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## **USS Piedmont Newsletter March 15, 2020**

Well it is time again to say Hello and send best wishes to all our members, Your Officer's and I hope that all is well and you are looking forward to this newsletter with all the information on our September reunion in Washington D.C. Several points that I will make and reemphasize several times is make your hotel reservations early (you can cancel if circumstances warrant) but reservations or refunds for tours or banquet meals will not be honored after 06 August; this is necessary because after numbers are submitted to tour company's or hotel we are committed to payment of any unused hotel rooms. They are returned and will not be available to members. So save the date 17-21 September or consider arriving a day early to avoid late night arrival and check in; our host hotel is the Hilton Washington Dulles. The contact number is 1-800-445-8667 ask for Dixie class tender rate \$109.00 per night (\$122.08 with tax.). This rate will include free breakfast and free hotel parking.

The Department of Defense is now authorizing all veterans to shop at Exchange and Commissary to check your eligibility and to register go to [www.shopmyexchange.com/veterans](http://www.shopmyexchange.com/veterans)

We have lost the following shipmates/spouses since our last newsletter.

Nancy Dehate wife of shipmate Bob Dehate, passed 07 Aug 2019.

David G. Riley 63-65 Asroc shop, passed 21 Dec. 2019.

Robert Conrad 52-55 MR, no date given.

Robert Massey 72-74 Ass't Repair Officer, passed June 2017

Billie Price 47-49 MM, passed 2018

Vernon Runyan 48-53 Master Chief, passed 12 May 2019

## **Dixie Class Destroyer Tender Reunion Tour Information**

Please read all of the tour information carefully before signing up. The information provided was accurate at the time of printing. However, the Washington, DC, area, is highly subject to changing security laws at all times. Most places that we will be touring will have some sort of security screening. Plan to have a picture ID, no large purses or back packs and no knives or other sharp objects. To get the ultimate tour experience some tours, will require walking a few blocks and also be subject to stairs. Tours are based on a minimum of 42 passengers per motor coach. As time gets closer to our reunion, some tours or locations could be sold out. There are two tour options for Friday, only one option for Saturday and three options for Sunday. You may only book one option for each day. While the hotel has an airport shuttle, its main priority is for airport transfers. They are not able to shuttle large groups to nearby locations. Please book early!!!

**Tour #1**—Friday September 18, 2020 – US Naval Academy with Lunch. Activity Level – Minimal. Cost \$73.00; Depart 0800 Return 1600. You will arrive at the US Naval Academy and be welcomed and escorted to the visitor’s center for a power point presentation. After leaving the visitors center there will be a walking or windshield tour of the Academy, a brief stop at the Chapel, (if it is not in use), and then, (weather permitting), view the noon formation. Have lunch at the Officers Club, and depart at 1400 to return to the hotel. The Naval Academy requires a “Real ID” compliant identification card or a passport to enter the base. The Officers Club has a dress code, no jeans or t-shirts, and no hats allowed inside.

**Tour #2**—Friday September 18, 2020—Mount Vernon with Lunch. Guided Activity Level – Extensive. Cost \$72.00, Depart 0900 Return 1600. After arriving at Mount Vernon, your guide will escort you to the visitor’s center for a short film about the history of Mount Vernon. After touring the estate grounds, including paying your respects to General and Lady Washington, and visiting the Mansion, we will head to the Mount Vernon Inn for lunch. After lunch and some time in the shops, we will board the motor coach to return to the hotel.

**Tour #3**—Saturday September 19, 2020 — Arlington/Early Dinner/DC Mall Monuments; Activity Level – Moderate; Cost \$77.00. Depart 1330 Return 2130 After arriving at Arlington National Cemetery, you will board a private shuttle for a narrated tour of the Cemetery. Your shuttle will be making two stops, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Kennedy gravesites. At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier you will view the Changing of the Guard Ceremony. We will depart at 1600, and travel to downtown Washington, DC, for an early dinner, arriving at Buca di Beppo around 1630. We will be picking up our guides after dinner. We will depart at 1800 to view the, Lincoln, Vietnam Veterans, and Korean War Memorials, the World War II Memorial, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial (new in 2020) and the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima) then return to the hotel.

**Tour #4**—Sunday September 20, 2020—The National Museum of the US Army /Guided (Lunch on your own) Activity Level – Moderate. Cost \$34.00 Depart 0900, Return 1600 for The National Museum of the Army, located on Fort Belvoir, VA that will be dedicated on June 4 of 2020. The Museum will be a technological marvel incorporating the latest advances in museum exhibits while providing advanced educational opportunities that will capture the attention of visitors old and young. As the Army's national landmark, the Museum will honor United States Soldiers – past, present, and future – and provide an interactive educational experience explaining the Army's role in creating and defending our nation, as well as the Army's social initiatives and contributions for more than 240 years. On display will be selections from the Army Art Collection, artifacts, documents, and images. The vast majority of these rare and priceless artifacts have never been seen by the American people. A series of chronological and thematic galleries will show visitors what it means to be a Soldier in times of both war and peace. The three main galleries will be Soldier Stories, Fighting for the Nation, and Army and Society. The Fighting for the Nation Galleries will be broken down into six galleries that cover a different period in the Army's history starting with the Revolutionary War and ending with the most recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. A multi-sensory movie on the Army is included in the experience

**Tour #5**—Sunday September 20, 2020—Manassas Battlefield & Udar Hazy Air & Space Museum: Guided, Activity Level – Moderate. Cost \$32.00 Depart 0915, Return 1615. You will arrive on the grounds of the Manassas Battlefield and be dropped off at the Henry Hill Visitor's Center. At 1000 there will be a 45-minute informational film presentation. After the film, at 1100, you will have the option to take a 45-minute, Park Ranger guided walking tour. We will depart at 1230 to travel to the Udar Hazy Air & Space museum. This museum is home to the Enola Gay, the Space Shuttle Discovery and the Gemini 7 space capsule among its collection of historic aircraft. An IMAX theater and an observation deck with radio broadcast from the Dulles International Airport Control Tower and stunning views of their runway make this museum unique. Free tours conducted by expert volunteers are available and highly recommended. There is a Mc Donald's on the grounds of the Air & Space Museum.

**Tour #6**—Sunday September 20, 2020—Washington DC Mall (Lunch on your own) Stops and Pickups at Navy Memorial, Spy Museum & Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum. Activity Level – Extensive. Cost \$ 27.00 Depart 0930- Return 1630 The motor coach will be dropping off at the three locations around the National Mall listed above. You will be able to choose what you want to see in the area. There are several things to do on the National Mall that have no admission charge and no need to have a reservation for entry. Most locations have some sort of cafeteria and or you can choose one of several food truck vendors on the National Mall for an adventurous change of pace. The motor coach will be picking up starting at 1530 at the drop sites. Note, admission to the Spy Museum ranges from \$17.95 to \$22.95

**In Piedmont news:**

A thank you note was received from Kent Thomas thanking the association for the Piedmont plaque.

Piedmont Hats and Polo shirts are still available for purchase \$20.00 each with additional \$8.00 for postage these items will be available for purchase in Washington D.C. But why wait get yours early and look sharp at checkin.

Dates for 2021 Tucson Az. Are set for 26 September thru 01 October so lock in the date.

We again request the contact information be kept current including address, contact number and email. You never know when a old shipmate wants to make contact with you. For 2022 we are looking at Kansas City Mo. or Nashville TN. If you have another location and are willing to make site tour contact me, selection for 2022 will be made at Washington reunion.

In closing remember to make hotel reservation now and the deadline of 06 August after that time no hotel reservations can be made but you may cancel no refunds can be given for tours or banquet meal.

# Dixie Class Destroyer Tender Reunion Registration

September 17 to 21, 2020 in Herndon, Virginia, USS Piedmont Form



Registration due date August 6, 2020	Mail printed form to:	Michael Morast 150 Brown St. Tecumseh MI 49286	Questions 757-479-2733
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Last Name\*  First Name

\* If different last name while assigned to ship

Street address  City  State  Zip

Phone number  E-Mail

Spouse or guest last & first name

I served aboard the USS  - AD  Dates

Is this your first reunion yes  no

The registration fee for the reunion for the USS Piedmont shipmates is \$50. This includes use of the hospitality room, the Thursday night welcome reception, the Friday night meal, the Saturday afternoon lunch, and the Sunday night banquet.

Date & Time	Event	Tour #	Price/ person	Number of people	Price x People Total
Sept 17-21	Registration		\$50	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
Fri, Sept 18	Naval Academy OR	1	\$73	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
(circle choice)	Mount Vernon	2	\$72	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
Sat, Sept 19	Arlington & Monuments	3	\$77	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
Sun, Sept 20	Army Museum	4	\$34	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
(circle choice)	Manassas & Uder Hazy	5	\$32	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Washington DC mall	6	\$37	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Annual dues		\$15	Not applic	\$ <input type="text"/>
	<b>Total \$ (send check)</b>				\$ <input type="text"/>

Please make check payable to the "USS Piedmont Reunion Association". No registration accepted after the deadline. There are no refunds after the registration deadline.

Please note any special dietary or handicapped requirements in detail below:

Emergency contact name

relationship  Phone number

Reserve early: "Dixie Class Destroyer Tender Reunion Group Rate" of \$122.08 per night includes tax at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 800-445-8667. Check here  if you are staying at another hotel.