



USS Neches AO-47 Reunion Association

March 10 2020

RECAP OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE REUNION—SEPT 9-13, 2019

Special thanks to our Reunion Hosts, Carl and Lynda Garlitz for planning a very interesting and fun time for our stay in Charlottesville. There were a total of 40 shipmates, family members, and friends, attending. Beginning with the first day of registration each shipmate received a welcome bag with materials from the Charlottesville Tourism Bureau, Neches T-shirt, Neches cap (if first timer), and items specific to Virginia. Our host hotel was the Holiday Inn Monticello. The hotel and staff were very accommodating with a large hospitality room, and a full breakfast each morning. The first day began with a bus ride to Staunton, Virginia to tour the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and museum where our group picture was taken. Lunch was hosted at the famous Rowe's Family Restaurant. The afternoon was spent at the Stonewall Jackson's home in Lexington, Va. In addition to the historic artifacts of Jackson's home, the garden beds were of special interest with their unique flowers, vegetables, and herbs.

Wednesday, began with a tour of James Monroe's home the "Highlands". Later we boarded the bus with a prepared "boxed lunch" to enjoy on our way to Walton's Mountain. For those who watched the television program "The Walton's". The series is based on the book written by author, Earl Hamner, Jr's about life in his hometown (Hamner is portrayed as John Boy in the show). The Association Shipmate's Business Meeting was held upon return to the hotel. Three items of business of note are (1) Next year's reunion will be hosted by Butch Bequette in Branson, Mo (2) the association will pursue the launching of an association website, (3) Future business meetings will allow for both shipmates and associate members to attend.

Thursday was spent at Thomas Jefferson's, Monticello home. The home is a testament to the genius of this early president of the United States in its construction and engineering features. The beautiful gardens surrounding the home, the huge vegetable gardens, and the Mulberry row of slave quarters was more than a 1/2 day visit. It was fascinating to learn the homes of James Monroe and Thomas Jefferson were actually neighbors and they often visited. There was an opening in the hedge row at Monticello from which Jefferson would ride through to Monroe's home.

The 2019 Memorial service was held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Charlottesville (the very 1st Vietnam Memorial in the US). The memorial bell rang for each of our shipmates lost this past year and taps was played to memorialize all our departed shipmates. A memorial wreath was laid by William Eiffert and John Hoellerich (WWII veterans).

Later that evening there was a dinner buffet at the hotel, hosted in the hospitality room. Door prizes were given, table decorations (provided by Myra Gregory) included an authentic sailor's cap which was given to each shipmates.

Friday we had our farewell breakfast in the dining room. Well wishes were extended all around with promises of meeting again next year in Branson, Missouri.

Contact Information

President:

Johnny Hanlon

400 W. 31st Court
Sand Springs, Ok 74063
(918) 760-7371
johnnyhanlon@cox.net

Sec/Treasurer:

Walt Bequette

3765 Lisa Court
Arnold, Mo 63010
(636)296-3716
wmbquette@yahoo.com

Service Officer:

Carl Garlitz

R-613 Williams St.
Cumberland, Md 21502
Gcarl46@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook
USS Neches AO-47 Association

2019 Memorial Service GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Wm. "Charlie" Beckhusen (61-42)
Terence McCall (64-67)
John W. Bersch, III (51-53)
Fidel Alvarez (62-66)
Donald Weiss (52-54)
Carl Weiss (53-55)
Gary Fransen (1970)



**MEMBERSHIP DUES
\$15.00**

REUNION 2020—BRANSON, MISSOURI —SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2020

Time to start planning to join us in Branson, Missouri, September 10-13, 2020. The 2020 Reunion Hosts are Butch and Margie Bequette. Host hotel is the Grand Plaza Hotel, 245 N. Wildwood, Branson, Mo. Reservations can be made by calling (417) 336-6646 or website www.bransongrandplaza.com. Room rate is \$95.29 and is good 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion dates. Activities planned so far is the Rock Nature Trail Tour in Golf Carts, Clay Cooper Country Music Show, Guided Tour of Patriots Park, College of the Ozarks, and history of Branson. Dinner Show on the Showboat Branson Belle and Cruise.

CLIP AND RETURN BY May 15, 2019

Please return this portion of the newsletter in the enclosed envelope. *This is not a commitment* to attend the reunion, but only those interested will be sent the reunion information packet with the next newsletter.

Mail to: **Johnny Hanlon**
400 W. 31st Court
Sand Springs, Ok 74063

I plan on attending and will have guest

I cannot attend this years reunion.

Signature: _____

My dues (\$15) are enclosed: _____