



USS BLUE DD 744 NEWSLETTER

Fall 2013 Newsletter

October 24th, 2013

As winter suddenly approaches it's time to reach out to old and new friends from the Blue. Our 2013 reunion in Rhode Island was a success. We had several crewmates come for the first time and some brought family members with them. It was good getting to know them and hearing some of their stories from the ship. We have members from all years that come and you will always know someone. I want to thank everyone who helped out or donated items for our raffle. Once again, Rita Padilla made a beautiful quilt that put a lot of money into our treasury.

As we try to keep up with the times, and keep our expenses down, we use email to send the newsletters whenever we can. If you are getting this by US Mail, that means we do not have your email address. So, if you have one, please send it to me at dd744blue@yahoo.com. On the same note, if you no longer want to be on the mailing list, let me know and we will remove your name. My home phone is (845) 565-4061.

As you must know by now, Glenn Harvey has been putting more and more information and pictures on our web site, at <http://www.ussbluedd744.com>. Our Webmaster, Gary Albaugh, who is an Iraq Veteran and volunteers his time, deserves a big thanks too. If you have anything that you want to add to the site, let Glenn know. His email address is roosrules@frontier.com. He has just added a roster page. These are the names of the men we have found so far. If your name is not on it, or If your information is not correct, tell Glenn. His phone number is 608-838-4703.

Our 2014 reunion will be in Reno, Nevada on September 18th, 2014. I have been working with a hotel that is ideal for our needs. We have many options for our tours, and I am still working on them at this point. I have heard from a lot of people that are planning to go. I will send out more information in the Spring 2014 newsletter. Please try to make it, we do have a lot of fun and we are a very friendly group of people. All of the women are very friendly and welcome new people. You and your wife will fit right in.

For anyone who hasn't applied for VA benefits, you should. Even if you applied before and were turned down, reapply. Things have changed. To any of the Viet Nam veterans who were on the 66-68 cruise, you will qualify for Agent Orange benefits if you were on the ship on April 21, 1968. On our web site, there is a link for Agent Orange related diseases. You may qualify. For the Blue Water Viet Nam Vets, the House of Representatives bill, HR543, has been approved. A similar bill will be introduced in the Senate soon. You should contact your Senator and ask him to vote for it. Even if you are fine now, you might need it in the future. Glenn Harvey has arranged for a representative from the VA to speak to us at the reunion in Reno. He should be able to tell us what we are entitled to. There is help out there for us to take advantage of.

Have a safe winter and I hope to see you in Reno!

Dennis Kearns Blue 69-71