

# USS JOHN W WEEKS DD-701 ASSOCIATION

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## 2023 SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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### President's Letter

Greetings to the USS John W Weeks family and all our friends.

It is my prayer that this letter finds you all well and enjoying life. It is a joy to be part of this organization. The strength of our group is not that we belong to an association of

sailors who served on the ship, but that we belong to a family of the ship that loves and cares about each other. This family consists of not only those who served on the ship, but also their wives, children, and grandchildren. It should also include all the relatives of those who served on the ship that want to be part of our wonderful family. Our honorary members are also part of our loving family. Last year we elected a director, Donna, whose father served on the ship. She has done an outstanding job and we depend on her leadership and guidance. Our chaplain, Kathy, whose husband served on the ship, has served with such dedication and is such a wonderful chaplain. Bryan Gonterman, whose father served on the ship, does a lot of work on our web site. Rachel Bruce, at the Weeks State Park, has done a lot of work for the past few years to support our association and manages our things at the museum. Wives and families have always provided a lot of support and their work has contributed greatly to the success of our organization. When you go early to a reunion, you will always see wives and families helping set up things and doing work to support the reunion. In several cases, when men were elected or assigned a job, it was the wife or family that did the lion share of the work. It was a major step forward for our association when wives and families became equal with us sailors who sailed on the ship, and who



**Now Hear This!**  
**A REMINDER TO ALL  
SHIPMATES RECEIVING  
THIS NEWSLETTER...THE  
DEADLINE FOR 2023  
ANNUAL DUES PAYMENT  
WAS MARCH 31**  
**Change of address, email or  
membership status? Please  
notify Dave Parent at  
[d.parent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.parent@sbcglobal.net)  
(815) 740-5627**

now vote and hold major offices in our association. The future of our association will depend on how successful we are in getting our younger family members involved in the association and how adaptable we are as we go through changes that we must make to continue. How adaptable we are and how willing we are to make necessary changes will determine how long our association will live. In years past, there were large numbers of young people who served on the John W Weeks, but our numbers are rapidly declining. Most of the people who served on the John W Weeks, or their wives, are in their 80s or 90s with health problems and other problems associated with being elderly. These are challenging times, but we can succeed if we work together in love. All our officers have done a fantastic job this year. I so much appreciate all they do. I am also so appreciative of all our members and all the support you give the association. I am always delighted to hear from members of our association. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

We do not have an association directory that is available to the members of our association. I propose that we develop a directory for all those members that would like to be part of the directory. If anyone does not want to be in the directory, we will not put their information in the directory. This directory will not be published anywhere, and the only copies will be in the hands of those who want to be in the directory. It will include your name, address, phone number, email address and contact information. This will allow our members to communicate freely with each other.

This year's reunion will be at Providence, Rhode Island from September 6 to September 10. We will be staying at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, RI. Phil Varner and David Connelly have worked hard getting this reunion set up and are to be commended on a job well done. If you plan to come, please contact either Phil or Dave and let them know if you are coming and how many will be in your party. We need this information to get the reunion all set up and plan for the number of personnel attending.

Newport, RI was my first duty station in the Navy after boot camp. I reported aboard the USS Yosemite AD-19 in January 1966 as an E-2 and was there for two years before being transferred to the USS Valcour AGF-1 in the Persian Gulf. I later returned to Newport as a Chief to help establish a naval repair facility and attended several naval schools in Newport. It is a very beautiful historic area of the country with much to see and do. With over 400 years of history, there are some of the oldest buildings in the country. There are beautiful harbors filled with sailing ships, cliff walks, beaches, museums, and many historic places to enjoy. If you enjoy seeing old ships, there is battleship cove at Fall River, MA that has several museum ships. You will have plenty of things to do at the reunion, but if you come early or have extra time, there is so much to see and do. It is going to be a fun time.

Frederick Dalton

USN Retired

## Reunion Greeting from Dave and Phil

OK New England, PUT OUT THE WELCOME MAT! We'll be there soon. Plans have finally fallen into place. This is what we have going so far.

The reunion officially starts Wednesday, 9/06/2023, 3:00 PM, at which time the registration desk and doors to the hospitably room are opened. For all arrivals, don't fret where to eat. There will be a mini buffet served between 5 & 7 pm. The room will remain open until the last folks have left.

Dave Parent has been in contact with someone from the VA in Providence, RI to come for a discussion about Veterans rights and benefits. Let's hope that works out. Date and time to be worked out later.

Note that those flying to Providence TF Green airport can take advantage of the complimentary airport to hotel shuttle service, which is available from 0404 to 0100

## Tour Info

### Thursday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> Mystic Harbor and Aquarium Tour

Bus transportation to Mystic Seaport or the separate aquarium venue is \$41 per person payable with your registration form. **Note: the bus fee does not include admission fees.** Both the Seaport Museum and Aquarium entrance fees are due upon arrival at the venue. The Seaport adult fee is \$28. Senior rate is \$26. The Aquarium fee is \$33. A 10% discount can be applied if touring the Aquarium as an organized group or as a family. The Aquarium fee is waived for VETERANS with Proof of ID, VA card /Military ID/ DD 214 etc. BRING proof that you were military.

### Friday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> USS Nautilus and Casino Tour

Bus transportation to the Nautilus is \$50 per person payable with your registration form. Admission to the USS Nautilus and museum is FREE. The Nautilus tour is followed by a short bus ride over to the Mohegan Sun Casino. Note that bus transportation back to the hotel will be from the casino. No admission fee is required at the casino. This will be a great place to have lunch. I've been told it's a fantastic place to visit even if you're not a gambling person. World class dining, shopping, and entertainment.

### Saturday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>

Business Meeting in the morning following breakfast. Free time after the meeting until our annual banquet dinner in the evening.

During the summer on Friday evenings, they have a fleet of Food Trucks at the hotel parking lot. Will Garbage Barges still be (on the pier) there after Labor Day? We'll find out.

## INFORMATION CONTACTS

Tours and events, call Dave Connelly. 860-582-4169

Museum trip to NH Weeks museum, call Dave Parent 708-703-1078

General reunion inquiries, call Phil Varner 856-464-1727

## JOHN W. WEEKS MUSEUM TRIP

Would you like to spend a couple more days in New England? Then you are invited to join us on an adventure to the John W. Weeks State Park. Our plan is simple. Sunday, at noon on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> start your car and join our caravan to New Hampshire. Approximate drive time is 4hr 30min, 225 miles.

### The Itinerary

Sunday, 9/10, NOON	Drive to Lancaster, NH from the hotel Dinner on your own in NH
Monday. 9/11, 0930	Tour the Museum and Park in the AM A luncheon is planned for the afternoon
1800	Dinner at the John W. Weeks VFW
Tuesday, 9/12, 0930	Set your GPS for your home address

The USS John W. Weeks wing of the museum is located in one small room of the Weeks lodge.

### Weeks State Park Location

200 Weeks State Park Rd, Lancaster, NH 03584

### NH Motel Suggestions

Coos Motor Inn, 209 Main Street, Lancaster, NH; 603-788-3079

Mountain View Grand, 101 Mountain View Rd, Whitefield, NH: 603-837-2100

Cabot Inn & Suites, 200 Pond St., Lancaster, NH; 603-788-3346

Once we know who is planning to go along, we can firm up the details.

**Phil Varner**

## USS JOHN W WEEKS REUNION - SEPTEMBER 6-9, 2023

Listed below are registration and meal costs for the reunion. Send the total amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of a check or money order; your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$35 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at [www.events.afr-reg.com/e/JohnWeeks2023](http://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/JohnWeeks2023) (3.5% will be added for credit card charges). All forms and payments must be received by **August 9, 2022**. 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 W WEEKS**

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check# _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Name tag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 8/9/23	Price Per Person	# of People	Total
<b>TOURS</b>			
Thursday, 9/7: Mystic Harbor Museum/Aquarium Bus Fee	\$41	#	\$
Friday, 9/8: USS Nautilus Bus Fee	\$50	#	\$
<b>MEALS</b>			
Wednesday, 9/6: Welcome Buffet ( <i>No charge - please indicate #of people attending</i> )		#	
Saturday, 9/9: Banquet Dinner ( <i>Please choose your entrée below</i> )			
Petite Sirloin w/Roasted Shallots and Burgundy Demi-Graze	\$54	#	\$
Chicken Picatta Sautéed with Capers, Garlic, Tomato and Lemon Butter	\$46	#	\$
Baked New England Scrod w/ Lemon Herb Butter	\$46	#	\$
Vegetarian Plate: Mushroom Ravioli	\$45	#	\$
<b><u>MANDATORY PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEES</u></b>			
Registration Fee includes registration fee and <i>access to hospitality room</i>			
GROUP REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON, REQUIRED	\$42		\$
ARMED FORCES REUNION REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON, REQUIRED	\$15		\$
<b>Total Amount Payable to <u>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</u></b>			<b>\$</b>

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR NAMETAG

FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ LAST \_\_\_\_\_

YEARS ON BOARD \_\_\_\_\_ RATE / RANK \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE (IF ATTENDING) \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST(S) NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

*(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)*

Registrations received after the cut-off date will still be accepted on a space available basis, we will contact you immediately with any restrictions. CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays). Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Cancellations prior to August 9, 2023 will receive a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$15 per person).

After August 9, please contact the association directly for refunds.

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## VETERANS ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

During the Weeks Reunion at Valley Forge, questions arose about the Veterans Administration (VA) benefits. The VA website is VA.Gov. The information you need to determine what benefits you qualify for is provided at that website. It is vital to register with the VA. Two benefits I have received after Bob died are a monthly widow check from the VA and a second benefit, which was a one-time only payment of \$2000.00 towards funeral expenses. My monthly benefit is currently \$1437.00. That is not a lot of money, but by Bob being a veteran I am entitled to it.

The widow benefit's formal name is Dependency Indemnity Compensation. The Disabled American Veteran Chapter Service Officer stated that the death certificate must have a cause of death relating to their disability. For example, congestive heart failure or prostate cancer. Contact your state VA office and register for evaluation. The Weeks was considered Blue Water Navy and recently was approved for Agent Orange compensation. The VA evaluation can determine if you, as the veteran, are entitled to receive a monthly benefit. Since Bob was 100% disabled for four years, he received \$5000.00 a month tax free, free medication, and first-class medical care from the VA. I am not saying the money compensated him for the forty-nine years he suffered from his Agent Orange exposure, but it made life easier for not using out-of-pocket money for health expenses.

So, take the time to register and be evaluated. Visit your local Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans and pick up their brochure, "Death Benefits Guide." Those few hours can give you peace of mind and perhaps additional dollars in your pocket.

Submitted by  
Kathy Fisher Michaels

### WEEKS CLOTHING by Dave Parent

Week clothing can be purchased via the below:

USS JOHN W WEEKS SHIPS STORE by *military gifts*.

You can order items through the *military gifts* website link below;

[USS JOHN W. WEEKS \(DD-701\) SHIP'S STORE by militarygifts | Redbubble](#)

## TAPS FOR JOHN W WEEKS AS OF 13 May 2023

**The Weeks lost two shipmates recently. In addition to our shipmates, we have lost two dear and dedicated spouses.**

**Jan Christian Power** died 4 November 2022. The Weeks Board was notified by an entry on The Weekly Leaks Website by Jackson Cooper; the cause of death was the result of health complications. The Weeks records indicate Mr. Power served from 1959 to 1961 aboard ship.

**Richard Lee Russell** died on 4 February 2023. Ray Goodmuth was notified of Dick's death by his son, Rick Russell. Dick and his wife, Sandy, attended the Weeks Reunion in 2015 at Port Huron, Michigan. Shortly before their attendance, Dick had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Dick used his cancer as a tool to assist other cancer patients. He fought the good fight and is now at rest. While aboard the Weeks, Dick was an Electrician Mate and served from 1961 to 1964.

**Beatrice Grace Budzynski** died on 11 October 2022. Bea was a great support to her husband, Len, while he served as President of the John W. Weeks Association. Len and Bea were blessed with 62 years of marriage and 4 children. Bea is survived by Len, 3 of her children, 6 grandchildren, and sisters Dorothy and Marilyn. She will be missed.

**Linda Darline Connelly** passed away on 13 April 2023. David Connelly notified us of the sudden death of his beloved wife, Linda. David and Linda started to attend the Weeks Reunion when the West Pac group partnered with our organization. Both of them enjoyed spending time with David's old shipmates. In addition to David, Linda is survived by 5 children and 7 grandchildren, 3 brothers and her sister.





**SEE YOU IN HISTORIC PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND!**

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Joplin, MO 64804  
We are on the WEB!  
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**Newsletter Editors: Donna Coughlin & Ray Goodmuth**