



U.S.S. Saratoga Association

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www.uss-saratoga.com

June 2016

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Dear shipmates, family members & friends,

The 65th annual USS Saratoga Association reunion is just around the corner. Branson, MO is the hosting site for this year. We've been there twice before and each time it just gets better. Enclosed you will find the tour schedule and reservation form, in addition the banquet meal selection and ladies luncheon. Just a reminder that all your reservations for tours and meals will go to "**Gatherings Plus**" and not to the Association secretary. Their address can be found on the bottom of the reservation form. The membership will vote on the site for the 2018 reunion at this years business meeting.

Message from interim President Sammy King

Greetings Sara Shipmates, our Ladies ,and our Association Friends

There are times that it seems like yesterday that you allowed me the honor of serving as your Association Interim President-but I must admit there are times when it seems like a lifetime ago. Those are the times when I reflect on events that have impacted our Association, and I begin to think back on the months since our last "get together" and those we have lost through death. Which leads me into the sad news of informing all of the passing of our hardworking, and devoted Treasurer Ron Zellin (1955-1957 Plank Owner), and to tell you that Joe Champi has agreed to fill the position on an interim basis. When asked "if he would consider the job" His response was "Those are mighty big shoes to fill, but I will do my very best, when do I start?" As I have said many many times our Association is "blessed with a wealth of talent and helpful spirit" And here is yet another example.. Thanks Joe for stepping up. A hearty "thank you" goes out to our Shipmate Gene Ladik (61-66 S-3div) for being our "boots on the ground" in Florida as we transitioned all of our banking from Florida Things are moving along nicely for the Branson Reunion (October 19 through October 23) and as of today we received some very good news for those that fly into Branson. They will now have several flights daily serving The Branson airport which is just 10 miles from the city. Check it out further at flybranson.com and if you go through expedia/orbitz you can connect through American and Delta whereas the flybranson.com page is through united.com. Flights to start July 15. Good news indeed, for our fliers.

New Position

The Association wants to add a new position, "Newsletter Editor". The position will require composing a semi-annual newsletter to be mailed out in January and June. If this is something you think you'd like to do for your Association, contact any of the board members. It's a pretty easy job. I did it for 20 years. Plans are to have an electronic copy for our website and a hard copy for mailing.



Saratoga Springs (2017) reunion Chairman Bill Phelps and his committee are plugging right along putting together a nice venue for us in Saratoga Springs too. I would like to point out that our Reunion in 98 was in Saratoga Springs, and I am told that it was one of if not "the" biggest as far as attendance. So mark your calendars for September 27 thru October 1 2017 for another trip there.

On the subject of our reunions and all of the hard work and planning that goes on and into them for upwards of two years by the Chairman, Your officers, and Committee members, I am reminded of the definition of "reunion" Webster defines it thus "the act of bringing together again after a period of separation". We have lost a lot of shipmates since our last reunion, but I have especially felt the loss of Ron Zellin, Ted Rustin, and Don Chantrenne, so I am going to do my best to bring a spirit of appreciation to the folks that put these reunions together and for the opportunity to be with my friends and shipmates for what could be my/our last time "reuniting". Let's all strive to make them a pleasant experience.

Again I would like to Thank You for the opportunity of serving You and the Association as Interim President for the year. Don't forget that this year in Branson is the Election of your Officers for the next two years. We also will be selecting the 2018 reunion city. Remember if you wish to propose a city, ask a Board member for the review form and present it back to a Board member prior to the Board meeting in Branson. That is the procedure for a city/hotel to be considered in the Saturday morning business meeting vote. Thanks hope to see all in Branson in October..

"if the only tool you have in your tool box is a hammer, then everything and everyone you encounter begins to look like a nail". Abraham Maslow

Message from Secretary Ed McCready

It doesn't happen by itself.

Our organization is built on volunteer service. The Spirt of Saratoga is alive and well in our group because of a handful of individuals who were willing to step up and take responsibility when asked. Throughout our lives we are given chances again and again to serve. We all did at one time – that's why we're here – but as we mature life gets in our way; family commitments, work necessities, the day to day grind that we have to endure to pay our bills and care for the people we love always comes first. Many people immediately dismiss the idea of helping out because of their schedules. Even after retirement, we hear over and over "I'm too busy to help!" Really? Maybe you're deeply committed to another cause already and just can't take on another one. I understand. Maybe you're uncomfortable with volunteering based on what usually happened in the Navy when you volunteered – I get that as well. But if you feel the urge to leave your mark, to provide assistance, to make a difference and help this group, we need you.

A special "Thank You" to all our shipmates, family members and friends for your continued support in helping to preserve the memory of the Sara and all she represents to the 58 thousand sailors & marines who called her home for 38 years and the Americans, who over the years have sacrificed so much for our precious American freedom.

Brad Senter CVA-60 1961-64