

# USS Noxubee Shipmates Association Newsletter

Jan 2015

Association Officers: President, Gary Hall; Treasurer, Bob Ahlersmeyer ; Secretary, Dick Barber.  
Board of Directors: Dick Bland, Pat Francione, Jim Gabrisch, Paul Gryniewicz, "Moose" Haviland,  
Bill Holton, Howard Justice, Tom Mize, Host St George, Utah. Doug Prettyman

**2014 Reunion news St George UT.** *The Noxubee Shipmates Association is willing to offer our reunion to Northern California to enable an end to their drought problems.* August 2012, Laughlin, NV average rainfall 2+ inches per year. On the Monday tour schedule to Lake Havasu and Oatman Arizona, the rain started shortly after leaving Lake Havasu. By the time we returned to the Hotel that afternoon the water at the entrance was 6-7 inches high and in the hotel lobby. They had more rain in one day than their average total annual rainfall. Jacksonville, Florida October 2013 the rain started about the time we left St Augustine, FL. on the Monday tour and continued on into Tuesday before letting up.! 2014 St George Utah, Monday tour day the rain started about 3:00 PM as we were returning to the hotel from Zion, National Park, there were flash floods, by Tuesday, about 50+ miles of Interstate 15 between Mesquite AZ and Moapa was wiped out in both directions.



Several of our shipmates were scheduled to fly out of Las Vegas the morning after the re-union concluded, they were forced to take a detour that may have added several hours to the trip back to Las Vegas

Despite the weather trying to interrupt the reunion a great time was had by all attending thanks to our hosts, Doug and Esther Prettyman.

## **Reunion 2015:**

Bill and Judy Holton have volunteered to again host the reunion in Washington, DC. 27thru 30 Sept. 2015 We will be staying at the Hamilton Crowne Plaza, 1001 14<sup>th</sup> St NW, Washington D.C., Room rates will be \$199.00 plus tax per night, Regular rates run about \$280.00 per night, Based on room availability you may book up to two days before and three days after the Reunion dates for the discounted rate Parking is Valet only at \$25.00 per night normally \$47.00 per night. **Telephone number for reservations, 1-877-622-1970 reservation block code is UNI for USS Noxubee Reunion, reservation cutoff date is 28 August 2015.** If you are not an IHG rewards Club Member it is recommended that you submit an application for a card. IHG includes Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn. You may need this card for free WiFi at the hotel. This hotel is in the downtown area, it is within walking distance to the National Mall and Museums. There is a circulator bus that provides transport to most of the major tourist sites, current fare \$1.00 per person, bus stops near the hotel. A particular tour or event that you are interested in? We are looking into a tour of the White House if possible, a Lunch or Dinner Cruise, various War Memorials. Smithsonian Museum is free admission. Any requests that we may look at? If a White House tour can be set up there may be a request for personal information ie: full name, address, SSN, and ?? This may be required up to 6 months in advance. If this is set up we will need to contact each attendee by telephone so be sure your information is up to date and your intent is known.

Due to the delays in getting a contract signed with the Hotel this newsletter is about two months behind schedule therefore it is recommended that you make your reservation as soon as possible. There will be more information about the reunion in the next Newsletter.

## **Shipmate located:**

Charles Kelly F2c 1946-1948 dropped from our mailing list due to returned mail and no forwarding address. Charles has been located and we have his current address available.  
Welcome back Charles.

**Shipmates crossed the Quarterdeck:**

Merle Tish FA 1955 March 2014 Last mailing returned as deceased  
Al Alaimo ENS 1951-1952 19 March 2014  
George " Dale" Sapp IC3 69-71 21 June 2014  
Marion Kenneth Williams SN 1966-1968 30 July 2014 Plank owner from second Commissioning?  
Richard "Dick" Bland LT 1966-70 4 July 2014  
Plank Owner Claude Thibodeau S1c 1945-1946 January 2012  
Melvin "Mac" McElwain EM2 1955-57 12 Sept 2014  
Fred Vislosky GM1 1951-52 1 July 2014  
John van Tonningen SKSN 1968 1 Oct 2014  
Jerome "Jerry" Jaszewski BM3 1967-68 15 Nov 2014  
Libby Wilson wife of Paul Wilson (GM3 1948-52) passed away 8 November 2014 they were married 61 years.

**A Shipmate Needs:**

Don Spence is looking for a "Noxubee AOG 56" shoulder patch for a white dress uniform. If you have one and or a spare let me know, I will have Don make contact with you.

**Looking for:** Does any one know about a Jack Robert Haines EMFN. He served aboard 1966 for a short period of time. He may have been from the Chicago area. If so please contact me with any information.

Are you retired Military drawing VA disability? If yes did you serve in Vietnam either on board USS Noxubee or in another capacity during the Vietnam War? If your answer is yes to this question, are you also drawing (CRSC) Combat Related Special Compensation? CRSC is a program that was created for disability and non-disability military retirees with combat related disabilities. This is a tax free entitlement that you may be paid each month in addition to your military retired. If you are not receiving this payment go to your State Veterans Office or go online to DFAS CSRC to obtain more information, also Questions about your CRSC eligibility, call 800-321-1080 or contact your Branch of Service.

**Hat and Shirts**

I can order Noxubee Hats and shirts if you want them, contact me as soon as possible. I will carry your orders to Washington DC for distribution. Minimum time to order would be about seven weeks before the reunion date. I do not have a price as yet but last years cost was \$20.00 per shirt, xx and larger usually a couple dollars more. Hats depend on quantity by the dozen were \$10.50 ea

If you are receiving this Newsletter by (snail mail) USPS and you have a computer please send me your e-mail address for receiving it by e-mail. As of this mailing I am still sending out over two hundred by Regular mail.