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USS Piedmont Newsletter MAY 31 2018

This will be the last newsletter until after our Denver reunion, if announcements are necessary they will be posted on our web page or Facebook page and as always you can contact me by phone.

We are now accepting reservations for our Denver reunion 11-15 Sept 2018. It will be a joint reunion again with the USS Dixie and I am sure it will be successful for all just like San Diego was last year, seems Navy men always have lots of sea stories and adventures to share and of course everyone has fun sharing and even the wife's have a great time keeping husbands straight and sharing some of their own stories.

We have resupplied our Polo shirts (\$20.00) that were such a hit last year and this year we have them in Navy blue but still have limited supply of grey from last year, so if you want to ensure you get the size and color you desire contact Kent Thomas and we can mail you one prior to reunion and yes we have Piedmont hats (\$20.00) as well.

We will continue our tradition of raffling items brought by our members, this goes a long way in keeping hospitality costs down and some of our members have shown off their talent in making items especially for attendee's.

Important dates to remember

11-15 September Dates of reunion in Denver Co. (Tuesday-Saturday)

31 July Reservations need to be into Kent Thomas (After that date no guarantee for tours)

10 September if canceling room reservations to avoid being charged

David Engelbert has done a fantastic job setting up Hotel and sites that we will visit.

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 no later than 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. 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 to 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. Dress is smart casual.

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. Those attending business meeting will make the final decision and if you desire to go elsewhere please be prepared to answer questions concerning your location such as hotel costs, local sites, costs of tours and airline fares.

Everyone who has attended reunions the last 3 to 4 years know that The late 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 out of the trip 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. **As of this newsletter printing this position has still not be filled.**

We have lost the following Shipmates since our last newsletter

Bill Kastens ET2 51-54 Died 02 April 2018 Past President of the Association

Robert Conrad MR 52-55 Died 15 March 2018

Richard Johnston ET 51-54 Died 03 March 2018

News to share from Shipmates

The Family of Bill Kastens wants to thank the Association for all the cards and flowers. The family stated that Bill and Monica loved the yearly reunions and made many lifetime friends

One last word before closing, all checks and other correspondence 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.