

USS Noxubee Shipmates Association Newsletter June 2013

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, Jan Scott.

Reunion News:

Time is drawing close to our October 2013 Reunion in Jacksonville, Florida. This Newsletter will be the last reminder before the reunion. We are hoping for a large group with many Shipmates living in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, North and South Carolina. There are many Shipmates from the South East on North West to Alaska and states in between. Remember we are not getting younger, a good many of our shipmates have received their final orders already Crossing the Quaterdeck. Take this opportunity to get together with old friends again. Remember wives, girl friends etc are all included in our activities, don't leave them home. They have all enjoyed past reunions with some heading out for the twelfth, others are close to that number.

Make your room reservations now, if you haven't already done so. Have a computer, you may go on the Noxubee web site and make your reservations. On the home page where it says 2013 Noxubee Association Reunion, click there. The Hotel added a link to our web site enabling you to make your hotel reservations right there. If you do not have access to a compute, call the Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverwalk, direct at 800-227-6963 or 904-398-8800 ext 4027. Remember room reservations include a daily Buffet Breakfast and free parking during your stay. You may also register to arrive three days prior or extend your stay three days after the reunion at the same daily rate. Please fill out the Registration Form included with this mailing and return it to Bob Ahlersmeyer prior to or by 1 September 2013. For planning purposes there is a need to submit numbers attending the reunion, for the meals and Tour. We are hoping to have at least forty-five persons to make minimum requirements for the bus trip to St Augustine

I have a limited number of Shirts 4 ea in Large and Xtra Large only. If you want to order a shirt they are Navy Blue Golf shirts with a pocket and the logo USS Noxubee AOG 56 over the pocket. Shirts are \$17.00 ea, XXL and larger will be about \$2.00 more. I should be able to order shirts and bring them to Jacksonville if ordered at least six weeks prior to the reunion date. This would save you an additional shipping charge of about eight dollars depending where they have to be sent. I have a fair number of hats presently, \$10.00 each In addition to the Logo there is a silhouette of the ship in the center. Hats are Blue, embroidered with gold colored thread.

Shipmates Crossed the Quarter Deck:

Isabelo Canete SKC 66-68 08-12-2012

Address Changes: A reminder to please keep me posted of any changes in address or other information. We are going to keep this information off the Noxubee web site, due to hacking attempts to obtain it. When you move and do not provide the information in a

timely manner it costs us additional postage if the forwarding information comes back from the Post Office with a return mailing
Don Schuarte 1945-46 submitted photos from that period to the web site and Stuart has made an additional Gallery #23 with these photos. I also have a set of pictures from Robert Perkins to send for the Galleries.

Note from Shift Colors, Newsletter for Navy Retirees

New kind of emergency room may not be TRICARE authorized From TRICARE. TRICARE beneficiaries may have noticed new kinds of "Emergency Centers" popping up in their area. It may seem like a tempting health care option but, free-standing emergency rooms (ER) that are not affiliated with a hospital may not be TRICARE-authorized. If a provider, such as a free-standing ER, is not authorized then TRICARE is prohibited from paying it "facility fees." That can leave a beneficiary stuck with a big bill. Beneficiaries need to "know before you go." Check a free-standing ER's TRICARE status – before care is needed. TRICARE defines an emergency department as an organized, hospital-based facility available 24 hours a day providing emergency services to patients who need immediate medical attention. Emergency departments affiliated with a hospital are most likely TRICARE-authorized providers. Beneficiaries who seek care at a free-standing ER need to ask if the facility is affiliated with a hospital-based emergency department. If it isn't, the beneficiary will need to make a decision about getting care elsewhere or being responsible for the facility charges. Beneficiaries can check if a provider is TRICARE-authorized by calling their regional contractor. Contact information for regional contractors is available at www.tricare.mil/contactus. All TRICARE network providers are also searchable at www.tricare.mil/findaprovider. Learn more about emergency care under TRICARE at www.tricare.mil/

New Agent Orange Bill Introduced: (From FRA Newsbytes)

Rep. Chris Gibson (N.Y.) recently introduced the "Blue Water Navy Ship Accountability Act" (H.R. 1494) that requires the United States Army and DoD's Joint Services Records Research Center (JSRRC) to do a comprehensive search to determine which ships operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975. Service members serving on those ships would be eligible for a presumption of Agent Orange exposure when filing a disability claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Earlier this year, Gibson also introduced the "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act" (H.R. 543) that clarifies a presumption for ailments associated with exposure to Agent Orange herbicide during the Vietnam War. The bill would authorize those who served off the coast of Vietnam, so-called "blue water vets," to claim disability benefits from the VA.

FRA believes Congress should recognize that these veterans were exposed to Agent Orange and authorize VA presumption associated with this exposure. Shipmates are strongly urged to use the FRA Action Center to ask their representative to support these important proposals.

To support H.R. 1494 and or H.R. 543 send a message to your Federal Representatives.