAR

“It is such an honor to speak in front of you. My Granddaddy [Bill Paschall] told me that you usually have retired Admirals speak at these reunions, so I am truly humbled and blessed. I want to...thank you all for the two Scholarships you awarded me... These scholarships paid for my books for three years and helped me move into my first apartment my freshman year of college. Not only do I thank you, but my father does as well! Like my grandfather said, after graduating I decided to join the military and serve as an officer. Coming from a Navy family I initially wanted to join the Navy. I went to basic training in Fort Jackson, SC and then two days later after graduation started Officer Candidate School...in wonderful Ft. Benning, commissioned a 2LT on 26 April 2007. My father read me the Oath of Office and I was fortunate enough to have my Grandfather there too. After OCS I went to the Officer Basic Course II in Fort Sill, OK. I then went on to the Signal Officer Basic Course where I was branched a Signal Officer. From there I received orders to the 11th Signal Brigade out of Fort Huachuca, AZ and deployed to Balad, Iraq in December 2007 with the 40th Signal Battalion. During my deployment I was the Network Infrastructure Officer in Charge on Joint Base Balad. We had the most advanced strategic network ever in the history of war. I like to tell everyone we were like the “Bell South or Comcast” of Iraq. We provided unclassified and classified phones and internet to the largest logistics base in Iraq. We had an attack almost every day...some days were worse than others and we had some close calls with buildings we were working in getting hit. I was blessed to bring every one of my soldiers home though. I returned home from Iraq in March 2009. The tactical signal equipment the army has now enables us to deploy anywhere in the world and provide phone and internet services to the war fighter. Unlike my mission in Iraq, my soldiers now had transportable satellite systems that ran off of generator power. I decided to leave Active Duty Army in early 2010 and try my luck as a civilian. I signed to be an army reservist and to my surprise it is a lot more work than I ever thought. I am now the Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander in a Signal Battalion here in Mesa. I love being a company commander and to be able to do what I do best... lead Soldiers. I will be on full time orders all of 2011 as the Officer in Charge of our Battalion equipment fielding. For me, the military gives us a sense of pride. General MacArthur said it best in three words during his speech to West Point Graduates in 1962: “Duty, Honor, Country.” Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying points: to build courage when courage seems to fail; to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith; to create hope when hope becomes forlorn.” The military also gives us camaraderie and a bond of undergoing hardships, pain, and without. There’s a saying that says, “For those who fight to protect it, freedom has a flavor that the protected will never know.” It is up to us, as veterans and service members to remind Americans of the freedoms they have. To remind them not to take what they have for granted and to appreciate the life, liberty and justice given to them at birth. It is up to us to remain humbled yet proud, a role model but not a celebrity, disciplined and committed to standing up for what is right and what we have fought for. I salute you all and all the veterans who have fought to protect our freedoms and the many men, women and close friends of mine that are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan now. God Bless and God Bless America. “ Thank you.

A Tour of Duty Ends. Shipmate Raymond “BIGS” Bigelow completed his term as President and gave up the helm after doing a great job during his Presidency. He stated that 2010 was a very busy and trying year, although not a lot was accomplished in growing the Association. Between January 1st and the first day of our Scottsdale Reunion (October 16th), he received and answered a total of 482 e-mails in conjunction with his job as President of the Association. We all owe BIGS a pat on the back for his efforts in keeping us “Steaming as Before,” and we look forward to his and Patti’s continued contributions to make us grow and be the best of the best in carrier associations.

The Tailhook Convention. Ed Deats, our newly elected President at the Scottsdale Reunion, along with our newly elected Vice President/Public Affairs Officer Joe Murphy attended the annual Tailhook Convention in Reno, Nevada 9-12 November. The only other

carrier organization present was the USS Ranger Foundation; however, only the Nimitz Association actively recruited new members and were successful in bringing seven new members on board, including an Air Force Officer that made 20 traps on Nimitz in 2005. Ed stated that many individuals visited the Nimitz Association Booth to talk about Nimitz and many young pilots, not yet graduated from flight school, stating they were looking forward to their first “trap” on the Nimitz Flight Deck. In his talk with your humble Historian, Ed indicated he was very proud to have been elected Association President and stated....”The only wisdom I can pass is that I will uphold the office of Association President to the best of my abilities!” I can state without reservation that Ed will indeed do that and he and wife Phyllis been two of our strongest members since we came into being.

Webmaster. Our erstwhile Webmaster Leo Mrozek rolled out a “new look” to our web site in 2010, with some major improvement that should make it the number one web site of any military Association on the World Wide Web. The site has found a “new home” on a server and Leo has taken over full control. Leo has combined all facets of the database and recommends that the Special Assistant, Database Administrator be eliminated and included in the next change to the Association Constitution and By-Laws. The Association owes Leo a large “Atta-Boy” for his hard work on behalf of the Association, and likely saved us thousands of dollars for a site that could not have afforded.

Our Ladies. Carol Wood, our Spouses Advocate, had a very busy year participating in a constant stream of e-mails to and from the wonderful ladies of our Association that complement the Association and keep us steaming ahead. Some e-mails consisted of prayer chains regarding our military and up-to-date health issues regarding Association families and other events in their lives. Six months prior to the beginning of the Scottsdale Reunion, Carol hit the air ways with e-mails encouraging Reunion attendance, and asking them to reach out to other Nimitz families and encourage them to attend. At the Reunion, Association ladies threw a bridal shower for Sonia prior to her wedding later on at the Reunion to Shipmate John Correira, officiated by our own Chaplain Father Peter Norris, and conducted at a local Catholic Church. The ladies presented Sonia with a Creative Memories Photo Album with all the accoutrements, plus a reception after the wedding, including a wedding cake. John and Sonia are two of our strongest supporters. I received an e-mail from John after we all returned home indicating that the Association was his and Sonia’s Family, and I could not agree more. Sonia is the life of the party at every Reunion.

Scholarship. Dave Wood, Chairman of our Scholarship Committee stated that 2010 was a very successful year with regard to the scholarship program, and thanks every Association Member who contributed to the program. He indicated we had two outstanding candidates (where we should have at least 10 or more to enhance competition). The selection process is conducted in total secret. The name of each candidate’s application package is removed and an arbitrary number assigned to ensure there can be no conflict of interest in the selection process. The candidates were Eric Kelsey from Peru, Indiana and Hannah Hudson from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. The Winner of the 2010 Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Scholarship was Hannah Hudson. Hannah will be attending the California University in Pennsylvania where she will major in English with a concentration in Literature. She will be receiving the scholarship award of \$2000 to assist in her educational endeavors. Hannah’s winning essay follows:

**“American Girl”
By Hannah Hudson**

“In my mind, the word patriotism makes me envision myself as a young child surround by food, family and fireworks. We would all go

up to a park near where I lived (along with everyone else in the neighborhood) and have the best picnic of the summer. There was nothing better than watching fireworks explode in the night sky while eating red, white and blue snow cones. I treasured these moments dearly, but I never once thought to question the meaning behind what we were celebrating. Now that I am older and have cousins and uncles fighting over seas, it is obvious that the reason for celebration is our freedom. America is the great country it is today because of the men and women that fight to keep us free. Our traditional celebration on patriotic holidays has a much deeper meaning than my childhood memories. We celebrate to show that we are thankful for everything we have fought hard to gain. American is a great country filled with opportunity and freedom. I am proud to say that I live in a land with so many opportunities that I can be who ever I want and have any career I choose. Next Fourth of July, instead of just watching fireworks, I will be sure to think of how far this amazing country has come.”

The topic of discussion as we wrapped up Reunion 2010 in Scottsdale, Arizona was getting together again 26-29 October 2011 in Pensacola to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation. Many of our Members will be visiting the National Naval Air Museum for the very first time. Our Saturday night banquet (29 October) will be held in the Museum Atrium, surrounded on two sides with 5 story high glass windows, with four Navy A4s painted in the Blue Angles traditional colors of Navy Blue and Gold suspended from the over head. We will be honored to have New York Times best selling author Stephen Coonts as guest speaker. Stephen served in NIMITZ as Landing Signals and Catapult Officer. The majority of his books center around Navy Officer Jack Grafton, and every one is a page turner of mystery and adventure.

Our quarters are reserved, and it is our hope that every suite (75 reserved) will be taken and we will have to add more. A lot of activities are being planned and it is hoped that this will be our largest attended reunion since our inception.



USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association Association History



Association History for Calendar Year

The Association Staff Consisted of the following:

Elected Officers

President

Ed Deats

Secretary

Jim Disney

Vice-President

Joe Murphy

Spouses Advocate

Phyllis Deats

Public Affairs Officer

Joe Murphy

Treasurer

Jim Disney

Chairpersons

First Immediate Past President

Ray Bigelow

Audit

Scott Patterson

Nominating

Ray Bigelow

Second Immediate Past President

Joe Brunner

By-Laws

Rich Galecki

Scholarship Chairman

Dave Wood

Third Immediate Past President

William Nielsen

Membership

Joe Brunner

Reunion Coordinator

John Correia

Special Assistants

Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator

Father Peter Norris

Webmaster

Leo Mrozek

Veterans Service Officer

Jim Disney

Reunion 2012 Host & Hostess

Ed and Phyllis Deats (Sacramento, California)

Reunion 2013 Host & Hostess

Andy & Kaye Lewallen (Savannah, Georgia)

Reunion Coordinators

Joe Murphy, Dave Wood and Leo Mrozek (Chicago, Illinois)

Newsletter Editor

Rich Galecki

Storekeeper

Myrl Wallace

Historian

Myrl Wallace

Associate Newsletter

Patti Bigelow

Memorabilia Storekeeper(s)

Myrl Wallace

Skipper Liason

RADM Jack Batzler

John Wilder's position as Treasurer and Secretary was Term Limited at the Reunion; however, he agreed to stay on for three more months until a relief would come forward - extension voted and approved by the Members.

NOTE: The below History for 2011 is exceedingly extensive. With our 14th Annual Reunion taking place during the 100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation, and in the city referred to as the "Cradle of Naval of Naval Aviation, your Historian felt as extensive write-up of 2011 was appropriate. Lieutenant Theodore Gordon "Spuds" Ellyson (27 Feb 1885 - 27 Feb 1928) was commissioned as our first aviator on 1 July 1911, and received the Number 1 Aviator designation.

Our bank balance with the Naval Federal Credit Union on 1 January 2011 was \$10,160; and we ended the year on 31 December with \$11,487 on deposit, so financially the year was positive. Numerical totals of "Members in Good Standing" saw us end the year with 129 Regular Members, and 46 Life Members, for a total membership of 175. With over 50,000 having served in the Great Ship NIMITZ, we can certainly improve on that number.

Tailhook 2011. The event was held at the Golden Nugget Hotel in Sparks, Nevada, 7-10 September 2011. President Ed Deats and Vice President Joe Murphy took this opportunity

to represent the Nimitz Association again this year. Our Association was the only carrier association in attendance this year. Over 3500 people attended the event. Five new Shipmates joined the Association and had an opportunity to meet Captain Paul Monger, current NIMITZ Commanding Officer and other members of Ship's Company. It was another successful show, and gave us an opportunity to show the Nimitz Flag.

**14TH Annual Reunion
26-29 October 2011 - Pensacola, Florida
Ashton Inn and Suites
Coordinators: Bill & Carolyn Paschall Attendees**

Rear Admiral Jack Batzler	Tim & Kathleen Gildea)	Bob & Pat Ohm
Captain Paul Monger (Skipper)	Kathleen Gildea (Tim's Mom)	Bill & Carolyn Paschall
Ray & Patti Bigelow	John Goodwin & Betsie	Larry Orvis (Assn. Guest)
Leo & Dana Mrozek	Bruce & Mavis Holden	Mike & Maggie Patras
Hank & Rhonda Byrnside	Mike & Rosemarie Janeski	Scott Paterson & Ron Davis
Rear Admiral & Mrs. Bryan Compton	Roger & Gay Landers	Jack & Laura Peterson
Stephen Coons (Guest Speaker)	Charles & Shirley Leinthall	Scott & Darnell Rainwater
Robert Cope	Perry Lopez & Karen Jones	Dr. Frank Ruesche
John & Sonia Correia	Roger and Wanda Mitchell	Dr. Terry Soldo
Don Courson	Joe & Paulette Murphy	Jim & JoAnn Thomas
Ed & Phyllis Deats	COL Paul Lady, USMCR (Guest)	Myrl & Sharron Wallace
Jim & Verna Disney	Matthew Smaron (Guest)	Bob & Jett Witham
Jim & Joan Futtner	Peter Sharon (Guest)	John & Dottie Wilder
Rich Galecki	Father Peter Norris	Dave Wood
Rear Admiral & Mrs. Dick Gaskill	Patrick & Libby O'Brien	

Wednesday, 26 October-1700--All Attendees: The Reunion kicked off Wednesday evening by the Ashton Inn and Suites outdoor swimming pool, with an open bar and heavy finger food. With that said, I can report that the Manager, Ron Harper, and his Staff (with special appreciation to Front Desk Manager, Gail Davis); an effort that made this one of our most, if not the most, successful reunions to date. Association Plaque maker Wally Wallace presented an Association Plaque to Ron for his roll in making our reunion attendees so welcome.

Thursday, 27 October-0800--All Attendees: The meeting was opened by President Ed Deats, with a warm welcome to all Members, Spouses and Guests. Bill Paschall presented an overview of Reunion Events; Myrl Wallace gave a run down on the Ship's Store, and Admiral Gaskill (resides in Pensacola) gave a short brief on the Naval Air Station. A 50/50 drawing was held and John Correia was the winner, taking half at \$127.00.

Members Only Meeting-0830:

1. Secretary/Treasurer John Wilder briefed finances, and after consolidation of three accounts, the Association's current balance with the Navy Credit Union totaled: \$15,700 (includes all registration monies from those attending the reunion).

Vice President/Public Affairs Officer Joe Murphy briefed on his trip to NIMITZ in Bremerton Naval Shipyard and his meeting with Captain Paul Monger and the Public Affairs Officer, with the results being more cooperation between the Nimitz Public Affairs Office and the Association.

Reunion Coordinator, John Correia, briefed the attendees on three cities being considered for Reunion 2014: Keystone, N.D. Louisville, KY and Springfield, IL, with Chicago receiving a nomination from the floor.

Rich Galecki, Chairman, Consitution and and By-Laws Committee presented recommended changes to the Consituition and By-Laws: Synopsis of Significant Changes to Nimitz Association Constitution and By-Laws:

Officers

Allows a Vice-President to serve three 2-year terms vice three 1-year terms.

Allows the Vice-President to serve out the elected term of a President who becomes unable to perform the duties as President and be able to afterward be elected to 2 full terms in his/her own right.

Limits the Spouse Advocate to two consecutive terms but allows election to additional terms if there is a 2- year break after the second consecutive term.

If the President of the Association is unable to attend a reunion, meetings of the Association shall be presided over by the person in the following order: Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, 1st Immediate Past President and 2nd Immediate Past President.

A person may be nominated for an officer position from the floor if there are no persons who have filed prior to the reunion meeting.

Board of Directors

More clearly defined the Webmaster's duties.

Eliminated some duties of the Veteran's Service Officer that were not applicable or beyond the scope of the organization.

Added a Former Commanding Officers Liaison position as a voting member of the Board of Directors to keep in contact with all former Nimitz skippers.

Meetings - Allows emergency meetings to be held via telephone conference and voting on emergency matters via U.S. Mail or email may be authorized by the President of the Association due to the distributed make-up of the Board. After an email or postal mail vote is taken, the President shall make the results known to all Board members.

Life Membership - Life Membership may be awarded to anyone in any membership category from time to time by vote of the membership at a reunion for exceptional service to the association. Life Members so awarded have full voting privileges.

Scholarship

Raised the amount of the FADM Nimitz Scholarship to \$3,000 per award.

Allowed the board of directors to authorize additional scholarships, when funding permits.

Added Community Colleges and Associate's degrees to those studies eligible for the scholarship.

Changed the scoring criteria, work rules, and specific naming of extracurricular activities in the selection criteria for the scholarship.

Added eligibility for the scholarship to active (dues-paying and in good standing) members of the association.

President Ed Deats announced openings on the Staff to be filled for the coming year: Secretary/Treasurer, Spouses Advocate, and Historian. Members volunteered for the following positions: Audit Committee: Scott Patterson. Nominating Committee: Ray Bigelow. Historian: Myrl Wallace. No volunteer came forward for Secretary/Treasurer, John Wilder volunteer, who was term limited, agreed to serve three more months and was so approved by a vote of the Members. The position of Skipper's Liason was filled by RADM Jack Batzler

Thursday, 27 October was a Free Day for local touring and other adventures. One group rented two vans and took a trip to the Hard Rock Casino and Hotel in Biloxi. Others toured

the base, Fort Barrancus (which includes a National Cemetery), Pensacola Beach (a couple of sun burns), Seville Quarter, National Naval Air Museum, and likely local “watering holes” etc.

Friday, 28 October October was a busy day. At 0900, large group toured the Pensacola Historic Village, and afterwards, All Hands assembled at 1200 at the Pensacola Veterans/Wall South Memorial Park. Father Peter Norris conducted a Memorial Service for our fallen Comrades, with the NATTC Honor Guard and the NAS Rifle Team participating. The Service ended with President Ed Deats tossing a Memorial Wreath in Pensacola Bay to honor those we have lost over the years. Those honored at the service were:

Nimitz Family. Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz; wife Catherine Freeman Nimitz; son Rear Admiral Chester W. Nimitz and his wife Joan Leona (Labern) Nimitz; Sister M. Aquinas OP (Mary Manson Nimitz-daughter); and Anna Elizabeth (Nancy) Nimitz (daughter). NOTE: We have no evidence that eldest daughter Catherine Nimitz Lay, Wellfleet MAS has passed. Last information indicated she was 97 and residing in a Nursing Home.

Association Family. Those from the Association included: Charlie Hogue (10 Oct 97); Yogi Ybarra (12 Jan 2000); Larry Helmer (12 Jan 2000); Mick Merkel (29 Aug 2000); Warren “Tubby” Davison (13 Dec 2000); Tom Murphy (2003); Dick Allen (5 Dec 2007); Bud Scott (26 Nov 2008) and Ken Mantle (20 Nov 2008); and Association Spouses: Judi Lewallen (12 Oct 2003), Ruth Allen (2007), and Peggy Brunner (2 Mar 2008).

After the ceremony, local FOX 10 Television Reporter interviewed Father Peter, Ed Deats and Bill Paschall, with the interviews shown on the evening news:

“USS Nimitz veterans hold memorial.

Friday, 28 Oct 2011 2011, 6:23 p.m. CDT - Cory Pippin

PENSACOLA Fla (WALA) - Retired sailors and their families are gathering to remember a different time. The members of the USS Nimitz Association are holding a reunion this weekend.

It's being held in Pensacola for the first time in its 14 year history.

‘Every year we look forward to this. Every year I look for my shipmates to come, especially the guys I served with. You know, we had good times and few bad times,’ said Ed Deats, Nimitz Association President.

The group, with help from the Pensacola NAS Honor Guard, held a memorial for those who served. Chaplain Peter Norris spoke at the ceremony.

Norris’ British ship worked alongside the Nimitz and he was asked to join the group years ago.

‘I think under the misunderstanding that I was ex-American Navy, but when they found the truth, they decided I could join anyway, so I joined and never looked back. These guys are like family to me. We’re like family,’ Norris said.

After the ceremony, the veterans took to the shore, casting a wreath out into the water. The wreath is a reminder of sailors who gave their lives and of members of the Association who have passed away since the last gathering and will never make it to another yearly reunion.

Retired Commander Bill Paschall founded the Nimitz Association in 1997.

The group will meet in Sacramento, California next year.”

At the conclusion of the Memorial Service, the group had a rousing luncheon at McGuire’s Irish Pub, a most unique establishment, serving great food, stiff libations; and a great variety of beers from the in house brewery.

Saturday, 29 October-0800. Members Only Meeting (Voting on Thursday meeting recommendations):

1. President Ed Deats welcomed all members, and coordinated the meeting.

A 50/50 drawing was held. Bill Paschall was winner and took home \$77.00.

Recommended By-Laws changes were voted on and approved.

Extension of Secretary/Treasurer John Wilder’s term for three months was approved.

A tie vote between Louisville and Chicago for our 2014 Reunion Site. President Ed Deats made the decision to include nearby to Chicago Springfield votes with Chicago votes, thereby assigning Chicago as our reunion site in 2014.

Admiral Gaskill gave an overview of the National Naval Air Museum.

It was announced that Phyllis Deats was elected to be the new Spouses Advocate.

After the morning meeting, a large group was treated to a Guided Tour of the National Naval Air Museum at the Naval Air Station. It goes without saying, that this museum is one of the finest in the world and highly recommended.

At about 1730 Members, Spouses and Guests started arriving at the Museum for the evening events:

1. Pictures were taken for the Cruise (Memory) Book.

A Cocktail Party was held in the Cubi Bar, a most unique bar, with the bulkheads and overheads covered with Memorabilia transferred from the original Cubi Bar, Cubi Point, Philippines when the NAS Cubi closed.

At about 1845, after a rousing Cocktail Party in the Cubi Bar, all attendees took their seats in the Atrium for dinner, with the overhead displaying four A4s previously flown by the Blues and suspended from the overhead. President Ed Deats welcomed Members, Spouses and Special Guests. Former Commanding Officers Rear Admiral Byran Compton, Rear Admiral Dick Gaskill, Rear Admiral Jack Batzler and current Commanding Officer Paul Monger all had an opportunity to address the assembled guests. Announcements were made on items voted on and approved at the Saturday morning Members meeting. Dave Wood announced the 2011 Scholarship Winner, Eric Kelsey, and newly elected Spouses Advocate Phyllis Deats presented a bouquet of roses to Carolyn Paschall, Reunion Hostess, and stated: "These are presented to the First Lady of the Reunion."

Myrl Wallace presented an Association Plaque to the Museum, a plaque to John Wilder for his years of service to the Association and also to Bill Paschall.

National Best Selling Author Stephen Coonts made the principal address, and gave a history of his life after the Navy and Nimitz, e.g., in Denver, Colorado, a Taxi Driver, Policeman, Law School, Lawyer for an Oil Company and decided to write a book, which was a totally new adventure. After six months, he completed "Flight of the Intruder", which became an enormous best seller and as we all know, a great movie.

Sunday, 30 October. Many attendees gathered in our "Hostility Room" for goodbyes with a promise to meet again next September in Sacramento where Ed and Phyllis Deats will serve as Host and Hostess

Reunion finances: Income from Registrations and fees for various activities during the reunion prior to commencement of the reunion totaled \$6195.00. Total expenses were \$5,053.35. Income sources were: Ship's Store: \$896.00; Silent Auctions: \$1,117.00; Local activities: \$218.00; Donations: \$227.00; and Honor Bar: \$443.00. A balance of \$9,096.00 after all obligations made the reunion very successful from a financial viewpoint.

As a historical recap, below is a listing of Scholarship Winners since our first award in 1999.

Winner	Amount	Sponsor	Reunion Held In
1999 - Gary Rollins, III	\$1000	Gary Rollins, Father	San Antonio, TX
2000 - Cory Nielson	\$1000	Bill Nielson, Father	San Diego, CA
2001 - Brandon Fowler	\$1000	Bud Scott, Grandfather	Virginia Beach, VA
2002 - Chris Trick	\$2000	Al Trick, Father	Las Vegas, NV
2002 - Megan Welter	\$2000	Bill Paschall, Grandfather	Las Vegas, NV
2003 - Megan Welter	\$2000	Bill Paschall, Grandfather	Branson, MO
2004 - Jacob Fowler	\$2000	Bud Scott, Grandfather	Coronado, CA
2005 - Nicholas Patria	\$2000	Mike Patria, Father	Boston, MA
2006 - Sarah Willits	\$2000	Marty Willits, Father	Seattle, WA
2007 - Jared Gardines	\$2000	Tim Gardiner, Father	San Antonio, TX
2008 - John Wilder	\$2000	John Wilder, Father	Nashville, TN
2009 - Ross Pedersen	\$2000	Mark Pedersen	Caribbean Cruise
2010 - Hannah Hudson	\$2000	Bill Paschall, Grandfather	Scottsdale, AZ
2011 - Eric Kelsey	\$2000	Douglas Kelsey, Father	Pensacola, FL

Shipmates that is -30- for 2011, and the last official Association responsibility for SOB (Sweet Ole Bill). I have been at it in one capacity or another since our inception in 1997. As I turned age 81 on 4 October this year, I think it is time I hung it up and let our younger shipmates take over and hopefully improve our Association with ideas we never thought of. I turn my last official duty (Historian) over to Shipmate Myrl Wallace.



USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association Association History



Association History for Calendar Year

The Association Staff Consisted of the following:

Elected Officers

President
Ed Deats
Secretary
John Wilder

Vice-President
Joe Murphy
Treasurer
John Wilder

Public Affairs Officer
Joe Murphy
Spouses Advocate
Carol Wood

Chairpersons

First Immediate Past President
Ray Bigelow
Audit
Scott Patterson
Nominating
Ray Bigelow

Second Immediate Past President
Joe Brunner
By-Laws
Rich Galecki
Scholarship Chairman
Dave Wood

Third Immediate Past President
William Nielsen
Membership
Joe Brunner
Reunion Coordinator
Ray Bigelow

Special Assistants

Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator
Father Peter Norris
Webmaster
Leo Mrozek
Veterans Service Officer
Jim Disney
Database Administrator
Leo Mrozek

Newsletter Editor
Rich Galecki
Storekeeper
Myrl Wallace
Historian
Myrl Wallace

Associate Newsletter
Patti Bigelow
Memorabilia Storekeeper(s)
Myrl Wallace
Skipper Liason
RADM Jack Batzler

Reunion 2015 Host & Hostess
Myrl & Sharron Wallace (Denver, Colorado)
Reunion Coordinators
Joe & Bea Brunner (San Diego, Ca 2016)
Tim Galeda
Philidelphia, PA 2017

16 January 2012 Association Board of Directors Conference Call. Present on call:

Ed Deats, Ray Bigelow, Rich Galecki, Myrl Wallace, Jim Disney, John Wilder, and Joe Murphy.

Major discussion point was the vote to have Jim Disney assume role of Secretary/Treasurer of the Association from John Wilder.

Joe Murphy made the following motion: "Move that Jim Disney assume role of Secretary/Treasurer of the Association, which would count as his first term and to then stand for re-

election at the 2013 Reunion in Savannah, GA."

Motion was seconded and carried unanimously including a proxy vote from Phyllis Deats, the Spouses advocate in favor.

5 - 8 September Tailhook Association Meeting, Reno, NV was attended by Nimitz Association President Ed Deats, and Vice President Joe Murphy. Had a display booth provided by the Tailhook Association. Three former skippers stopped by to say hello: VADM Brent Bennitt, RADM Ted Branch, and CAPT John Gilman. It is always great to see former Commanding Officers of NIMITZ. Although we did not sign up anyone for the Association, we gave out over sixty business cards to people that were interested in the Association. We are looking forward to a number of them becoming new members. We continue to gain great exposure for the Association and Nimitz as once again we were the only active duty carrier represented at Tailhook.

21 - 24 September. Association 15th Reunion in Sacramento, CA. It was small in attendance, but had three first time members. David Scott, Dean Miner, and Craig Travis. All three are Plank Owners. The special guest and distinguished speaker was Rear Admiral Lower Pete Gumataotao, Carrier Group 11. He was escorted by his Flag Lieutenant Patrick Foster. The Admiral would have spoken at our banquet, but due to "Operational Necessity" was not able to stay until Monday night. However, he did speak to the attendees after our wonderful dinner cruise on Sacramento's finest paddle boat, the Hornblower. The food was excellent and the weather was great for a trip up and down the Sacramento River. We gathered together at the Embassy Suites outside our Hospitality Room and heard one of the most sincere and heartwarming speeches ever given to this Association. We listened to the Admiral speak about his story and how he came to be where he is today. He also addressed the Association and spoke on how important our mission is to keep the Great Ship Nimitz alive. The Admiral's speech was recorded and we hope to have it up on the web page soon.

Association business was conducted per the bylaws. The attending members affirmed the appointment of Jim Disney as the Association Secretary/Treasurer. Jim had filled in as the temporary Secretary/Treasurer until we met and voted. Thanks Jim for doing a great job. Vice President Joe Murphy and President Edward Deats were voted in for second terms. Our reunion city for 2015 was voted on and Denver, CO and surrounding areas won.

The banquet went over extremely well with 40 people attending. We had the Color Guard provided by Grant High School to lead in the Posting of the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. Father Peter was recognized for having been awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for his service. Father Peter and Joe Murphy conducted the Two Bell Ceremony. The DVD from current Commanding Officer Captain Ruth was shown. Closing remarks included the mentioning of the 2013 Reunion being hosted by Kaye and Andy Lewallen in Savannah, GA, 18 - 21 September.

This year marked some significant changes in the Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz College Scholarship program. The scoring criteria were adjusted as per last year's changes to the bylaws, the application and instructions were fine-tuned and the most significant change was the scholarship award being increased to \$3,000.00. We doubled the number of applications this year which really made the competition an exciting one. This year's winner was Rebecca Weiss from Morris Plains, NJ. Rebecca is the daughter of shipmate Michael Weiss and is a sophomore at West Chester University. Next year's applications are due on Friday, 6 September 2013 and will be awarded in Savannah, GA.

Association Ships Store at the end of 2012 had merchandise with a retail value of \$7970.00.



USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association Association History



Association History for Calendar Year

The Association Staff Consisted of the following:

Elected Officers

President

Ed Deats

Secretary

John Wilder

Vice-President

Joe Murphy

Treasurer

John Wilder

Public Affairs Officer

Joe Murphy

Spouses Advocate

Carol Wood

Chairpersons

First Immediate Past President

Ray Bigelow

Audit

Scott Patterson

Nominating

Ray Bigelow

Second Immediate Past President

Joe Brunner

By-Laws

Rich Galecki

Scholarship Chairman

Dave Wood

Third Immediate Past President

William Nielsen

Membership

Joe Brunner

Reunion Coordinator

Ray Bigelow

Special Assistants

Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator

Father Peter Norris

Webmaster

Leo Mrozek

Veterans Service Officer

Jim Disney

Database Administrator

Leo Mrozek

Reunion Coordinators

Joe & Bea Brunner (San Diego, Ca 2016)

Tim Galeda

Philidelphia, PA 2017

Newsletter Editor

Rich Galecki

Storekeeper

Myrl Wallace

Historian

Myrl Wallace

Associate Newsletter

Patti Bigelow

Memorabilia Storekeeper(s)

Myrl Wallace

Skipper Liason

RADM Jack Batzler

2013 was a busy year for many in the Association. Sad news included the passing of Carolyn Paschall, the Mother of the Association. She will be truly missed by all. Patty and Ray Bigelow attend her services on behalf of the Association.

4 - 7 September Tailhook Association Meeting, Reno, NV was attended by Nimitz Association President Ed Deats, and Vice President Joe Murphy. Had a display booth provided by the Tailhook Association. We had two former skippers stopped by to say hello: VADM Brent Bennitt, and CAPT John Gilman. It is always great to see former Commanding Officers of NIMITZ. We had two sign ups for the Association, we gave out many business cards to people that were interested in the Association. We are looking forward to a number of them becoming new members. We continue to gain great exposure for the Association and Nimitz as once again we were the only active duty carrier represented at Tailhook.

18 - 22 September. Association 16th Reunion in Savannah, GA was held. The food and weather was great for the whole Reunion. We stayed at the Inn at Ellis Square just a block from the river walk. Great restaurants and bars!! We had 49 attendees with 25 being members of the Association.

Association business was conducted per the bylaws. Jim Disney, Secretary/Treasurer asked to step down from his duties due to medical issues and John Wilder volunteered to replace him for one year. The attending members affirmed the appointment of John as the Association Secretary/Treasurer for one year. Our reunion city for 2016 was voted on and San Diego, CA and surrounding areas won.

The banquet went over extremely well with 48 people attending. We had the Color Guard provided by the local Sea Cadets to lead us in the Posting of the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. Father Peter told us the he has received a change of duty station and would be returning to England to continue his career. Father Peter and Joe Murphy conducted the Two Bell Ceremony. The DVD from current Commanding Officer Captain Ruth was shown. Closing remarks included the mentioning of the 2014 Reunion being hosted by Dave & Carol Wood and Joe & Paulette Murphy in Chicago, IL. August 7 – 10, 2014.

This year's Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz College Scholarship was awarded to a returning winner, **Hannah Hudson**, granddaughter of Bill Paschal. Hannah won this award previously in 2010. Next year's applications are due on Friday, 1 August, 2014 and will be awarded in Chicago. IL.

The Association balance of funds was \$5178.46



USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association Association History



Association History for Calendar Year

The Association Staff Consisted of the following:

Elected Officers

President
Ed Deats

Secretary
John Wilder

Vice-President
Joe Murphy

Treasurer
John Wilder

Public Affairs Officer
Joe Murphy

Spouses Advocate
Carol Wood

Chairpersons

First Immediate Past President

Ray Bigelow

Audit
Scott Patterson

Nominating
Ray Bigelow

Second Immediate Past President

Joe Brunner

By-Laws
Rich Galecki

Scholarship Chairman
Dave Wood

Third Immediate Past President

William Nielsen

Membership
Joe Brunner

Reunion Coordinator
Ray Bigelow

Special Assistants

Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator

Father Peter Norris

Webmaster
Leo Mrozek

Veterans Service Officer
Jim Disney

Database Administrator
Leo Mrozek

Newsletter Editor

Rich Galecki

Storekeeper
Myrl Wallace

Historian
Myrl Wallace

Associate Newsletter

Patti Bigelow

Memorabilia Storekeeper(s)
Myrl Wallace

Skipper Liason
RADM Jack Batzler

Joe Brunner
San Diego, CA
Tim Galeda
Philidelphia, PA 2017

7 - 10 August 2014. The Nimitz Association held its 16th Reunion in Chicago, IL. We had 24 members and 22 guests in attendance. The business meeting was held on the evening of the 6th with nine board members attending. Discussion was held on creating a "President Emeritus" position, By-law changes for Scholarship program and there would be a one year moratorium on the scholarship program as we had no applicants this year. A proposal was made that any member in good standing be able to nominate a qualified candidate for the scholarship program.

All hands meeting held on the morning of the 7th of August. Discussion was held on upcoming reunion sites, Nominations for Association Officers and Committee Chair openings. Treasurer's report noted we had \$9.900 in account before reunion expenses.

August 8th member's meeting was held. A verbal vote for reunion site in 2017 was held with a majority voting for Philadelphia, PA. Tim Gildea volunteered to be the coordinator. Voting for Association Officer's was held with Dave Wood elected as President, Rich Galecki, Vice President and Ed Deats Secretary/Treasurer. Additionally, the following Committee Chair's were filled: Scholarship Chair: Tim Gildea, Storekeeper/Memorabilia: Leo Mrozek, Reunion Coordinator: Ray Bigelow, Historian: Jeff Crabtree, Facebook: David

Moss, Nomination: Ed Deats. The membership approved unanimously the bylaw change to the Scholarship Program. Voting meeting was closed with no further voting. During the reunion the membership and guest were able to take an Open-air Bus tour of downtown Chicago, attend a graduation ceremony at RTC Great Lakes Naval Station and had a Wendella Lake and River Boat Tour. All events were outstanding according to all who participated. Our banquet was held on Saturday 9, August and our special guest and distinguished speaker was Lieutenant Paul Lyne, Assistant Military Training Director RTC Great Lakes. LT Lyne spoke on recruiting and training at Great Lakes and all considered it an excellent presentation. During the banquet, President Ed Deats presented the Association's first "President Emeritus" plaque to Bill Paschall, a co-founder and 1st President of the Association. President Deats also presented John Wilder with a life membership in the Association for his outstanding contributions that went above and beyond expectations. President Deats was also presented a plaque by Myrl Wallace as he termed out as President of the Association. The banquet went over extremely well with 46 people attending. A DVD from current Commanding Officer Captain Ring was shown. Closing remarks included the mentioning of the 2015 Reunion being hosted by Myrl Wallace in Colorado Springs. Ed Deats attended Tailhook convention in Sparks, Nevada, September 3 – 6 2014, for the 5th year representing the Association and the Great Ship Nimitz. President Deats and Bruce Moss attended Captain Ruth's Change of Command at Naval Station Everett, Washington where he was relieved by Captain Ring. Captain Ruth was also frocked to Admiral during the COC. One of our scholarship recipients graduated in May 2014 with her BA degree and a final GPA of 3.52. Hannah Hudson is the granddaughter of Bill Paschall. Bravo Zulu Hannah from the Association



USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association Association History



Association History for Calendar Year

The Association Staff consisted of the following:

Office	Member
President	David Wood
Vice President	Richard Galecki
Secretary / Treasure	Edward Deats
Chaplain	Peter Norris
Audit Committee Chair	Scott Patterson
ByLaws Committee Chair	Richard Galecki
Membership Committee Chair	Waldo Brunner
Nominating Committee Chair	Raymond Bigelow
Scholarship Committee Chair	Tim Gildea
Newsletter Editor	Richard Galecki
Associate Newsletter Editor	Patti Bigelow
Database Administrator	Edward Deats
Memorabilia Storekeeper	Myrl Wallace
Association Storekeeper	David Wood
Association Webmaster	Fred Cooper
Association Historian	Jeff Crabtree
Veterans Service Officer	James Disney
Spousal Advocate	Dottie Wilder
1 st Immediate Past President	Edward Deats
2 st Immediate Past President	Raymond Bigelow
3 st Immediate Past President	Waldo Brunner
4 st Immediate Past President	William Nielsen
President Emeritus	William Paschall
2016 Reunion coordinator (San Diego, California)	Waldo Brunner
2017 Reunion coordinator (Norfolk, Virginia)	Rob Jamison
2018 Reunion coordinator (Philadelphia, Pa.)	Tim Gildea

14 - 17 October 2015. The Nimitz Association held its 17th Reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Myrl and Sharron Wallace were the Coordinators. We had in attendance 17 current members and 11 guests. During the reunion we had one new member and two associate members join additionally we had four surprised guests for the banquet. We also had three members become Lifetime members when they renewed their dues!

The business meeting was held on the evening of the 14th with nine board members attending. Discussion was held on the creation of the "Executive Board of Directors" Revised By-law changes due to IRS changes for re-application of our Not for Profit Status, and the creation of a new Association web page.

All hands meeting was held on the morning of the 15th of October. President Dave Wood welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. The wives were requested to gather together to discuss their business and elect a new Spouse's Advocate. The minutes from 2014 reunion were approved by the membership. Discussion was then held with members on the creation of the "Executive Board and why, the By-law changes and why, and the creation of the new web page. Members were asked to allocate \$2300 to fund the new web site. Discussion was held on voting for the 2018 reunion site and moving the 2017 city (Philadelphia, Pa) to 2018 so that the Association could go to Norfolk, Virginia where Adm Gumataotao is currently station and the benefit of a large number of members attending. Members were notified that the Association had our Not for Profit Status reinstated by the IRS after 10 months of waiting.

Treasurer's report accepted as is and it was noted that we had \$10,859 in the account before reunion expenses. Scholarship Chair Tim Gildea reported we had seven nominees for scholarship's this year all highly qualified.

October 17th member's meeting was held. Member's voted in the majority for the web site allocation, the "Executive Board " creation and moving the 2017 reunion city to 2017 and replacing it with Norfolk, Virginia. Rob Jamison and Joe Murphy would be the coordinators. Carol Wood Spouse's Advocate reported that Dottie Wilder was elected as the new Advocate. The Executive Board is required to have two members at large on the Board. John Wilder and Ray Bigelow were nominated and welcomed to the Board. A committee was created to oversee the web page creation along with the Executive Board Joe Murphy and Ray Bigelow were assigned as members. Tim Gildea notified the members that Matthew J. Smaron was awarded the 2015/2016 Scholarship, Joe Murphy was his sponsor.

During the reunion the membership and guest were able to take a tour up to Pike's Peak, not all members and guests were able to make it to the top. High altitude was just too much for them. Members were on their own to sample the local restaurants and night spots.

Ed Deats (Secretary/Treasurer) and Dave Wood (President) attended Tailhook 2015, 9/9 – 9/12, five new members were registered and many connections were made. Bill Paschall and Dave Wood attended Adm Gumataotao's Change of Command in Norfolk, Virginia.

Our banquet was held on Saturday 17 October, we did not have a special guest speaker this year. However, the banquet went over extremely well with 32 people attending. A DVD from current Commanding Officer Captain Ring was shown. Closing remarks included the mentioning of the 2016 Reunion being hosted by Waldo and Bea Brunner in San Diego, California.