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January 2021

Message from the President

Shipmates, family members & friends,

The year 2020 will not be soon forgotten. I guess you could say it wasn't a good year. The covid-19 hurt a lot of folks and small businesses. However, some survived the shut downs and that will include our association. Thanks to all the shipmates who stood by us. We did lose some revenue as a result of having to cancel our reunion in San Diego. This year we will be in Mobile, Alabama and we're expecting a record turn-out. We've had a few changes on the Executive Board. Skip Burnham (CVA-60 67-71) is our new Treasurer. He replaced Joe Champi who resigned for health reasons. Gene Cottingham (CV-60 86-92) is our new Historian. He replaced K. C. Boles. We have a new Storekeeper Terry Greer (CV-60 75-74) who replaced Phil Rasnick. Phil is planning on traveling with his wife in their new motor home. Frank Salinas has stepped up to take over the MAA position . I do want to wish everyone a happy, healthy & prosperous 2021. See you in October.

Brad Senter CVA-60 1961-64

The Legacy of the USS SARATOGA

What is the meaning of a Legacy? In my mind it is not only the entire history of the Association, but it is the manner in which that history is passed on from one generation to the next. As I write this short article, there may never come a time when more Saratoga shipmates are created, so we are the generation to be responsible for the manner in which our traditions, our experiences, our values and beliefs, as well as our ever lasting friendships with each other, are passed on to the next generation. Our Scholarship program was created as a vehicle to help in the passing on of our Legacy.

We want to take a moment to say **thank you** to everyone who has made a donation to the scholarship program. Please know that 100% of your contributions directly benefit the individual awards. Each year we receive thank you messages from the scholarship recipients and their families. We have shared two such messages below and on the next page. In our next directory we hope to have additional follow up messages from past recipients and their families. Please consider sending a tax deductible donation check made payable to and mailed to: **USS Saratoga Reunion Association Scholarship Fund**. Remember, our children are our future.

Stephen Katz CVA-60 1666-1968

Dear Mr. Katz,

With great pride and excitement, the Gluchowski Family would like to take a moment to thank you and the USS Saratoga Scholarship committee on selecting our son Ryan Gluchowski as a 2020 recipient of the USS Saratoga Scholarship.

Ryan, and his grandfather Anthony W. Balewitz are full of happiness and joy over his selection. As you are aware, he will be attending Rowan University this Fall to major in Chemistry/Chemical Engineering.

Please find attached a picture of Ryan and his grandfather. Thank you so much for the selection and God bless you and everyone in the USS Saratoga organization.

Best regards! Mr. & Mrs. Richard K. Gluchowski



Officers:
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Vice President
Bill Lack
Secretary
Ed McCready
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Skip Burnham
Historian
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CV/CVA-60 Liaison

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Master at Arms

Frank Salinas

Co-Chaplains

Joseph Martin

Steve Bird

Ships Store

Terry Greer

Board Members

Mark Beecher

Skip Burnham

Bill Lack

John Lipscomb

Ed McCready

Frank Salinas

Brad Senter

Emeritus

Harvey Hirsch





The Saratoga Foundation Scholarship has been invaluable in so many ways for my son and daughter, Jack and Grace Sweetak. It afforded them the opportunity to dive deeper into the history of the USS Saratoga, upon which their Grandfather/my father served. I hope the essays they both submitted with their applications prove to be part of the stories and history that are archived for the Foundation. The history of the Saratoga is the sum of all of it parts, and the parts are the real people, such as my father, who served upon the Saratoga. Being awarded the Saratoga Scholarship was a proud moment for both Jack and Grace. It has helped fund their college educations. It is listed on both of their resumes. And, it has connected them to a part of both of their family and Naval history.

Jack is a junior at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA majoring in Marketing. He is a member of the men's lacrosse team, and serves on the Student Athlete Council.

Grace is a sophomore at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL, majoring in Physics with a minor in Mathematics. She is a member of the women's lacrosse team, and serves on the Student Athlete Council.

Both Jack and Grace lived off campus at their schools this year so that their school experience would be as consistent as possible. COVID has proved to be challenging when it comes to the "normal" college experience, but both Jack and Grace have been resilient, determined and academically successful!

They are both grateful for the Saratoga Scholarship Award. They are making you proud!

Jackie Sweetak

Secretary Message

Shipmates, with this **January 2021** newsletter, you may notice the insert explaining that the 2021 dues are now due. Please remember if you are a **LIFE MEMBER or have already paid your dues for 2021, you do not need to pay again**. Please look at the mailing address on the envelope this newsletter came in. There is a notation on the envelope. If it says "**Life Member**" you do not need to pay. If it says "**Dues paid 2021**" that means you paid your dues already for 2021 and do not have to pay again. If it says any other year: such as **2018 or 2019 or 2020** (or older) you **DO** need to send in dues. Our Bylaws specify dues must be current to remain on the mailing list. We cease sending mailings and directories once dues have elapsed 3 years. Note: existing **Honorary** members were grandfathered into the Association with no annual dues required. Goring forward we are asking for new Honorary members remit annual dues. **Also, if you decide to become a Life Member, that means you are a member for the rest of your life and do not need to pay dues. If you are unsure of your status or question the envelope notation, please send me an email or reach out to me and I will be happy to help. emc0853@yahoo.com**

Board Member Update

Skip Burnham our new Treasurer: *"I was appointed to the Treasurer's position to fill out Joe Champi's term at the end of October. Regulatory and changes to the laws pertaining to business accounts have changed dramatically during the past few years, so while closing the accounts in Missouri were no problem, opening new ones required a lot of time and documentation. The new accounts were finally opened in mid-November. I am currently performing an audit, and familiarizing myself with the normal expenses incurred by the Association."*

Gene Cottingham our new Historian: (Here are Gene's thoughts on his new role...) *"To receive and maintain all historical documents, photos, and memorabilia from all carriers named the USS SARATOGA. To research new information on the USS SARATOGA. To transport and maintain all items from the USS SARATOGA and display at all conventions."* Gene retired from the USNR as an ABH-1

Terry Greer our new Storekeeper: Terry lives in Northern Florida and has volunteered to take over the duties of the Ships Store. Terry is in the process of acquiring the inventory and gearing up to fill orders. Please be patient while this occurs and look for some new on-line options soon.

Captain Steve Bird - Our new Co-Chaplain, As you may have noticed in the sidebar from page 1, we are blessed to have 2 Co-Chaplains who have agreed to serve the Association. We welcome Chaplain Steve Bird to the Saratoga Association. Steve is originally from Michigan. He enlisted into the Navy as hospital Corpsman in 1971. After his active duty enlistment, he attended college and seminary before being recalled back onto active duty as a Navy Chaplain. USS Saratoga (CV-60) was his first tour as a chaplain from February 1983- June 1985. He retired after 40 years of Naval service on 1 Oct 2011. He is currently living in Jacksonville, NC with his wife Chris.

Frank Salinas , our new Master At Arms

“Since joining the USS Saratoga Association back in 2018 and attending my first reunion in San Antonio, I have wanted to be an active participant in our proud and honorable association. I was thrilled to see all of the different opportunities our association has available to be able to actively participate. What truly grabbed my attention was Steve Katz’s scholarship committee presentation where he read proud letters from scholarship recipients and how they were proud and honored to be able to receive this award from our great association.

I Immediately reached out to Steve Katz and asked if I could be a part of the scholarship committee. He Openly welcomed me as part of the committee team along with the rest of the committee. Since then, it has been a true learning experience for me as well as an honor to be part of this great committee. We, as a team, review each of the applicant’s scholarship application packages. This can be an extremely tough decision with the level of excellence these students bring to the table.

As a committee, we have taken steps to eliminate any sort of favoritism and as much subjectivity as possible by using or well-designed scoring rubric to ensure each applicant is scored based on the required criteria. We have the privilege to read the amazing essays submitted by our applicants that cover a brief history of our proud USS Saratoga as well as their family members history who proudly served aboard USS Saratoga.

As part of the USS Saratoga scholarship committee, it is my privilege to be able to help select the best of our applicants to help represent our proud USS Saratoga and foster awareness of our USS Saratoga Association. It is truly my honor to be a part of the scholarship committee and I look forward to being able to do so as long as possible and to keep spreading awareness of our proud and honorable USS Saratoga Association. In looking for additional ways to serve our association, I have been asked by our President Brad Senter and our Vice President Bill Lack, If I would be open to serve as our associations Master At Arms (MAA). I have proudly accepted this role and look forward to serving you all as our proud USS Saratoga Association members”.

Respectfully,
Frank Salinas

DP2 (SW) – USS Saratoga – CV-60



A SIGN FOR OUR TIME

Rev. Dr. Lee Martin

(Co-Chaplain)

Many years ago on a warm summer day as I was traveling through the Appalachian countryside on a two-lane black-topped road and going straight in an increasingly up-hill direction, I approached a large, white sign anchored to the ground on the right side of the road that was inscribed with large black letters which read: "Prepare To Meet Thy God". Feeling both curious and amused, I passed the sign and then perhaps 75 yards forward I reached the top of the incline. Instantly the meaning of the words from the sign gripped me. The road made a very sharp turn to the right, just a short drop down from the top of the hill. Obviously, I quickly put pressure on the brake pedal while at the same time hearing my heart pound like thunder from a kettle drum. Reaching the curve I could glance to my left just enough to scan a steep ravine that seemed to plunge into an "abyss". I was very fortunate to have negotiated that nearly tire squealing curve. Even today, the image of that sign and curve are etched into my memory. I have great respect for that sign and should I ever travel that road again, I will be looking for it with anticipation and remember what waits at the top of the hill.

There was another sign I only read about in a magazine a few years ago. Evidently, the sign is one that some people will encounter while driving on a particular hard-topped road in Alaska. At the end of the hard-top road there is a sign that reads: "Pick Your Rut Carefully. You Will Be In It For The Next 200 Miles."

Obviously, caring individuals believe it important to post signs for our wellbeing. The intention of the signs I just mentioned as well as many other signs people encounter in their environments enable them to safely navigate their world.

The season of Advent observed by Christians around the world provides occasion to celebrate the Christian belief that God has given to the world a definitive sign of His enduring love and mercy for humanity. Christians acknowledge and express through worship and other spiritual activities that the heavenly Father has sent His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to take our nature upon Himself in order that He would be the Divine Sign by Whom all are invited to follow as the way to the Father's kingdom (*John 14:6*).

The journey of faith is not always a pleasant one. Sometimes, abrupt curves may enter one's journey that could bring about undesirable outcomes. At other times, a person may find oneself stuck in a seemingly endless rut of disappointment or uncertainty. Surely the events of our present time have brought upon millions a great deal of stress, uncertainty, and losses. Jesus said that we would always have troubles in life (*John 16:33*). He also said to come directly to Him in moments of difficulty (*Matthew 11:28*). It is well to remember that our sincere and heartfelt prayers, petitions, and acts of contrition are not lost from heaven (*Psalms 4*).

Let us remember that the first advent of Christ – His birth - was given to us as a sign of God's loving grace and mercy unto salvation. May we gather spiritual strength for the journey of life ahead through steadfast faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Who became like us and overcame the troubles of this world (*John 16:33*).

He is ready to assist anyone regardless of one's circumstances - whatever bending curves taking one in unexpected, uncertain troubling directions or rigid ruts that appear to steer one's life course with little respite. As Corrie ten Boom has said, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God".

**One last sign of encouragement- This was posted on the marquee of a Baptist church:
"Social Distancing Does Not Apply To God. Draw Near To Him"**

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

(Book of Common Prayer)

“Is There Any Hope?”

CAPT Steve Bird, CHC, USN (Ret)
USS SARATOGA (CV-60)
1983-1985

On December 17, 1927, while surfacing from a submerged run over the measured-mile off Cape Cod near Provincetown, Massachusetts, the submarine USS S-4 (SS 109) was accidentally rammed and sunk by the Coast Guard destroyer *Paulding* on Rum Patrol. *Paulding* stopped and lowered lifeboats but found only a small amount of oil and air bubbles. Rescue and salvage operations were led by Rear Admiral Frank Brumby, Captain Ernest J. King, Lieutenant Henry Hartley and Commander Edward Ellsberg, only to be thwarted by severe weather. Heroic efforts were made to rescue six known survivors trapped in the forward torpedo room, who had exchanged a series of signals with the rescue force, by tapping on the hull. As the trapped men used the last available oxygen in the sub, they sent a Morse Coded message, “Is there any hope?” *

The question we must ask ourselves, “Who or What is our hope?” The word hope is mentioned in the scriptures 129 times. When one does not have any hope, one will have despair. Proverbs 13:12 states, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick.” Even the writer to the Hebrews uses the anchor as an object lesson for hope. Hebrews 6:19 states, “Which **hope** we have as an **anchor** of the soul.” The *Saratoga* had two anchors weighing close to 30 tons positioned on the port and starboard bow of the ship. When those two anchors were released and sunk into the harbor floor, it helped **secure** the ship in one position. As an anchor is to a ship, **hope** is to the soul in helping us to keep our lives in a positive position.

Remember the sailor who tapped out, “Is there any hope?” The response, composed by Captain King was, “There is hope. Everything possible is being done.” Unfortunately, due to the weather they could not rescue the six men. *

“Is there any **hope**?” Is there any **hope** for the drug addict? Is there any **hope** for my family members? Is there any **hope** for **me**? The answer is a resounding **YES!** Psalm 31:24, “Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart, all you that **hope** in the Lord!”

Let me leave you with this last scripture, Romans 15:13, “Now the God of **hope** fill you with all **joy** and **peace** in believing, that you may abound in **hope**, through the power of the Holy Spirit.” Trust in the Lord who is our hope to live for today, tomorrow and until we see Him face to face.

*WIKIPEDIA

END

USS SARATOGA DUES NOTICE & DONATION FORM - 2021			
Mail form to : USS Saratoga Association, 447 Land 'Or Drive, Ruther Glen, VA 22546			
Your Name:		Spouse/Family Membr Name:	
Address:		City:	ST: Zip:
What years were you aboard?		Div/Squad:	Plankowner: _____
Email:		Phone:	
Enclosed:	\$ _____	DUES FOR 2021	Make ALL Checks or Money Orders payable to USS Saratoga Association
Enclosed:	\$ _____	DONATION FOR 2021	(Donations are tax deductible) Apply to GENERAL Fund
Enclosed:	\$ _____	DONATION FOR 2021	(Donations are tax deductible) Apply to SCHOLARSHIP Fund <i>(separate check please)</i>
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$25.00 per year			
LIFE MEMBERSHIP SECTION		NOTES:	
AGE	FEE	(1) SPOUSES have a One-Time charge of \$25.00 for LIFE MEMBERSHIP (2) Children and family members may join as Honory Members with normal annual dues. (3) ALL CV3 shipmates are considered Life Members - with no annual dues required (4) Duplicate payments will be applied to next the years dues (5) Currently checks are still the only method of payment (6) Membership must be kept current to continue receiving newsletters and directories (7) Please use this form for changes in addresses, marital status, new email address, etc.	
UP TO 49	\$350.00		
50-55	\$300.00		
56-60	\$250.00		
61-65	\$200.00		
66-70	\$150.00		
71-75	\$100.00		
76-80	\$50.00		
81 AND UP	\$15.00		

USS SARATOGA 2021 REUNION EVENTS

Mobile, AL | October 19-24, 2021

EARLY BIRD: FAMOUS BELLINGRATH GARDENS: Wed., October 20 (Noon-4:00pm)

We just had offer Mobile's number one attraction for those inclined to come in early. And this one is not just for the ladies. It should be a spectacular time to visit Bellingrath Gardens with the fall flowers in full bloom. They say, nowhere in the world is floral beauty more concentrated than in these *internationally famous* gardens. This "Garden Spot of the South" is a floral wonderland. Optional tour includes a guided tour of the 15-room, 10,500 square-foot home built in 1935. Lunch is available at the Garden Café.

GROUP WELCOME DINNER AT THE HOTEL: Wed., October 20 (6:00p)

This was a big hit last year and sold-out! Get your order in ASAP, and kick-off the reunion in style with your friends and catch up on all the scuttlebutt during this very casual buffet meal. There will be special recognition for all our first-time attendees during this event. You need to eat anyway, so *c'mon y'all!*

USS ALABAMA & VIETNAM MEMORIAL PARK:

Thursday, October 21 (10a-4p)

We will spend the day at Battleship Memorial Park exploring the Battleship USS Alabama, USS Drum, and the Vietnam and Korean War Memorial Pavilion featuring many tanks, artillery, patrol boats and spy planes. You will get to see the newly donated 5-ton Vietnam Gun Truck. The *USS Alabama* saw action in the Atlantic for a year before joining the Pacific Fleet in mid-1943. There, she fought at such key locations as Leyte, the Gilbert Islands and Okinawa. After the signing of the war-ending surrender documents in September 1945, USS Alabama, or the "Mighty A," as she was known, led the American Fleet into Tokyo Bay. You will have time to explore *Battleship Memorial Park* at your own pace. Lunch will be provided in the Pavilion.



TOUR AND DINNER AT THE MOBILE CARNIVAL MUSEUM: Thu., Oct. 21 (630p-830p)

The Mobile Carnival (aka Mardi Gras) Museum is a history museum that chronicles over 300 years of Carnival and Mardi Gras in Mobile. The museum features display's that tell the story of how the local celebration evolved from its early days to the modern tradition it has become. The Queen's Gallery houses gowns, trains, and jewels worn by the queens of Carnival. Also, on display is the attire of a 1920s flapper queen, as well as costumes of several jesters of well-known parading societies. Collections include original Mardi Gras art and posters by various area artists, doubloons, tableau designs, and ball invitations. The mansion's former carriage house contains interactive exhibits, including one that allows visitors to "ride" and throw doubloons from a Carnival float. Price includes admission, tour, dinner, rental, catering, taxes and service charges. A minimum of 100 guests is required for this tour to operate.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NAVAL AVIATION AT NAS PENSACOLA: Fri., Oct. 22 (930p-5p)

One of the largest aviation museums in the world with more than 170 vintage aircraft, this 300,000 square foot wonder, chronicles more than nine decades of naval aviation. This is a guided tour of the museum and the historic flight line outside the museum. You may also opt to see a spectacular *IMAX* film on the famous *Blue Angels*, which are headquartered here (Note: IMAX is optional and not included in price – pay on your own if interested) Lunch will be on your own at the historic Cubi Bar Café at the museum.

****Government issued photo identification is required to visit**.**



OPTION: *MURDER ON THE BATTLESHIP* – LIVE MYSTERY THEATER:

Friday, October 22 (8:00pm)



Join your friends at the hotel, for a hilarious live theater performance of “Murder on the Battleship - the Last Show of the USO” The show bill states, “it was a real shock for everyone involved, to say the least, to see who showed up for this last extravaganza show of the USO. Anytime you get SO many famous celebrities together with only one judge, some Hollywood skeletons will surely jump out of the closet! It’s not surprising that someone winds up dead!” USO “Guests” include Elvis, Sonny & Cher, The Lennon Sisters, Tina Turner, Sammy Davis, Jr. and many more. Come help solve the crime!

TOUR CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by illness, injury or other causes that may impact your travel plans. Tour Cancellation Insurance allows you to receive a refund of tour and banquet expenses. Please note there is a \$10 per person processing fee plus any credit card fees imposed by the processing company. Cancellation Insurance expires at 11:59 pm the day **before** the reunion begins. No refunds are given the day of the reunion (beginning at midnight), **even** if you purchased cancellation insurance. Should you need to cancel your reservations please contact our office immediately by calling 817-251-3551, Monday through Friday between 9:00am-4:00pm CST or email us at info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com. If you did not purchase cancellation insurance, please note all tour, and banquet monies become non-refundable 6 weeks prior to the reunion.

ALL RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 8, 2021. Late reservations will be accepted on a space available basis with a non-refundable \$15 per person late fee. There is a \$15 surcharge for orders taken over the phone. Please make a copy of your order prior to mailing. Note tour times are subject to change. Should you need additional information call our offices Monday through Friday CST at 817-251-3551 or email us at info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com. Requests for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked no later than the reservation due date No refunds will be made after this date unless you have purchased *Tour Cancellation Insurance*. Cancellation Insurance expires at 11:59 pm the day **before** the reunion start date. Please note there is a refund processing fee of \$10 per person plus 3.5% fee charged by credit card processing company. Your cancelled check is your receipt as well as proof of purchase. For written confirmation of your reservation please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your cancellation request. A \$25 return check fee applies. MRP will not be held liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the reunion.

USS SARATOGA REUNION RESERVATION FORM

Click here to make your reservations online or mail completed form with a check payable to:
MRP, Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034

DATE	TIME	EVENT	COST	QTY	TOTAL
		Reunion Registration Fee (per person ~ non-refundable)	\$15 pp		
Wed 10/22	Noon-1600	Early Bird Excursion: Famous Bellingrath Gardens	\$45 pp		
Wed 10/22	1800	Group Welcome Dinner at the Hotel	\$36 pp		
<u>Thu 10/21</u>	1000-1600	USS Alabama & Vietnam Memorial Park (incl. Lunch)	\$59 pp		
Thu 10/21	1830-2030	Tour & Dinner at the Mobile Carnival Museum	\$50 pp		
Fri 10/22	0930-1700	National Naval Air Museum at NAS Pensacola	\$36 pp		
Fri 10/22	2000-2130	<i>Murder on the Battleship!</i> Live, Mystery Theater	\$29 pp		
Sat 10/23	Noon-1400	Ladies Luncheon	\$26 pp		
Sat 10/23	1800	Farewell Banquet Dinner – make selection below			
		Baked Fish w/Shrimp Cream Sauce	\$47 pp		
		Prime Rib	\$52 pp		
		Non-refundable Late Reservation Fee (If registering after September 8, 2021)	\$15 pp		
		Tour Cancellation Insurance: Protect your \$\$ (Fee is non-refundable)	\$20 pp		
TOTAL					

>>> PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

NAME (As you want it to appear on badge): _____

SPOUSE: _____ GUEST: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST: ___ ZIP: _____

PRIMARY PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: WHEELCHAIR LIFT, DIETARY, ETC.: _____

YEARS SERVED ON-BOARD SARA: 19__ to 19__ DIVISION/SQUADRON (ex. M Division): _____

DO YOU NEED A WHEELCHAIR LIFT TO BOARD A TOUR BUS: _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST SARA REUNION: YES ___ NO ___

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

- Reservation money is non-refundable after due date unless Tour Cancellation insurance is purchased above.
- There is a \$10 per person refund processing fee. Requests must be made in writing prior to the cut-off date.
- Insurance holders are eligible for a refund less processing fee until Midnight before the 1st day of the reunion.
- Insurance ends once the reunion begins – notification in writing must be received prior to start of reunion.
- Late reservations are accepted on a space available basis with a non-refundable \$15 per person late fee.
- Watch for an email confirmation of your order and online roster update as your proof of payment.
- Changes not possible online including cancellations. Email/Mail notice for cancellations required.

Call or email MRP if you need to add, cancel or modify your reservation at 817-251-3551 or email info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com. MRP agents are available weekdays from 9-4 CST. Voice Mail is 24/7 You must leave a voice message to receive a call back. Thank you for using Military Reunion Planners, LLC