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Summer 2019

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## USS JOHN W WEEKS DD-701 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



### President's Letter

Fellow Shipmates,

Preparations for getting underway are set and we are getting close to setting the Sea and Anchor Detail to get underway for Charleston, South Carolina to arrive on October 16. The John W Weeks will dock at the Town and Country Inn and

Suites for a four-day liberty call. This is going to be a wonderful time for the John W Weeks family to be together again. Wives and family are also a very important part of this reunion and they have as much and sometimes even more fun than we old salty sailors. It is a fun time for everyone and a great time to get acquainted and reacquainted. It has been 75 years since the ship was put into commission and 50 years since its last wartime cruise to Vietnam. We celebrate all these years together and bring back the remembrance of all those hard times and good times we shared together when we were there in our youth. Many of those sea stories, adventures and experiences will be shared with much fun and laughter. We will also be remembering all those who could not be at the reunion and especially those who have passed away. Several tours are planned for the Charleston area and there are many things to see individually. Be sure to also bring your "America The Beautiful" card to the reunion, the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass if you have one because National Parks can be visited free or at low cost with the pass.

I do want to thank our Reunion Coordinator, Phil Varner along with his wife Lynn, for their dedicated work in negotiating and planning the reunion.



### Now Hear This!

A REMINDER TO ALL  
SHIPMATES RECEIVING THIS  
NEWSLETTER...THE  
DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL  
DUES IS MARCH 31 2020

If you have paid 2019 dues, please consider paying 2020 dues at this time. If you have not paid 2019 dues, please pay both years if you want to continue receiving the newsletter. Thank you!

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Shipmates!

Please make sure that we have both your correct Email and mailing address.

Also

Please note **that Letters to the Editor** and Officers are welcome!

They have put a lot of work and effort into this reunion. Everyone who served aboard the John W Weeks is in a very special family. I also want to thank all those in this family for all the work and effort they have done to make this reunion possible. Without their effort the joy we will share in Charleston would not be possible. Much more goes into planning a reunion than most people realize. One of the biggest challenges we face is the rapidly rising cost of having reunions. Most places have increased costs by more than 30 percent in the last five years. We did our best to get the best prices and services in Charleston. Phil is already getting cost information for the cities selected by the board as well as some other sites. We are looking for a location that will be fun to visit and affordable for the membership. Suggestions and ideas from the membership are always welcome and I am always happy to hear from each of you. It is your association and your ideas, needs and wants are important and highly valued.

Please make final preparations for getting underway by reading over the reunion information in the Newsletter, making reservations at the hotel, completing the reunion registration form and submitting the form to Ray Goodmuth. I am really looking forward to this reunion and seeing each of you there. We are going to have a wonderful time together. May God bless you all.

Frederick Dalton

USN Retired

## **BLUE WATER NAVY ACT**

Board Member Bob Michaels reports that the Blue Water Navy Act was signed into law on June 26. Sailors who served on a Blue Water Navy vessel offshore of the Republic of Vietnam or on another U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ship operating in the coastal waterways of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 are eligible under this act for illnesses believed to be caused by Agent Orange. The VA will begin deciding Agent Orange exposure claims of Blue Water Navy veterans on January 1, 2020. The VA has put the number of potential recipients between 90,000 and 560,000. For addition information refer to the Veterans Administration website [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or call (800) 827-1000.

## **SAD DEPARTURE**

As announced at Gatlinburg last year and in subsequent newsletters, this will be my last Weeks newsletter as your co-editor. Working with the board of directors and various members has been fun but the exchanges with the Goodmuths' and Varners' has been special. Special thanks to my better half Judy. No matter how hard I tried, she would always find one or two edits that I missed. I do take pride in the Association having an interesting, informative and professional looking newsletter. It is my intent to contribute articles for future newsletters. Medical issues brought on by aging for both Judy and I have necessitated this change. Darn shame that entering the Fourth Quarter of our lives, we don't have time to do all that we would like to do. Starting with the post-reunion newsletter, Ray Goodmuth and Dave Parent will be your co-editors.

Dave Kurtz

Joe Paterno's daughter relates the story that in growing up in the Paterno house, the kitchen had an ugly framed sketch of two hippos. Beside the picture Joe had written "It is better to be hated for what one is, rather than be loved for what one is not."

## **DID DAVE KNOW THAT WHEN THEY MET?**

Judy Kurtz shares a July 21st birthday with the USS John W Weeks.

## **TREASURE HUNT**

If you are looking for any Navy ribbons, medals or pins, you stand a good chance of finding them at the Kenly 95 Petro Truck stop, I95 South Exit 106, 923 Johnson Highway, Kenly, North Carolina.

## **HELP WANTED**

The association is in need of a web savvy member to assume the task of updating and maintaining the Weeks web site. If interested please contact one of the officers or board members by email or at the reunion for more information. Your help in this field would be greatly appreciated.

## Hey You Seafaring Salts!

Phil Varner here! Nice people and old friends will be looking for you at Charleston at the USS John W Weeks Reunion. Don't disappoint them or yourself. Pack your ditty bag and show up. Don't forget to bring your better half. You don't want to miss a great opportunity to prove to her that some sailors were really referred to as Chief, others as Boats and some as Snipes.

There are all types of things to see and do and so many ways to enjoy Charleston. There are air and helicopter tours, walking tours and horse and buggy tours. Want adventure? Try a hot air balloon or sailing tour. Being an ole seafaring man, you may be looking for a tour of craft brew pubs. It may not be a tour but it's just a short walk to the Craft Conundrum, a five star brew pub. It's located in the parking lot next to the hotel. No food service but a fleet of food trucks arrive in the parking lot on Friday nights. Pretty servers on roller skates? Doubtful.

On Thursday, October 17, you can start the day with a privately guided and narrated bus tour of historic Civil War Charleston. Then, to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center to see the Confederate Submarine H.L. Hunley. On February 17, 1864, the Hunley sank a Union warship in the harbor. The Hunley never surfaced after sinking that ship. She remained on the bottom with her crew until August 8, 2000. The Hunley is an ongoing research project. Interesting history here as well as others throughout the city.

Two restaurants worth noting that are close to the hotel. The Tattooed Moose is a sport's type bar. The duck sandwiches are great as are the fries. The Swig & Swine is a BBQ place, not fancy food but good food.

Of those who responded to my "heads up questions," nearly everyone wanted to visit Patriots Point. I had the tour company try various combinations with the Patriots Point tour. Unfortunately, based on your responses, we weren't going to meet the minimum requirements to fill a second bus. Consequently, this increased the initially planned tours to \$99 and \$109 per person which I thought was a bit costly. So instead of being part of a tour, you can visit Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie/Boone Hall Plantation on your free time at a lesser cost.

Friday, October 18 is the Patriots Point guided tour of the USS Yorktown CV-10 and the destroyer USS Laffey DD-724. The Laffey is the only Allen M. Sumner Class Museum Destroyer. Lunch aboard the Aircraft Carrier Yorktown CPO Mess is included as part of this tour. There is also an exhibit area called the Vietnam Experience to visit at Patriots Point. After lunch, the tour moves to Old City Market. Here we will have a couple hours of free time. We will then reboard the bus for a guided tour of the Citadel campus and finish the day watching the Citadel Dress Parade.

## Letter to the John W Weeks Better Halves and Guests

Hi Ladies!

It's me once again. For wives or female guests of the John W Weeks Association that have been to the reunions before, you know me as the quiet and shy wife of Phil Varner. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again in Charleston, South Carolina in Mid-October.

This letter this time is mainly to all the ladies that have never been to the reunion before and are wondering if you should come. THE ANSWER IS: **"POSITIVELY YES!!!"**

You will immediately feel like you have been coming to the reunion for years. There are no strangers. It's like in the movie Dirty Dancing except I'm talking to you. "Nobody puts our Weeks ladies or guests in a corner."

We have just as much fun as the guys do. Both the guys and us are all together when the Hospitality Room is open. The stories you have heard about their Weeks cruises do get embellished a little every year. When we hear some new stories, they are really fun. I'm sure you WestPac guys can fill us in on your adventures.

The reunion tours to choose from are fun and interesting. There are many restaurants to choose from that are not part of a chain. Phil and I checked out different restaurants in March while we were in Charleston doing the initial work for the reunion.

There are little things that need done for the banquet fun. Nothing difficult, so please feel free to chip in and help if you want to. We need to divide tickets and sell them for the Chinese Auction, the 50/50 and Door Prizes. Of course, one of the most important things is to help keep the bar and snacks in the hospitality room always stocked and available for "help yourself." This is a guy's job also.

If you're wondering what to wear at the Saturday Banquet, no worry. We do dress casual. The banquet is very special and fun. The Memorial Service for deceased shipmates is very respectful.

Phil and I are looking forward to meeting you all in Charleston.

Also A Weeks Wife,

Lynn Varner.

**Important reunion information**

**USS John W. Weeks DD 701 Assoc. 2019 Reunion  
Oct. 16, 2019 through Oct. 20, 2019**

Being held at:

**Town & Country Inn and Suites  
2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407**

Telephone 843-571-1000 Toll Free 800-334-6660 Fax 843-766-9444

A group reservation for 50 rooms has been blocked. Individual hotel reservations must be made by **September 16, 2019**. A credit card number is required to guarantee your reservation. The USS John W Weeks reunion group code is **USSWEE** for reservations. Cancellations must be made 24 hours in advance.

The USS John W Weeks cost for **four** nights **averages \$130** per night plus taxes. This is based on our contracted room rates. Wednesday and Thursday rates are \$101 plus taxes and Friday and Saturday rates are \$159 plus taxes.

**Come celebrate with us**

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of USS John W. Weeks DD 701 launching  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam Deployment

Looking ahead to the 2020 reunion and the next location to be selected, we already have information and prices for the preliminary cities selected by the Board, those cities being Nashville, San Antonio and Dayton, Ohio. At the reunion business meeting, members may suggest other locations but no more than three will be voted on by membership. Per our bylaws, each member present who is current on dues will have one vote. If you know of a good reunion site, please share it with us. **Supporting information will also be needed.**

If you have a question, feel free to call me.

**856-464-1727 Home 856-229-2920 Cell**

**Phil Varner**

**JOHN W. WEEKS (DD-701) 2019 REUNION • CHARLESTON SC**

**REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT**

**Payment must be received by mail on or before Sept 14<sup>th</sup>. Hotel reservations must be made on or before Sept 16<sup>th</sup> to receive the Weeks group rate. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form. MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: USS John W Weeks Association**

**Mail check to: Ray Goodmuth 150 Harmony Way Centreville, MD 21617**

DATE	EVENT	COST	QTY	SUBTOTAL
	REUNION REGISTRATION FEE	\$35 PP		
THURS OCT 17	Guided Bus Tour of historic Civil War Charleston, the Confederate Submarine H.L. Hunley and downtown Charleston. Lunch on your own.	\$64 PP		
FRI OCT 18	Guided tour of Patriots Point including lunch on the USS Yorktown. Free time at Old City Market. Guided tour of Citadel Campus & view the Citadel Dress Parade.	\$72 PP		
SAT OCT 19	<b>BANQUET DINNER</b> All dinners include: Mixed Greens Salad, Roasted New Potatoes, and Vegetable of the Day, Rolls & Butter, Tea and Coffee. Desserts: A table of cakes.			
	Breast of Chicken Almandine	\$51 PP		
	Prime Rib of Beef	\$59 PP		
	Vegetarian Dinner : Pasta Primavera Alfredo	\$51 PP		
	2020 Association Dues	\$25		
	<b>TOTAL</b>			

NAME/RATE (On Name Tag) \_\_\_\_\_

Years Served on Weeks (Ex: 1958 to 1962) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Other) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you require hydraulic wheelchair assistance to board bus? (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_** Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## WEEKS CLOTHING ORDER FORM

USS John W. Weeks Special Order for T-shirts "Vietnam Vets"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Qty \_\_\_\_\_

Size \_\_\_\_\_

Gildan ash grey 50% cotton/50% polyester t-shirts with blue logo.

Same logo as before but with "Vietnam 1969" underneath the logo.

Price per shirt is \$13.00 up to and including XL.

\$2.00 up charge for each size up to 5XL (i.e.: 2X \$15.00; 3X \$17.00 and so on).

\$5.00 shipping for two shirts or save the shipping and I'll bring them to the reunion.

All proceeds go to the USS John W. Weeks Association.

Please make check payable to David Parent with t-shirt notation and mail with this order form to:

David Parent

2735 Gifford Pl.

New Lenox, Illinois 60451

Due to product scheduling with the vendor the deadline for ordering is August 31, 2019.

There will be a limited supply of T-shirts without the "Vietnam 1969" era design at the reunion.

This special order form is in addition to shirts approved by the Board and is based on expressed interest from WestPac shipmates. I will need at least 25 orders to place this order with the company.

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# USS JOHN W. WEEKS ASSOCIATION

## REUNION AGENDA 2019

### Charleston, South Carolina

HOSPITALITY ROOM IS LOCATED IN THE OAK ROOMS 1 & 2

#### WED OCT 16

#### EVENT

#### LOCATION

3:00 PM	Reunion Registration	Hospitality Room
6:00 PM	Small Dinner Buffett	Hospitality Room
7:00 PM	Welcome Meeting Guest speaker: TBA	Hospitality Room

#### THUR OCT 17

9:05 AM	MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY	
9:15 AM	Board Tour Bus	
9:31 AM	Tour historic Civil War Charleston by bus	
11:00 AM	Depart for Submarine H. L. Hunley	
12:45 PM	Depart the Hunley for Downtown Charleston Browsing, Shopping & Lunch on your own	
1:55 PM	Hospitality Room Opens	
3:00 PM	Board Bus for return to Hotel	
4:00 PM	Officers/Board Meeting	Meeting Room
11:30 PM	Hospitality Room Closed	

**FRI OCT 18**

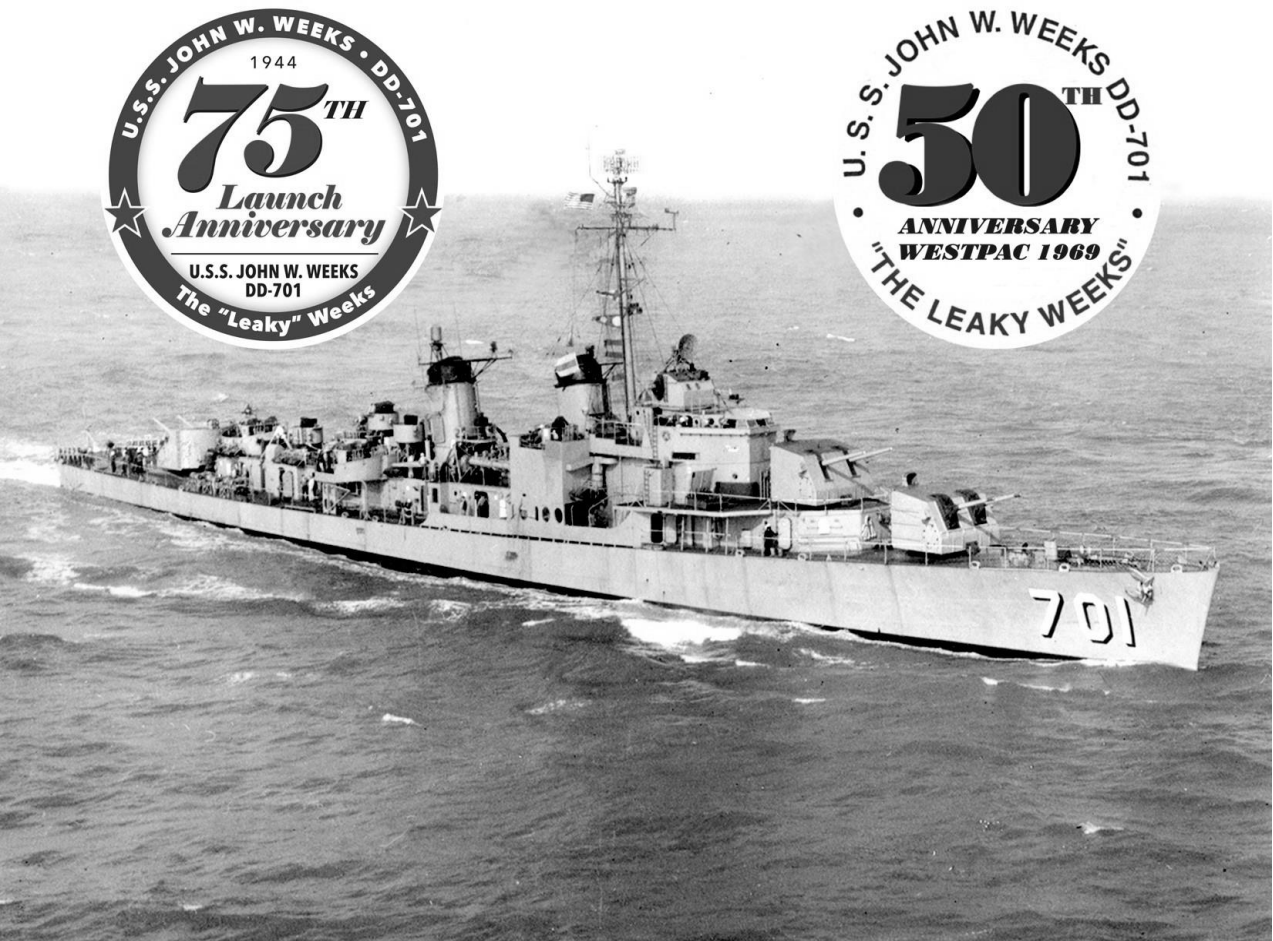
8:15 AM MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY  
8:30 AM Board Tour Bus  
9:15 AM Tour Patriots Point  
11:25 AM Group meets under the American flag on  
USS Yorktown  
  
11:30 AM Lunch in the CPO Mess on the USS Yorktown  
12:30 PM Depart Patriots Point for Charleston  
12:45 PM Free Time in the Old City Market  
2:45 PM Depart Old City Market for the Citadel  
3:00 PM Tour grounds at the Citadel  
3:45 PM View the Citadel Dress Parade  
4:30 PM Depart the Citadel for the hotel  
5:00 PM Arrive at hotel/Start free time  
11:30 PM Hospitality Room Closed

**SAT OCT 19**

7:00 AM Coupon Breakfast/Hotel Dining Room  
9:00 AM Business Meeting Begins Ballroom Salons A&B  
11:00 AM Hospitality Room Reopens  
4:30 PM Hospitality Room Closed  
5:00 PM Cocktail Hour (cash bar) Ballroom Salons A&B  
5:45 PM Memorial Service  
6:15 PM Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance  
6:30 PM Dinner Served  
11:00 PM Hospitality Room Clean-up

**SUN OCT 20**

Hotel check out time by 11:00



Come to the reunion and celebrate with us the double anniversary  
of the

# USS John W Weeks!

## **SICK CALL Submitted by Dave Parent and Kathy Michaels**

**Bob Mauger (Squatty)** was involved in a motorcycle accident on Father's Day weekend. Bob was seriously injured with twelve broken ribs and two broken neck vertebrae. Fortunately for Bob, no surgery was required and he is recovering slowly but surely and plans on attending the reunion in October. Two others were seriously injured and one other unfortunately died after spending several weeks in a coma. Bob was released from ReHab on July 7 and is now recuperating at home. In talking to him on the phone, his spirits are high and he said nothing will keep him from Charleston in October. Hopefully, he'll be spending some of his time at home coming up with some new jokes for us. Please keep him in your prayers.

**C. Kingsley Perkins** called Dave Parent to notify the Weeks Association that he is ill. C. Kingsley was a LTJG during the late 60's. Dave says his spirits are up and he is determined to defeat this illness. Due to treatments and doctor visits, he will not be able to attend our reunion in Charleston. Please keep C. Kingsley in your prayers.

## **TAPS by Kathy Michaels**

**James Lunderville** passed away July 15, 2019. Jim's shipmate, Jack Joyce, notified us on July 16 that Jim had died. Jack told us that he and Jim served on the Weeks from 1951 to 1953. While on the Weeks, the crew tried to unsuccessfully to rescue the Merchant Ship SS Flying Enterprise. Jim attended many of the early Weeks reunions. Jim and Jack remained friends and visited with each other over the years. At the time of Jim's death, he and his wife Jeanne, lived in Little River, South Carolina.



**See you in Charleston SC**  
**Prettiest Town in Dixie!**

USS John W Weeks Association  
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Joplin, MO 64804  
We are on the WEB!  
[www.ussjwwEEKS701.org](http://www.ussjwwEEKS701.org)

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