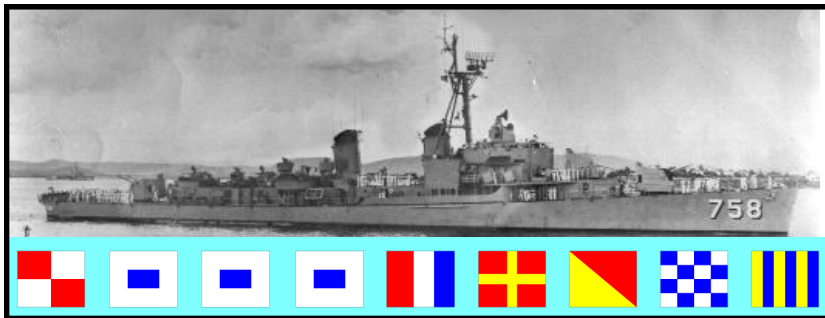


STRONG SALVOS
2024
USS STRONG
ASSOCIATION



2024 PHILADELPHIA PA REUNION

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings shipmates. I hope this newsletter finds everyone well, and looking forward to getting together again for our next reunion. Last year in Huntsville we had only 9 shipmates, plus 7 wives and guests. Of course, we are all getting older, medical problems are present, and travel is becoming more difficult each year. With so few of us attending, we are now having to pay a lot for our hospitality room, which used to be complimentary. Bus chartering to carry us to our tours has also become unaffordable with so few to divide the cost. (This year's bus will be paid for by a very generous shipmate) If we do not get a better showing for this year, it will probably be our last organized reunion as we have known them for the last 35 years.

As was decided last year by the general membership, all future reunions will be shorter, with no free day. This year's reunion will be in Philadelphia, from Sept 16 thru Sept 20. Our hosts, Jim and Donna Kelly, have selected a beautiful hotel that we all visited for a reunion in 2009. They have also planned two very interesting tour days for us.

We should all arrive on Monday 9/16, as our first tour will be Tuesday to The Seaport, and Revolutionary Museums. We may also have time to visit the Vietnam Wall memorial, and a photo op at the site of the famous 72 steps that Sylvester Stallone climbed in his 1976 ROCKY movie.

On Wednesday we will visit the recently renovated battleship New Jersey, for a guided tour

with lunch provided, and our memorial service on board. We will then continue on to the Constitution Center, and a visit to the Liberty Bell.

Our Banquet will be on Thursday this year, and we will all depart on Friday 9/20. Please note that on the signup sheets this year, they need to be returned by July 15th.

Jim will hold your checks until we know we have enough to proceed with the reunion. I hope to see as many of you as possible in Phila. Stay safe,

Ron Impello

SEPTEMBER 2024

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 July 15. (See Pages 5 & 7)
- Make hotel reservations by August 1. (See Page 3)
- Get a gift for the raffle.

BB-62 USS NEW JERSEY (BIG J)



The New Jersey, one of four Iowa Class Battleships, was launched on December 7, 1942 at the Philadelphia Shipyard on the first anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

Iowa Class Battleships are the biggest, most heavily armed and the only class that is fast enough to can keep up with the fast Air Craft Carriers.

In WWII, the New Jersey led the Pacific Fleet into the battle of Leyte Gulf in 1944 and participated in several other battles. It was also assigned to the North Atlantic during the war.

BB-62 History continued

The battleship won 19 battle and campaign stars through its service in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, and Persian Gulf Wars. It is the most decorated battleship in American history.

In 1991 the USS New Jersey was decommissioned for the forth and final time.

In 2001 the ship was laid to rest at its own ceremonial pier on the Camden waterfront and the museum opened in October. An average of 80,000 people have visited the ship each year.

In March of 2024 the New Jersey was moved to the Philadelphia Shipyard Dry Dock #3, where it was built. This will allow for inspections, maintenance and repainting.

In June Of 2024, the New Jersey will be returned to its ceremonial pier.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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Vice President

Open

Sunshine Committee

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abailey16@bellsouth.net

Appointed Officers

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

HOTEL INFORMATION
DOUBLETREE SUITES BY HILTON
PHILADELPHIA WEST

640 Fountain Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA19462
Tel: (610) 834-8300

Make reservations by August 1, 2024.

Indicate that you are with the USS STRONG group.

Rates: \$129.00/night plus tax. (Breakfast not included)
Breakfast buffet available in onsite restaurant.

Check in Time: 4:00 PM Check out Time: 11:00 AM

No Airport Shuttle is available

REUNION TOUR MOBILITY INFORMATION

Seaport Museum

Wheelchair Accessible only on pier.

Battleship New Jersey

Wheelchair Accessible only on main deck tour.

**American Revolution Museum
Constitution Center
Liberty Bell**

These three locations are wheelchair accessible. Wheelchairs are available (First come-first serve).

2023 WELLINGS-NICHOLSON SCHOLARSHIP

Last year the \$1000.00 scholarship was awarded to Rebecca DeFrancesco, granddaughter of Patrick Carr.

Rebecca is attending the Marist College in Poughkeepsie NY as an undergraduate. She is majoring in Merchandising, Production and Graphic Design.

2024 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, 2024. 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.

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



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

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