



## **USS Piedmont AD-17**

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## **USS Piedmont Newsletter 15 October 2021**

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and looking forward to the upcoming holidays. This Covid-19 pandemic has been something that I have never before encountered and it seems every time we think we have it under control it rears its ugly head again, so my advice to everyone is contact your PCP (Primary Care Physician) and follow his or her advice so we can get this pandemic under control and we can start having normal activities; yes, I am talking Piedmont reunions.

We were hoping to have pricing for the tours in Tucson but this pandemic has again thrown things into a whirlwind and no pricing for tours will be available until our new newsletter in March 2022. I will post information that is available so folks can reserve dates and start making plans. As I have stated in earlier newsletters that for members getting up in years and finding it more difficult to attend reunions you might want to bring children and/or grandkids along; some members have done this in past reunions and everyone seemed to have a great time, and yes, they leave with a better understanding of what it was like to serve on Doc and share some sea stories.

### **Deaths since our last newsletter**

**Former Commanding Officer 73-75. John (Ted) Parker VADM USN retired passed 25 June 2021. Reported by his wife Anne.**

The following reunion information is passed to you for your information and action

Dates are Sunday 25 September – Friday 30 September; the USS Dixie folks are hosting us and they are working hard to ensure everyone attending will have a great time. Our host hotel is the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel.

[www.ddcaz.com/tucson](http://www.ddcaz.com/tucson) 7350 S Nogales Hwy. Tucson AZ. We will be in the south tower away from the casino. If you fly into Tucson the hotel has a free shuttle service, just call 877-777-4212. Daily room rate is \$115.00 +12.5% tax and \$2.00 Occupancy tax, which is total of \$131.37 per day. Parking is free of charge and the hotel will issue a \$10.00 food credit for each guest up to 2. Room rate is good for 3 Days prior and 3 days after for those who choose to arrive early or stay longer.

**Sunday 25 September Check In**

**Monday 26 September (Choose one)**

**Arizona Desert Museum [www.desertmuseum.org](http://www.desertmuseum.org)** Nestled within the lushest desert on earth, explore the sonoran Desert World, Zoo, Botanical Garden, Aquarium, Natural History Museum, Art Gallery and more. Lunch is on your own. Pickup time 0830 return 16-1700.

**Monday 26 September**

**Trail Dust Town [www.traildusttown.com](http://www.traildusttown.com).** This western theme complex has been a Tucson landmark since 1961; the attractions include the C.P. Huntington Narrow Gauge Railroad, the Museum of the Horse Soldier, the Fiesta del Presidio Carousel, the Shootist Arcade and Dragoon Street, Wild, Wild, West Stunt shows. Shopping and eateries are available. Pickup time 0830 return 16-1700.

**Tuesday 27 September**

**Pima Air and Space Museum [www.pimaair.org](http://www.pimaair.org).** There are over 350 Aircraft in 6 Hangers over 80 acres. Lunch on your own: Box lunches are available. Pickup 0830 return 1700.

**Wednesday 28 September**

**Titan Missile Museum [www.titanmissilemuseum.org](http://www.titanmissilemuseum.org).** See the last of 54 Titan II missile sites; visitors receive a rare look at the technology used by the United States to deter nuclear war! Pickup 0930 after tour then depart for Mission San Xavier del Bac

**Mission San Xavier del Bac [www.sanxaviermission.org](http://www.sanxaviermission.org), often referred to as The White Dove of the Desert. Pickup time 0900 after tour then depart for the Titan Missile Museum.**

**City of Tubac, Arizona [www.tubacaz.com](http://www.tubacaz.com). After the Titan Missile Museum & Mission San Xavier del Bac the buses will depart for Tubac the Historic destination, Center for the Arts & Cultures, Tubac Presidio State Historic Park and Museum. Art, shopping, and various dining options (Lunch on your own). Return time 1630-1700.**

**Thursday 29 September**

**Piedmont Business meeting 0900, afterwards free day. Evening Banquet.**

**Things you might want to visit on your free day**

**USS Arizona Memorial at the University of Arizona, free admission hours 1000-1700.**

**HF Coors, lead free dinnerware, made in Tucson [www.HFCoors.com](http://www.HFCoors.com), yes they ship.**

**Friday 30 September reunion complete**

**For 2023 we are considering Nashville TN. or Kansas City MO. If you have another city in mind and are willing to make a site visit please contact me and I can assist you.**

**In our last newsletter I requested that someone step up and assume a vacant Directors position. I am happy to report the position has been filled by Eugene Wiesbeck BT1 (SW) 79-82 Decom and MMT – Turkish Navy. Thank you for stepping up.**

**Piedmont Hats and Polo shirts are still available for purchase, \$20.00 each with additional \$8.00 for postage; these items will be available for purchase in Tucson but why wait, get yours early and look sharp at check in, they make excellent gifts for your Piedmont sailor.**

**As always we request your contact information be kept current which includes address, contact number, and email address (if you have one). We had to remove several members from roster due to contact information not accurate and all efforts to contact them failed. Last but not least keep your dues up to date; expenses don't stop so please keep them current.**

**Expect the next news letter in March 2022, at that time we should have prices for tours. If you have any questions please let me know. Until then stay safe.**

## **Leaving you with a smile**

**Aboard a troop carrier crossing the Atlantic, I noticed a seasick pal of mine losing it over the railing alongside several other soldiers. "I never knew you had such a weak stomach," I said. "It's not weak," he replied. "I'm throwing up just as far as the rest of these guys." —George Mahathy**

Having passed the enlistment physical, Jon was asked by the doctor, "Why do you want to join the Navy, son?" "My father said it'd be a good idea, sir." "Oh? And what does your father do?" "He's in the Army, sir."

The Chief was bragging to the Ensign one day. "You know, I know everyone there is to know. Just name Someone, Anyone and I know them."

Tired of his boasting, the Ensign called his bluff, "Okay, Chief, how about Tom Cruise."

Sure, yes, "Tom and I are old friends and I can prove it."

So they fly out to Hollywood and knock on Tom Cruise's door and sure enough, Tom Cruise, shouts, "Chief! Great to see You! You and your friend come right in and join me for lunch!"

Although impressed, the Ensign is still skeptical. "After they leave Cruise's house, he tells the Chief that he thinks his knowing Cruise was just lucky." "No, no, just name anyone else," the Chief says. "President Biden," the Ensign quickly retorts.

"Yep I know him, let's fly out to Washington."

So, off they go. At the White House, Biden spots them on the tour and motions them over, saying, "Chief, what a surprise. I was just on my way to a meeting, but you and that Ensign come on in and let's catch up."

Well, the Ensign is very shaken by now, but still not totally convinced.

After they leave the White House grounds, he expresses his doubts to the Chief, who again implores him to name anyone else.

"The new Pope," the Ensign replies. "Sure, I've known the Pope a long time." So, off they fly to Rome. They're assembled with the masses in Vatican Square when the Chief says, "this will never work. I can't catch the Pope's eye among all these people. Tell you what, I know all the guards, so let me just go upstairs and I'll come out on the balcony with the Pope." He disappears into the crowd headed toward St. Peter's. Sure enough, half an hour later, the Chief emerges with the Pope on the balcony.

But by the time he returns, he finds that the Ensign has had a heart attack and is surrounded by paramedics.

Working his way to his side, the Chief asks the Ensign, "What happened?"

The Ensign looks up and says, "I was doing fine until you and The Pope came out on the balcony and the tourist next to me asked, 'Who's that on the balcony next to the Chief.'"

The reason the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines bicker amongst themselves is that they don't speak the same language. For instance, Take the simple phrase "secure the building". The Army will post guards around the place. The Navy will turn out the lights and lock the doors. The Marines will kill everybody inside and set up a headquarters. The Air Force will take out a 5 year lease with an option to buy.