



FALL 2016 Newsletter

uss.franklin.org

2016 Reunion held in historic Gettysburg, PA

Our annual USS Franklin CV-13 Reunion, hosted by Joyce Conklin and Sheila Hartley, daughters of Leonard Hall, WT2/c B-Div., took place June 23-26, 2016, in beautiful and historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The weather was perfect and one could see a piece of American history around every turn. 11 crew members attended the 2016 reunion (see picture below). The reunion attendees took a bus tour through the fields of Gettysburg on Friday. On Saturday, the group visited a wax museum and toured Eisenhower's home, followed by the dinner and dance Saturday night. Sunday morning hosted the farewell breakfast and 8 O'Clock report.

The reunion attendees all had a wonderful time, from our honored veterans to the youngest family members. Gettysburg offered a wonderful range of interesting attractions and gave us all the opportunity to respect not only the USS Franklin crew members but also the men who served during the historic battle of Gettysburg. We've posted a few images taken by some of the reunion attendees below and are looking forward to seeing everyone again at the 2017 reunion in Boston.



11 USS Franklin CV-13 crew members attended the 2016 reunion in Gettysburg, PA. Front Row L-R: Ray Bailey, Gilbert Baca, Bernard Groenwold, William Vaughn, Robert Spriggs, David Baruch. Back Row L-R: William Albrecht, Harold Rausch, Don Conard, Jack Hensel, Walt Gallagher.



Reunion attendees enjoying the bus tour of the Gettysburg battlefield.



Reunion attendees were paid a visit from such historic figures as General Lee and Mrs. Lee (above) and President Lincoln (not shown).



"A typically beautiful June sunset over the Gettysburg battlefield, taken from the Union position on Cemetery Ridge."
Commentary: Sheila Hartley

Announcement: Ken Homko elected to serve as USS Franklin Museum Association President

Congratulations to Ken Homko, USS Franklin Museum Association, newly appointed President. Ken has most recently served on the Museum Association board as the Treasurer and we are excited to have him lead us now as President. Please see his letter below. Thank you again to Dr. H. Prentice Baptiste, Jr. for his dedication as our former President and for his aid during the transition.

From the desk of the President

Hello to all USS Franklin crew members, family and friends.

Since this is my first letter as President, I will begin by introducing myself. My name is Ken Homko. My father Harry Homko was a crew member in K Division. Over the years I have attended over 20 reunions and became a part of the Board in 2011 as Treasurer. Now, as I take over as President from Dr. Prentice Baptiste, I would like to thank him for his many years of service and dedication to our Association. I would also like to extend many thanks to the rest of our Board for all the work they do. It is truly an honor to serve as President of this Board and I will do my best to fulfill all my responsibilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Joyce Conklin, Sheila Hartley and their family for hosting the reunion this summer in Gettysburg, PA. Many people enjoyed being in such a historical town. It was definitely a great time for all that attended. The 2017 reunion will be hosted by Kathy Lyons and her family in Boston, MA. I hope to see a big turnout again next summer and another successful reunion. Information will be provided in the next newsletter. Until then I wish everyone smooth sailing during the upcoming holiday season!

Warm Regard,
Kenneth R. Homko
President

In Memoriam

8 o'clock report

Word was received that these crew members have been absent from muster since our last newsletter and have received orders from the Supreme Commander to be transferred to The Big Ship in the Sky.

Jesse E. Duffy Jr., S1/c (FC) F-Div.

Rene N. Gauthier, F1/c B-Div.

Edwin T. Keenan, S1/c V5-Div.

Carlyle H. Kefauver, EM2c E-Div.

Walter L. Lamoureux Jr. S2/c V2

Randall Maurer, S2/c V6s

Harrison Neal, F1/c B-Div.

*Joseph Small, Honorary Crew Member
(Executive Producer, USS Franklin-Honor Restored)*

The Great Commander called them home
To sail the crystal sea,
Where they will steer with steady hand throughout eternity.
No longer will the high sea roll.
The skies will be clear and every day will be a day of happiness and cheer.
No storm shall cross their valiant prow and calm shall be the sea.
In that bright place where all is well and kindly is the breeze.
They are at peace with our Shipmates who have gone before.

Please send information on the death of a crew member to:

Please note the address change

Ms. Louise Mast
2311 Clapton Way
Folsom, CA 95630

Election Information REMINDER 2016

If you are a member in good standing, please be on the lookout for the 2016 ballots sent from Louise Mast. These should arrive in October.

2016 Annual Dues \$10

Become a member in good standing! Make Check Payable to: USS Franklin Museum Association

Mail To:

Kenneth Homko, Treasurer
2210 Grey Hawk Drive
Plainfield, IL 60586

REUNION TO BE HELD IN BOSTON, MA JULY 13-16, 2017

RESERVE THE HOTEL TODAY!

Hilton Boston/Woburn

2 Forbes Road

Woburn, MA 01801

Hosted Kathy Lyons and family, daughter of James W. Lyons, EM1/c E-Div.

The hotel is blocking 40 rooms at \$149.00 per night including breakfast on Friday and Saturday.

Please make your reservations as soon as possible so we can ask for more rooms if necessary. The reservation numbers are 781-932-0999 or toll free 800-445-8667.

The hotel is located 10 miles away from downtown Boston. Visit the website at bostonwoburn.hilton.com

More information to follow regarding registration for the reunion.