

Fall 2019 Newsletter



THE DRYDOCK DRIBBLE

The USS Cabildo (LSD-16) Crewmembers Association Newsletter

President's Message

Leo A. Waltsak

Greetings Shipmates & Friends,

We are in deep autumn, and according to our weather person much of the nation is feeling and facing the grip of November's breath. The month itself is a transition between pumpkin picking under crisp blue skies, and the true beginning of our winter when the north wind blows. To quote author Cynthia Rylant, "In November, the smell of food is different. It is an orange smell. A squash and pumpkin smell. It tastes like cinnamon and can fill up a house in the morning." In November we look forward to feasting, family reunions and football. Our children look forward to all the above and a four-day weekend. In whatever way you celebrate, and with whomever you love and care about, let's remember the first autumn thanksgiving. It was shared by humble pilgrims and first nation people to give thanks to have survived when others had perished, to gather in unity to preserve that which they held most precious, acknowledging God and earnestly thanking him for his abundant blessings.

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With the spirit of thanksgiving, I want to sincerely thank the Lyon family for all the support and love they gave us at our own "little thanksgiving" in Charleston, SC. Matriarch of her family, Becky, who most graciously invited, planned, managed, entertained and provided us with a lovely week by showing us the beautiful low country of South Carolina. Also thank-you to Becky's Sister, Wanda Owen. Wanda is a warm and familiar face to all of us. A big shout-out must go to Bob and Chrissy Lyon for their warmth and support of our group in any way that made it easier on us. An additional thanks to Chrissy for being our roving photographer and documenting our week together. I hope we get to see you again at another one of our reunions. Maybe next year in Branson?

There is one couple who seem to be our heart, and that is Dale and Maureen. It wouldn't be much fun without the Bittles. Thanks in advance for again hosting us in Branson, MO.

Before closing, I want to comment on a couple of my experiences in Charleston. I had the best seafood platter I had eaten in a long time at Henry's House Restaurant across from the Old City Market. My wife incorporated one of her favorite movies into one of her favorite sandwiches which is "Fried Green Tomatoes" Bacon and Lettuce sandwich which she enjoyed with her cold iced tea. As many of you know, she finally got a sweet grass basket and framed butterflies from that Old Market so she's a happy camper. We took our free time, as many of you did, to venture out to Fort Sumter. Some would say about the fort "there's not much to look at", but the fort is more than that. It's the spot that began the war that could have destroyed us as we are today. Now I've visited the beginning and the end of that time, and we're still here. I ask, is there another country on this planet that could have survived the loss of life and devastation that our civil war brought to soldier and civilian alike and manage to come back and stand together as one nation again? Did many of you have the chance to see a "Low Country Treasure" that is the Angel Oak. The live oak tree on Johns Island. Claire and I drove out with Bob and Sue Gwin. After walking and collecting treasures on the beach, Claire stayed in the car while Bob, Sue and I walked to the Oak. You can view pictures of it, but the real thing is



Charleston, SC



Charleston Tour - The Battery



Middleton Place Plantation

brehtaking. The locals never want the forest around the tree to be developed as the forest protects the Angel Oak from severe storms. A funny thing is, as you may remember, Hurricane Dorian had just recently passed off the coast so I guess the tree was supposed to be off limits to tourists until it could be inspected by the experts. Well, I got yelled at by the park folks for being there...there were a lot of others there, not just me, but I guess I'm a big target, so I got the reprimand. It was ok.

So, until we meet again stay safe, stay well. I wish you all fair winds and following seas.

Vice President's Message

Dale Bittle

Well shipmates our 2020 Reunion plans have been finalized, dates set, and contract signed. We voted on Branson, MO for our reunion location, and it was suggested that we move the date a little later in September to accommodate our members, and we have done that. The date for our 2020 Reunion is Friday, September 18th through Tuesday September 22nd, 2020.

The reunion Hotel is The Grand Plaza Hotel located at 245 N. Wildwood Drive Branson, Mo. Room rates are \$89.00/night plus tax and this includes a hot breakfast.

We kick off the reunion on Friday September 18th at 3:00 P.M. when the hospitality room opens and follow-up with a "Welcome" reception at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday September 19th we begin the day with a hot breakfast at the hotel with the morning free until 11:00 a.m. when we transport to Old Downtown Shopping, and lunch on your own. At 6:00 p.m. we go to the Grand Country Buffet for Dinner followed by the Grand Country Jubilee.

Sunday morning September 20th at 9:30 a.m. we enjoy a, wonderful Brunch, at the beautiful Keeter Center



Charleston Tour - Citadel



Charleston Dinner Cruise

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located on the campus of The School of The Ozarks. After brunch we Tour the Nature Trail at beautiful The Top of the Rock golf course. Don't be afraid of the tour as it is done on golf carts and provides access to the grand scenery of the area as well as some other special aspects of the golf course.

After the Top of the Rock tour, we will return to the hotel with the remainder of your the afternoon Free.

At 7:30 p.m. that evening, we will attend the Clay Cooper Show.

Monday, September 21st after breakfast we will have our Memorial Service and Business meeting. The Time of which is yet to be determined. We will lunch at the Pickin' Porch Grill followed by the #1 Hits of the 60's Show.

The annual banquet and raffle will begin with a cash bar at 6:30 p.m. and dinner served at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday September 22 we can enjoy our last breakfast together before saying our goodbyes.

I think we have put together a good, and not to strenuous program everyone can enjoy. We look forward to seeing each of you next September. Mark your calendars now and we will keep you informed of any changes.

An update from Walt Fulps

The rumors of my impending death are greatly exaggerated, I'm still here. I can't tell you how much Deb and I missed the last reunion, especially in Charleston. So I feel pretty good, I finished one series of Chemotherapy and I'm in the middle of Radiation treatments. I chose not to have the Stomach surgery, they wanted to remove the whole thing and I decided I didn't want to live without a stomach. So will I die? Yes, but not real soon. We're going after the cancer with radiation and chemo, I have two more weeks of radiation, then we will evaluate the progress through a CT or MRI. I can't have any more radiation



but I can have all the Chemo I can tolerate, so depending on how the tumor is reacting to the radiation, I probably will go back on Chemo. I plan on seeing everyone in Branson, wish me luck and if you're the praying type by all means, pray for me.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Gwin

Hello Shipmates,

The 2020 dues notice is ready for mailing. Submitting your dues by the first of the year is appreciated. Thank you all in advance.

Website/Newsletter

Warren Gammeter

I have added the 2019 Charleston reunion pictures to our Cabildo Association website. Our thanks to Chrissy Lyon for taking photos of attendee couples. If any of you would like the full image of your photo just let me know and I will e-mail it to you. Take a look at what's there and if you have a photo or two you think would be a good addition please e-mail them to me.

The website continues to be "bot free" and the hosting service stable.

USS Cabildo (LSD-16) Crewmembers Assoc.

webmaster @usscabildo.org

USS CABILDO

Branson, Missouri Reunion

September 18-22, 2020

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
 <p style="text-align: center;">Check in at THE GRAND PLAZA HOTEL \$89 per room plus tax, including Breakfast</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN 3:00 P.M.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 p.m. WELCOME RECEPTION</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hot Buffet Breakfast</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Morning Free</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 a.m. Shopping and Lunch on your own in Old Downtown Branson</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 p.m. Dinner at GRAND COUNTRY BUFFET Followed by GRAND COUNTRY JUBILEE</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Hot Buffet Breakfast</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">9:30 a.m. SUNDAY BRUNCH at Keeter Center Followed by TOP OF THE ROCK Nature Trail Tour</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Afternoon Free</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 p.m. THE CLAY COOPER SHOW</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hot Buffet Breakfast</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Morning Free</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Noon Lunch at PICKIN' PORCH GRILL</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">#1 HITS of the 60's SHOW</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">5:30 pm GROUP PHOTO</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 p.m. FINAL EVENING BANQUET DINNER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hot Buffet Breakfast</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Depart</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">ACTIVITY PACKAGE: \$379.00 per person</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INCLUDES Welcome Packet Name Badges Welcome Reception Grand Country Buffet and Grand Jubilee Sunday Brunch and Top of the Rock Clay Cooper Show Pickin Porch Lunch Hits of the 60's Show Banquet Dinner Transportati on to Group Activities</p>