

Spring 2016 Newsletter
ussfranklin.org

A quick note from the Editors:

USS Franklin Museum Association newsletter format

We would like to welcome the surviving crew members of the USS Franklin CV-13, as well as friends and family, to the new email format of USS Franklin Museum Association Newsletter.

With the new format, we have more space for photos and articles, so we are asking that the readers of this publication submit any articles or photos of interest to franklin@ussfranklin.org

We would like to note that photos or articles may still be edited due to space, but submissions are appreciated and welcomed.

Our plan is to continue releasing two newsletters a year, a Spring edition and a Fall edition. However, if more content is received and interest expressed, we can increase the frequencies of these emails.

Thank you for your continued support and thank you to the crew members for their service to our country.

See you in Gettysburg!

--Darren and Susan Hamm

******THIS IS A REQUESTED PAPER COPY OF THE ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER******

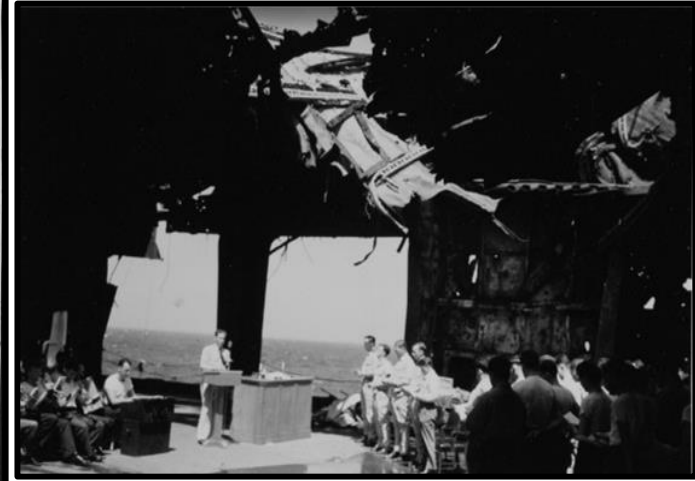


Image Left: The ship is floated out of her building dock immediately after christening, at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company shipyard, Newport News, Virginia, on 14 October 1943. Note WAVES officers in the foreground. The WAVES' Director, Lieutenant Commander Mildred H. McAfee, USNR, was Franklin's sponsor. Official U.S. Navy Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.

Image Middle: USS FRANKLIN (CV-13) arrives at New York Navy Yard for repair of battle damage, circa 28 April 1945. Photographed looking aft, showing her burned-out after flight deck, with Manhattan beyond. Note oversized battle ensign flying from rear of her island. New York skyline and bridge in the distance, large American flag in foreground.

Image Right: USS FRANKLIN (CV-13) Church service on the ship's ruined hangar deck, taken upon her return to the U.S. from the Pacific for repair of battle damage received off Japan on 19 March 1945. Location is probably in, or near, New York Harbor, circa 28 April 1945. Official U.S. Navy Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.

For more photos of interest please click here: <http://www.history.navy.mil/search.html?q=80-G-K-cv-13&start=0>

From the desk of the President



Greetings,

This is my last communication as President to my USS Franklin CV-13 Family. Giving up this Presidency was not an easy decision, but after some discussion with my wife, Lesley, we felt it was the right decision. I do intend to serve out the remainder of my term on the board. Therefore, I will be available to facilitate the transition of the Presidency to the next board member elected by the esteem board to serve as President.

My journey as your President has been most rewarding because it was initiated by my Father-in-law, John F. McAvoy, GM1c 2nd -Div. M/Sgt. USAF Ret. I was deeply moved by the unanimous support of the board especially the unconditional support from crewmembers – Robert A. Ladewig, Robert Baines, Ray C. Bailey, and Samuel Rhodes. Robert St. Peters, who had served as President for a number of years, graciously handed over to me, the first non-veteran to serve as President of the USS Franklin CV-13 Foundation, the virtual gavel with a smile. Furthermore, the gratifying and unselfish support of the USS Franklin family members will forever be etched into my memory and heart.

I do believe our next President, with the support of the USS Franklin Family, will guide us to greater heights in the fulfillment of our purpose and the legacy of the crewmen of “The Ship That wouldn’t Die”—USS Franklin (CV/CVA/CVS-13, AVT-8) or Big Ben.

Take Care and Thanks,
Dr. H. Prentice Baptiste, Jr.

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.

Paul Appert, AMM3C

Eugene P. Higgins, Lt. VF-13 Capt. Ret.

Everett S. Kirt Jr., RDM3

William C. Kallbrier Sr., RDM3/c K-Div.

George Harris, S1/c

Steven L. Loy, AOM3/c V5-Div.

John T. Shelley, S2/c V1-Div.

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:
Ms. Louise Mast 11217 Terra Vista Parkway Unit F
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730-7453

2016 REUNION GETTYSBURG, PA
Registration DUE June 1st - Don't miss out!
June 23 * 24* 25

The reunion is just around the corner. Don't miss your chance to visit with our USS Franklin family in historic Gettysburg, PA.
To book rooms at our group rate of \$145/night, please call the 1863 Inn of Gettysburg at (717) 334-6211.

Rooms will be available until MAY 8th.

Rooms WILL fill up, so make your room reservations asap! Parking and breakfast are Included!

For complete information click the link below:

<http://www.ussfranklin.org/?p=1143>

SEE REGISTRATION ENCLOSED

REGISTER AND BOOK YOUR ROOM TODAY!

*****USS Franklin ball caps (\$15) and USS Franklin- The Ship that Wouldn't Die books (\$50) will be available for purchase at the Gettysburg reunion*****

Board of Directors

Last October, a ballot was mailed with a listing of the candidates only to those who have paid their annual dues. To pay your dues for this year, see the note below. As of November, this is a listing of our current directors.

Prentice Baptiste * Ray Bailey * David Baruch * Roger Hall II * Darren Hamm * Sheila Hartley
Jeannette Haugk * Kenneth Homko * Kathleen Lyons * Louise Mast * Sam Rhodes
Beth Rowland * Kathy Uecker

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