



BIG E-MAIL

USS Enterprise (CVAN/CVN-65) Association

www.cvan-cvn-65.com

Pigeon Forge Reunion; August 17-22, 2010

This reunion was one of the best. We had a great turn out of crew members and families. It seemed to me that there were more crew members at the general meetings than we have had at other reunions.

Many of us enjoyed the events; Dinner at the Dixie Stampede; some won or lost at Harrah's Casino Cherokee, NC; the bus tour to the Biltmore House Asheville, NC was full; Bush Bean Factory, Newport, TN was interesting and there was plenty of time to shop, talk, and sight see in the Smoky Mountains.

The hospitality room was well stocked with snacks and drinks. I think a lot of money was saved by the people using the room. It was full of people every time I went there.

The hotel was well located for dinner and group gatherings at neighboring restaurants. I didn't hear anyone complaining about the lack of a bar or the smoking conditions.

The Association selected two recipients for scholarships.

The Association Fund selected two recipients for the Paul Akers Memorial Scholarship from the applications from the ship's crew or family.

Change of Command

On May 6, 2010 Captain O.P. Honors relieved Captain Ron Horton to become the 21st commanding Officer of the USS Enterprise CVN 65 see article inside.

Open House

The ship hosted for a limited number of guests on November 6, 2010.

River Vale, NJ Honors USS Enterprise Sailors

Citizens of River Vale crowded the streets Memorial Day 2010 to pay homage to their fallen service members and to sailors from the Navy's two most famous aircraft carriers; the World War II-era and present-day USS Enterprise.



Kurt Thiele (back), Robert 'Bob' Enright (front), Don Stoneman (l), and Alex Svincov (r), Thomas Reed in front, veterans of the USS Enterprise (CVN-65) ride in classic convertibles a Mustang and a Buick Roadmaster. All were guests of honor, along with other Enterprise veterans during the 2010 River Vale, NJ Memorial Day parade. (Photo by Greg Wojyn.)

From our Chairman Stan Martin

This year is coming to a close rather quickly for all of us. Thanksgiving has come and gone and Christmas is upon us. May all of you have a Joyous and Prosperous New Year?

I would like each member to reflect on the past years and think about what we can do to improve the association in the coming years. The association's elected members and appointed members all volunteer their time and effort because of their interest in keeping the memory of USS Enterprise alive and in everyone's thoughts.

We look forward to a successful year. Some changes have already been made. We would appreciate getting articles from members about experiences on "Big E" to be placed in the newsletter.

Upcoming events for 2011 will be a change in reunion locations. We hope that everyone will like this one. To co-inside with USS Enterprise CVN 65 50th birthday we will have the reunion in Norfolk, VA the week of 21 November 2011 through 27 November, 2011. More information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

I personally welcome aboard all new members. I hope that all reunion attendees at Pigeon Forge have recovered from having an outstanding time.

Happy Holidays

Stan

The David Spooner Memorial Scholarship

The ceremony was held aboard Enterprise on Saturday November 6



Association Chairman Stan Martin, Virginia Spooner's daughter Cindy Gwynn, Virginia Spooner, Scholarship recipient Donna Vorpagle-Gunther, Enterprise Battle Group Commander Rear Admiral Terry Kraft and Chas Folcik.

Association Officers

Chairman-
Stan Martin

Vice-Chairman
Ray Godfrey

Secretary
Robin Spelman

Treasurer
Herb Hentchel

First Past Chairman
Chas Folcik

Second Past Chairman
Norm Strong

Third Past Chairman
Bill Newby

Director 3 yrs.
Harrison Gerstlauer

Director 2 yrs.
John Curley

Director 1 yr.
Doug Braun

**Ships Store; Webmaster;
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Rich Kehoe

Scholarship
Don & Marylee Thiry
Harrison Gerstlauer

Newsletter
Ray Godfrey

Membership
Tom Reed

Chaplain
Bill Slupe

Nominating Chairman
Doug Braun

Historian
Bill Slupe

PAO
Bill Newby

2011 Norfolk Reunion
Stan Martin Coordinator

2012 Galveston Reunion
Charles & Sheri Teller

2013 Denver Reunion
Robin Spelman

**Commanding Officers
USS Enterprise CVA (N) and CVN-65**

Vincent P. de Poix
Nov 25, 1961-June 20, 1963

Frederick H. Michaelis
June 20, 1963-July 17, 1965

James L. Holloway III
July 17, 1965-July 11, 1967

Kent L. Lee
July 11, 1967-July 8, 1969

Forest S. Petersen
July 8, 1969-Dec 3, 1971

Ernest E. Tissot
Dec 3, 1971-April 9, 1974

Carol C. Smith
April 9, 1974-Dec 10, 1976

James W. Austin
Dec 10, 1976-Feb 23, 1980

Robert J. Kelly
Feb 23, 1980-June 17, 1983

Robert L. Leuschner
June 17, 1983-Jan 27, 1986

Robert J. Spane
Jan 27, 1986-Oct 28, 1988

Harry T. Rittenour
Oct 28, 1988-Aug 7, 1991

Daniel C. Roper
Aug 7, 1991-Aug 27, 1993

Richard J. Naughton
Aug 27, 1993-Feb 2, 1996

Michael D. Malone
Feb 2, 1996-Nov 10, 1997

Evan M. Chanik
Nov 10, 1997-March 10, 2000

James A. Winnefeld, Jr.
March 10, 2000-Feb. 15, 2002

Eric L. Neidlinger
Feb. 15, 2002- Dec. 10, 2004

Larry Rice
Dec. 10, 2004-May 17, 2007

Ron Horton

Place free reunion ads in your local paper

by Frank Schoener

I'd like all our members to run free *Enterprise* reunion ads in their local newspapers in the "Military" section. I've recruited five new members in the past as a result of the ads.

I'm also the USS *Intrepid* Association state representative for TX and Rocky Mt. States chapters and have picked up a few *Intrepid* shipmates through the local paper. I hosted an *Intrepid* reunion last month and encouraged those in attendance to run ads in their hometowns. That little tidbit was very well received. It's interesting and rewarding to speak with the shipmates and tell them about the Association. We have found shipmates that have gone 40 years not knowing that an Association exists or reunions are held. In one case for the *Intrepid*, it was 58 years!

This is the ad I use:

USS *Enterprise* (CVAN/CVN-65) Reunion planned
All crewmembers, Navy, Marines, and Air Wings.
Call Xxxx at 123.456.7890 or email xxxx @xxx.com.

(Use your own name and number!)

I then mail them a membership application, as well as a reunion form.

USS Enterprise last change of command...

melancholy history in the making by Dee Armstrong

History will mark the date of May 6, 2010, and location of Pier 12, Naval Air Station Norfolk, as the last change of command for Enterprise. It was officially bonded to its final commanding officer. It was a memorable day for all of us in attendance, but CAPT Ron Horton, commanding officer of Enterprise, and CAPT O.P. Honors, who would take final command, were in the spotlight.

My husband, Ray, was part of the commissioning crew on November 25, 1961, and part of its first change of command. He now sat next to me on its hangar bay, melancholy to witness this poignant traditional—and final—ceremony aboard “his” historically non-traditional ship.

Upon our arrival, the pier was buzzing with activity. I never pass an opportunity to get my photo taken with two young Sailors, doing what they should in preparation for the many honored guests who would arrive. The Sailors were polite, responsive, and accommodating, unlike so many youths in civilian life. It was a refreshing change. As we parked where they instructed along the quay wall, they inquired about our license plate—“CVAN 65.” Enterprise is always with us, in some form or another.

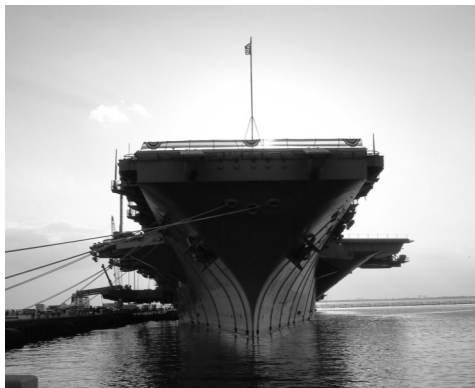
As Ray and I crossed the quarterdeck, we heard the bells and the announcement “Plankowner arriving.” My eyes scanned the orderly lines of hundreds of sailors in a rainbow of colored shirts, each color representing their task. I walked along those colorful lines and thanked these sailors for their service. They stood there for a long time. They reflected the heart and soul—the very life—of the ship, validated by each speaker throughout the ceremony.

The long rows of officers in their summer whites flanked the F-18 inscribed with Captain Ron Horton’s name. This later turned magically into “Captain O.P. Honors Jr.” The change was made so flawlessly that I cannot tell you exactly when or how it happened.

In attendance were six former commanding officers, many flag officers

and strike group commanders. Upon arrival of ADM John C. Harvey, commander of US Fleet Forces, we heard the traditional 17-gun salute. Six of the eleven sitting nuclear-powered aircraft carriers’ commanding officers were also in attendance that day.

During the invocation, we were pleased and proud that Commander James Denley, Chaplain Corps, didn’t hesitate to bring God to the proceedings. I considered that a risk in today’s politically correct environment. Believe me, God was there. Captain Horton would have it no other way!



Sun is setting on Enterprise both physically and historical in this picture. Picture taken after the Change of Command by Dee Armstrong.

After his introduction, CAPT Horton took to the podium. His first remark brought a chuckle: “You can clap—that’s okay.” He said that the speakers seem to thank everyone under the sun at these occasions, but rarely the chaplain. This ceremony was held on the 59th National Day of Prayer, so CAPT Horton, self-proclaimed “Christian man with a deep faith in Jesus Christ,” found it more than appropriate to thank CDR Denley for his prayer.

CAPT Horton welcomed the ship’s soon-to-be commanding officer, CAPT O.P. Honors Jr., and his “soon-to-be beautiful bride.” CAPT quickly corrected himself, clarifying that she is of course beautiful *now*, regardless of her upcoming bride status. The positioning of words is important!

CAPT Horton introduced the guest speaker, ADM John C. Harvey Jr, Commander, US Fleet Forces Command. The first thing that ADM Harvey did was request that the crew be placed at ease, which, I’m sure, was a relief—physically for those standing, and emotionally for those sitting. This command was a sign of the ADM’s consideration and awareness for those great men and women who were standing at attention for at least an hour in 90-degree temperatures that challenged many of us just sitting there, observing.

ADM Harvey’s first ship was Enterprise; he reported for duty to the reactor department in July 1974 in Alameda, California, fresh from the Navy’s Nuclear Propulsion program. Alongside Enterprise, the young ensign saw the USS Oriskany (CV 34), the USS Coral Sea (CV 43), and the USS Hancock (CV 19), all of which are now gone, as is Naval Air Station Alameda. On this historic day, Enterprise sat alongside the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) and the USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77). ADM noted that “we traded up and traded well, and life goes on for the carrier fleet.” He also noted amusingly that Ensign Harvey was also long gone, but the Big E was “still here, still serving, a bit more mature, and still extraordinarily capable.” This one ship, he said, more than any other, represents for the American people what our Navy is all about: global reach, global power, ready, relevant and responsive. It’s “ready for today’s fight, relevant to tomorrow’s challenges, and responsive to the ever-changing demands of an ever-changing world.” ADM Harvey’s words will stay with Ray and me for as long as we live.

The history of this great ship was the highlight of ADM Harvey’s speech. He proclaimed that the ship was well used in its past 49 years and provided a very good return on the American taxpayers’ investment. He gave credit to the two critical elements of success: its sailors and its leaders.

The tradition continued with CAPT Horton’s reading of orders and presentation of the Captain’s Pennant. CAPT O.P. Honors Jr. then read orders and spoke of his relationship with CAPT Horton and his high hopes and aspirations

Continued on page five

Continued from page four

while leading Enterprise and its amazing crew into its decommissioning, with honor and recognition for its long and proud service to our nation and its people. CAPT Honors is Enterprise's 21st commanding officer and will take the ship on its 21st deployment. Funny thing about numbers!

As we left the pier, we looked back at the day's events and counted our blessings—for being able to witness this special tradition, particularly historic, and for all the wonderful people and opportunities presented to us. The day was great, and will remain in our hearts forever.

It was more than a fleeting moment in naval history—it was pride and patriotism at its finest hour. God bless the sailors, the leaders, and any and all who serve the United States, who preserve our freedom, and who defend our liberties.

Ray H. Godfrey
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Gerrardstown, WV
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Short Stuff

Editing and proofing of submissions

from your editor

All material submitted for the newsletter will be proofed and edited for readability, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Publishing all or part of articles is driven by space available. Sometimes layout demands shortening a piece, or bumping it to a future issue. I try to publish all submittals.

Lay



Big E-Mail is distributed to members of the USS *Enterprise* (CVAN/CVN-65) Association. Please forward all comments and submittals to:

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Or e-mail me at:
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All submittals subject to edit.

Visit our Web page at:
www.cvan-cvn-65.org