

OVER THE WAVES

AE/AOE/AUX SAILORS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

"The Hardest Working Sailors In The Fleet"



May 2024 VOLUME XXVI ISSUE 2

HOUSTON REUNION NOTICE



Our 2024 Reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn Houston Intercontinental Airport - 15222 JFK Blvd. Houston Texas 77032. Phone number for Airport Shuttle Service on arrival is (218) 449-2311

Our reunion will begin on Wednesday, 10/02/2024 and end Sunday morning 10/06/2024. Our pretax daily hotel rate is \$109. Free breakfast for two is included.

Early arrivals/late departures will have the same pre-tax room rate and 2 free breakfasts for 2 days before and 2 days after the reunion.

Our banquet will be held on Saturday October 5, 2024. There will be dancing after the dinner and the more adventurous among us will learn the Texas Two Step and Line Dancing!



There are two airports serving the Houston, Texas area.

The airport serving our reunion is the George Bush Intercontinental Airport. The airport code is IAH. Our Hotel will provide free shuttle service between the IAH airport and the hotel.

The other airport serving Houston is the William P. Hobby Airport. Airport code HOU. This airport is about 35 miles from our hotel. There is no free shuttle service arrangement from this airport and our Hotel.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE CORRECT DESTINATION AIRPORT IS IAH.

Please Google...

"An Old Man and a Bucket of Shrimp"

written by Sandy Owen.

I found it in
"A glint on light"
"tales, stories and inspirations"

It is about
Eddie Rickenbacker.

He and a planes crew spent 25 days lost at sea after running out of fuel after missing their refueling island in the Pacific Ocean by 500 miles.



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

John Malcolm "Mackie" Langlois, Sr.

was born on June 15, 1933,
in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and passed away
on February 27, 2024

LM 59 --- "Mackie"
served on the USS Mazama AE-9 between
the years of 1952 - 1956

Life Member **Robert McAtee** who served on the
USS Vesuvius-AE 15 1965-1968 passed away
on June 15, 2022

Chaplains for the AE/AOE/AUX Sailors Association

Chaplin Josefina R. Mata - Ordained Chaplin
Chaplin Tom Riber AE-15

AE/AOE/AUX Sailors Association Plated Banquet Options

Saturday Evening October 5, 2024

(Seating by ship served on at 17:30 (5:30PM))

Caesar Salad: Romaine Lettuce, Parmesan, Croutons, and Caesar Dressing

Desert: Cheesecake

Chicken Choice

FLORENTINE GRILLED CHICKEN **\$28**

Served with Roasted Red Pepper Sauce • Artisanal Roll • Butter • Side of Chefs Choice Veasonal Vegetables

Beef Choice

GRILLED SIRLOIN STEAK **\$45**

Served with Peppercorn and Red Wine Demi-Glace • Artisanal Roll • Butter • Chefs Choice Seasonal Vegetables

Fish Choice

GRILLED TILAPIA..... **\$36**

Served with Lemon Herb Butter Saucel Artisanal Roll | Butter | Side of Chefs Choice Seasonal Vegetables

Vegetarian Choice

PORTOBELLO AND VEGETABLE SHORT STACK **\$34**

Grilled Zucchini • Grilled Squash • Roasted Eggplant • Sautéed Onion • Sautéed Peppers • Sautéed Spinach
Artisanal Roll • Butter • Side of Chefs Choice Seasonal Vegetables

MEET OUR NEW DIRECTORS...

As you can see in the list of the AE/AOE/AUX Sailors Association Directors we have been playing change the hat. Due to life circumstances not in our control several of the board members have had to take on different positions. Kurt Julsen is now the new President, Phil DePietro is the new Vice President, Gary Bell is the new treasurer, Richard Brantner is the Secretary, Richard Perez, Jim Russell, Micheal Proctor are Directors. All of us have served on the board for many years and life is catching up to us. The AE/AOE/AUX Sailors Association needs people to step up and help with the association business and reunion planning. Contact Kurt Julsen at (907) 632-9961 to discuss possible positions.

Who is Kurt Julsen; I served aboard the USS Haleakala from 1969 to 1973. I went aboard the ship as a fireman apprentice just out of San Diego boot camp. I had traveled from my home in Anchorage, Alaska to Da Nang Vietnam in November and was transferred to the ship via mail plane and helicopter. Arriving aboard ship on the helo-deck I was taken to the fireroom and started to stand watch and work on the boilers and associated equipment. After several long west pac tours I was discharged 4 years latter as a BT2 .

I look forward to maintaining our moto "HONORING THE HARDEST WORKING SAILORS IN THE FLEET.

PLEASE! DON'T LEAVE US

Please take a moment to turn to the back page of this newsletter. If your address has been printed in red ink, it means you have not paid your dues for 2024. Please look on Page 6 - You will find our membership form and our treasurer's address. If you believe your dues are not delinquent, please give us a call. We do not want to stop delivery of future newsletters so we hope you will take the time to contact us soon.



AE/AOE/AUX SHIP COORDINATORS

CHIEF COORDINATOR - Kurt Julsen
Cell: 907-632-9961 • Email: aesakj@yahoo.com



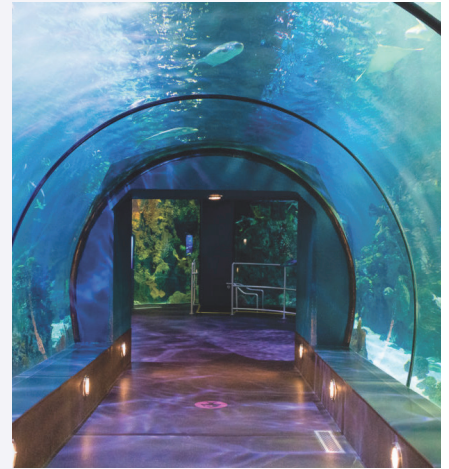
SHIP	COORDINATOR	PHONE #	EMAIL
AE-1 USS PYRO	Gary Michael		
AE-2 USS NITRO	Jerry Breen		
AE-3 USS LASSEN	Jeff Cozzens		
AE-4 USS MT. BAKER	Mitchell Dotson		
AE-5 USS RAINER	Bruce Ryden		
AE-6 USS SHASTA	Bill Pudney		
AE-8 USS MAUNA LOA	David Deans		
AE-9 USS MAZAMA	Jim "Doc" Gaspard		
AE-10 USS SANGAY	Phil DePietro		
AE-11 USS MT. HOOD	Jerry Breen		
AE-12 USS WRANGELL	Dale Hitchcock		
AE-13 USS AKUTAN	Jeff Cozzens		
AE-14 USS FIREDRAKE	Dick Tracy		
AE-15 USS VESUVIUS			Coordinator Needed
AE-16 USS MOUNT KATMAI	Jeff Cozzens		
AE-17 USS GREAT SITKIN			Coordinator Needed
AE-18 USS PARICUTIN			Coordinator Needed
AE-19 USS DIAMOND HEAD			Coordinator Needed
AE-21 USS SURIBACHI	Stedman Gray		
AE-22 USS MAUNA KEA	Bruce Brunner		
AE-23 USS NITRO	Jerry Breen		
AE-24 USS PYRO	Gary Michael		
AE-25 USS HALEAKALA	Bruce Brunner		
AE-26 USS KILAYEA	Peter Hults		
AE-27 USS BUTTE	Jerry Breen		
AE-28 USS SANTA BARBARA	Michael Procter, Sr.		
AE-29 USS HOOD	Jim Warwick		
AE-30 USS VIRGO	Jerry Breen		
AE-31 USS CHARA	Jeff Cozzens		
AE-32 USS FLINT	Jerry Breen		
AE-33 USS SHASTA	Robert Bean		
AE-34 USS MOUNT BAKER	Mitchell Dotson		
AE-35 USS KISKA	Mitchell Dotson		
AOE-1 USS SACRAMENTO	Robert Bean		
AOE-2 USS CAMDEN	Robert Kraft		
AOE-3 USS SEATTLE	Carl Hughes		
AOE-4 USS DETROIT	Carl Hughes		
AOE-6 USS SUPPLY	Phil DePietro		
AOE-7 USS RAINER	Phil DePietro		
AOE-8 USS ARTIC	Phil DePietro		
AOE-10 USS BRIDGE	Jeff Cozzens		
AF-10 ALDEBARAN			Coordinator Needed
AO-36 USS KENNEBEC			Coordinator Needed



Houston, Texas – Reunion Tours

Tour #1 – Wednesday October 2, 2024, Galveston Moody Gardens Rainforest

(Approximately 1 hour 16 minutes bus trip each way.) **Lunch included - Cost is \$86 per person.** As you enter through a tree-top canopy entrance, you'll visit the rainforests of Asia, Africa and the Americas in a rare, up-close and interactive adventure with over 1,700 exotic plants and endangered animals that encourage the use of sight, sound and smell to experience the Rainforest life 24 hours a day through climatic changes. (No, it's not going to rain on you). The Giant River Otters are an outside display recreating the Amazon River Rainforest but inside a huge glass pyramid is a 90 minute experience that includes Saki monkeys, Cotton-top Tamarins and Sloths that roam freely while Komodo dragons and other reptiles roam beneath an array of birds that fly between the trees as you walk the trails through this spacious enclosure. Don't be surprised if you come around a corner to find a bird standing in the walkway staring at you but you will have to work hard to see the sloths, they blend in and don't move much in the tree. – HINT Look for lumps where they shouldn't be. This tour will include a buffet lunch in the Garden Restaurant that overlooks Offatts Bayou where you will be cruising for 45 minutes in an 1800's reconstruction of a shallow draft paddle wheel boat with a narrated tour description of the highlights of bayou animal life and its importance in the South Texas history. (Think John Lafitte the Pirate). Later you will drive to the sea wall, stop for a photo opportunity, and drive up the Galveston Strand to a stop at LaKings Confectionary where you can purchase old fashioned sodas, malts or candy like taffy or fudge for the ride back to the hotel.



Tour #2 – Thursday, October 3, 2024, Houston Space Center

(Approximately 45-minute bus trip each way.) **Lunch is on your own- Cost is \$58 per person.** Houston Space Center is a science museum that serves as the official visitor center of NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. It was designated a Smithsonian Affiliate Museum in 2014. Tours are your chance to go on-site at NASA Johnson Space Center and get an up-close look at human space exploration. Located on 1,600 acres, NASA Johnson Space Center is the training base for NASA astronauts and the site of Mission Control, where a Houston-based team supports the work of our women and men in space. This tour includes both the former Space Control Center and the 90-minute tram tour to the Launch area. Lunch is available in a variety of food court experiences, including sandwiches, salads, and gourmet main entrees. Exotic and custom coffee and tea drinks as well as soda and water are available.

Tour #3 – Friday, October 4, 2024, George Ranch Historical Park

(Approximately 1 hour bus trip each way.) **Lunch included – Cost is \$79 per person.** The tour day starts with a photo stop at an urban multi waterfall. From there we continue to the George Ranch founded in 1824 just outside of Houston. The Ranch included five separate generations (1830's 1860's, 1890's and 1930's) of homes and ranch outbuildings connected for you by trams. Each home has docents in costumes consistent to the time period who will point out the homes highlight and what challenges the ranch faced good and bad from the period. The highlight of the day will be a 40-minute-long horned cattle demonstration of roping and running the cattle through dip tanks. Make sure your phone has plenty of power or bring a camera. A herd of long horned cattle is a sight to remember.



Tour #4 – Saturday, October 5, 2024, The Museum of Natural Science

(Approximately 30-minute bus trip each way) **Lunch is on your own – Cost is between \$59 and \$61 per person.** This day you have three choices **Tour 4A** Entrance to the Museum Permanent exhibits plus a walk-through visit to the Cockrell Butterfly Experience which is 1500 live butterflies in a walk through visited. Price \$61.00, **Tour 4B** Entrance to permanent exhibits plus as Planetarium show and a variety of planet and star issues \$59.00 or **Tour 4C** Entrance to permanent exhibits plus Giant Theater Access. (think I Max theater) \$62.00. The Houston Museum of Natural Science has about 20 different Permanent exhibits plus special exhibits. Here are some of the favorites. The Weiss Energy Hall which transports you to a 21 century Offshore oil well, the Hall of Paleontology this has the bones of dinosaurs of other creature in day-to-day life or death struggle, the Gem and Minerals Hall which has 450 different crystals, gems, and rock (like Moon Rocks). This Hall also has the Everyday Faberge exhibit which has the largest display in the US of Faberge moving clocks and eggs. Absolutely amazing. The Parish Hall of Texas Wildlife and the Graham Hall of African Wildlife. Like King Tut? There's a great display of life on the Nile including an interactive descent into King Tuts tomb. Lots to see and limited time to take a stab at what appeals to you. Please note these add on experiences have assigned times which will be arranged around your lunch on your own. The food service is on your own at Periodic Table or Elements Grill. The food available includes salad, sandwiches, breakfast, coffee, tea, and snacks. Add on experience are not moveable or if you fail to show refundable as these are highly discounted group benefits. You may add more experience at your own cost and at general admission prices if time slots are available. We will be leaving at 2:30 for a 3:00 PM hotel arrival, with plenty of time to get ready for the banquet in the evening.

Welcome to the 23rd AE/AOE/AUX Sailors Association Reunion in Houston, Texas 2024



Treasurer Use Only	
Date Rec'd	
Check #	
Shortage	\$
Refund Due	\$
ASSOCIATION REFUND POLICY	
See Below For Refund Policies	

Check Box If:	X
1st Time Reunion Attendee?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staying at Reunion Hotel?	<input type="checkbox"/>

MAIL REGISTRATION TO:
Gary Bell Treasurer
1220 North Street
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
Telephone:

Hotel Reservations by September 5th to Guarantee a Room for \$109.00 plus tax. AFTER September 5th Rooms are on a FIRST COME BASIS

Room Rate includes two (2) free breakfasts for each daily stay

Holiday Inn Houston Intercontinental Hotel
15222 JFK Blvd. - Houston, Texas 77032
Call (281) 449-2311 to book your room.
Request AE/AOE/AUX Sailors Association - Use Room Block Code AOE

RV LOCATION
North Lake RV Park (10 minutes from our reunion hotel)
1919 Humble-Westfield Rd.
Houston, Texas 77073
(346) 258-5842

REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Member:					Name Tag to Read:					
Address:										
Phone: (Home or Cell?)					Email:					
Ship #:		Ship Name:					Years:			
Ship #:		Ship Name:					Years:			
Spouse/Partner:					Name Tag to Read:					
Guest #1					Name Tag to Read:					
Guest #2:					Name Tag to Read:					
Guest #3:					Name Tag to Read:					
Events	Date	Tour Title	# Attending	\$ Each	Who is Going? X: for Each					TOTAL COST
Reunion Registration		Each Reunion Attendee Must Pay This Fee		\$20.00						\$
Tour #1	10/2/2024	Galveston Moody Gardens Rainforest (Lunch Included)		\$86.00						\$
Pizza	10/2/2024	Mark If You Plan To Attend		FREE						
Tour #2	10/3/2024	Houston Space Center (Lunch On Your Own)		\$58.00						\$
Tour #3	10/4/2024	George Ranch Historical Park (Lunch Included)		\$79.00						\$
Tour #4	10/5/2024	EACH PARTICIPANT SHOULD CHOOSE ONLY ONE OF THE OPTIONS LISTED BELOW (Lunch On Your Own)								
Tour #4A	10/5/2024	Museum of Natural Science/Cockrell Butterflies		\$61.00						\$
Tour #4B	10/5/2024	Museum of Natural Science/Planetarium		\$59.00						\$
Tour #4C	10/5/2024	Museum of Natural Science/IMAX Movie		\$62.00						\$
List Any Dietary Restrictions Banquet Meal Selection (Beef, Chicken or Fish)		Beef		\$45.00						\$
		Chicken		\$28.00						\$
		Fish		\$36.00						\$
		Vegetarian		\$34.00						\$
Make Checks Payable to AE/AOE/AUX Sailors Association									Total Due:	\$

Please contact Gary Bell, Treasurer at with ANY questions BEFORE sending a check

Emergency Contact Name:	Relationship:	Phone:
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CANCELLATION CUT OFF DATES - Earlier Is Better	
HOTEL ROOMS	24 Hours Prior to Stay - Contact Hotel
TOURS	3 Weeks Prior to Reunion - Contact AESA
BUS SEAT REFUND	3 Weeks Prior to Reunion - Contact AESA
BANQUET	3 Weeks Prior to Reunion - Contact AESA



MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

(Donations are tax deductible)

RENEWAL (\$15 / 1 Year) - List Year Renewing Through _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Spouse _____

Ship # _____ Ship Name _____ Dates on Ships _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
AE/AOE/AUX SAILORS ASSOCIATION
SEND TO: GARY BELL
PHONE:
EMAIL: ga.bell.aesa@gmail.com
1220 North Street
Bowling Green, OH 43402

For those attending the reunion in HOUSTON, TX on September 30 to October 5, 2024

If you have a need to have time set aside to meet privately with VSO Rick Gales on a Veterans Administration issue, please bring a copy of any paperwork and/or power of attorney with you.

Don't Make Your Newsletter Come Looking For You!

The USPS will NOT forward our newsletter when you move even if you notify them of your change. Multiple newsletters are returned to us each quarter as "undeliverable as addressed" "temporarily away" or "attempted delivery, not known" PLEASE let us know WHEN you move or if you have a separate winter/summer addresses and WHEN you will be where. It wastes a lot of time and money when we send out a Newsletter and it comes back.

Also, you are not receiving the newsletter in a timely manner which you are entitled to. You might miss out on some time sensitive information.

Please send any address/phone number/email change to:

Archivist: Janet Julsen

Home Address: 7623 E Flint Drive • Wasilla, AK 99654-0050 **Email:**



AE/AOE/AUX SAILORS ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS - CO-EDITORS of OVER THE WAVES

PRESIDENT	Kurt Julsen, AE-25
VICE PRESIDENT	Phil DePietro, AE-21
SECRETARY	Richard Brantner, AE-21
TREASURER	Gary A. Bell, AE21
DIRECTOR	Richard Perez, AE-15
DIRECTOR	Jim Russell, AE-21
DIRECTOR	Michael Procter Sr., AE-28



Veterans exposed to toxins and other hazards are NOW eligible for VA Health Care

By Rick Gales, RM2 USS Suribachi AE-21 1980-1984 Veterans Service Officer for the AE/AOE/AUX Sailors Association

All veterans exposed to toxins and other hazards during military service, whether at home, overseas, or deployed, are now eligible for VA Health Care.

At the direction of the President, the VA is expanding health care eligibility to millions of veterans including all who served in the Vietnam War, Gulf War, Iraq and/or Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11, which is years earlier than what's called for by the PACT Act.

These veterans will be eligible to direct enroll in VA Health Care without applying first for VA Benefits.

Also, veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or other hazards while training or on active duty in the U.S. will also be eligible for enrollment in the VA Health Care System.

The expansion of VA Health Care eliminates the phased-in approach that was included in the PACT Act, to millions of veterans who are now eligible for VA health care up to eight years earlier than what was in the law.

It's now going to be faster and easier for millions of veterans to enroll into the VA Health Care System.

Many veterans believe they have to apply for VA Service Connected Disability Compensation Benefits before they're eligible for VA Health Care. This is incorrect with this expansion. Millions of eligible veterans can directly enroll in VA Care without first applying for VA Benefits.

The current VA Health Care System is for veterans and will treat their patients just like any civilian medical facility, however, if you travel out of your area, the civilian medical facilities cannot view your medical records.

Now, with the improved VA Health Care System they can access your medical records and see if there is any concerning medical conditions.

VA announces steps to increase screening and benefit Access for Veterans with Cancer

VA just announced several critical new steps to expand preventative services, health care and benefits for veterans with cancer as part of the "Biden Cancer Moonshot".

In the next 90 days, the VA will be making urethral cancers presumptive for service connection for eligible Gulf War and Post 9/11 veterans. That means that Gulf War and Post 9/11 veterans who deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Djibuti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan and the Southwest Asia theater of operations in its entirety, won't have to prove their service caused their urethral cancer to receive benefits for it. Instead, the VA will automatically assume service connection for the disease, providing benefits to veterans who submit claims.

In the next 3 months Urethral Cancers are set to be added to the list of 300 plus conditions that are considered presumptive under the PACT Act, along with many other cancers.

The VA is starting the process to formally evaluate Urinary, Bladder and Ureteral Cancers for presumption of service connection for eligible Gulf War and Post 9/11 veterans. Over the coming months, the VA will evaluate if there is a relationship between Urinary, Bladder and Ureteral Cancers and Toxic Exposures.

The VA will then determine if these conditions become presumptive conditions for veterans who served in those locations and time periods. The VA is expanding access to Genetic, Lung and Colorectal Cancer Screening for veterans. By the end of the year, the VA plans to offer genetic testing to every veteran who needs it. This will help the VA understand, treat and cure some patients with cancer by reading the code in their DNA.

The VA will also bring a Lung Cancer screening program to every VA Medical Facility, helping to save the lives of the nearly 5,000 veterans who die from Lung Cancer every year.

Colorectal Screening are being expanded, with colorectal Cancer being the second leading cause of cancer deaths in America. It will be providing more than one million veterans throughout the country with tests that can be completed at home.

The VA continues to expand the reach of smoking cessation services to veterans across the nation. As the 1-855-QUIT-VET tobacco quitline and the SmokefreeVET Test Message program pass their 10 year anniversaries of service, the VA says it will add at least six additional sites to the Quit-VET eReferral Program by the end of 2024.

This will expand the capacity to offer veteran-specific tailored tobacco-use treatment to veterans.

Additionally, the VA recently launched a new pilot program to integrate smoking cessation services into the Lung Cancer Screening in recognition of the inherent connection between smoking and lung cancer risk – and the plans to add at least five additional sites by the end of 2025.

"Cancer impacts far too many veterans every year, and under President Biden's Leadership of the Cancer Moonshot, we are fighting to end cancer as we know it" said VA Secretary Dennis McDonough.

These steps will help save lives and provide the world-class health care and benefits that our veterans so rightly deserve.

NOTE TO REUNION ATTENDEES:

Rick Gales will be available for claims assistance, guidance, and VA related information at the Houston reunion.

Please bring any claim paperwork with you. No appointment will be necessary.

Rick looks forward to seeing everyone in the Lone Star State.





AE/AOE/AUX SAILORS DISTRIBUTION OFFICE

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

Houston Reunion Notice	Front Page
WARNING: Two Airports Serving Houston, Texas . . .	Front Page
"An Old Man and a Bucket of Shrimp	Front Page
Taps for Shipmates	Front Page
Chaplains for the AE/AOE/AUX Sailors Association . .	Front Page
AE/AOE/AUX Sailors Association Plated Banquet Options. . . .	2
Meet Our New Directors	2
Please Don't Leave Us.	2
AE/AOE/AUX Ship Coordinators	3
Houston, Texas - Reunion Tours	4
AE/AOE/AUX Sailors Association Reunion	5
Membership/Donation Form.	6
Don't Make Your Newsletter Come Looking For You!	6
AE/AOE/AUX Sailors Association Directors	6
Veterans Exposed to Toxins and Other Hazards...	7
VA Announces Steps to Increase Screening...	7



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

