As the Editors of this publication, Darren and I can take some liberties in our recap of this year’s reunion. Thank you to all those that attended this reunion in honor of Robert Hamm, WT3/c B-Div., and contributed to making Milwaukee a success.

We would first like to thank Sally Owen and the William Schauer, F1/c E-Div., family for their many contributions including the memorial ceremony music and the silent auction. Captain (Ret.) Gary Schnurrpusch USN, CO. USS O’Callahan and USS Gary, delivered a very nice speech at our memorial ceremony. The Captain was attending as a guest at the Milwaukee reunion and was happy to help us out by delivering this speech. Thank you Captain Schnurrpusch.

One highlight to the reunion was the Curtiss SB2C Hell Diver “The Beast”, operated by the West Texas Wing of the Commemorative Air Force and brought to us by Jerry Scott and Ed Vesely (www.sb2chelldiver.com). I know Darren enjoyed this addition to the reunion and we hope you did as well.

I would personally like to thank those that reached out to me about my family. I was sorry to miss this reunion and am looking forward to Gettysburg. Darren and I have already booked the hotel and mapped the roads out (we are just a little excited)! Thank you again to all that attended our reunion, we’ll see you in Gettysburg!

--Susan and Darren Hamm
from the desk of the President:

Greetings:

I do hope this message finds everyone in good health, if not in good health at least in good spirits. Once again, I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to Darren Hamm and his family for the tremendous and gratifying reunion in Milwaukee. I will never forget the Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Museum. We all were inspired to dance and, sometimes, sing, to the music provided by the lovely band for the Saturday night celebration.

We are all looking forward to the reunion in Gettysburg, PA, June 23-26, 2016. This will also be an exciting reunion for all!!!

As I stated, during our general assembly meeting, I will not serve as your president following the reunion in Gettysburg.

Please accept my deepest appreciation for your support and commitment to the legacy of the USS Franklin CV-13 Men during my presidency.

Dr. H. Prentice Baptiste, Jr.

****A Tribute to Dr. Prentice Baptiste****

Prentice, when you announced in the business meeting at the Milwaukee reunion that this would be your last year as our president, I think we were all speechless. I’m sorry we let a magic moment slip away to thank you for all the support you have given to the USS Franklin Museum Association. The time and effort you have so generously contributed to keep the memory of the shipmates alive has been greatly appreciated.

You have been a true friend to the shipmates and all of their families. You attended all the reunions even when you had to leave your own dear family when they may have needed you. Your positive attitude and good humor has been a treat for all of us to share. I hope you and Lesley will not forget us and we will continue to see you at the future reunions. We need your gracious welcoming smile and your admirable dignity.

With sincere appreciation,

Jeannette Baines

2015 Annual Dues

Become a member in good standing!

Make Check Payable to:
USS Franklin Museum Association
Mail To:
Kenneth Honko, Treasurer
2210 Grey Hawk Drive
Plainfield, IL 60586

Annual Election of Directors

This is our procedure for electing candidates to the Board of Directors.

OCTOBER:
In October, a ballot will be mailed with a listing of the candidates. The ballot will be mailed only to each person who has paid their 2015 annual dues.

NOVEMBER:
The ballot will be identified as such and the mailing address will be listed with the election date to be November 21, 2015. Ballots received after that date will not be counted.

In Memoriam

8 O’CLOCK REPORT

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

Alfred E. Amos TMV1/c V5-5h-5h
John J. Barle EMI/c E-5h
Vincent M. Cass AMM2/c VF-2
William A. Coker S2/c 6th-1
Russel E. Cole S1/c 1st -1
Herve E. Dionne S1/c V2-1
Thomas O. Ellis RM3/c K1-1
Richard C. Fink YN2/c 3rd-3
Robert A. Gray AMM1/c VB-13
Billy Lee Jones, Sr. S2/c V4L-1
Robert W. Marks S1/c N2-6
Victor J. Norton AM3/c V2-1
Otis W. Pickett AMM1/c V2-1
Eugene S. Staples 1st Lt. VMF-1
Edwin Mac Culloch Stephens LT (jg)
Robert Lee Tice S1/c 8th-1
Robert S. Waddington Pfc 7th-1

The Supreme 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.

Please send information on the death of a crew member to:
Ms. Louise Mast 11217 Terra Vista Parkway Unit F Rancho Cuccamonga, CA 91730-7453