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## AUGUST 2012 PIEDMONT NEWSLETTER

**PIEDMONT SAILORS—Our 2012 Reunion will be in Omaha, NE Sept. 26-30. We will check in on Wed., Sept. 26 and leave on Sun., Sept. 30, 2012. Registration deadline is drawing near, Sept. 5, 2012.**

**Now for some of the details:**

**HOTEL:** The host hotel is the COMFORT INN & SUITES, Omaha Central, 7007 Grover St., Omaha, NE 68106. The phone no. is 402-934-4900 and website is [www.Omahacomfortinn.com](http://www.Omahacomfortinn.com) For those driving in, the hotel is located just off I 80 at the exit for W. 72<sup>nd</sup> St., about 2 blocks to the north on Grover St. Comp shuttle service to and from Omaha airport is available as well as service within a 5 mile radius of the hotel. Free auto and RV parking. The hotel is recently renovated and features the Firewater Grill for dining service. There is a complimentary Deluxe breakfast including biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, sausages, cereals, pastries, yogurts, Belgian waffles, juice, coffee, etc. USA TODAY & Omaha World Herald are available at no cost. There is a work-out room and indoor swimming pool. Comp 24 hour coffee service is available. Rooms with a king or double queens are available; up to 4 people per room; and pets are welcome. All of this for \$68.00 per room per night, plus 18.16 % taxes. These rates are in effect 3 days prior and after reunion dates. Be sure and ask for Piedmont Reunion rates. If there are any problems, please let me know. At the Hotel, there will be a Wed. evening Sept. 26 pasta buffet starting at 6 PM and the Sat. evening banquet on Sept 29 at 6 PM. These will be included in the registration fee. If you have special dietary needs or ADA needs, please specify at time of your reservation. **HOTEL ROOM RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SEPT. 5, 2012.**

**BUS TOURS:** The Thursday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> tour is from 8:00 to 5:00 PM and both coaches will travel together. However on Fri., Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, each coach will have their own schedule due to visiting sites that can take only a limited number of people at one time.

The sites that will be visited on Thurs. include an Omaha city tour with guide, lunch buffet (you pay) and tour of Boys Town, and the Strategic Air and Space Museum at Ashland, NE west of Omaha on I 80. All admission fees will be included in registration package.

The Friday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> tour bus # 1 will leave at 8:15 AM and return by 4:30 PM. Bus # 2 will leave at 9:15 AM and return at 5:00 PM. Both buses will be together for lunch at the Czech Bohemian Café, excellent food and plentiful. The sites visited will include the Toilet Paper Factory (has contract for all military TP supplies), American Soldier Exhibit at the Durham Museum, and a 1927 pipe organ performance that has a patriotic flavor. This site can take only 50 people at one time so the 2 busses will visit at different times. It is unique in that it is installed in a very large private home in a residential area, well worth seeing and hearing.

**HOSPITALITY ROOM: We will use Ballroom A & B for registration and meetings. The dinners will be served in Ballroom D. Registration opens at 12 noon Wed., Sept. 26. Jack & Marge Chesnick along with Willie & Aslaug Williams will stock snacks, drinks, etc. in this room. We can serve our own beer, wine, etc. or a bar will be set up and serve a variety of drinks (help yourself) at \$2 or \$3 each. There will be space for Piedmont mementos as well as GIFTS TO BE RAFFLED AT THE FRIDAY NIGHT FUNDRAISER. Be sure and bring something for the raffle.**

**NOW FOR SOME SAILOR "CHATTER":**

**Be sure and visit our Piedmont website, set up and managed by Bruce MacAlister, at [www.theusspiedmont.org](http://www.theusspiedmont.org)**

**Ruth Geraghty sends these Sailor notes:**

Bob Conrad, Carlisle, PA, MR 52-55, says he is unable to attend the reunion. He had his 3rd surgery on his back and it takes a year or so to heal. They will be thinking of everyone having a good time. They are also busy with grandchildren and great grandchildren (GREAT granddaughter will be attending college this year - now that's scary).

Bob Massey, Huntsville, TX, Asst. Repair Off. 72-74, is in charge of the Heart Museum where the Piedmont painting is located. They were able to move the painting from the Library to the Navy Room where it is more prominently displayed. He is honored to tell people about the painting, the ship, and the visit by my son and me to the museum. He reminded me that John Geraghty's name is on one of the bricks outside surrounding the impressive US Flag in the courtyard where they have Veteran's ceremonies. It really is an impressive museum. He regrets he is unable to attend the reunions anymore as age and family matters are all taking their toll and don't we all know how that goes.

Rev. John Schone, Eau Claire, WI, SOM 43-45 PLANK, wanted to thank the 35 plank owners who are still around for their military service during WWII (Rev. Schone is one of them) and the 19 wives still around from WWII (me being one of them). Rev. Schone began a GRACE Aftercare for prisoners in which he is still heavily involved. July of this year a friend presented him with a book he had published entitled "Letters From Home", 226 pages. Rev. Schone had given him some of the letters he had written and this friend selected about 50 of them to publish. John established a Bible Camp in Japan after the war which is still going strong and if health permits he is hoping to make a trip in 2015 and also make a trip Sept. 2, 2015 for the 70th Anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty. Can those WWII Vets believe it will be 70 years ago??

God's Blessings on Rev. Schone and his good works which started on the USS Piedmont.

**ROSTER CHANGES SINCE THE MARCH NEWSLETTER:**

**DECEASED MEMBERS:**

**BAKALE, Matthew, Spring Lake, MI, CFS Repair 44-46 PLANK SAILOR, 4/26/12**

**QUANDT, Cheryl (Bob Quandt), Freehold, NJ, 6/28/12**

**SORICE, John, Washington, PA, SN 44-46 PLANK SAILOR, 3/14/12**

**NEW MEMBERS:**

**AYERS, Daniel, Jr. & Dolores, 102 Springdale Ave., Neptune City, NJ 07753  
SN 76-80**

**BERRY, Kenneth & Vivian, AR**

**GALLAGHER, Tilden, CA**

**HALL, Eugene, NV, SK1 67-70**

**PHELPS, Gary, OK, TM 68-69**

**SCRIBNER, Jack & Mary Jane, TX, YN3 46-47**

**STEVENS, Wayne & Joyce, SD, FTG2 63-64**

**SZOLGA, Eugene & Beverly, IL, EM2 66-68**

**DELETES:**

**FREESTONE, Kenneth**

**SMITH, Kelly**

**SOROKES, William**

**SWINNEY, Sterling & Polly**

**2013 REUNION:**

**Steve Hatfield, Hauser, ID, PN3 67-68, will make a presentation on Hotel options and locations in the NW USA for us to consider and approve at our Business Meeting Friday PM, Sept. 28, after we return from our bus tour.**

**Willie Williams, Piedmont VP, Virginia Beach, VA will visit Rapid City, SD (Black Hills) region prior to arriving in Omaha and will have some future reunion recommendations.**

**Anyone else that would like to recommend a future reunion location may prepare a presentation which includes host hotels, sights to visit while at that location, etc. The Omaha promotion a year ago in Norfolk, VA was an excellent presentation.**

**Don't forget the registration deadline is SEPT. 5, 2012 and needs to be sent to Ruth Geraghty with payment to "Piedmont Reunion". See Ruth's address, ph. no. & e-mail in the masthead of this newsletter. Call the Comfort Inn & Suites Hotel to make your lodging reservations.**

**Monica and I look forward to seeing many of you in Omaha Sept. 26-30, 2012. All rates are less than what we paid in Norfolk and Atlanta. See you there!!**

**Bill and Monica Kastens**

**OMAHA, NE REUNION REGISTRATION**

**September 26-30, 2012**

**This entire form with payment and all blanks completed must be sent to:**

**Ruth Geraghty, 18 E. 37<sup>th</sup> St., Bayonne, NJ 07002-4812 by 9/2/2012**

**Make checks payable to Piedmont Reunion**

**Phone # 201-339-5155**

**E-Mail [rwgeraghty@verizon.net](mailto:rwgeraghty@verizon.net)**

**SHIPMATE NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST NAMES** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1. Enclosed is \$10.00 for annual Association dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Enclosed is \$160.00 for each person attending the 2012 reunion: No. \_\_\_ X \$160=\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
This cost covers two bus tours, including Czech lunch and all admission fees; Wednesday evening Dinner; and Saturday Banquet.
3. If you cannot attend all of these functions, then individual events may be purchased at the following rates:  
Thursday tour (Omaha sights, Boys Town, Air & Space): No. \_\_\_ X \$50.00=\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday tour (TP Factory, Pipe Organ, Czech Lunch, Durham Mus.): No. \_\_\_ X \$60.00=\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Wednesday evening Dinner: No. \_\_\_ X \$18.00=\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday evening Banquet: No. \_\_\_ X \$35.00=\$ \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "PIEDMONT REUNION" AND SEND TO: Ruth Geraghty, 18 East 37<sup>th</sup> St., Bayonne, NJ 07002-4812 NO LATER THAN SEPT. 2, 2012.
  
6. Please verify or correct your PHONE number now shown on our Roster \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
7. Please verify or correct your E-Mail address now shown on our Roster \_\_\_\_\_  
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8. SAILOR NEWS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUR SHIPMATES: