



The Five Star News

USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) ASSOCIATION

Volume 30, No. 2

Spring 2024

Reunion 2024 Information

As you can see, the location of the reunion looks like an interesting city with plenty to see.

Rudy Law, our Secretary/Treasurer, is starting to receive the Registration Forms. The hotel is getting reservations. So, mark your calendars, make your plans and get your Registration in soon.

Tim Glidea is putting together a schedule for the reunion. The dates are September 16th through the 19th and it is at the Hilton Garden Inn, Charleston/Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

The registration form is on Page 3.

The Hotel rates are set at \$144 per night (plus tax) from Sunday night through Thursday night. You may arrive earlier and leave later for a rate of \$184.

To Book your room at the Hotel follow the link or call them (1 843-606-4600) and mention the USS Nimitz Reunion.

<https://group.hiltongardeninn.com/y929v3>





From the President:

By John Wilder

Welcome Spring!

I have to dispel a rumor that was posted on Social Media (Facebook). There were a few posts stating that the ship's life was extended 6 years and thus, decommissioning was delayed. I contacted Captain Graber and asked if that was true or false. He said there is no truth to that story. Many of us would like to see the Nimitz stay active for many years but it doesn't appear to be so. One would think with the world situation as it is, many carriers would be needed but as we discussed at the last reunion, the reactors have a shelf life that is not easily extended. I will share any additional information on the ship's schedule as I receive it.

In this issue we are announcing a **SALE on all ship's store clothing items**. As we continue the slow process of transferring the store to a direct vendor (former shipmate), we need to move the existing inventory.

This is the final reminder for those who have not paid their 2024 dues. It is only \$20 per year which is very reasonable. The funds help to offset the reunion costs, the scholarship and the administrative costs. No member or officer of the Association receives any salary or payment for their time and effort.

An old riddle: If April Showers bring May Flowers, what do May Flowers bring?.....Pilgrims!

In this issue;

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- SPOUSE ADVOCATE GREETING
- FROM THE CHAPLAIN

John



**USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) Association
 Reunion 2024 – 25th Annual – Charleston, SC
 16-19 September 2024
 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM
 FORM MUST BE RETURNED BY 15 August 24**

Please Contact: Tim Gildea Timothygildea@gmail.com

The Registration Fee covers costs for meetings, hospitality, opening reception and Buffet banquet Thursday Night

Adults	# _____	\$ 85.00	_____
Children 12 and under	# _____	\$ 35.00	_____
Banquet <u>Dinner Guest ONLY</u> (Age 13 & older)	# _____	\$ 35.00	_____
Banquet <u>Dinner Guest ONLY</u> (Age 12 & younger)	# _____	\$ 20.00	_____
GRAND TOTAL:			_____

Please Mail Form & Checks Payable to “USS NIMITZ(CVN-68) Association”
 USS Nimitz Association, c/o Rudy Law, Sec/Treas. PO Box 152, Summitville, IN 46070

Also, if possible, please E-mail completed Form to Timothygildea@gmail.com

Member Name: (First & Last) _____

Years on Board: From /To _____ Dept/Div/Staff/Sqdn/Det _____

Spouse Name : (First & Last) _____

Guest Name(s) : (First & Last) _____

Guest Name(s) : (First & Last) _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

The 2024 FADM Nimitz Scholarship

SHIPMATES: The Association is proud to support our membership and families with awarding an annual Scholarship to some deserving young student. It's time to plug the Scholarship to those Children, Grandchildren, in some cases Great Grandchildren or Nieces and Nephews. Please keep in mind we currently only give out a scholarship for College bound individuals.

Download an application on the WEBSITE, and if there are any questions please contact me Gary "Gunner" @ F14Gunner@gmail.com.

Please have the application completed and mailed to me by 15 August 2024. I look forward to seeing everyone at the reunion.

Please include an email address and telephone number with your applications. The packages will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee during our reunion in Charleston in September. The scholarship award

amount is **\$3,000!** Any association member in "good standing" can nominate an applicant whether or not that applicant is a dependent child or grandchild. "In good standing" infers "dues paying members". Again, all Scholarship applications to be considered will need to be received no later than **Thursday, 15 August 2024.**

Information for the Scholarship can be found at:

[Scholarship Info](#)

Please send the applications and supporting material to:

Gary Rollins
Chairman, Scholarship Committee
USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association
4745 Thoroughgood Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
F14gunner@gmail.com

Election

At the reunion we will be voting on a provision to allow the scholarship to be awarded to a student applying to a Trade School or, a traditional College. Gary Rollins has put together a detailed proposed change to the bylaws that I will send out for your review as we get closer to the reunion.

There was discussion regarding this addition at a past reunion but a vote was never taken to officially change the bylaws.

If there are any other Bylaw changes you may want to discuss or present changes to, please notify Joe Murphy, Bylaws Chairman, before the reunion, jamurphy68@comcast.net

At the Reunion in Charleston we will be electing a new **President** for a 2 year term.

Thus far, 2 candidates have expressed interest and will be running for President.

1. Rudy Law—current Secretary/Treasurer
2. Gary Rollins—current Scholarship Chairman

Both candidates are long time active members of the Association.

If you are interested in running for President, notify Ed Deats, Nominating Committee Chairman, edeats@comcast.net



March Madness®

2024 NCAA® Men's Bracket Games

The U.S.S. Nimitz (CVN-68) Association recently brought together its members in a spirited Men's NCAA basketball tournament bracket competition, igniting friendly rivalries and camaraderie among participants. As the iconic aircraft carrier's association continues to foster connections among former crew members and supporters, this tournament provided an exciting platform for members to engage in some competitive fun.

With brackets in hand, association members eagerly predicted the outcomes of each game, navigating the ups and downs of March Madness with enthusiasm. From nail-biting buzzer-beaters to unexpected upsets, the tournament kept participants on the edge of their seats throughout. As the final buzzer sounded and the dust settled, bragging rights were claimed by Vice President David Wood, whose predictions proved most accurate. Beyond the thrill of victory, however, the tournament underscored the enduring bond shared by members of the U.S.S. Nimitz (CVN-68) Association, reaffirming the sense of community and camaraderie that defines this esteemed organization. Below are the members that participated and how their scored!

A huge shout out to Ray Bigelow for once again coordinating this event!!!

Thanks Bigs!!!!

Overall Standings

RANK CHAMPION ⇄ BRACKET NAME

1  (174) **David Wood**

2  (144) **KURT SCHERR**

3  (158) **Patricia Bigelow**

4  (123) **Jim Midolo**

5  (167) **Douglas Alexander**

6  (150) **Chad Koenig**

7  (158) **Aaron Robinette**

8  (132) **Ray Bigelow**

9  (155) **Jeffrey Crabtree**

10  (103) **Mark Thompson**

11  (173) **Laurie Crabtree**

12  (178) **Tim McDowell**

Ship's Store SALE—Effective

As we move to a new supplier who will directly fill orders and save us from storing all of the Inventory, we need to sell off our current stock. Therefore, all in stock clothing items will be 25% off. Orders may take up to 3 weeks to be delivered. We will attempt to keep the inventory updated on the website however, if we run out of an item you ordered, we will refund your money. I have listed the sale prices (shipping included), but you need to order through the website;

[Ship Store – USS Nimitz Association](#)

	<u>Reg Price</u>	<u>Sale Price</u>
Association Logo Ballcap	\$20	\$15
Blue Hoodie	\$55	\$41.25
Cotton Polo	\$30	\$22.50
Fleece Lined Jacket	\$50	\$37.50
Mens-Womans Dry Tech Polo	\$45	\$33.75
Mens-Womans Camp Shirt	\$55	\$41.25
Sun Visor	\$18	\$13.50
V-Neck Windbreaker Pullover	\$40	\$30.00

Spouse Advocate Message

I just wanted to send a quick hello and a reminder to fill out the Reunion Registration Form and mail it to Rudy Law.

You may want to make hotel reservations sooner than later too.

A big shout out to those of you celebrating birthdays or anniversaries this month. Wishing you all the best.

John has asked me to send all of your email addresses to him so that we make sure you get the newsletters in your email box as well as the members.

See you all in Charleston!

Always,

Eileen Galecki

USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association Spouse Advocate.

From the Chaplain



Mission to Americans?

Many times, in my life I have found that events in one place can connect you to events in another place. Such a connection took place when I travelled to Hamburg to improve my German. Some weeks before I set off, I was on retreat with the Capuchins at Minster in the Benedictine convent. On the first night there we were having our evening meal together, when an American man joined us at table, we all made polite conversation with him and then we went to bed, as it was getting late. That evening as I was settling down, I realized that the American had struck me as needing conversation, and so I decided that the following morning I would approach him at breakfast and see if I could maybe draw him out and discover if that were true. Unfortunately, he was not at breakfast. I went for a walk to the nearby town of Sandwich, and then made my way back towards Minster. As I approached a crossroads, a car stopped at the side of the road and shouted to me asking if I needed a lift. My first response was to say no, as it was such a nice sunny day, but something seemed to make me accept the lift, believing that the driver might need to talk. After all, he had stopped when I was still about a hundred yards from the roundabout, and I had been surprised that he had seen me at all. When I told him, I was going to Minster, he said that he was not going that way, but would drop me off as near as he could. I thanked him and then settled down for the ride.

The driver said nothing more, until he stopped at the side of the road and dropped me off. I alighted from the car, and as I stood up and looked across the road, there on the other side was the American, who I had been looking for. When he saw me, he said, I don't believe it. I was surprised as well, but I said to him this is not down to me, it's down to the Holy Spirit. He replied that I do believe. I crossed the road to speak to him, and we spent the next hour in deep spiritual dialogue. He had indeed needed time to work through many issues in his life, and I was able to help him to do this, over the next week whilst we were there. One thing I learned about him was, he came from a place called Kennebunkport, a name that would connect me with another American in Hamburg, when I visited that city some weeks later. On the last day when I was leaving he told me, with a smile on his face, maybe you have a mission to Americans.

I had been in Hamburg a few days when one of the pensioners in the parish gave me a 100 mark note to spend on myself. I decided that I would treat myself to a slap-up meal in a local restaurant, so that evening about 10.00pm I walked up towards a part of the city where I had seen a restaurant called, The Kennebunkport, because of its connection with my American friend in Minster.

As I approached the establishment, which was cloaked in darkness, I was greeted by an American woman's voice with the words, "Good to see you Father", and there in the darkness was a pleasant looking woman smiling at me. I introduced myself and we spoke for about a minute, and then feeling that she would like to speak more, I offered to sit with her at one of the empty tables outside the restaurant, which she declined. "I have to go and sing right now, I only stepped out for some fresh air, but I would like to meet you on Sunday, if that is OK". So, agreeing a time, I went on my way.

From the Chaplain (cont.)



Sure enough, on the Sunday, I met her outside the club she sang at, and we made our way to a café on the riverside, and I spent some time working through various issues that she had. When she left me, we had agreed that I would meet her the following Wednesday, and she would take me out for a meal on board the lightship moored in the river. So on Wednesday we continued our conversation, as we did on every Wednesday that I remained in Hamburg. After each meal we would go to a small Knipe (pub) nearby and continue over a drink. I never did have to spend my money on a meal, instead I was treated to a number of meals by Liza, my friendly American Jazz singer. After I returned to Canterbury, I received a letter from her to the effect that she had taken my advice and had now mended at least some of the bridges between her and parts of her family. I was so glad to hear it.

Just a small aside connected with this. While I was with her I wrote a poem of encouragement that I hoped would help her as she continued through life. I would like to share it with you.

The Pure Water Within

See the water like flowing glass brush against the shore, caress the sand like a mother brushes the sleep from her baby's eyes.

See the sunlight sparkle on the wet sand, like the sparkle in the eyes of a newborn child.

All is gentleness and love and fills the heart with hope for humanity.

All this we can see in the waters of a spring fed stream.

All this I can also see in your meditating eyes, for this is in you and more.

Do not spoil it by allowing the world to taint you, like a muddy foot pollutes the stream.

You are worth more than that because you are a child of God.

Be proud of being such a child.

But remember, all of this you must see in others.

Poor or rich, high or low.

What you do to those next to you, you do to God.

For they are also children of the universe.

God Bless you all.

Fr Peter, Chaplain USS Nimitz Association.

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Reunion Coordinators

2024: Charleston, SC
Tim Gildea

2025: Indianapolis, IN
Rudy Law

USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) COMMANDING OFFICERS

RADM Bryan W. Compton, USN (Ret.)

12 July 1972 - 21 August 1976

RADM Richard T. Gaskill, USN (Ret.)†

21 August 1976 - 12 February 1979

RADM John R. Batzler, USN (Ret.)†

12 February 1979 - 26 February 1982

CAPT Matt Yelland, USN (Honorary)†

(Kirk Douglas) 1980

VADM Raymond P. Ilg, USN (Ret.)

26 February 1982 - 26 September 1984

RDML Eugene D. Conner, USN (Ret.)

26 September 1984 - 28 August 1987

VADM Brent M. Bennitt, USN (Ret.)

28 August 1987-16 September 1989

RADM Robert Williamson, USN (Ret.)

16 September 1989 - 16 April 1992

ADM John B. Nathman, USN (Ret.)

16 April 1992 – 26 August 1994

VADM Alfred G. Harms, Jr., USN (Ret.)

26 August 1994 - 8 November 1996

RADM Isaac Richardson, III, USN (Ret.)

8 November 1996 - 8 June 1999

Captain Steven F. Firks, USN (Ret.)

8 June 1999 – 17 May 2002

Captain Robert J. Gilman, USN (Ret.)

17 May 2002 - 23 November 2004

VADM Ted N. Branch, USN (Ret.)

23 November 2004 - 16 March 2007

RADM Mike Manazir, USN (Ret.)

16 March 2007—August 2009

Captain Paul Monger, USN (Ret.)

August 2009— March 2012

RDML Jeffrey S. Ruth, USN (Ret.)

March 2012 – July 2014

RDML John C. Ring, USN (Ret.)

July 2014—January 2017

RDML Kevin P. Lenox, USN

January 2017—August 2019

RDML Maximillian Clark, USN

August 2019-July 2021

RDML Craig C. Sicola, USN

July 2021-June 2023

Captain Douglas Graber, USN

June 2023— Present