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USS Piedmont Newsletter MARCH 15 2018

We are finalizing our Denver reunion plans which if I may say is going to be a great reunion. We are again joining forces with the USS Dixie folks and expect to have another wonderful reunion; David Engelbert has done a fantastic job setting up Hotel and sites that we will visit.

Our reunion is 11- 15 September (Tuesday-Saturday) and our Host Hotel Quality Inn & Suites 3300 North Quay Street Aurora Co. 80011. The hotel provides free pickup and drop off service if you are flying into Denver international Airport (**make sure you take the correct shuttle since there is more than one Quality Inn in the Denver airport area**) Our daily rate of \$119.00 which is \$140.29 with tax and state room charge which will also include free hot breakfast and free parking for those driving to the reunion. As always these rates are good 3 day prior and 3 days after the reunion for anyone who desires to arrive early or stay later. Contact the hotel at 1-303-340-3800 and ask for the Piedmont/Dixie rate of \$119.00. Make your reservations early; you must cancel 24 hours in advance to avoid being charged. All registration forms must be in NLT 31 July so we can lock in Buses and meals.

Three days of tours have been setup and I am sure you will enjoy the sites we have selected as well as the beautiful fall foliage and of course the Rocky Mountains.

Tour Day #1 Wednesday 12 September we will visit the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs this is a very special and impressive facility which trains our Air Force Officers; who will be our leaders of tomorrow keeping the nation safe. We will then stop and have lunch. Our final stop will be the Garden of the Gods State Park. Don't forget your camera because the pictures you take will make your friends and family envious of you. Upon our return to our host hotel we will enjoy our hospitality room and for those who choose to enjoy a dinner package selected just for us.

Tour #2 Thursday 13 September we start off with a city tour of Denver seeing this beautiful city and having its history explained to us by our official city guide. We will stop for lunch and after travel to Red Rocks State park for more fantastic pictures that will make friends and family drool. Our final stop of the day will be Coors Brewery and for those who desire you can sample fresh and cold beer and maybe pickup a few souvenirs. Upon our return to the hotel we will have our annual business meeting then afterwards enjoy the hospitality room and if purchased a special dinner package selected for us.

Tour Day #3 Friday 14 September we visit Estes Park and everyone must visit the historic Stanley Hotel with their collection of Stanley Steamer Automobiles you will then have the opportunity shop and wander Estes park shops and souvenir booths, you might even see wildlife enjoying your company. Lunch will be on your own. We will return to our host hotel and freshen up and attend our Final Banquet

Saturday 15 September Time to say Goodbye to Denver and all our friends both old and new.

New Business and Information of the Association

If you want a crew roster notify Robert (Willie) Williams and one will be forwarded to you via email or snail mail. If you have a new email or changes to address or contact number keep us in the loop so we can keep crew roster up to date, you never know when an old shipmate may want to connect with you and as always keep your dues current and paid up to date.

As I reported at our San Diego reunion the USS Sierra AD-18 has invited us to join them in Dayton OH in 2019 the folks of the USS Dixie have already agreed to join them so give us your input if not attending Denver, so we can have everyone's input prior to voting.

Everyone who have attended reunions the last 3 to 4 years know that past President Bill Kastens and myself have made it clear that for us to continue reunions then we must join forces with other Tender Associations, with this in mind we are laying preliminary plans to hold a Dixie class tender reunion in Washington D.C. in fall of 2020. USS Dixie, USS Prairie, USS Piedmont, USS Sierra and USS Yosemite. We should have more information to pass on to everyone in Denver as folks are working on Hotel and sites to ensure everyone gets the most when visiting our nation's capital.

We have yet to find someone to step up and assume the position of Treasurer as Kent Thomas who has done a fantastic job and desires to step down, so I am calling on all members and maybe someone's wife to step up and help, for us to continue we must have folks willing to assume leadership roles.

We have lost the following Shipmates since our last newsletter

Robert N. Swanson MM3 60-62 was killed in a motorcycle accident 09 May 2017

John T. Peters PCCM 56-59 Died 30 January 2017

Richard Pickett IC 57-61 Died 2017 no date given

Theodore Francisco 46-49 Died 06 December 2016

Raymond C. Hauck SH 52-56 Died 14 September 2017 his Daughter wrote in part that Dad was very proud of his service aboard the USS Piedmont and was thankful to be part of the association

Charles Laurent PNC 58-61 Died 07 June 2017 His wife wrote she desires to attend our Denver reunion in honor of Charles. She also made a small donation to the association in his honor.

News to share from Shipmates

Robert Conrad MR 52-55 has been diagnosed with mesothelioma lung cancer caused by exposure to asbestos. He is in chemotherapy and is on oxygen 24/7 as reported by his wife Eleanor. Members who served with shipmate Conrad might want to say Hi and send best wishes.

#717-582-3005 Address 415 West High St. New Bloomfield Pa. 17068

I want to thank Bruce Macalister for the new look of our Newsletter and for keeping our Face book and web page up and running. Keeping up to date between newsletters is easy by logging onto Face book or on to our web page usspiedmont.org we put updated information to keep our association members up to date.

One last word before closing all checks and other corresponded should be sent to Kent Thomas, if mailed to me it will require me to forward on to him.

Meals offered nightly

Tuesday: Pork Loin or Chicken with salad, rice pilaf, steamed vegetable and dinner rolls/butter.

Wednesday: BBQ Pork or BBQ Chicken, fruit salad, potato salad, baked beans.

Thursday: Chicken Marsala or Baked Ham, salad, potato, steamed Vegetable, dinner rolls/butter.

Desert will also be served nightly.

Anyone with special dietary or food allergies let us know so a special meal can be prepared

Registration form USS Piedmont AD-17 Denver 2018

Name _____

Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Years served aboard Piedmont ____ to ____ Rate-Rank _____

Registration Fee \$50.00

2019 Dues \$15.00

2018 Dues if not paid (\$15.00) _____

Tour #1 Air Force Academy \$62.00 X number _____

Tour #2 Denver city tour \$62.00 X number _____

Tour # 3 Estes Park \$47.00 X number _____

3 night dinner package (Per Person) \$40.00 X number _____

Single meal price (Per Person) \$20.00 X number _____

Final Banquet Salmon ____ or Roast Pork ____ (Per Person) \$40.00 X number _____

Total _____

Hotel is Quality Inn and Suites Denver international Airport

3300 North Quray Street

Aurora Co. 80011

Call for reservation at 303-340-3800 ask for Piedmont/Dixie daily rate of \$119.00

News to share with Shipmate's _____

Fill out form and mail with check made out to USS Piedmont reunion association to

Kent Thomas

7800 W. 158th St.

Overland Park Ks. 66223

All registration forms should be received **NLT 31 July 2018**. Anything received afterwards will be on a space available basis.