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USS Piedmont Newsletter 15 June 2019

This will be the final newsletter before our Dayton Ohio reunion so if you have not made your hotel reservations, sent in your reunion payment and dues you are running out of time. Don't delay and do it today. As always I hope this finds you and your family well.

Before I get started with the Dayton reunion information I must pass on some Bravo Zulu to some folks that help with the day to day procedures of setting up our reunions and maintaining our Association that makes my job a lot easier.

First I want to say Thank You to Kent Thomas our treasurer for over 5yrs service to our organization, maintaining records and sending our correspondence and keeping me updated on members and forwarding information to me making me look smarter than I am. Kent was relieved just after our Denver reunion and I give him credit for a smooth transfer of funds and supplies as well as membership logs. Again thank you for a job well done.

We have finally got control of our Web page and have gotten passwords and officers in place so if changes are required we can accomplish it quickly and in house. This was no easy task and trying to find real people to talk to and correct issues was a challenge to say the least but again a Bravo Zulu goes out to the following folks: Bruce MacAlister, Scott Massey, and the Kastens family David, William, and Lee Ann.

Joe and Mae Vecchio who have just completed a site visit for us in Reno Nevada; this is one of several locations being considered for 2021 with a location being selected in Dayton.

We have lost the following Shipmate James Wesley FT 59-62 passed 16 Oct.2018 as reported by Daughter Sharon North.

Now for information for our Dayton, Ohio reunion 23-27 September 2019.

I want pass on to you all information concerning our **23-27 September 2019** reunion in Dayton Ohio. The USS Sierra has already setup all the tours and hotel and this year 3 Dixie Class Tenders will hold a joint reunion, USS Dixie, USS Piedmont, and USS Sierra and we are making plans for all 5 Dixie Class Tenders to meet in Washington D.C. in 2020.

Our host hotel is the Crowne Plaza 33 E. Fifth St. Dayton OH. You can choose King or Double Queen rooms at a daily rate of \$116.00 (\$131.66 with tax) which includes Breakfast. The hotel offers a free shuttle service to and from Dayton International Airport; it will also shuttle you to local areas within 5 mile radius of hotel. To make room reservations call **1-800-689-5586** and ask for Dixie Class Destroyer Tender rate of \$116.00 (\$131.66 with tax)

Monday 23 September is check in and registration with Presidents' welcome at 1700 in hospitality room.

Tuesday 24 September Breakfast, tour of Carillon Park followed by memorial service at Deeds Tower then lunch at Carillon Brewing Company after the tour completion then back to hotel to enjoy the Hospitality room (Dinner is on your own).

Wednesday 25 September Breakfast, tour of National Museum the US Air Force (lunch is on your own); at 1500 we will conduct our annual business meeting in the hospitality room. Dinner will be at The Spaghetti Warehouse.

Thursday 26 September Breakfast. Free day for exploring Dayton. A Group Photo will be taken in hotel lobby prior to Final banquet.

Friday 27 September Breakfast and room checkout.

As in years past your hotel rate is good for 3 days prior and 3 days after for those who choose to arrive early or stay later. Now I would like to go more in-depth on our 2 days of tours

Carillon Historical Park is a 65 acre park and museum in Dayton which contains historic buildings and exhibits concerning the history of technology and the history of Dayton; one of the more interesting of these is the Wright Brothers Aviation Center which houses Wright Flyer III, the world's first practical airplane. For more information go to www.carillonpark.org

National Museum of the US Air Force: its galleries present military aviation history boasting many rare and one of a kind planes, missiles, and engines. One of the more interesting items is the Presidential Gallery which displays aircraft that were used by President's Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy. You can look at the lift built for Roosevelt so he could enter his aircraft in his wheel chair and walk through SAM 26000 the same plane that took Kennedy to Dallas and returned his body to Washington on 22 November 1963. For more information go to www.nationalmuseum.af.mil

America's Packard Museum: On your free day you might consider visiting the Packard Museum in Dayton; it is a site of a Packard car dealership which is now a museum with over 50 cars on display open 12 noon to 5pm. Another place you might consider is **The Dayton Art Institute**, one

of the region's premier fine arts museums exhibiting outstanding special exhibitions and impressive collections of art from throughout the world: 456 Belmonte Park N. Dayton OH. #1-937-223-4278, allow 2-3 Hours

In other news we have resupplied our stocks of Hats and Polo shirts (with Pockets) the price remains the same \$20.00 each add \$6.00 for postage. We have smaller sizes in gray no pockets; these items will be available for purchase at the reunion when checking in.

An item that I must mention that may or may not affect you; we have been removing members who have become more the 2 years delinquent on dues from our membership roster and will no longer receive a mailed newsletter, this was necessary to keep costs down and keeping our dues at \$15.00 annually.

Plans for our 2020 reunion in Washington D.C. (17-21 September) are progressing and will give you more details as they become available and of course full details at our business meeting in Dayton OH.

A special item has been purchased especially for this year's reunion. Each crew member who attends Dayton will receive a laser woodcut plaque of "DOC" ready for mounting a sure thing of pride that you will enjoy hanging on you wall.

We have been informed that the USS Independence CV-62 has scheduled their reunion at our hotel and that some dates will overlap our dates possibly causing shortage of rooms or a sold out situation so everyone is encouraged to make reservations early to avoid issues/disappointment

Just to end with a little laugh.

One reason the Services have trouble operating jointly is that they don't speak the same language. For example, if you told Navy personnel to "secure a building," they would turn off the lights and lock the doors. Army personnel would occupy the building so no one could enter. Marines would assault the building, capture it, and defend it with suppressive fire and close combat. The Air Force, on the other hand, would take out a three-year lease with an option to buy.

Dixie Class Destroyer Tender Reunion Registration

Registration due date

15 August 2019

Mail registration form and payment to

Michael Morast

150 Brown St.

Tecumseh, MI 49286

Questions:

Questions:

Willie Williams

757-479-2733

Last name _____ First name _____

Spouse/Guest Last name _____ First _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Contact number _____ Email _____

The total registration fee is \$105.00 per person which includes Hospitality room, Wednesday night Spaghetti Warehouse dinner and final Banquet also both tours which includes transportation, entry fees and lunch at Carillon Park Brewing Company.

Registration \$105.00 x ____ number attending Total _____

2019 Dues if not paid \$15.00 _____

2020 Dues \$15.00

Total Due _____

Banquet meal choice Rosemary Lemon Chicken# _____ or Roast Pork Loin# _____

If you (or guest) have special dietary needs or other issues please list so we may accommodate you. _____

If this is your first reunion years served aboard from _____ to _____ Rate _____

Those attending the final banquet only the cost is \$50.00 per person indicate meal choices above.

Emergency contact person in case of emergency # _____

Make hotel reservations by calling 1-800-689-5586 ask for Dixie Class Destroyer Tender group rate of \$116.00 (\$131.66 with tax) Deadline is **15 August 2019**. You are encouraged to make your Hotel reservations early to avoid getting disappointed.

Final reminder for membership. If you have changed address, telephone number or email let us know so we can keep roster accurate you never know when someone may want to contact you.