



USS JAMES MADISON (SSBN627) ASSOCIATION

A 501c Veterans Organization

December 2019

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and
A most prosperous New Year

Dear Shipmates and Friends,

This past May saw many of us coming together for a great reunion in Rapid City, SD. If you missed this one, you missed a treat.

Many thanks to Don and Veronica Hix for putting together a great time for us all. Much appreciation to several local businesses that donated to our gathering and to the local USSVI Polaris Base chapter for their assistance in our remembrance of those boats and sailors who are on eternal patrol.

One hundred plus of our shipmates and their families, including 11 USS James Madison plank-owners from the commissioning crew attended this reunion. We covered the full life of the boat with at least 3 from the decomm crew as well. Quite a few of our shipmates were Reunion first-timers.

Our time together included sharing some true (absolutely!) tales and memories and tours to include Mt. Rushmore, Custer Park, Sturgis, and the open pit mine at Lead. Many also managed to fit in some touring before and after the reunion.

In our business meeting, we selected board members as well identifying two charities (Wounded Warrior Project and USSVI) and three submarine museums (Drum, Cavalla, Silversides) to receive donations from our healthy treasury.

An on-going issue for us is to locate and reach our shipmates. Thanks to the generous donation of time from a stranger online, we've been able to connect with 70+ more of our shipmates since the reunion. We're estimating 3500+ crew over the years and we'll mail this newsletter to around 1000. Any help in identifying and locating remaining shipmates is appreciated. There is a list of shipmates on the website showing some of the missing, but we still know that there are still some that have not been identified.

The Association has run a store for a number of years. It has been helpful in providing 627 related

items and also providing additional funding for our efforts. We decided to close out the store. As of the end of the 2019 Reunion, any remaining inventory was donated to local charities.

Planning is underway for our next Reunion to be held in 2021 in Galveston-Houston Texas. Details will be shared via email and postal mail as soon as they are finalized. We look forward to seeing you there.

Membership Dues: The Membership Form is enclosed. If you've already paid up through 2020, you can disregard. The date can be found on your current membership card. Dues are \$10 per year, even if you miss a year. The dues help to support the association and the Reunions. If you're unsure about your status, please contact our secretary, Sam Walton at:

secretary@ussjamesmadison627.com.

Historian: JD Walton is our ship's historian and continues to collect sea stories and memorabilia that have been saved. If you have things to share with him, please contact him at w1140@msn.com. These memories are available to share at our reunions.

Choosing the 2023 Reunion Site: To be considered for a reunion location, a site must have someone who is willing to sponsor that site. A sponsor is someone who agrees to take responsibility for making the arrangements, finances for deposits and so forth will be paid by the Association. Potential sponsored locations will be discussed at the next Reunion. Where should we go next??

USSVI: United States Submarine Veterans, Incorporated is a nationwide organization of Submarine Veterans. Visit their website at www.ussvi.org and "Find A Base" or "Join Us" for more information.

Current Board of Directors

President: Keith Holman
Keith.Holman@verizon.net

Treasure: Don Hix
Vcahix@hotmail.com

Volunteers' of Merit:

Historian: JD Walton

Webmaster: Keith Holman

Vice President: Aaron "Bubba" Gehm

Secretary: Sam Walton
Secretary@ussjamesmadison627.com

Memorials: Charline Huwe

USS James Madison Special Items



Challenge coins: they are 2 inches in diameter and solid brass. They are available by contacting Gil Raynor at 281 497-8372. Only a few remain, Cost will be \$25. Including shipping. These are larger than most boat coins you can purchase.

Remaining inventory from the store includes a few of the embroidered patch. Cost is \$8.50 shipped (US only). There are a number of prints still available. \$13.00 Shipped. Contact Keith Holman for details.

Although the store is no longer operated by the Association, Madison memorabilia may be ordered directly from Ron Martini and Gil Raynor. You can look at submarinestore.com for the items, but do not place your order online or you will not get the discount. Custom configurations are also available. (Gil is a Madison shipmate).

Fun in the Black Hills of South Dakota



USSVI Polaris Base Rapid City, SD did the ceremony for the Tolling of lost boats



ANNUAL MADISON ASSOCIATION DUES

Name _____

Wife's Name (for Assoc. Membership and/or our records) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail _____

What Years on Board? 19__ to 19__ Crew _____ Rate/Dept. _____

Amount Paid \$ _____ Yr./Yrs/ Pd. For _____

Dues are \$10 per year. (If not sure, contact the Secretary, at secretary@ussjamesmadison627.com, who maintains a current list.) Associate Members (Wives) are \$10 per yr. If you wish to pay in advance, add \$10 for each year and note above. Make check payable to: **USS JAMES MADISON ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Mail to:

Don Hix, Treasurer
4911 Albert Lane
Rapid City, SD 57703

PLEASE REMEMBER, by being a paid member of the Association, you are helping to finance the continuation of the USS James Madison SSBN627 Association and the reunions it sponsors.



USS James Madison SSBN 627 Association, Inc.
4911 Albert Ln
Rapid City, SD 57703-6420
www.ussjamesmadison627.com

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 618
RAPID CITY, SD



USS James Madison Sailors
Reunion 2019