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**www.ussfranklin.org**

For all the latest information!

Did you know?



We are on FACEBOOK!

Keep up with the latest information on USS Franklin reunions and much more at:

**FACEBOOK SEARCH:**

Survivors, Family, and Friends of the USS Franklin CV-13

**2015 REUNION MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN!**

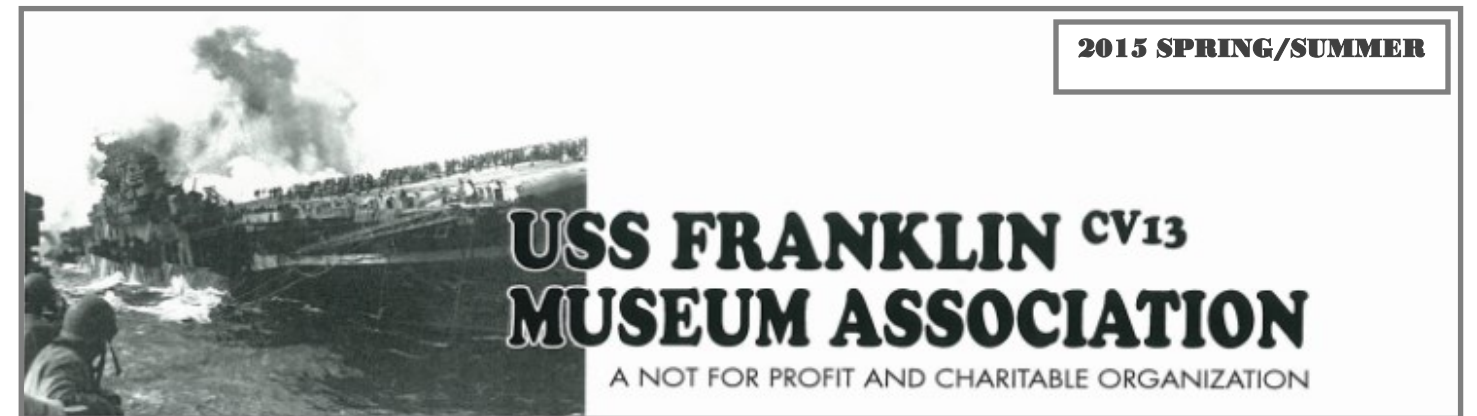
**July 16 \* 17\* 18 \* 19**

**See insert for information and registration form**

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USS FRANKLIN (CV-13) ASSOCIATION  
Ms. Louise Mast  
11217 Terra Vista Parkway Unit F  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730-7453



## USS Franklin Bombing A look back at 70 years

On the morning of March 19, 1945, the USS Franklin was heavily bombed by the Japanese, killing over 700 men and wounding hundreds more. As we enter into Spring 2015, we would like to take a moment to thank the surviving crew members of the USS Franklin for their service, as well as honor and remember the fallen from that fateful day 70 years ago.



The Franklin family has been growing with our (almost) annual reunions, beginning in 1950 with the first reunion (pictured). The reunions have given the crew members and their families an opportunity to remember, to pay respect to the crew members lost over the years, and a chance to have some fun. As we remember the anniversary of the bombing, we'd also like to celebrate the legacy the USS Franklin and the reunions has given us — as these reunions have become events for multiple generations and an opportunity for the descendants to learn about an important part of our nation's history.

For those of us that are descendants of crew members, we have most likely heard stories of the bombing. We encourage that this Spring we take a moment to connect or re-connect with our loved ones— celebrate the gifts we've been given, reflect on all the memories we have been fortunate enough to experience these past 70 years, and thank a Veteran. The crew members who survived—our fathers, grandfathers, friends, and family, have made our lives possible and this season, we encourage that we take a moment to honor these men. This is also a time to remember those lost to us.

To the men of the USS Franklin, Santa Fe, Pittsburgh and all who serve, we say thank you for your service, for our heritage and for defending our country and freedom. God Bless.



## from the desk of the President:

This has been another year of transition for the USS Franklin CV 13 Museum Association organization. The newsletter has been reformatted to reflect its' online delivery by the most capable editor, Mr. Darren Hamm. Personally, I am very pleased with the way he has facilitated from a paper media to an electronic media. This issue represents the second to the last paper format of this delivery.

For the first time, the membership of the board will only have two members of the original USS Franklin, Mr. Ray Bailey and Mr. Sam Rhodes. Both of these Navy Seamen continue to provide outstanding leadership to the USS

Franklin Association. As most of you know we lost Mr. Robert Ladewig, an original member of the USS Franklin, a magnificent board member, who provided stalwart service on the board in several capacities. He was infallible in his commitment and yeomen compassion in his duties as treasurer, newsletter editor, keeper of the by-laws, and parliamentarian.

We are very fortunate that the membership on the board has a significant number of the direct descendants of the USS Franklin Seamen who have undertaken the responsibility to continue the legacy of these Great Men as set forth in the by-laws of the USS Franklin CV 13 Museum Association. In my opinion, they will perform effectively at these tasks.

On a more somber note, during this membership year, I personally have lost the reason I began to sit on the board. My Father-in-Law, Mr. John F. McAvoy passed away on December 16th, 2014. 59 days later, on February 13th, 2015, my Mother-in-Law, Helen V. McAvoy, joined her husband of 70 years. I am deeply indebted to them for the love, support and encouragement they have given to me during my Presidency. While our Family will miss them dearly, we will continue to support the legacy, goals and objects of the USS Franklin Seamen.

I look forward to seeing you at another successful reunion in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from July 16th - 19th, 2015. The Hamm Family is working diligently to provide a high caliber event.

Dr. H. Prentice Baptiste, Jr.

2015 Annual Dues  
**\$10.00**

*Become a member  
in good standing!*



### Make Check Payable to:

USS Franklin Museum Association

### Mail To:

Kenneth Homko, Treasurer  
2210 Grey Hawk Drive  
Plainfield, IL 60586

# In Memoriam

## 8 O'CLOCK REPORT

*Word was received that these crew members have been absent from muster since our last newsletter and who received orders from the Supreme Commander to be transferred to The Big Ship In The Sky.*

Lewis P. Albrecht Jr., FI/c E-Div.	Robert A. Ladewig, EM2/c E-Div.
Chris Bargas, GM3/c 3 <sup>rd</sup> Div.	John F. McAvoy, GM1c 2 <sup>nd</sup> -Div. M/Sgt. USAF Ret.
Berdel Edwin Winke, Pfc.	Ridgley D. Radney, Cdr. VB-5
Richard A. Bloom, GM3/c 6 <sup>th</sup> Div.	William Rayhill, Lt. VB-5
Thomas J. Connelly, SKD2/c S1-Div.	Michael H. Rowlands, AOM3/c VT-13
James F. Crowell, EM2/c E-Div.	Edward Slagle, MUS2/c N-Div.
Leslie J. Dickerson, SM1/c S2- Div.	Amard Swindle, WT1c
Charles L. Finkenedt, SSML 3c	Joseph Trabucco, V-6
Joseph A. Filz, AOM/3	Andre J. Vincent, S1/c V2-Div.
Gerard T. Gillis, WT3/c V-6 USNR	Benny Woods, StM2c
William Vitali Herman, RM2c	

*The Supreme Commander called them home to sail the crystal sea,*

*Where they will steer with steady hand throughout eternity,*

*No longer will the high sea roll,*

*The skies will be clear and every day will be a day of happiness and cheer,*

*No storm shall cross their valiant prow and calm will be the sea,*

*In that bright place where all is well and kindly is the breeze,*

*They are at peace with our shipmates who have gone before.*

Please send information on the death of a crew member to:

Ms. Louise Mast 11217 Terra Vista Parkway Unit F Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730-7453

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

## Newsletter: Going Digital *What this means to you*

As you may have already read, we only have one more print issue planned for this newsletter. It is critical for any person interested in receiving paper copies of the newsletter to contact Louise Mast with your request (see address above). After the Fall/Winter 2015 issue, we will no longer be supporting our current mailing list. Instead we are asking that individuals submit their email address on the USS Franklin website, [www.ussfranklin.org](http://www.ussfranklin.org). From the main page, click **Email Newsletter Signup**.