

**President Emeriti**

John Geraghty
Ken Werth

President

Robert "Willie" Williams
1829 Kathleen Ct
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
Phone 757-479-2733
e-mail griswold5@verizon.net

Vice President

Joe Pietrosanti
123 Seminary Ave.
Binghamton NY. 13905
Phone 607-723-0428
email NONE

Secretary/Treasurer

Kent Thomas
7800 W.158th St.
Overland Park, KS 66223
Phone: 913-381-8934
e-mail kthomas82@kc.rr.com

Directors

Warren Hopkins
David Engelbert
Ron Orszag
Jack Chesnick

PIEDMONT NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017

San Diego here we come!! After many years of discussions and 1 year earlier than originally planned we will hold a joint reunion with the USS Dixie AD-14, lead ship of the class. We have a few changes to our normal routine but we feel this will enhance the reunion and foster fellowship and new friendships, so let's get to the meat and potatoes. Reunion date October 03 to October 07, 2017, Tuesday thru Saturday. Our host hotel is the Handlery Hotel, 950 Hotel Circle North at a rate of \$109.00 per night which includes free breakfast for two. No hotel shuttle service is available for the airport. Pick up or drop off. Cost to and from airport is approximately \$25.00 by taxi or less if using Uber/Lyft. Reservation can be made by calling 619-298-0511 or 800-676-6567, ask for USS Piedmont / USS Dixie rate of \$109.00 / night. Hotel offers free parking for cars and RV's.

Our Hospitality Room will not serve dinners nightly but there are a variety of restaurants close to hotel within walking distance or by free hotel shuttle service as well as our hotel restaurant

We are Hosting Two Days of Tours :

Day 1

Tour of the USS Midway CVA41, a WWII Aircraft Carrier that was in service until 1992. The ship houses an extensive collection of aircraft, many of which were built in southern California. You will have three hours to tour the ship and exhibits, assisted by headphones to enhance our tour. We will then muster on the

pier and transit to a two hour tour of San Diego Harbor while enjoying a box lunch. After the tour we will return to the hotel hospitality room activities.

Day 2

We will start with a city tour of our host city visiting areas that many remember from years past, a trip to Coronado including the beach area, we will travel through Balboa Park. We will stop at Seaport Village for about an hour to explore the many unique shops, purchase postcards, or enjoy some coffee, then onto the Bali Hai Restaurant for lunch overlooking the harbor and city skyline. After lunch we will proceed to Mount Soledad visiting Veterans Memorial and enjoying a 360 degree view of our beautiful host city. Afterward we will return to our hotel.

Day 3

Friday will be an open day which will allow you to enjoy San Diego on your own with our final banquet that evening.

Day 4

Saturday we will say our goodbyes until next year. As always our hotel rate is good for 3 days prior and 3 days after for those who desire to arrive early or stay later

We Have Purchased New Emblematic Items for Sale to our Members.

1. New Ship's hats blue with name and silhouette of the ship, these are made in America and can be viewed on our web page or Facebook page these will be available for sale at reunion \$25.00 each.
2. A new polo shirt, gray with name and silhouette of ship on left breast \$25.00 each

If you desire to purchase prior to the reunion mail check to Kent Thomas include \$5.00 extra for postage and state size of shirt desired. We currently have sizes Small thru 2XL.

News Since our Last Newsletter

Darlene Brummell wife of shipmate Pete Brummell Passed on to us that Pete "lost his left leg but is walking again on his prosthetic with assistance of walker and cane. Kudo's to the VA Hospital in Omaha NE."

Buster Bean and wife Anita sent us the following, "Sorry we are unable to attend reunions of late, Buster has Parkinson's going on seven years, but enjoy hearing about everyone"

We Lost the Following Shipmates

David Jersild, SF2 Diving Locker 1964-1967, Died 2015

William Walters, Seaman 1945-1946, Died August 28, 2016

Final Thoughts

Our next Newsletter will be in May at which time we will have registration forms, but you can make hotel reservations and travel arrangements now. If you have questions/concerns give me a call 757-479-2733 or send me an e-mail at griswold5@verizon.net. Until May "Fair Winds and Following Seas."