

USS Noxubee Shipmates Association Newsletter

June 2014

**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**

Reunion Information:

Shipmates the 2014 Reunion in St George Utah is fast approaching. I hope you have made your reservations for the hotel. If not there is still time but don't delay, call the Best Western Abby Inn direct at 1-435-652-1234 now, tell them it is for the USS Noxubee Reunion. Check in 7 September check out 11 September. The rate is \$81.00 per night plus taxes. If you want to arrive up to three days early or stay three days after, the rate for those days are \$89.00 per night plus taxes. These rates include free parking, complimentary hot Breakfast daily, wifi, swim pool and exercise room access. From past experience the complimentary Breakfast and Parking benefits alone are worth about \$25.00 a day. That means your hotel room would be valued at \$55.00 per day. Not too many places you can get a room at that rate plus the amenities. Book your rooms now and lets all meet in St George, Utah this September. Esther and Doug are working hard to make this another great Noxubee Reunion. Hope to see you all there. Doug said "it isn't as hot in September!"

Shirts and Hats:

Golf Shirts Dark Blue w/ the Noxubee logo in gold color over the pocket are available in limited supply. I currently have 3 XL, 2 L. Double X and larger usually run a couple dollars more. A fair supply of hats Dark Blue with the Noxubee logo and ship are on hand. Silhouette in gold color are available. If going to the reunion and you want to order shirts, six weeks is necessary. I will bring the shirts with me to save double shipping charges. The shirts bought last year and carried were about \$23.00 ea w/ shipping. Shirts bought and mailed were about \$29.00. That includes shipping to me and then from me to the purchaser.

Shipmates Crossed the Quarterdeck:

Peter Swider GM3 22 December 2013
Plank Owner, Herman Joseph Cozzens EM2c 1945-1946 31 May 2014

VA care:

During my talks with some shipmates I see there are still some that have not registered with the Department of Veterans Affairs. You do not have to be sick right now to register. If you do register and in the future you are afflicted with some disease that may be attributed to your time on active duty you may qualify for disability payment back to the time you first signed up or back as far as allowed by current laws, then disability payments from the VA in the future.

I cannot tell you the numbers of our shipmates from the time frame 1967-1970 that have crossed the Quarter Deck due to effects of Agent Orange. One reason is we have not found all that served during that period. We do know quite a few that have passed of Agent Orange was probably a

major factor. We have Shipmates now receiving care and or disability payments because of exposure to Agent Orange.

I'm sure you are all aware of problems getting appointments through the VA, this is probably more so for veterans on their first effort to seek an appointment.

A brief synopsis:

Attempting to get a hearing test I first had to register even though registered with the VA for exposure to Agent Orange. It took several weeks or more for notification of an appointment, only to find out I had to be screened first. After the screening I was told they would notify me of an appointment date. Received an appointment date by mail, when reporting I was told they needed do blood work, then I would get an appointment to see a Doctor. That took an additional couple weeks. After seeing the Doctor I was told they would make an appointment for me to get a hearing test. This took an additional month or more. All in all, the process took several months before the hearing test, then another month or so before receiving the hearing aids. The process is lengthy but a major cost savings. If you are a member of VFW there is a good article this month on hearing problems

Snail Mail vs e-mail:

It is our intent to start sending newsletters out by e-mail. If you receive this copy of the newsletter by regular mail either you do not have a computer or I do not have your confirmed e-mail address. My e-mail address is dicbarber@aol.com, please send me your current e-mail address and any address up dates that I may not have.

Microsoft has blocked some e-mail from AOL sites. Most e-mail I have sent to these addresses has been refused. Contact with AOL said the problem was with Microsoft. Contact with Microsoft advised that I must contact the recipient mail was sent to.

My opinion:

I don't like to get into political discussions but will step in where our veterans, current active, retired and future military are involved.

Sequestration was supposed to get the Republicans and Democrats in the Congress to put aside Partisan actions and start working a reasonable budget. The sequestration put an unreasonable 50% cut on Defense spending while Defense is about 17% of the annual budget.

Congress is still squabbling while our Veterans, retired military, active military and even future military members are being targeted for unreasonable cuts in benefits, pay and retirement. Past promises to our military should not be taken away to balance a budget. The Army is being reduced in numbers below manning pre WWII levels. The Navy is looking at laying up active vessels of the fleet which could also jeopardize our readiness. Please contact the President, your Senators and Representatives, ask them to stop Sequester cuts. Stop the partisan bickering over the Nations security, submit and approve a proper budget. Do not put it on the back of veterans, active duty military, military retired or future military to offset budget needs. In this day and age we cannot let the Military manning revert back to the pre WWII.