



Leaky Weeks Almanac

USS John W Weeks
Association

Volume 11, Issue 2
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Dear Weeks Shipmates and Friends

In approximately four months, we will be in Harrisburg, PA for our 27th reunion. This is first time in many years that we held a reunion in a so called nontraditional reunion town; the last being over 27 years ago when Hal Gross sponsored the first reunion in Downingtown PA. The following year the reunion was also held in Downingtown PA and for the first time it was opened to post WWII shipmates. I remember finding out about the Weeks' second reunion while I was on business in Baltimore, MD. I received a call from son Keith, who was in Navy NROTC at Ohio State. He came across an ad for the reunion in "All Hands" magazine. That night I called Hal, he told me that he started the association for WWII shipmates; however, the board decided to open the association to post WWII people. If I remember right there were only 7 or 8 of us that were post WWII shipmates. There was Tony Johnson, Jerry Brown, Bill Flemming, and Bill Grigger; I don't remember the others. Also, there were over fifty WWII shipmates. At our last couple of reunions we had Jack Coughlin and Earl Thomas both plank holders representing WWII shipmates.



I am looking forward to see how Harrisburg works out for us. I heard rumors that several people on the east coast said that they would come if we held the reunion in a location like Harrisburg; we will see! Let's hope that we have a good turnout.

Dave Kurtz's our Vice President lives in the area and worked hard with our military planner on the tours and entertainment. He also put together information on things to do and where to eat in the area. I don't have room in this newsletter for this information; however, this information will be posted on our website and passed out at the reunion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dave for his effort. Dave and Judy were in the middle of a move when I asked him to take on this task.

The hotel is holding rooms until they sell out, August 15, 2014 is the cutoff date, reservations received after this date will be processed on space and rate availability. Reunion information and registration forms are included in this newsletter, also you can go to our website under Reunions/This year's reunion there is a link to the printable forms if you happen to lose these forms. If you don't have access to a computer and the web, you can always give me a call and I will mail them to you.

Also, if anyone would like to help me maintain and update the website, I could use the help. There must be some techies out there who served on the Weeks. If you are that person, please contact me.

Finally, I have some sad news to report, LTJG Ed Torgen, ADM Ted Lockhart and CDR Randolph Patterson passed away. Ed came to many reunions over the years and was a big supporter of the association. He will be missed! I didn't know CDR Patterson; however, from the comments that I received from shipmates, he was highly thought of by shipmates that served with him. I also heard that he was quite a fisherman. His ashes will be inurned at Arlington later this summer. ADM Lockhart served on the Weeks during the sixties. Again a person well like by the crew. He rose to O7 level and had command of the "USS Valley Forge". There are links to their obituaries on the website.

Thanks again for your support,
Len Budzynski

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Harrisburg 2014 REUNION

Sept 17 - 21, 2014

We will be staying at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey

Reunion Forms are in this newsletter and on our website.

See you there!

Attention!

Please make sure that we have your correct home address! We continue to have newsletters returned because the member moved and didn't notify us or the post office of their new address. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, contact Dave Kurtz.



Harrisburg 2014 Weeks Reunion - By Dave Kurtz

Editor's note: Dave Kurtz's lives in the Harrisburg-Hershey area of Pennsylvania and played a big part in working with Armed Forces Reunion, Inc in putting together the entrainment and tours for this years reunion. Because of lack of space, information on restaurants and tours on your own can be found on our website.

I have to admit that I am really excited about the Weeks Reunion being held in the Harrisburg Area this year. I have put a number of lists together. I will share parts of them in this newsletter and others will be handouts at registration along with the materials that will be provided by the Military Reunion Planners.

After the welcome reception Wednesday evening, I will share some historical tidbits on the area. I will also provide information to make your touring in the area a bit easier for those that plan to do some touring on their own. You will discover that the area has many things of interest that are easy to travel to by car. History buffs will have a hard time seeing all the area offers. In addition to my **brief** talk on Wednesday, I will provide copies of my notes and will make myself available in the hospitality room for those that want to hear more.

In breaking with recent tradition on entertainment, we will have a three piece combo provide entertainment for us Saturday after the banquet. Jay and the Jingos are quite popular in the Tri-City area and I had to book them early. They play before veterans groups on a regular basis and the leader, Jay, is quite the trumpeter. I heard them at a Shrine Legion of Honor party and enjoyed them immensely. They will entertain, do tributes and dance music including line dance music. I know you will enjoy them.

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, Commander Randolph Patterson passed away in March. He served as Captain of the Weeks from 1965 to 1966. In addition to including the Commander in our Memorial Service, we will set time aside to share stories, memories and eulogies for all those who wish to attend and participate. It is possible that Randy's daughters will be attending our reunion. We thank Ray Goodmuth for tracking down his obituary and making contact with the family.

At registration, I will have a listing of most of the eating establishments in the Harrisburg-Hershey-Lancaster-York area. It is from a readers survey so there is some guidance on the type of food as well as favorites in each category.

Just out the back door of the hotel, there is a shopping center with eight eating places. In addition, there are another four restaurants within a five minute or less drive from the hotel. Both groups are listed below. It is my understanding that if the hotel airport shuttle is not in use, they will shuttle patrons within short distances but it will be somewhat erratic for obvious reasons. For a list of local restaurants near the hotel, go to our website under "this year's reunion".

As you can see by the tour listing, we have full day tours for Gettysburg and Hershey. I want to make you aware that the following sites in Hershey will be very close to Chocolate World: Antique Auto Club Museum, the Hershey Outlets (60 stores and no tax on clothing), Troegs Brewery and Brew Pub (top 50 in U.S.), and the Derry Township Historical Society where Major Dick Winters (Band of Brothers) donated his memorabilia and office.

One tour that I thought would be very worthwhile was a tour of the Pennsylvania Capitol Building. Unfortunately, while there is no cost for the tour, the bus transportation cost made it cost unworthy. Here is a short write-up I did on it and I encourage you to fit it in if you can. It is followed by others sites that may be of interest some of which were briefly mentioned previously. Again for a list of do on your own tours, go to our website under "this year's reunion".

Tribute to Tom Wilson - By Dave Kurtz

Len Budzynski's note: Tom Wilson was Vice President of the Weeks association for several years. Tom worked with the team from the United States Navy Memorial in Washington DC to insure that information was accurate for the ship's plaque that hangs at the Memorial. He was a history enthusiast, when his health was failing he took the time to rewrite the history of the Weeks for the new website. A shipmate and a friend.

I am currently writing an article on the John W Weeks that I will eventually submit to one of the Harrisburg newspapers. During the process of doing the draft, I once again ran across the opening paragraph that Tom Wilson wrote as a foreword to the history of the Weeks. I love this paragraph. As most of you know, Tom rewrote the history of the Weeks prior to his passing and just did a admirable job with it. For those that don't refer to the website often, here is that foreword that speaks for itself.

"A personal comment if I may, a ship is more than just the metal and bolts she is made of. She takes on a character of her own, or maybe in part the character of the men who serve on her. The "Leaky Weeks" was always fast, always did all that was asked of her, and earned the loyalty and love of those who served on her and went on to be great. Did she help make them great? Or was she great because of them?"





New Members

Jimmie G Hardee	SH2	54 - 57	William E Smith	SN	58 - 60
Phillip Nelson	GMG3	68 - 70			

If you know of any of our shipmates or family members that are sick, in the hospital, or deceased; please contact Bob Miller or Len

Taps

John B DeSilvey - I received a call from John's son Dennis DeSilvey, Col Ret USAR. He wanted us to know that his father passed away in 1985. John was one of the original Weeks crew members, he reported aboard in 1944 as a F1c.

Charles C Lewis "Duck" - The family of Charles reported that he passed away March 29, 2009. He served aboard the Weeks in 1944 as a Sonarman. John was one of the original crew when the ship was commissioned in 1944.

Theodore C. Lockhart, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.) - Passed away on July 24, 2013. Admiral Lockhart graduated from Officer Candidate's School in 1962 and based on the best information we have, he was then stationed aboard the USS John W Weeks where he served as a division officer and department head. His distinguished career included serving as Commander of the Surface Warfare Officers School Command in Newport and Coronado among many other ships and duty stations.

Randolph F. Patterson (CDR, USN, Ret.) - Passed away on March 2, 2014. He was 88 years old. Randy was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and was the respected and beloved Captain of the USS John W Weeks from 1965 to 1966. Captain Patterson dedicated over 21 years of service to his Navy and country. All who knew him would acknowledge his love of the Navy, his family and fly fishing. In retirement Randy was active in various community services. Anyone wishing to make a contribution in his name can do so by forwarding it to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675.

Edward Torgen (CDR) - Passed away after a short illness on February 21, 2014. He graduated from Brown University, class of 1950 and Boston University Law School, class of 1958. A retired Navy Commander, he served in both World War II and the Korean War, serving from 1945-1970, and for fourteen months on the destroyer USS John W Weeks. A member of the Rhode Island Bar Association for 56 years. Ed was a member of the USS John W Weeks Association. He attended many of our reunions over the years; he will be missed by his shipmates.

WWII Sea Stories - By Morris Gillett

Editor's note: Morris served on the Weeks during WWII. Over the year's he wrote several stories that are on our website Stories from our members page.

Some years back three World War II stories that I sent the Association were published on the John W. Week's website. They are still there in "Stories from Our Members". Later, these stories became part of a little book I wrote about my experiences in the wartime Navy. Prior to going to the Pacific I had served in the Atlantic. In the Pacific the war was primarily an air war. In the Atlantic it was, to a great extent, a war against the German submarines. MY WAR starts when a seventeen year old country boy leaves home to go to war. The war adventures, Pacific and Atlantic, end four years later when a wiser young man leaves the Navy and returns home.

The little autobiographical book has enjoyed reasonable popularity and is now in its second edition. For those who might be interested, it is available as MY WAR by Morris Gillett as a Kindle book on Amazon or as a paperback, printed copy on eBay.

CAPT Fitzgerald- By Alan Cutcher

On April 22 Captain Fitzgerald celebrated his 88 birthday . A couple years ago the Fitzgeralds moved to Jacksonville from Fort Lauderdale to be near their grandchildren.

He served as captain of the Weeks from 1963 to 1965. He retired as a Commodore at the age of 47. Three days after retirement he was offered a job he could not refuse and started work in the commercial shipping industry where he worked for another 30 years.

We were blessed to have served under such a good leader who became a friend to many of us. I recently visit the Captain in his home in Jacksonville Florida. He give his regards from everyone from the Weeks and to express his regrets for not being able to attend any future reunions. His email address is seamanseye@aol.com , he would be happy to hear from his shipmates.

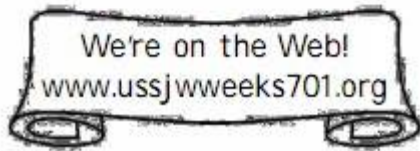




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(800) 325-3535 or (717)564-5511

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/USSJohnWWeeks>

Location

4650 Lindle Road,
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Centrally located, the hotel is just minutes from downtown Harrisburg and Hersheypark

Reservation Information

Call the number above and reference the USS John Weeks Association or please go to www.afr-reg.com/johnweeks2014 and click on hotel reservation link at top of page.

Group Name: USS John W. Weeks Association

Reunion Dates: September 17-21, 2014

Rate: \$109 + tax (currently 11%)

Cut off Date: August 15, 2014. Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

Cancellation Policy: Must call 24 hours prior to scheduled arrival date to cancel reservations and avoid being charged 1 nights room + tax.

Parking & Shuttle Information

The hotel provides complimentary parking for its guests. The Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel offers complimentary airport shuttle service to and from the Harrisburg International Airport. Once you arrive at the airport, you will need to call the hotel at (717) 564-5511 and let them know you will need shuttle service. The shuttle runs from 5:00am-12:00am. Space is limited on complimentary services; please inquire when making your reservation.

Wheelchair Rental

ScotAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Call (888) 441-7575 for details.

**USS JOHN WEEKS
SEPTEMBER 17 – 21, 2014
SHERATON HARRISBURG-HERSHEY HOTEL – HARRISBURG, PA**

Wednesday, September 17

3:00pm – 7:00pm **Reunion Registration Open**
3:00pm – 10:00pm Hospitality Room Open
7:00pm – 8:30pm Welcome Reception

Thursday, September 18

8:00am – 9:00am **Reunion Registration Open**
9:30am – 5:00pm GETTYSBURG TOUR (description follows)
6:00pm – 10:00pm Hospitality Room Open

Friday, September 19

10:00am – 4:00pm **HERSHEY WORLD TOUR** (description follows)
6:00pm – 10:00pm Hospitality Room Open

Saturday, September 20

8:00am – 11:00am **BUSINESS MEETING**
11:00am – 6:00pm Hospitality Room Open
6:00pm Cash Bar
7:00pm – 11:00pm Banquet served

Sunday, September 21

Farewells and Departures

**GETTYSBURG TOUR
Thursday, September 18**

Historic Gettysburg is your destination. We will begin our visit at the Visitor's Center featuring the film, *A New Birth of Freedom* (sponsored by The History Channel) and narrated by Morgan Freeman; the massive Cyclorama painting, which literally surrounds visitors with a visual of the fury of Pickett's Charge brought to life with lights and sound presentation; and the Gettysburg Museum of the American Civil War, showcasing twelve exhibit galleries that contain artifacts and interactive displays. After having lunch, on your own, at either the Visitor's Center café or any number of local restaurants, we will begin our two hour guided driving tour of the battlefield.

**9:30am board bus, 5:00pm back at hotel
\$67/Person includes bus, escort, and admission. Lunch on your own.**

**HERSHEY WORLD TOUR
Friday, September 19**

Visit Chocolate World and take a trolley ride through the famous chocolate town. The trolley ride will show you the famous and unique Hershey Kiss streetlights, Mr. Hershey's Mansion, Founder's Hall (a tribute to the founders of the Milton S. Hershey School for Children), the smoke stacks of the original chocolate plant that was once one of the largest chocolate plants in the world, and more. Following the trolley ride, enjoy lunch on your own in the Hershey's Food Court. Those with a sweet tooth can add an ice cream sundae and/or a milkshake to their lunch menu. Give yourself plenty of time for the large Hershey's/Reese's retail area. Following lunch, the group will enjoy a chocolate tasting and more time to explore (and shop) before heading back to the hotel.

**10:00am board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel
\$72/Person includes bus, escort, trolley ride, and chocolate tasting. Lunch on your own.**

Please plan to be at the bus boarding area (in front of the hotel) at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time.
All trips require a minimum of thirty-five people, unless otherwise stated.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$15 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

USS JOHN WEEKS ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/johnweeks2014 (3% will be added to total). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before August 15, 2014. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: USS JOHN WEEKS

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Date Received _____
 Inputted _____ Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 8/15/14	Price Per	# of People	Total
<u>TOURS</u>			
THURSDAY: GETTYSBURG	\$67		\$
FRIDAY: HERSHEY WORLD	\$72		\$
<u>BANQUET</u>			
SATURDAY: BANQUET <i>(Please select your entrée)</i>			\$
Balsamic Grilled Flank Steak	\$35		\$
Herb Stuffed Chicken Breast	\$34		\$
Pan Seared Atlantic Salmon with Lemon Dill Sauce	\$36		\$
<u>MANDATORY PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE</u>			
Covers various reunion expenses	\$35		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT YOUR NAMETAG TO READ

FIRST _____ LAST _____

YEARS ON SHIP 19 (_____) – 19 (_____)

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) _____

GUEST NAMES _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____ EMAIL _____ @ _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____
(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY). YES NO

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES NO ARE YOU FLYING? DRIVING? RV?

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-4:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.