

In Memoriam

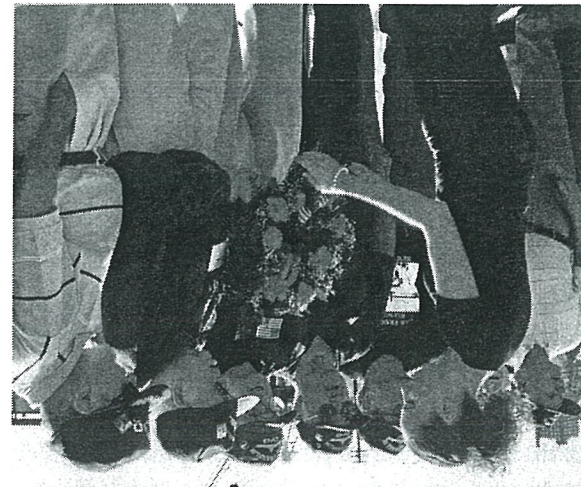
*The Great Commander called them home to sail the crystal sea,
Where they will steer with steady hand throughout eternity,
No longer will the high sea roll,
The skies will be clear and every day will be a day of happiness and cheer,
No storm shall cross their valiant prow and calm will be the sea,
In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

— Word was received that these crew members are absent from muster —

Andy O. Adams S1/c R-Div.
Celestino Borelli S1/c
Lt.(jg.) Stanley J. Butryn VF-13
Eugene J. Carey Corp. 7th-Div.
Dalen, Irvn R. AMM3/c VT-13
Lt. Philip O. Geier Jr. V2-Div.
Forrest S. Hutchins AOM3/c V5-Div.
Kenneth R. Hill AM3/c V2-Div.

Gerald R. LaCroix S2/c R1-Div.
Donald G. Perry F1/c B-div.
Richard Schneider (no info)
Frank Sepesy SC2/c S-Div.
Thomas J. Smulczeski SKV2/c S1-Div.
Douglas C. Taylor Sr. MM1/c A-Div.
Arthur J. Valotto S1/c S-Div.
Robert A. Williams AMM3/c

Information on the death of a crew member is to be sent to
Ray C. Bailey 3511 Byrd Street San Diego, CA 92154-1611



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

USS FRANKLIN (CV-13) REUNION
Ray C. Bailey
3511 Byrd St.
San Diego, CA 92154

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USS FRANKLIN CV13 MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

A NOT FOR PROFIT AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

BOB ST. PETERS NAMED PRESIDENT EMERITUS



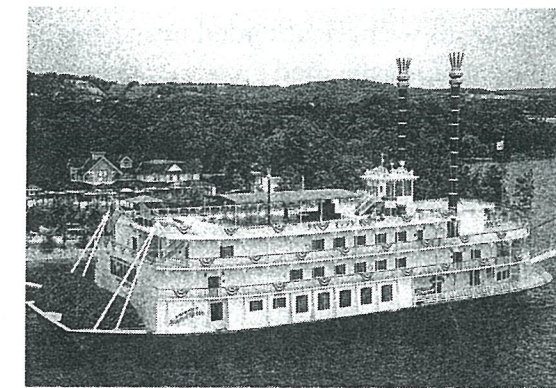
The Board of Directors elected St. Peters to the distinguished office of President Emeritus at their meeting in July at the reunion in New York. His years of service as president were recognized with thanks for his total devotion to the Association.

It was in 1988 that St. Peters gathered six crew members together and proposed a chartered organization dedicated to keeping the memory of the USS Franklin and those of the crew who made the supreme sacrifice on March 19, 1945. Bob was elected president and faithfully served until July 2009.

At a recent reunion St. Peters was presented with a gavel having an engraved brass band expressing the gratitude of the Association members for his leadership.

Sam Rhodes is the last surviving member of the original Board, other than St. Peters, and continues to serve as a Director.

2010 REUNION MARCH 19th IN BRANSON, MISSOURI



Save the dates
March 18-19-20-21
Mark your calendar now!

Previous reunion chairpersons have teamed up to produce a memorable reunion on the 65th anniversary of the Franklin's moment in naval

history, Sam and Elaine Rhodes along with Chet and Beth Conard-Rowland have completed negotiations and an announcement with all of the information is included with this newsletter.

While this reunion will focus on being a memorial for our shipmates who are no longer with us, there will be joyous moments; one of them will be the scrumptious luncheon cruise aboard the *Showboat Branson Belle* on Friday.

The magnificent Belle is an 1880's style paddle wheel boat which presents a talented cast of singers and dancers who perform musical hits from Broadway to the big screen. Typical vaudeville acts are also part of the entertainment. But if the theatre is not to your liking, stroll the open decks while the Belle cruises scenic Table Rock Lake.

Branson has become a mecca for reunions and you can expect every effort will be made to accommodate seniors, wheelchair accessible is a byword everywhere. Chet, Beth, Sam and Elaine are going to be sure there is a minimum of walking.

2009 DUES STILL \$10.00

Yes, the annual dues remain as originally budgeted, just ten dollars.
Check payable to — USS Franklin Museum Association
MAIL TO: Robert A. Ladewig, Treasurer
331A Oak Hill Road Lake Barrington, IL 60010-1686

Have you mailed your dues?



*from the desk of
the president . . .*

It is an honor and humbling experience to become your first non-crew member president. I am the son-in-law of John

McAvoy (GM1c) who served aboard the Franklin from the day it was commissioned until the day it was taken out of commission.

It is with gratitude that I accept this responsibility and will carry out the duties to the best of my ability.

The Franklin family is familiar to me as we have attended numerous reunions and enjoyed being a part of this esteemed group . . . the crew members and their families.

Though I am the first descendent to serve as president, I will always recognize the crew members who are the foundation of the Association. Bob St. Peters is now appropriately our president emeritus. Sam Rhodes, Bob Ladewig and Ray Bailey as members of the Board have been instrumental in bringing me aboard. Harry Munzing and Bob Baines, two other Directors, have given me their whole hearted support.

The Board and I envision some new missions and challenges, we invite you to join us, please read the column on the right.

Dr. H. Prentice Baptiste, Jr.

Board Membership Is Open to All Museum Members

Board membership is no longer restricted to crew members. In fact, in the interest of perpetuating the Museum we have to have younger people on the Board. So, if you are interested, follow these criteria:

A) be at least twenty-one years of age, B) be a current paid up member of the Museum Association, C) make an effort to attend the reunions, D) submit a 250 word essay on why you wish to serve on the Board including any experience or ability you can offer. This essay is to be mailed to:

Ray C. Bailey 3511 Byrd Street San Diego, CA 92154-1611
MUST BE MAILED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2009

**BALLOTS ARE ONLY MAILED TO PAID UP
MEMBERS OF THE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION**

OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE A VOICE

At the Board meeting in New York several ideas were discussed and it was decided we should pursue them more broadly than with just the Directors . . . that a small committee should investigate the feasibility of any idea and present it to the Board. Several members of the Association have volunteered to serve but there is no reason you cannot offer your time and effort; if you would like to be on a committee, volunteer to president,

Dr. H. Prentice Baptiste
2205 Colonial Drive
League City, TX 77573-5873
e-mail: baptiste@nmsu.edu

REUNIONS; look at possible sites for the next two or three years and establish reunion host list, thus finding most acceptable cities and having knowledgeable, perhaps even experienced hosts.

SCHOLARSHIPS; research management programs for awarding scholarships, legal responsibility and establish qualifying data.

BOOK GIFTS; develop a plan for gifting our books to public and private libraries.

U.S. STAMP; Director Harry Munzing has pursued the possibility of having a commemorative U.S. stamp issued honoring the Franklin for several years without success. With help he is willing to continue the effort.

don't keep it a secret. . . .

*when you move or your phone
number is changed please advise*

Ray C. Bailey
3511 Byrd Street
San Diego, CA 92154-1611

MEMORIAL PLAQUES DEDICATED AT GREAT LAKES, JULY 2nd



Pictured left to right; CMC Charles Hood, William Schauer-F1c, Robert Ladewig-EM2c, David Baruch-GM3c, Capt. Caroline Olinger

Thanks to ETC(SW) Roger A. Phillip who persevered in rescuing our plaques from storage, they are now installed in the entrance of the building named USS FRANKLIN which is a multi-story building housing 364 students enrolled in Service Schools.

About 120 of the students attended the dedication ceremony as did Tina Ladewig and Marilyn Schauer. Captain Olinger called attention to the fact that the surviving crew members managed to bring the severely damaged carrier to New York from some 35 miles from the Japanese home island of Honsue; an event so astounding that the crew is the most decorated of the U.S. Navy.

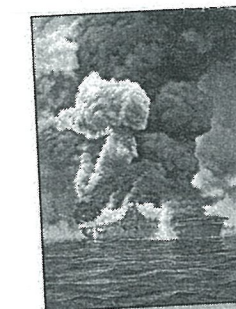
Great lakes Naval Training Station is the sole "boot camp" now, the others having been closed. The Franklin is unique in this instance in that not only is the building named for the ship but it houses our plaques and our framed print...the students pass the installation at the entrance every day as they come and go.



ROB & JULIE CHAIR "BIG APPLE" REUNION



Never mind the reason, but only about a hundred showed up and had a marvelous time in a great hotel just two blocks from "ground zero." Rob Forlenza and Julie Sosa put together a classic reunion; we enjoyed beautiful weather, picnic lunches and a very special wreath drop when our cruise boat paused at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Hey you guys, thanks a bunch!



PRINTS

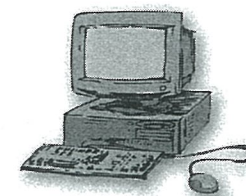
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LOOK! WE'RE ON THE WEB!

It was just a couple of years ago that Phil Gentry designed a USS Franklin web site and it is simply awesome!

www.ussfranklin.org