



We are publishing the USS Taylor (DD/DDE-468) Reunion Association Newsletter as a forum for disseminating information concerning the activities of the Reunion Association and its members particularly as it relates to reunions as well as the maintenance of a high level of interest in the history of the USS Taylor (DD/DDE-468) and the men who served on her. We *encourage and welcome* informational contributions, including articles, from members at any time. Please submit comments, inquiries, or possible contributions to Ms. Dorothy Davis at shipsahoy16@gmail.com. No political commentary, please.

2021 REUNION



In our last edition we reported that in reaction to the COVID 19 pandemic we have rescheduled our reunion by one year, from 26 August thru 30 August, 2021. We are rescheduling all the support contracts (photography, entertainment, transportation) so that the structure of the reunion will be basically the same as previously planned. Our hope was that the additional year would provide sufficient time for our government and national medical authorities to resolve the COVID 19 situation such that our members would feel safe attending our reunion. After all, our youngest possible reunion-attending Taylor Sailor would have been born in 1951 and our average age is probably well past 75 years.

As of the time of preparing this NEWSLETTER, a full year ahead of our scheduled reunion, COVID 19 continues to spread and it is not clear what the situation will likely be during August, 2021. Moreover, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, opines that it will be several months into 2021 before a vaccine is readily available. This estimate considers the time for testing as well as the times for production and distribution. It does not consider, however, the facts that a vaccine development effort will be considered successful if the vaccine is only 50% effective, that multiple shots may be necessary, that recent polls (depending on the poll) show that between 25% to 51% of Americans say that they will refuse to take a vaccine and that, of the 8 billion people requiring vaccination, "prospective reunion attendees" do not have an established priority. When we rescheduled the reunion 3 or 4 months ago we anticipated that the additional 12 months would provide sufficient time for some resolution of the pandemic; we definitely did not anticipate that the pandemic would accelerate out of control during that 12 months as it appears to be doing.

The fact that we have cancellation penalties imbedded in our contract with the hotel exacerbates this situation. Having cancellation fees in a reunion contract is a standard practice and the risks associated with these fees can be an unpleasant aspect of reunion planning, especially when dealing with popular, up-scale, hotels -- just ask any reunion planner.

In summary, if we decide to cancel, the longer we wait, the more the penalties will be. It is our plan to establish early November, 2020 as an affordable go/no-go decision point. If the decision is "go", we will have a reunion in August of 2021 independent of the level of attendance. If the decision is "no-go" we will cancel the reunion and deal with the minimum of penalties. We may also discuss with the hotel the possibility of a further delay in the reunion if it is open to discussions about that.

2021 REUNION STATUS

The following information concerns the status as of the time of the preparing of this NEWSLETTER:

* **Visit Hershey and Harrisburg** -- Our point of contact on the Convention and Visitors Board for the Hershey-Harrisburg area has been furloughed since about March of this year and has not yet returned to work.

* **Best Western Premier Central Hotel & Conference Center** -- Our Event Manager has been furloughed and has not come back to work yet. The hotel has implemented a Stay Safe program that includes a detailed focus on high-touch points within each guest room. In meeting rooms the hotel staff is sanitizing chairs and changing linen after each group on a daily basis. If possible, the staff is sanitizing chairs during breaks. The hotel has located hand sanitizer stations in the lobby and meeting rooms. If we have a buffet for our banquet, the banquet staff will serve the food. There is the possibility that the meeting rooms we have currently contracted for may not be large enough to accommodate social distancing. Extra fees would be charged for larger rooms.

* **Gettysburg Battlefield Visitor Center** -- The Visitor Center is open Thursday thru Monday, 0900-1600 at 50% capacity with 48 people allowed per show in the Cyclorama. Some touch screen displays may not be available.

* **Pennsylvania State Capitol** -- Guided Tours are available with masks and social distancing required.

* **Antique Automobile Club of America (AACCA) Museum** -- Entry temperature screening is in effect. A wrong answer on the entry questionnaire by one person may cause rejection of the entire tour group. The museum is capacity limited so there may be some delay getting in. Hands-on exhibits, interactive displays, and train room remain closed.

* **Hershey's Chocolate World** -- Arrival is 15-30 minutes ahead of timed entry. Two hour time limit in the building which is operating under reduced capacity. Face masks and social distancing required. Entry screening has been imposed. If one person is turned away, the entire group will be turned away.

* **Dobbin House Tavern** -- Outdoor service is available with limited indoor service.

* **Fenicci's of Hershey** -- Open for lunch on Saturday and Sunday. In-house patio dining available. Capacity now limited to 25%.

* **Lowee's Group Tours** -- Lowee's has taken several actions to improve safety on its motorcoach fleet including

- Using electrostatic fogging units with a broad spectrum disinfectant
- Daily disinfection of motorcoaches
- Installing upgraded cabin filtering systems
- Installing an ultraviolet light within the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system
- Use of disinfectant wipes during the trip
- Daily temperature screening of drivers

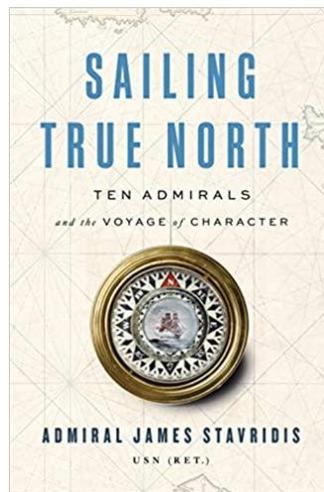
Social distancing on a motor coach allows for 13 passengers per motorcoach. It would be our responsibility to determine the number that actually travels on the coach, however, there is no price reduction for limited ridership or additional buses. Lowee's

requires the wearing of masks while entering or exiting the coach. It is up to the tour leader whether passengers wear masks while riding .

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

It would be helpful for those of us doing the planning if we knew what our members are thinking concerning attending an August 2021 USS Taylor (DD/DDE-458) reunion in light of the need to make a decision in November with incomplete information. This planner has been stuck in his house with few respites for the past several months and is beginning to develop tunnel vision. Please share your thoughts with us by sending an email to oneillfalm@aol.com or to oneillfalm@gmail.com.

BOOK REVIEW



From one of the most distinguished admirals of our time and a former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO, a meditation on leadership and character refracted through the lives of ten of the most illustrious naval commanders in history.

There is more than one way to "skin a cat" or to sail a ship. This book gets at the concept of leadership with a non-traditional approach. Some of the "Naval

Commanders" featured are pirates or other seagoing leaders who achieved effective results with leadership styles that are not the ones that most leadership classes or management schools teach or recommend. It's an easy, but thought provoking, read.

UPDATES FROM MEMBERS

Paul Katz, nephew of Benjamin Katz, **Commanding Officer, 42-44** modeled his new USS Taylor golf shirt for us. He purchased it in anticipation of our next reunion. *NOTE: Not offered for sale to non-reunion attendees.*



Pete Ranshaw, STG2 62-64 sent us the following link for Memorial Day. But better late than never here it is -- (copy & paste in your browser) <https://www.prageru.com/video/the-fallen-soldier/>

Jay R. Titsworh, LTJG 62-65 sent us the following link (copy & paste in your browser) <http://www.youtube.com/embed/doN4t5NKW-k> . It is a full tour of the international space station -- very informative. He also sent us the following link <http://www.warbirdinformationexchange.org/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=52966> which contains some great pictures of the Ulithi armada, the US Naval armada deployed for invasion of Japan. There will never be another assemblage of naval ships like this

again. If any of you folks had fathers, grandfathers or uncles in the Navy during World War II, they may well have been involved in this operation, given the tremendous number of the ships and personnel involved.

MEMBERSHIP

We have published our 2018 membership directory. All those who attended the 2018 reunion have received a copy (one per family, however). All our members with internet can access the online directory at <http://usstaylor468.org/directory/> . For the Alpha Directory the username is bkatzusn and the password is hongkong. TOP SECRET.

We are planning on publishing a 2021 hard copy directory but will probably switch over to strictly on-line after that.

WEB SITE

ORAL HISTORIES -- Our web site home page <https://usstaylor468.org/> has added a link to oral histories on the home page. So far we have four entries, and are looking for more contributions. If you would like to add your memories please contact Bob Cashin at rlcashin@verizon.net. He will send you a small digital handheld recorder with instructions in a package enclosing a postpaid return mailer.

MODERNIZATION -- We are in the process of modernizing the USS Taylor (DD/DDE-468) web site. We plan to bring the site up to date with current technology, eliminate redundancies, provide for more flexibility, easier management, and longevity. At this point, the strategy is to rebuild the site in WordPress software, which is the leading web site building software today. This will enable us to present the site at full width, instead of the narrow width we have now. It also allows much better and simpler access for us to make simple edits ourselves. We described the changes in greater detail in our August, 2019 NEWSLETTER. All the changes will help to give us more security and

longevity. Our goal is to have the new site ready for presentation prior to the 2021 reunion.

ASBESTOS

We received the following letter from LCDR Carl Jewett. We have not vetted him as a service provider and, therefore, have not put his information on our web page as he asked, but are providing his information as a "possible" source of help in case someone is searching for information on a asbestos related VA claim

My name is Carl Jewett. I am a retired Naval Officer and a VA Accredited Claims Agent specializing in asbestos related VA claims.

I'm writing you to ask a favor. I've been doing veteran outreach for several years now to get the word out to the veteran community in order to let them know that if they have been diagnosed with an asbestos illness, I provide free assistance in filing for VA benefits. This outreach campaign has been very successful, and we now have hundreds of veterans related websites linking to my veteran's page here <https://www.mesotheliomaguide.com/veterans/> including a link from va.gov promoting my free veteran services.

That said, I get asked all the time by veterans how to find a good veteran friendly mesothelioma law firm. So recently, I had an article written by our senior writer to cover information about legal options available to veterans that I think addresses this question.

That article can be viewed here: <https://www.mesotheliomaguide.com/community/5-tips-choosing-best-mesothelioma-lawyer/>. I think this article could really help veterans with asbestos illnesses to better understand what to look for in a law firm.

My motivation here isn't totally selfless. I'm hoping that if I can get enough veterans access to this information online, I won't have to field so many of these questions on the phone or by email.

I'm hopeful that you will help me to get the word out by linking to this article of our site on

your resources page here. " <https://usstaylor468.org/links/>

If you could help me out in this endeavor, I would greatly appreciate your help, and will have one of our IT folks provide you with whatever technical stuff you would need to add a link to this blog. Please feel free to call, email or text me if you have any questions.

Thanks in advance and keep up the good work you are doing for our fellow veterans.

Very Respectfully,

Carl Jewett

LCDR, US Navy, Retired

VA Accredited Claims Agent

<https://www.mesotheliomaguide.com/veterans/>

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844-VET-MESO

844-838-6376

PURCHASE FLAG REPLICA

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Bob Cashin is offering to produce a photographic replica of our WWII flag for any member interested. The photo is 16" X 12" -- the frame makes it a few inches larger on each side -- and is the same as the one we auctioned off at the Colorado Springs Reunion. The cost is \$130

payable to Robert L. Cashin. This is the same price as the auction price. Any excess over the cost to produce and ship the replica is a donation to the reunion association.

HISTORICAL PHOTOS

We are always looking for photos documenting the History of the USS Taylor (DD/DDE-468) and those who served on her. Indeed, many people have already shared their photos and we have them on file. **Dick Schermer, LT 59-61** provided the following photograph which was taken in the early 1960's. It looks like part of a Pollywog initiation in honor of crossing the equator. Do you recognize anyone??



POEM FOR TODAY

Author Unknown

Somewhere on a Western Atoll where the sun is like a curse,
And each long day is followed by another slightly worse
Where the coral dust blows thicker than the desert's shifting sands,
And the white men dream of finer, cooler, cleaner, greener lands.

Somewhere in the West Pacific, where a woman's never seen,
Where the sky is never cloudy and the grass is never green,
Where the gooney birds scream nightly, robbing man of blessed sleep,
Where there isn't any whiskey, just two cans of beer a week.

Somewhere in the blue Pacific, where the mail is always late,
Where Christmas cards in April are considered up to date,
Where we always sign the payroll and never draw a cent,
Where we never miss the money, 'cause there's no place to get it spent.

Somewhere in a Western ocean, where the gooneys moan and cry,
and the lumbering deep-sea turtles come up on the beach to die,
Oh, take me back to _____, the place I love so well,
For this God-forsaken island is awful close to hell....

LIFE STORY



LCDR Robert L. Grimmell was the USS Taylor's XO from 1966 thru 1968. Born on October 2, 1928, in Los Angeles, California, to Joseph William and Beatrice Rosalie (Polk) Grimmell, Bob was raised in Houston, Texas, where he was affectionately known as "Cal" (short for "California") by his childhood and lifelong friends. Bob may not have been born in Texas but he always considered himself a Texan, even as his distinguished naval career took him literally around the world.

While attending John H. Reagan Sr. High School in Houston, Bob enlisted in the Navy on his 17th birthday in 1945. Over the course of his 32-year career, he rose up from Seaman Recruit to Chief Petty Officer to the honored rank of Commander, twice commanding U.S. Navy warships and serving on independent duty in a foreign country. During his years in the Navy, Bob trained in Electricity and Minesweeping, was a student and instructor at the Naval War College, received a B.A. in Political Science at the University of Rhode Island, and earned a Master's in Human Resources Management at Pepperdine University.

His many decorations included a Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Gold Star, Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star, three Good Conduct Medals, China Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal with Asia Clasp, National Defense Service Medal with 1 Star, Korean Service Medal with 4 Stars, Antarctica Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Cuba), Vietnam Service Medal with 7 Stars, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Gallantry Cross Color with Palm, United Nations Service Medal, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Bob retired while assigned with the U.S. Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor on January 1, 1978, soon after the birth of his daughter, Samantha Leilani. His son, Kai Nicolas, was born two years later, and shortly thereafter the family moved to Johnson City, Texas. Retirement from the Navy did not signify an end to Bob's lifelong dedication to public service. He attended the Southwest Texas Law Enforcement Academy in 1982, and

over the next several years worked as City Marshal of Johnson City and as a security guard at the Johnson City Bank. He was also active in the local Masonic Lodge No. 561, serving a term as lodge Master and ultimately tallying over 50 years as a Master Mason. In his free time, Bob enjoyed tending to his small herd of cows and growing hay. All the while, he was a firm yet loving father to his two children, who were his pride and joy.

A sailor at heart, Bob always seemed to gravitate back to the water, whether ocean or lake. After raising his family, Bob left Johnson City and spent time living in Corpus Christi, Seabrook, Conroe, and Montgomery, Texas. While in Corpus Christi, Bob volunteered countless hours a month as a tour guide on the USS Lexington. Not only did he know ships inside and out, but this volunteer service allowed him to indulge in one of his utmost delights, which was recounting in great detail stories from his Navy days. Upon his diagnosis with Alzheimer's, Bob moved to the Austin area so that his daughter could oversee his care. It was during this time that he became a grandfather for the second time, and even though he had difficulty expressing himself as his disease progressed, it was obvious that visits from his two young grandsons brought him vast pleasure.

Bob was a headstrong and independent man, but family and close friends knew that he had a soft heart. He often laughingly referred to himself as an SOB: Sweet Ole' Bob. In addition to being hard-working, he was smart, articulate, and talented across many areas, with a gift for animated storytelling and a dry sense of humor. Bob loved Big Band music, old black and white movies, the GOP, chicken fried steak, angel food cake and sugar cookies, dancing, Volksmarching (while stationed in Germany), going on cruises, reading, solving crossword puzzles, beating everyone in the living room at Wheel of Fortune, and watching football while kicked back with a cold beer. The Dallas Cowboys and Texas Longhorns were his favorite teams, though the latter caused much ribbing between he and his Aggie children. Sadly, Bob passed away in 2011.

TAPS -- IN MEMORIAM

We have become aware that the following individuals (previously not reported) have passed away since our Nashville reunion:

James Terry Barker -- James was an ICFN who served on board in 1962.

Clarence N. Berger -- Clarence was an EMFN who served on board in 1952.

George Delbert Duncan -- George was a BT2 who served on board in 1962 & 1963.

Richard L. Kaczerowski -- Dick was a GMG3 who served on board in 1962.

Graciano B. Pangilinan -- Graciano was a TN who served on board in 1962.

Jimmy E. Stamper -- Jimmy was a SN who served on board in 1962.

Douglas S. Torres -- Douglas was an MML2 who served on board in 1951 & 1952. He was a Korean War Plank Owner.

MISSING IN ACTION

There are several Taylor sailors whom we used to have contact information on but who have now dropped out of our sight. If anyone has any new contact information or knows something that happened to them please pass it on to us.

Thomas E. Anderson -- Thomas was an MM3 and was on board from 1964 until 1969. His last known address is in St. Petersburg, FL.

Carl Augusta -- Carl was a GM3(T) and was on board from 1943-1945.

Donald A. Ballard -- Donald was an STG2 and was aboard from 1962-1964

Jack R. Clendenin -- Jack was a BTFN and was on board in 1969. His last known address is in Roanoke, VA.

John D. Deardorff -- John served onboard during 1956. His last known address is in Panama City, FL.

Gerald P. Kelsh -- Gerry was a LTJG who served on board from 1956 - 1958. His last known address is in Springtown, PA

Lester Marney -- Lester was a BT3 who served on board from 1958 - 1960. His last known address is in Tehachapi, CA.

Billy W. McCuiston -- Bill was an E4 who served on board from 1953-1955. His last known address is in Marietta, GA.

Jimmie D. Mclemore -- Jim was an ET2 on board from 1952-1954. His last known address is in Livingston, TX.

Ronald K. Miyata -- Ronald was a SA who served on board in 1966. His last known address is in West Covina, CA.

Norman L. Rice -- Norman was a BM3 who served on board in 1963. His last known address was in Lemon Grove, CA.

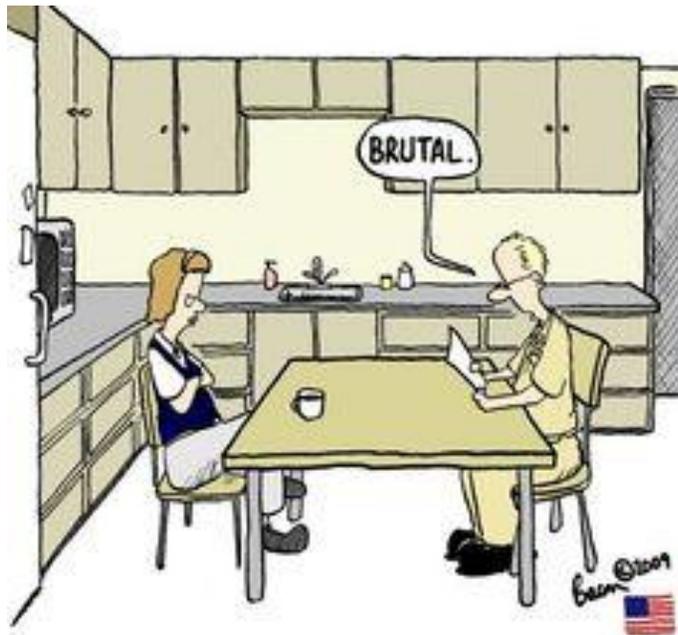
Clifford H. Santiago -- Cliff was an SM1 who served on board from 1961-1964. His last known address is in Chula Vista, CA.

Donald L. Underwood -- Donald was a QM3 who served on board from 1954 thru 1956. His last known address is in Deming, NM.

Charles Cameron VanWye -- "Little Bit" was a seaman and Korean War Plank Owner who served on board from 1951 thru 1953. His last known address is in Riverbank, CA.

Sidney J. Wallace -- Sid was an FC1 who served on board from 1942 thru 1946. He is a Plank Owner whose last address was in Bakersfield, CA.

TESTING THE THEORY THAT ANY CRISIS CAN BE MADE BETTER WITH HUMOR



BRADYDE.NET

If spouses wrote fitness reports

