



U.S.S. SUWANNEE CVE 27 NEWSLETTER

2012 #1

Editor's Note

Happy Anniversary! That's right, this is our 25th anniversary as a reunion group. It seems like only yesterday that we started having these annual get-togethers. It was in 1988 that the first small group of pilots got together. They decided right away to expand the group to include not only the air groups, but also the men of the ship's crew.

The first challenge was to find as many of the men as possible. Unlike today, when everything is stored on computers, during World War II the Navy never built a complete list of all of the men who had served aboard a given ship, or in a specific air group. Each month the ship's captain turned in a muster roll that included the name of every man who had served aboard the ship at any time during the previous month. Those lists were never compiled into a single, inclusive list. Then there was the fact that many of Suwannee's records were classified for a long time following the war, which created additional problems for identifying all of our shipmates.

But the men who attended that first reunion started contacting the men they had kept in touch with, and those men started looking for the addresses of others that they knew, and slowly the group grew. At its peak the bunch, when it got together, numbered in the hundreds, men and their families included. Then, sadly, the numbers began to decline, as we lost more and more of those with whom we had served so proudly.

We never found them all, of course. Some had passed away before we started meeting. Others just remained beyond our grasp through the years. We still add a few each year, but never as many as we lose. Let's make this 25th year really count by reaching out to each other in every way that we can. Call one of your shipmates whenever you can. Tell the old stories once again. Listen to a few you may not have heard before. Keep the memory of the Suwannee alive.

-- Bill Reddell

Association Officers

President

Charles Casello

Vice-President

Bill Hunter

Secretary/Treasurer

Norm Jennewein

President's Message

This is the 25th year of the USS Suwannee CVE 27 and Related Air Groups Reunion Association. Since the first meeting in 1988, our reunion each year has been a great opportunity to get together and share memories.

The 2011 reunion held in Seattle was no exception. Earl George and his niece, Margaret Reese, served as great hosts and provided a number of exciting activities, along with opportunities to just get together and visit. I really appreciate all of the hard work I know went into making sure that everyone was welcome, and that they had a great time.

For 2012, Casimer Plonczynski and his family are working on plans for yet another great reunion experience, this time in Chicago. Details are on page three. I hope to see you all there.

**Charles Casello,
President**

Suwannee-Based TBM Being Restored

John Muszala is the founder of Pacific Fighters, a group that restores military aircraft. Recently John discovered through Naval records that the TBM they are restoring (see below) flew off the USS Suwannee. John is looking for any information our members may have about this plane, which is identified as TBM-3E Bu# 85849.



If this plane is listed in your logbook, if you have photos you know to be of this plane, or if you just have memories about it that you want to share, please contact John at (208) 522-3502.

www.pacificfighters.net

Images from the 2011 Seattle Reunion



Charlie Casello



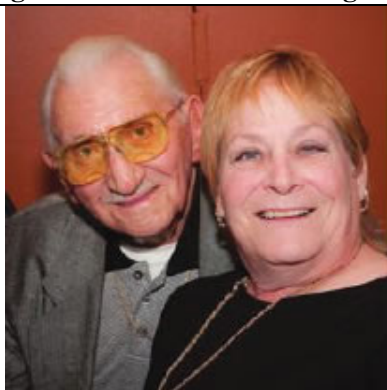
Margaret Reese and Earl George



William Moore



Casimer Plonczynski



Cactus and Terry Ann Walters



Joseph Kovac



Bob "Von Mueller" Mueller



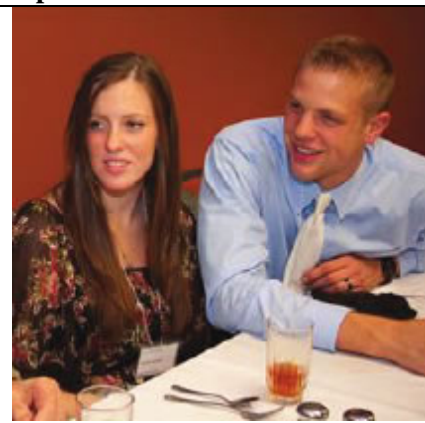
Seattle Reunion Group



Frank Urso and Margaret Reese



Flora Belle Stephenson and Milton Hemingway and Tina Conway and Harold Lawson



Lauren and Gregory George

2012 Reunion Scheduled for October 4-7 in Chicago

The 2012 Suwannee reunion has been scheduled for October 4-7 at the Hilton Garden Inn – Des Plaines, Illinois. The hotel is near Chicago's O'Hare Airport, which features direct flights from cities all across the county. The hotel is also right next door to the new Rivers Casino.

Thursday, October 4 will get things underway with registration and time together in the hospitality suite, which will

be open throughout the reunion. Friday will feature a tour of the Great Lakes Naval Base, where the memorial service will be conducted on site. A Chicago Day Trip is scheduled for Saturday, followed by the traditional banquet dinner.

Be sure to register at the hotel as soon as possible, as the Chicago Marathon is scheduled for the same weekend, and the hotel could fill up quickly. Call 1-847-296-8900 to secure your

room, and be sure to ask for the special USS Suwannee Reunion rate of \$99.00, plus tax, per night.

This year's reunion is being hosted by Casimer Plonczynski's family, with his daughter-in-law Mary Lu serving as coordinator. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lu by email at mlplon@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 708-228-9350.

See you there!



Maxwell Franklin Denman

When my dad and mom (Eleanor) went to his first Suwannee reunion, one of the guys came running up to Daddy looking like he had seen a ghost. He said, "Max is that really you?" Of course Daddy said "Yes, and may I ask who you are?" The man said, "I was the one who packed your parachute (when he was shot down and held as a P.O.W.), and all these years I've felt so guilty because I was told you were dead." He hugged Daddy till he couldn't breathe. To say the least, this poor man had carried this guilt for many, many years and now could forgive himself. They ended up enjoying each other's company that night.

Just one more of the thousands of stories.

Thanks for letting me share.

Heidi Denman Hogan

25 YEARS

**USS Suwannee CVE 27
and Related Air Groups
Reunion Association**

Suwannee License Plate

If you live in a state that does not require an official license plate on the front of your car, you now have the option of putting a Suwannee plate there.

Use the link below the plate to access the website that sells them. We are not endorsing this website, but a Suwannee license plate is really a great idea.



http://www.cafepress.com/+uss_suwannee_cve27_aluminum_license_plate.554701653

The photo above is of Air Group 27. Brian Carpenter, the son of a Suwannee crewman provided the photo. For an electronic copy of this photo, send a request by email to reddell@sbcglobal.net.

Suwannee Veteran Serves as Parade Grand Marshal

My father, Joseph Kovac, served as the Grand Marshall of the 2011 John Basilone Parade in his hometown of Raritan, N.J. The parade – held annually in honor of Congressional Medal of Honor winner John Basilone, who was also from Raritan – took place on Sept. 25. Below is a link to Grand Marshall profile story on my father, which includes a photo of the USS Suwannee.

<http://www.raritan-online.com/kovac.htm>

One other note: my father, who has attended the last four USS Suwannee reunions, turned 91 on Dec. 12.

Kevin Kovac
Ephrata, PA

Contacts Sought by Suwannee Relatives

Over the past few months we have had several people contact us by way of the website who are looking for someone who might remember a relative of theirs who served on the Suwannee. If you recognize the name of a shipmate, the relative listed next to their name would like to hear from you.

Shipmate	Shipmate's Relative	Contact Method	Other Information
Richard F. Bailey	Bill Storie	Samhilde2@aol.com	Airman/Gunner VT60
Jerome "Pops" Bauter	Curtis J. Bauter – Son	curion@att.net	Carpenter's Mate 3/C
Joseph Shelby Bruce	Dennis Bruce – Nephew	dennisbruce@roadrunner.com	"Junie" – California
Vincent Calo	Dana Calo Winkler - Daughter	dwick@gwog.com	240-247-2104
Miles Canon	Himself	229-436-2802	
George Oliver Cook	Darrell W. Cook – Son	twofeathers52@gmail.com	Aviation Mechanic 1/C
Milton E. De Voe, Jr.	Kevin De Voe – Son	kdevoe5@hotmail.com	Cribbage Player
Maxwell Franklin Denman	Heidi Denman Hogan	rangersmom15@aol.com	From Arkansas
Harry Ebbeson	Harry Ebbeson, Jr. – Son	hebbeson@fbdoover.com	Gunner – TBM/F
John J. "Jocko" Girard	Ronda Thoele – Granddaughter	jaysha.grandma@hotmail.com	Gunner's Mate
John Edward Jack	Brittany Jack – Granddaughter	BJack@afap.com	
Ens. R.E. Nelson	Mark Ruby – Researcher	Mavric1@msn.com	VF-40
James Alexander Nickles	James Nickles – Son	501-286-0703	Cook
Clarence Edward Radcliff	David Radcliff – Son	586-277-6023	



This is a 9-foot long model of the USS Sangamon, constructed from scratch by Austrian model-maker, Rene Hieronymus. Since the Sangamon and Suwannee were identical except for the number on the side, this provides a great idea of what the Suwannee looked like. See more photos on the Suwannee Cve27 Facebook page. It is available at the link below:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/USS-Suwannee-Cve27/216146005077259>

- Taps -

Name	Date
Richard F. Bailey	3-31-08
Carlos Creeger	3-11-11
Billy Harold Davidson	3-16-11
Maxwell F. Denman	2-10-99
Cecil V. Easley	7-8-10
James Edgar Foy	10-08-10
Matt "Mike" Frkovic	10-7-11
John Edward Jack	9-1-94
William H. McManes	4-14-11
Ivo Pfaffman	3-27-08
Clarence E. Radcliff	2-17-98
Fred Allen Reed	10-22-61
E. W. Reichenbach	12-12-11
Eugene Robbins	6-13-10
Charles Spranger	1-1-12
Clinton Weed	7-24-11
Lee Byron White	2-13-12



If you have a story about the USS Suwannee that you have not seen before in the newsletter, please let us know at [reddell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:red dell@sbcglobal.net). Don't let the history of the Suwannee go untold. To get your newsletter more quickly (by email), send your email address to [reddell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:red dell@sbcglobal.net). Past issues of the newsletter are available in the "Newsletter" section of the Suwannee website at www.usssuwannee.org.