

**STRONG SALVOS**  
**2023**  
**USS STRONG**  
**ASSOCIATION**



**2023 HUNTSVILLE AL REUNION**

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Greeting shipmates. I hope this newsletter finds everyone well, and ready to get together again for this year's reunion.

We all enjoyed last year in Newport, and survived the cold weather, and wind. Thanks again to Larry Tibbetts for his hard work at that difficult location.

This year, our hosts Bob & Shirley Magoteaux have found us a nice Best Western Plus in Huntsville, Alabama with very reasonable rates.

It has a restaurant on site, and a bar lounge. The hotel will also cater our Saturday night dinner for us in their banquet room.

Since there were only 22 of us present at last year's reunion, we will probably not be able to afford a bus to carry us on any future reunion tours.

On Wednesday we will carpool to the US Space & Rocket Museum for a guided tour of the facility. We will be able to purchase lunch there on site.

On Friday we will carpool again for a morning tour of historic homes, a Pioneer village, and the Burritt Mansion. Our memorial service will be there, and we will have lunch on our own after the service. Stay safe,

*Ron Impello*

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**▶▶▶ THINGS TO DO ◀◀◀**

- Fill out and send in the activity sheets by August 1. (See Pages 5 & 7)
- Make hotel reservations by August 1. (See Page 3)
- Get a gift for the raffle.

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**

Please remember to inform us as soon as possible of any illness or demise of a shipmate. You can call any association officer or get in touch with Johnnie & Arnold Bailey, Chairmen of the Sunshine Committee.

Phone - 423-942-1512

E-Mail - [abailey16@bellsouth.net](mailto:abailey16@bellsouth.net)

The Sunshine Committee posts news about shipmate illness and demise on the website guest book.

The USS STRONG web site is:

[WWW.USS-STRONG.COM](http://WWW.USS-STRONG.COM)

## DD 467 HISTORY

This year 2023, marks the 80th anniversary of the loss of DD467.

On 16 June, 1943, Strong shot down 3 attacking Japanese planes.

On 5 July, 1943, while in battle at Bairoko Harbor, New Georgia, in Solomon Islands, she is sunk by Torpedo from Japanese destroyer, taking 46 men down with her.

241 men were rescued by the USS Chavalier DD451.

On 6 February, 2019 the RV Petrel, a Paul Allen search vessel discovered the wreckage of DD467.

Ens. Billy Clay Hendrick Jr.

—Went down with ship, along with 45 others, while he was securing communications equipment.

Edward Deering

— Went down with ship while securing equipment below.

Ens. Milton Hackett (Chief Torpedo Officer)

- Survived blast, and pulled several men out of water onto float net, including Hugh Barr Miller, and Jim Merriman. Past away in 2013.

## DD 467 History continued

Lt. Hugh Barr Miller Jr.

-Gunnery officer, part of 23 survivors in water after the ship sunk. Past away in 1978.

BMC Stanley Hoder (Andy's dad)

-Survived sinking, and passed away in 2011.

Cdr. Gus Wellings (467 Skipper)

-Survived sinking, and was picked up, and then injured by explosions from Strong, while in raft.

In the early years of the association reunions a number of 467 survivors attended. These shipmates included-

Melvin Dubard

Carl Ochs

Keith Sherlie

Peter Karagines

James Merriman (The best story teller of all times)

Our hearts go out to the family's of the 467 shipmates.

## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

### President

Ron Impello  
1161 Naples Drive  
Pensacola, FL 32507  
251-978-9617  
rimpello@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Jim Kelly  
345 Kathmere Road  
Havertown, PA 19083  
610-789-2391  
jimkelly@kellywelde.com

### Acting Secretary

Harold Welch  
1417 Belfaire Lake Trail  
Dacula, GA 30019  
770-995-4638  
welchh@bellsouth.net

### Vice President

Open

### Sunshine Committee

Johnnie & Arnold Bailey  
185 Lark Trail  
Jasper, TN 37347  
423-942-1512  
abailey16@bellsouth.net

### Appointed Officers

Master at Arms – Open  
Historian – Open  
Parliamentarian – Open  
Chaplain—Open

**HOTEL INFORMATION**  
**BEST WESTERN PLUS**

9035 Madison Boulevard  
Madison, Alabama 35758  
Tel: (256) 772-7170

Make reservations by August 1, 2023.

Indicate that you are with the USS STRONG reunion.

Rates: \$111.25 (Includes Tax & Breakfast)  
(Major credit cards accepted)

Check in Time: 2:00 PM      Check out Time: 11:00 AM

Airport Shuttle is available. Request when making reservations.

The Hospitality Suite is second floor in the Vierra II Room

**REUNION TOUR LOCATIONS AND MOBILITY INFORMATION**

**US Space & Rocket Museum**

One Tranquility Base, Huntsville, AL 35805

The museum is wheelchair accessible. Free wheelchairs are available. Electric chairs are available for rent. (\$25.00)

**Barritt on the Mountain**

3101 Burritt SE, Huntsville, AL 35801

There is a lot of walking. Benches are available for rest.

It is wheelchair accessible. Two free wheelchairs are available. They must be reserved prior to arrival.

## 2022 WELLINGS-NICHOLSON

### SCHOLARSHIP

Last year the \$1000.00 scholarship was awarded to Sawyer Impello, grandson of Ron Impello.

Sawyer is attending the University of North Carolina as a sophomore. He is majoring in Civil Engineering Technology and plans to be a construction manager or civil engineer.

## 2023 WELLINGS-NICHOLSON

### SCHOLARSHIP

Each year at least one \$1000.00 scholarship is awarded to an eligible applicant. This year, one scholarship will be awarded.

The scholarships are funded by raffles at reunions and member donations. Please remember to bring gifts for the raffle.

Eligibility is limited to descendants of active association members or descendants of deceased shipmates who were members of the association or that died on active duty.

Previous year applicants and scholarship winners are eligible to apply.

Applications are available in PDF format on the web site reunion page. They are also available from the association secretary.

Applications must be received by July 1, 2023. The applicant must also ask their current school to forward copies of their scholastic and disciplinary records to the association secretary.

## EDITORS NOTE

Each time the Strong Salvos is issued, several copies are returned because of address changes.

If you change "Home Port" and wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please notify the association of your new address. You can notify the secretary, any other officer, or drop a note in the guest book on the web site.

## SMALL STORES

Need a Hat- Jacket or a Sweatshirt?

Get in touch with Jim Kelly.

PHONE - 610-604-0909

E-Mail - jimkelly@erols.com

Hats \$12.00

Sweat Shirts \$22.00

Golf Shirts \$20.00

New Tee Shirts \$10.00

"Grandchild" Tee Shirts \$8.00

Jackets \$36.00- \$40.00

(Must be ordered by size)

