

USS SALISBURY SOUND ASSOCIATION



2024 Summer Newsletter

It's the beginning of August, and the summer is definitely in full swing. But October isn't that far off. If you haven't signed up yet for the Branson reunion, please do. As of today, August 2nd, total signup is 14. Signup information is available on the association's website, or can be viewed in a browser using this link:

<https://www.thereunionbrat.com/ussalisbury>

There was a line in a movie where two guys are about to bury a good friend. It went something like this *"you're not really all the way dead until the last person that knew you is also dead"*. That sentiment is probably a good starting point for the beginning of this newsletter.

There are two recent developments of interest to all members. One, Bill Lewis, our Historian contacted Maurice Medland a few months ago. We had lost contact with him for an extended period. Turns out he had some medical issues he was dealing with that accounted for that loss of contact. Bill has four or five office size boxes containing ship's memorabilia. At this point no one seems to know the contents. Pete Keck, our Chaplain has volunteered to pick up the boxes, and ship them to me. I will be driving to the reunion, and will bring all of the memorabilia with me. All reunion attendees will be encouraged to go through what is there and claim any item of interest. We don't really know if another reunion beyond the next will be held (more on this further down in this newsletter). It is almost certain that %99.9 of what is in those boxes currently in

Bill's possession will eventually wind up in the re-cycle bin. Maybe we can postpone that eventuality some. If you are in Branson for the reunion, whatever is there is yours for the taking.

Development number two. Late June Pete Keck sent me info on an organization in Wash. DC. The Navy Memorial.

United States Navy Memorial

701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.

Washington, D.C, 2004-2608

The Navy Memorial has a plaque program whereby a commemorative plaque can be purchased and mounted on one of the walls in their museum. Although the Navy Memorial is a non-profit, this is one of the ways they keep the doors open. There are two sizes of plaques offered. A 7"x3.75" for \$3000, and a 14.75"x 14.75" for \$10,000. You can view information on this program using this link:

<https://www.navymemorial.org/commemorative-plaque-program>

The board members were queried to see if they thought proceeding with this was a good idea, and a lot of positive response came back. The Association now has a pledge drive underway for the purchase of a plaque. We already have commitments for \$3600...we are well on our way. We would certainly like to hit the \$10,000 mark, and am asking everyone to contribute whatever they are able to afford. We do not want to collect funds in the beginning. We just want a pledge. At the Branson reunion, the decisions will be made as to the size and the content. You can contact me at david.day@duke-software.com, or by phone at 281-395-5570(cell), or 281-395-5574(home) with a pledge commitment. As part of the purchase of a plaque the organization purchasing the plaque can hold a small ceremony at the museum when the plaque is completed and ready to mount on the wall. Sam Rocco, usually the senior enlisted(time-in-grade) at the recent reunions has volunteered to be one of our representatives for the ceremony, and anyone else who wishes to attend is certainly welcome. Some

questions remain. What do we do if the pledge amount falls short of \$10,000? How to allocate the pledge amount? What to do if the pledge amount exceeds the \$10,000. Same thing. How do we allocate the funds? The plaque will be ordered after we have the pledged commitments cash in the bank, but the contents will be decided at the Branson reunion.

The 2024 reunion will be held in Branson. As stated in the previous newsletter, we're changing it up a bit this next reunion. It was decided in Nashville that one outside-the-hotel activity was enough, so the schedule looks like this:

- Monday the 21st. Arrival. Evening reception in the hospitality room. Pizza and soft drinks provided.
- Tuesday the 22nd. Dinner and show on the Branson Belle. A big change from previous reunions. No chartered motor coach as part of this trip. The reunion size is getting smaller each year, and chartering a coach adds significantly to the cost. At the Nashville reunion, all attending save for 2 shipmates, drove. There should be more than enough rides available. If not, we will assist in scheduling Uber or Lyft.
- Wednesday, the 23rd. Open day. Explore Branson. Take in the shows.
- Thursday, the 24th.
 1. 10:00 am. Memorial service.
 2. 10:30. Ladies Tea and Gift exchange.
 3. 10:30 Association business meeting.
 4. 5:00 – 6:00 pm. Cash bar. 6:00 – 9:00 pm. Banquet followed by entertainment.
- Friday, the 25th. Depart.

Our treasury has enough in the bank to cover the association's part of the next reunion, and possibly one more after that. This year we were not able to get a complementary hospitality room. We just do not bring in enough business to the hotel. They were not willing to give on this one. The treasury will cover the room rental.

From Vic Fischer, our Secretary:

As of today, we have 488 members and 37 widows on our Roster. The breakdown is:

96 members have paid dues within the last 6 years, of that:

8 of 16 Charter Members have paid dues for 2023 & 2 paid 2025 dues.

28 of 80 Regular Members have paid dues for 2023 & 2024. Only 9 paid 2024 dues.

The association does not have any source of income save for the yearly dues. Association dues are \$20.00 per year and should be mailed to Vic Fischer, 664 Fourth St., Lemont Il., 60439.

If you are reading this newsletter using a link on the website, you probably do not have an email address registered with Vic Fischer, our secretary. Vic's email address is duffer664@sbcglobal.net

Hope to see you in Branson.

Dave Day