



THE *"We Remember"* MISSOURIAN

AUGUST 2025

NUMBER 6

USS Missouri BB-63 Reunion

LIBERTY CALL ~ WILMINGTON, NC ~ SEPT 25 - 28, 2025

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at this year's reunion! It is **September 25-28, 2025** at the **Embassy Suites by Hilton in Wilmington, NC**. To register online copy/paste this link directly in your search bar: www.events.afr-reg.com/e/Missouri2025 There you can fill out the reunion form and make your hotel reservations. If you prefer snail mail, you can print out the form located in the newsletter, fill it out and mail it, along with your check payment, to this address:

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510 **ATTN: USS Missouri BB-63**

Once all of the available group inventory in our block is sold, the link will default to the next best available rate at the hotel (if there are rooms available outside of the block). You have until **August 25th**, so don't delay! Let us know if there are any problems with your rooms.



**Embassy Suites by Hilton
Wilmington, NC**

USS MISSOURI BB-63 REUNION HOTEL INFO

Embassy Suites by Hilton in Wilmington, NC

Our hotel overlooks the Cape Fear River and Battleship North Carolina. The Wilmington Downtown Riverwalk passes by our door, and we're a half-mile from the Historic District. There is a beautiful scenic rooftop bar, indoor and outdoor pool and gym. Enjoy free made-to-order breakfast and complimentary evening receptions.



USS MISSOURI BB-63 REUNION 2025

Thursday 9/25 - Check-in time is 3 PM or later, but the Hospitality Room will be open and manned at 1:30 PM. Please come to this room upon arrival to check in with our USS Missouri host. You will receive everything you will need for the reunion. You may store your luggage in this room temporarily if your room is not ready.

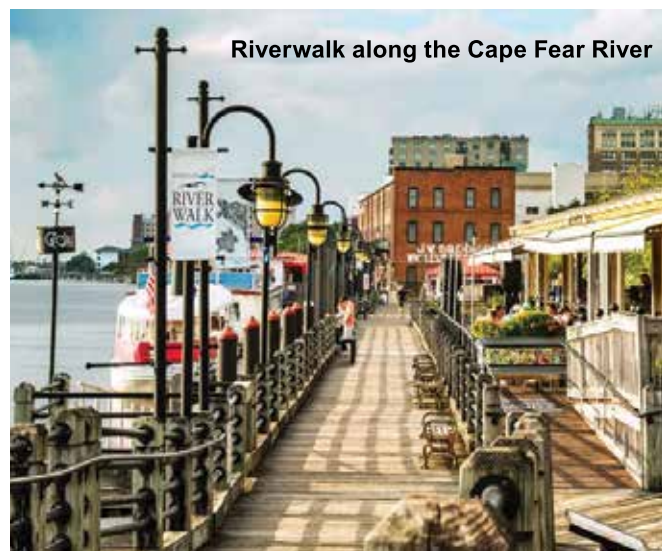
Friday Morning 9/26 - We will visit the Battleship North Carolina. Transportation will be provided via water taxi, leaving at 9 AM on Conlon Pier Dock (located on the riverwalk directly behind Embassy Suites.) Return from Battleship NC Dock 11:45 AM. Upon return trip from Battleship NC, you may be dropped off at one of 3 dock locations: Chanders Wharf (restaurant options), Market Street (shopping and restaurants), or Conlon Pier at Embassy Suites.

Friday Afternoon 9/26 - A River Cruise is available from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM. Pick up and drop off at Conlon Pier. We will cruise north along the Historic Downtown and Eagles Island. Comfortable seating, restroom and a full service bar will be available. The hospitality room will be open all day. Our annual auction will be held that evening from 7 PM - 9 PM.

Saturday Morning 9/27 - The Association Executive Committee will meet at 9 AM, followed by the General Business meeting at 10 AM. Everyone is encouraged to attend the General meeting. We will vote on locations for the 2026, 2027 and 2028 reunions. Only members may vote, so make sure to pay your dues before Saturday. If you have any questions about either meeting or *Plan of the Day* please contact Jeff Clemmer or Larry Geyer. The Hospitality Room will be open from 12 NOON until 4:30 PM.

Saturday Evening 9/27 - The Banquet Room will open at 6 PM with a cash bar. All shipmates are encouraged to attend. Dress is semi-formal. At 6:30 PM, all will take their seats and Memorial Services will commence. Directly following Memorial Services, the meal will be served. There will be a program and recognition of some of our shipmates following the meal. Our President, Jeff Clemmer will have closing comments. Once the banquet is complete, we will move to the Hospitality Room.

Sunday 9/28 - Breakfast for Missouri hotel guests and say farewells... until next reunion.



Three things you need to do to attend the reunion:

- 1) Be a member of the USS Missouri BB-63 Association.
- 2) Fill out the reunion registration form located at: www.events.afr-reg.com/e/Missouri2025
- 3) Reserve your hotel room by using the link on the online registration form or Call 1-910-765-1131, press 1 for reservations and use the group code: 934

Deadline for hotel reservations: August 25, 2025

USS MISSOURI BB-63 REUNION PLAN OF THE DAY

THURSDAY – 25 SEP 2025

- 1330 – Hospitality room opens; everyone check-in at hospitality room for your packet
- 1500 – Check-in at the Embassy Suites, Wilmington, NC
- 1700 – Dinner – on your own (we will provide recommendations)
- 1900 – Welcoming by President in hospitality room
- 2359 – Hospitality rooms secured

FRIDAY – 26 SEP 2025

- 0800 – Breakfast in hotel restaurant
- 0900 – Water taxi to Battleship North Carolina
- 1145 – Water taxi returns from Battleship North Carolina
- 1215 – Hospitality room open
- 1300 – Lunch – on your own
- 1530 – River Cruise along Cape Fear river
- 1700 – Dinner – on your own
- 1900 – Hospitality room, auction of special items
- 2359 – Hospitality room secured

SATURDAY – 27 SEP 2025

- 0800 – Breakfast in hotel restaurant
- 0800 – Hospitality Room opens
- 0900 – Executive Committee meeting
- 0950 – Hospitality Room closes for meeting
- 1000 – Business meeting; called to order
- 1200 – Lunch – on your own
- 1200 – Hospitality room opens
- 1600 – Hospitality room secured
- 1800 – Cash bar opens
- 1830 – Memorial Service/Banquet starts; take your seat
- 2000 – Meal complete, recognition, awards
- 2030 – Cash bar secure
- 2200 – President address
- 2230 – Banquet secured
- 2230 – Hospitality room opens when banquet complete
- 2359 – Hospitality room secured

SUNDAY – 28 SEP 2025

- 0800 – Breakfast in hotel restaurant
- 0900 – Farewells till next reunion, 2025
- 1100 – Checking out; clear hotel

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Clemmer @ (704) 349-3458 or clemmer5@aol.com or any other reunion team members.

USS MISSOURI BB-63 REUNION - WILMINGTON, NC



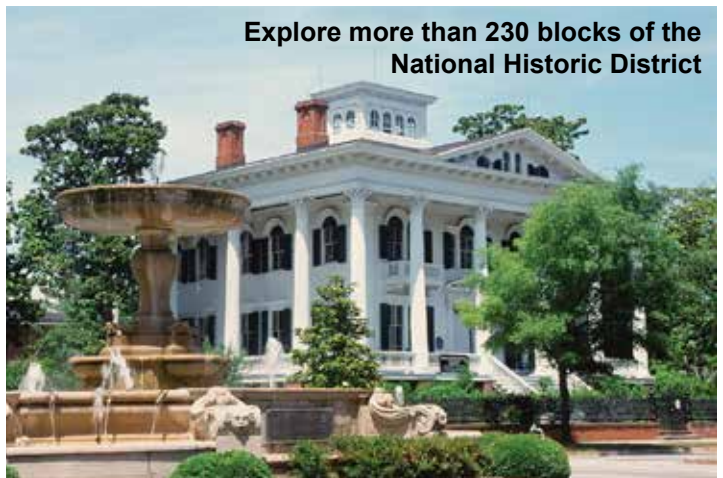
Horse drawn carriages carry you over brick covered street downtown



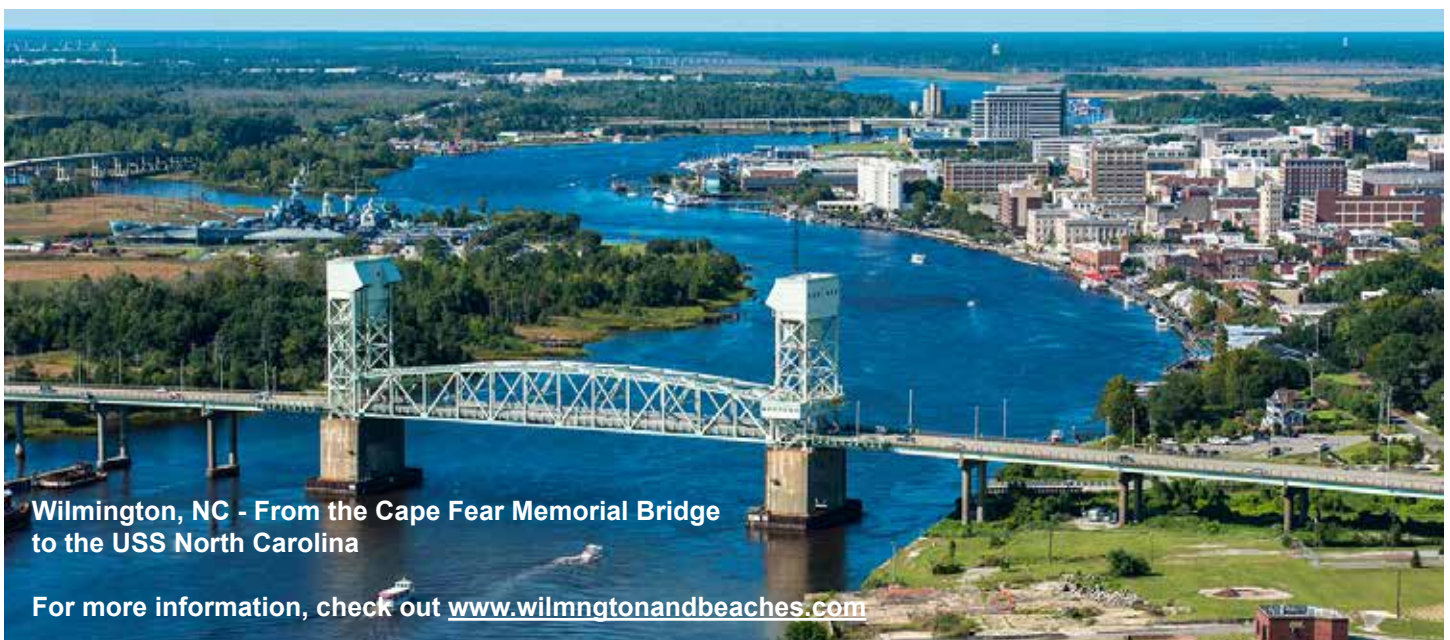
Scenic views of the Cape Fear River along the Riverwalk



Carolina Beach, Kure Beach and Wrightsville Beach are just a short drive away



Explore more than 230 blocks of the National Historic District



Wilmington, NC - From the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge to the USS North Carolina

For more information, check out www.wilmngtonandbeaches.com

USS Missouri BB-63 Reunion Registration Form

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter a quantity for each event you and your guests wish to participate in. Then total your costs and send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of a check or money order. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.events.afr-reg.com/e/Missouri2025 (online registrations have a convenience fee of 4%). Registration form and payment must be received on or before **August 25**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of your completed form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form. (Returned checks will incur a \$20 fee)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: USS Missouri BB-63

OFFICE USE ONLY Check # _____

Received _____ Inputted _____

Don't forget CUT-OFF date is August 25!

	Price	# of Ppl	Total
<u>TOURS</u>			
Friday, September 26: Battleship North Carolina tour	\$15	#	\$
Friday, September 26: Afternoon River Cruise	\$25	#	\$
<u>MEALS</u>			
Saturday, September 27: Banquet Buffet • Braised Beef Short Ribs • Tarragon Brown Butter Salmon • Honey Pecan Chicken • Garlic Mashed Potatoes • Seasonal Vegetables • Crisp Green Salad	\$52	#	\$
Total number in your party (including member, spouse, and guests)	-----	#	-----
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. -----			\$

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND SPOUSE/GUEST NAMES AS YOU WISH THEM TO APPEAR ON THE NAMETAG:

FIRST _____ LAST _____

YEARS SEVED (Ex. 1969-1970) _____ RATE/RANK _____

SPOUSE / GUEST NAME(S) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST, ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ PH. # _____

DISABILITY / DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME _____ PH. # _____

DO YOU NEED TO BE HYDRAULICALLY LIFTED ONTO THE BUS IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN TOURS? ☐ YES ☐ NO
(PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

Hospitality Room:

Soda and water will be provided with sweet and salty snacks and restocked daily. Beer must be purchased from the hotel per North Carolina ABC laws.

You may check in two (2) days early and stay two (2) days extra for same price, per hotel availability. You will be responsible for reserving your own room.

(Special hotel room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly to the hotel staff upon reservation)

REGISTER ONLINE AT: www.events.afr-reg.com/e/Missouri2025

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the President of the USS Missouri Association BB63,

The reunion is less than two months away! Have you made your arrangements to attend? The committee has been hard at work planning this year's reunion. We need your attendance to make it a success! Don't wait until the last moment, book your room now. Call your shipmates and remind them. Get the word out!

The gun raffle ticket sales were a **SUCCESS!** All tickets were sold out. I look forward to seeing who will win each of the four engraved pistols at this year's banquet. We have also added a 5th engraved pistol, that will only be available for attendees who signed up for the banquet. You must be present to win, and up to date on your dues. That's another reason to attend this year's USS Missouri Association Reunion in Wilmington North Carolina. Home of the Battleship North Carolina BB55.

Friday morning we will be taking a water taxi over to the Battleship North Carolina. Remember to bring your Sea Legs! The Battleship North Carolina BB55 served in every major Naval Offensive across the Pacific, earning 15 battle stars. She is the most decorated American battleship of World War 2, and she was present at the Surrender of Japan.

Friday night will be the auction for our Scholarship Fund. Please bring an item to auction off, if you can. The scholarship fund is supported by your donations and the auction. We award 4 scholarships each year. Football Coach Dabo Swinney has donated an "ALL IN" autographed Clemson Tiger football to this year's auction! If you know of someone that would donate, please contact them. All donations are tax deductible.

Frank Clay wants to remind all the USS Missouri Sailors of the 3 Day event taking place August 31-2 September onboard the Battleship Missouri. This will be the 80th anniversary of the signing of the instrument of surrender onboard the USS Missouri 2 September 1945. Check www.ussmissouri.org/wwii or contact Frank at frankc@ussmissouri.org for more information. My wife and I will be attending and I hope to see you there also. It will be a memorable occasion!

Remember if you have questions, please contact any of our officers listed in the newsletter or me. We are here to help. I look forward to seeing you in September!

Respectfully,

Jeff Clemmer

President USS Missouri Association BB63

Your Association Team consists of:

President – Jeff Clemmer

Financial Secretary – Ken Gallagher

Newsletter Editor – Cindy Clemmer

Membership Chair – Robert Whaley

Historian – Steven Snowden

Storekeeper – Norbert Rebholz

BB-63 Curator – Frank Clay

Vice President – Larry Geyer

Secretary – Bridget Kennedy

Scholarship Chair – John McKinney

Web Site Manager – Robert Whaley

Chaplain – Greg Mock

Master @ Arms – Alfredo Pantaleon

LETTER FROM FORMER PRESIDENT

Hello Shipmates,

My name is Joe Doran PLANKOWNER USS Missouri BB-63. That was a title I was most proud of for most of my adult life.

That all changed about 10 years ago or so. I was at our annual reunion in Washington DC. Our Korean War Veteran Brothers laid the law down to us reccom to deccom Missouri Sailors. They were tired and getting up in age and wanted us to take over the association. I was nominated and elected President. I put a strong team in place with key personnel Norm Cummins VP and Ken Gallagher Financial secretary (and a few more jobs).

We promised the WWII and Korean War vets we wouldn't let them down. We didn't make many changes we moved locations from west coast to Midwest to east coast.

We had a couple good years then covid hit. Attendance has been slipping. Master Chief Clemmer and his team are doing their best to turn it around. It's a job they can't do alone. It's the responsibility of every one of us. Get the word out and bring a Shipmate Brother with you. We're all getting close to retirement, if not there already. Trust me once you come, you'll come back every year.

BATTLESHIP MISSOURI MEMORIAL UPDATE

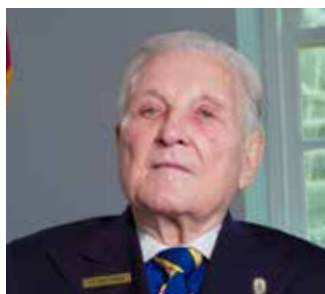
As we commemorate the **80th Anniversary** of the **End of World War II** on September 2, 2025, we are deeply honored to welcome eight living World War II veterans and former USS Missouri crewmembers back aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial – each of whom witnessed history firsthand and helped shape the legacy of peace we uphold today.

In keeping with this year's theme, **Eternal Legacy: Honoring the Greatest Generation and Inspiring the Next**, these extraordinary individuals remind us of the courage, sacrifice, and resilience that defined a generation. We invite you to be part of this historic occasion as we pay tribute to these heroes and continue sharing their stories to inspire generations to come.

Meet the Living Legacies of the Mighty Mo



Mr. Doyle Boothroy
Aerographer's Mate Third Class



Mr. Edgar Buffman
Gunner's Mate Second Class



Mr. John DeLeo
Seaman First Class



Mr. Judge Davis
Seaman First Class



Mr. Lee Broussard
Yeoman Third Class



Mr. Robert Kennedy
Electrician's Mate Second Class



Mr. Robert Somrak
Fire Controlman Third Class



Mr. Thomas Schoenecker
Seaman Second Class

BATTLESHIP MISSOURI MEMORIAL UPDATE

Join us August 30 – September 2, 2025, for a special series of events commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the End of WWII. Presented by the Bob and Dolores Hope Foundation and in partnership with the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum, this tribute honors the legacy of the Greatest Generation and all who served.

Experience living history through brand-new exhibit unveiling, exclusive after-hours programs, and our signature annual commemoration ceremony. Explore the full schedule of events below and be part of this unforgettable tribute.

An Evening of Honor: 80 Years of Remembrance - August 31, 2025 (Ticketed event)

- Join us for a welcome banquet at the Battleship Missouri Memorial, paying tribute to WWII Veterans, USS Missouri crewmembers who were eyewitnesses of the historic *Surrender*, and the *Greatest Generation*. This ticketed event offers table sales to support and honor these heroes in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the End of WWII.

Steel Beach Picnic - September 1, 2025 (BB-63 Crew and families only)

- Crewmembers of the USS Missouri and their families are invited to a reunion at the Battleship Missouri Memorial. Hosted by former crewmember and BBQ Pitmaster Moe Cason, this special gathering offers great food, camaraderie, and sea stories about the ship they once called home.

80th Anniversary of the End of WWII Commemoration – September 2, 2025

(Public event – will also be livestreamed)

- Battleship Missouri Memorial will host a ceremony commemorating the End of WWII, honoring the Greatest Generation and marking the Surrender Ceremony that happened on the decks of the Mighty Mo. USS Missouri crewmembers, WWII veterans, military officials, and US and Japanese government officials will be in attendance.

If you are planning to come, or virtually attend the commemoration ceremony, we'd love to see any photos from your time aboard the Mighty Mo.

Please share using this link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/pcUoxBdjOSljH4r0OuPt>

You can also check here for the latest updates on our commemoration efforts:

www.ussmissouri.org/wwii

If you plan to attend these events in person, please contact Frank Clay via email to let him know and he will add you to our RSVP list so you will receive information and updates from our Communications Team.

If you or a shipmate are planning to visit the ship, please contact Frank ahead of time so he can make your complimentary reservations and VIP arrangements.

Frank Clay's contact information:

BB-63 Curator / Frank Clay
USS Missouri Memorial Association, Inc.
63 Cowpens Street
Honolulu, HI 96818

(808) 455-1600 ext: 229 frankc@ussmissouri.org



U.S.S. MISSOURI (BB-63) ASSOCIATION, INC.

UNITED STATES NAVY AND MARINE CORPS VETERANS

"WE REMEMBER"



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I SUBMIT MY NAME FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE USS MISSOURI (BB-63) ASSOCIATION,
FORMED IN 1974 TO PROMOTE THE FRATERNAL CIVIC AND PATRIOTIC TIES
AMONG FORMER SHIPMATES WHO SERVED ABOARD THE BATTLESHIP MISSOURI (BB-63)

Please print or type:

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Years Served Onboard: 19 _____ to 19 _____ Rate/Rank _____

Type of Membership (circle one): New Renewal

Scholarship Donation: _____

Membership donations are \$25.00 per year and expire on December 31st of each year.

Your donation entitles you to all rights and privileges accorded in the bylaws of the Association.

Make donation payable to the **USS MISSOURI (BB-63) ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Mail donation and Application to:

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

Robert H. Whaley III

USS Missouri Ass. Membership Chair

490 Hicks Creek Rd

Troutman NC 28166

GET TO KNOW YOUR TEAM

USS Missouri BB-63 Association, Inc.

ELECTED POSITIONS

President **Jeff Clemmer** (704) 349-3458
2307 Hillside Dr clemmer5@aol.com
Dallas, NC 28034

Jeff is responsible for all the actions of the Executive Committee and handles any complaints. He will continue to improve our services and ensure the Association grows and stays financially stable.

Financial Secretary **Ken Gallagher** (860) 682-3281
102 Wakefield Circle kens4gcell.kg@gmail.com
East Hartford, CT 06118

Ken Gallagher maintains our financial records and keeps all records in order. He also keeps us in good standing with the state and the IRS.

Secretary **Bridget Kennedy** (919) 607-1605
245 Lumberjack Ln Wbkennedy1991@gmail.com
Louisburg, NC 27549

Bridget is responsible for taking record of all meetings and maintaining a copy of the minutes.

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Vice President **Larry Geyer** (562) 883-0702
1015 E. Carson St #6 BB63BM2@hotmail.com
Long Beach, CA 90807

Larry keeps the wheels turning with the operations of the association. He is in charge with setting up our reunion and is always available to answer questions.

Newsletter Editor **Cindy Clemmer** (704) 349-3422
2307 Hillside Dr cindyclemmer@yahoo.com
Dallas, NC 28034

Cindy gathers all the information provided to her via email and organizes documents into a readable format. She then creates the newsletter and provides an emailable copy to be distributed.

Chaplain **Greg Mock** (715) 225-9372
S197 Mock Rd
Mondovi, WI 54755

Greg is responsible for providing spiritual guidance and support for all members.

GET TO KNOW YOUR TEAM

Historian **Steven Snowden** (916) 705-6735
steven86336@yahoo.com

Steven builds on our history with interesting reads and photos. There are many memories made in the Navy and on the USS Missouri. We want to capture those stories and add them to our history.

Storekeeper **Norbert Rebholz** (412) 670-6555
104 Kimber Drive battleshipbosnmate@gmail.com
McMurray, PA 15317

Norbert has the responsibility of effectively running our ship's store and maintaining a stock of inventory. He brings an assortment of items to each reunion for purchase.

Scholarship Chairman **John McKinney** (207) 272-0447
76 Ocean House Rd jmckinney1maine@yahoo.com
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107-1142

John gathers information on applicants seeking our scholarship toward college tuition. He answers any questions regarding scholarship applications and distributions.

Master at Arms **Alfredo Pantaleon** (201) 667-0218
171 Burke Ave libra666@juno.com
Staten Island, NY 10314

Alfredo is responsible for the Association's banner and colors. Under the direction of the President, he shall maintain order at all meetings and functions.

Web Site Manager & Membership Chairman **Robert H. Whaley III**
490 Hicks Creek Rd ussmissouriassnmembership@gmail.com
Troutman, NC 28166

Robert is responsible for creating and maintaining the USS Missouri reunion website, updating it regularly to keep information current. He has also taken on the task of bringing in new members to our association and maintaining all records regarding membership.

HONORARY POSITION

BB-63 Curator **Frank Clay** (808) 455-1600 ext: 229
USS Missouri Memorial 63 Cowpens Street frankc@ussmissouri.org
Association, Inc. Honolulu, HI 96818

Frank collects and maintains the exhibitions of precious collections of the USS Missouri BB-63. He keeps us informed with all the happenings at the USS Missouri and ensures that we will have a memorable tour when we visit.

DUES 2025

**Check your membership card. Does it show 2025 or later?
If not, you have not paid any dues since the date shown!
Act NOW!!! Help keep our Association going!**

In order to run an organization such as ours, we need your help. By sending your donation early in the year, it gets your membership card early and helps us with our expenses and bookkeeping. It also keeps you on the mailing list! **Make the effort.** Put this notice with your “**BILLS TO BE PAID**” and send your check in the next mail. Dues can now be either mailed in or ***paid for on the website****. (Yearly dues are \$25.00.) Please indicate if you are paying for multiple years or donating to the Scholarship Fund.

Your check should be made out to: USS Missouri (BB-63) Association

Send payment to:

**Membership Chairman / Robert H. Whaley III
490 Hicks Creek Rd
Troutman, NC 28166**

Check appropriate box for dues:

2025 ☐

2026 ☐

2027 ☐

Yearly Dues are \$25.00

Amount Dues: \$ _____

Scholarship Fund Donation: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

***To make your payment via website, go to <https://ussmissouriassociation.com>
and follow the directions listed there.**

HISTORY OF OUR ASSOCIATION

We are a 501(C) 19 registered in the state of Connecticut. We were organized in 1974 and our Founders are:

- John T. Finn
- Lou Dellaripa
- William T. Walsh
- Joseph G. Writh
- Thomas F. Fluck
- Walter Yucka
- Joseph Vella
- Anthony Angarano

List of Presidents by Year and Locations of Reunions

1974	1st / New York City	John T. Finn
1975	Hartford, Connecticut	John T. Finn
1976	Seattle, Washington	John T. Finn
1977	Boston, Massachusetts	John T. Finn
1978	Kansas City, Missouri	John T. Finn
1979	Norfolk, Virginia	John T. Finn
1980	Orlando, Florida	John T. Finn
1981	Buffalo, New York	John T. Finn
1982	Charleston, SC	John T. Finn
1983	10th / Carlisle, Pennsylvania	Jack Haynes
1984	Portland, Maine	Jack Haynes
1985	Annapolis, Maryland	George Schuette
1986	Nashville, Tennessee	George Schuette
1987	New Orleans, Louisiana	Ralph Berry
1988	Long Beach, California	Ralph Berry
1989	Charleston, South Carolina	Ralph Berry
1990	Providence, Rhode Island	Anthony Allessandro
1991	North Norfolk, Virginia	Anthony Allessandro
1992	Chicago, Illinois	Anthony Allessandro
1993	20th / Orlando, Florida	Angelo Goffredo
1994	San Antonio, Texas	Angelo Goffredo
1995	Seattle, Washington	Angelo Goffredo
1996	Louisville, Kentucky	Angelo Goffredo

1997	Denver, Colorado	Herbert Fahr Jr.
1998	Honolulu, Hawaii	Herbert Fahr Jr.
1999	Jefferson City, Missouri	Herbert Fahr Jr.
2000	San Francisco, California	Herbert Fahr Jr.
2001	Buffalo, New York	John P. Sullivan
2002	Crystal City, Virginia	John P. Sullivan
2003	30th / Honolulu, Hawaii	John P. Sullivan
2004	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	John P. Sullivan
2005	Albuquerque, New Mexico	William D. Morton
2006	Portland, Maine	William D. Morton
2007	Nashville, Tennessee	William D. Morton
2008	San Antonio, Texas	William D. Morton
2009	Norfolk, Virginia	John Stempick Jr.
2010	Leslie, Illinois	John Stempick Jr.
2011	Mesa, Arizona	John Stempick Jr.
2012	Mobile, Alabama	John Stempick Jr.
2013	40th / Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	John Stempick Jr.
2014	Kissimmee, Florida	John Stempick Jr.
2015	Charleston, South Carolina	John Stempick Jr.
2016	Washington, DC	John Stempick Jr.
2017	Reno, Nevada	Joseph T. Doran
2018	Daytona, Ohio	Joseph T. Doran
2019	Norwalk, Connecticut	Joseph T. Doran
2020	San Antonio (Covid)	Joseph T. Doran
2021	San Antonio, Texas	Joseph T. Doran
2022	Charleston, South Carolina	Jerry Miller
2023	Albuquerque, New Mexico	Jerry Miller
2024	50th / Jefferson City, Missouri	Jerry Miller
2025	Wilmington, North Carolina	Jeff Clemmer

USS MISSOURI BB-63 COMMANDING OFFICERS

CAPT. Callaghan, William McCombe, USN (USNA 1918) :VADM	11.06.1944 - 14.05.1945
CAPT. Murray, Stuart Shadrick (Sunshine), USN (USNA) 1919 :ADM	14.05.1945 - 06.11.1945
CAPT. Hillenkoetter, Roscoe Henry, USN (USNA 1919) :VADM	06.11.1945 - 31.05.1946
CAPT. Hill, Tom Burbridge, USN (USNA 1922) :ADM	31.05.1946 - 02.04.1947
CAPT. Dennison, Robert Lee, USN (USNA 1923) :ADM	02.04.1947 - 23.01.1948
CDR. Colwell, John Barr, USN (USNA 1931) :VADM	23.01.1948 - 24.02.1948
CAPT. Thach Jr., James Harmon, USN (USNA 1923) :ADM	24.02.1948 - 05.02.1949
CAPT. Smith, Harold Page, USN (USNA 1924) :ADM	05.02.1949 - 10.12.1949
CAPT. Brown, William Drane, USN (USNA 1924) :VADM	10.12.1949 - 03.02.1950
CDR. Peckham, George Edward, USN (USNA 1931) :RADM	03.02.1950 - 07.02.1950
CAPT. Smith, Harold Page, USN (USNA 1924) :ADM	07.02.1950 - 19.04.1950
CAPT. Duke, Irving Terrill, USN (USNA 1925) :VADM	19.04.1950 - 02.03.1951
CAPT. Wright, George Charles, USN (USNA 1925) :VADM	02.03.1951 - 18.10.1951
CAPT. Sylvester, John (Jack), USN (USNA 1926) :VADM	18.10.1951 - 04.09.1952
CAPT. Edsall, Warner Ryerson, USN (USNA 1927)	04.09.1952 - 26.03.1953
CAPT. North, James Robert	26.03.1953 - 04.04.1953
CAPT. Brodie Jr., Robert (Steve), USN (USNA 1927) :RADM	04.04.1953 - 01.04.1954
CAPT. Keith, Robert Taylor Scott, USN (USNA 1928) :VADM	01.04.1954 - 18.09.1954
CAPT. North, James Robert	18.09.1954 - 26.02.1955

DECOMMISSIONED 26.02.1955 - 10.05.1986

CAPT. Kaiss, Albert Lee, USN	10.05.1986 - 20.06.1986
CAPT. Carney, James Allen (Al), USN	20.06.1986 - 06.07.1988
CAPT. Chernesky Jr., John Joseph, USN	06.07.1988 - 13.06.1990
CAPT. Kaiss, Albert Lee, CAPT USN	13.06.1990 - 31.03.1992



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ~ JULY 13, 2025

USS Missouri Zoom Meeting Agenda July 13, 2025

Members Attended: John McKinney, Mrs. John McKinney, Jeff Clemmer, Norm Cummins, Robert Whaley, Norbert Rebholz

- Discussed we have 4 guns to raffle, and 1 gun given away at the banquet to a USS Missouri Crew Member or wife, girlfriend or date, must have paid dues and be in good standing with the association. Can not just stop in, must have paid the banquet fee and dues for 2025. This is to encourage attendance at the banquet. All guns were donated.
- Still have outstanding money out from Wayne Kennedy, Bill Hall's sister Recheal Fuscardo, Kelly Brazille, Ken Gallagher. We still have 10 lost tickets in the mail. All tickets have been sold.
- Voted to give out two \$100 cash prizes and one \$50.00 cash prize from the raffle money.
- We need to get the gifts/prizes in for the auction and take a picture of the prizes and put them on the website for viewing. All members are encouraged to bring a prize to auction off. All money goes to the scholarship fund.
- An 80th anniversary challenge coin will be given out to all members attending the banquet.
- We have 150 active members with 122 paid dues for this year per the membership chairman Robert Whaley.
- Norm Cummins is working on the 2026 reunion details for San Diego, suggested second week of September 2026.
- Scholarship names were picked by the committee chaired by John McKinney and members Ken Gallagher and Robert Whaley. Checks will be written and sent out by July 16, 2025, by John McKinney.
- The storekeeper report cash on hand is \$3967.42 by Norb Rebholz.
- Website had issues with the sign up for the reunion, Robert is working on that, should be able to click on the newsletter and sign up that way.
- Several members will be in attendance September 2, 2025, onboard the USS Missouri for the 80th anniversary of the surrender of Japan. President, Membership chair and Treasure will be in attendance from the Association.
- Next meeting zoom will be August 9, 1300 Eastern Standard Time.
- Please pray for Bridget Kennedy. She has been ill recently and is in hospital. Also, keep Jerry Miller in your prayers as he is getting treatment for his illness. Also, keep the Joseph Doran family on the prayer list as his brother needs those prayers.
- Lastly, all info must be turned in by July 25 to the newsletter editor (Cindy Clemmer) cindyclemmer@yahoo.com as the newsletter will go out on August 1, 2025. We have a letter from myself, Norm, Joe Doran and Frank Clay along with Membership chair. Let's get those notes/letter/info in asap.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Clemmer

President of the USS Missouri Association BB63 (We Remember)

2025 USS MISSOURI ASSOCIATION RAFFLE INFO

We have completely **SOLD OUT** our allowance of Raffle Tickets! Thank you all for supporting our association. As you likely know, we have 4 (four) 1911 45 Caliber Pistols that will be auctioned off at the reunion in this year in Wilmington.

As shown in the photos, these pistols have US NAVY engraved on one side and USS MISSOURI BB63 on the other. There is also an additional USMC pistol engraved to honor the MarDet Marines. These pistols were engraved by Mark Haynes, a retired West Virginia State Policeman.

As a special surprise, there will be another 1911 45 Caliber Pistol raffled off at the banquet on Saturday night at the reunion! Only members in good standards will be eligible to win. You must have paid for your meal at the banquet and be present to win. Good luck to all ticket holders!



FRONT OF COIN



BACK OF COIN

This challenge coin was presented to the members of **Seal Team 6**, officially known as the Naval Special Warfare Development Group (DEVGRU). These team members are best known for the high-profile counter terrorism operations, including the raid that killed Osama Bin Laden.

2025 USS MISSOURI ASSOCIATION RAFFLE INFO



FRONT OF COIN



BACK OF COIN

Donald Trump Challenge Coin

donated by SOS Custom Coins

Vortex Rifle scopes has supplied us with one of their premium quality scopes.

Information regarding the **VORTEX** company is shown in the table below.



ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

Vortex® is a trusted, employee-owned, Wisconsin organization specializing in premium-quality, extreme-performance riflescopes, binoculars, and spotting scopes with a firmly established reputation for optics and superior customer service — before, during, and long after the sale.

1986

IT ALL STARTS IN A WILDBIRDS UNLIMITED...
Dan and Margie Hamilton move with their sons to Madison to start a business.

1998

EAGLE OPTICS MOVES TO MIDDLETON
Eagle Optics moves out of its location (within Wild Birds Unlimited) on Whitney Way to 2120 Greenview Drive in Middleton, the future first location of Vortex®.

2002

THE SPORT OPTICS MARKET CHANGES FOREVER
The Vortex® name hits the market for the first time and brings the legendary VIP Warranty to the market.

2007

VORTEX® GOES LONG, EXPANDING INTO RIFLESCOPES
Now a primary brand, Vortex® expands into riflescopes and red dots.

2018

HELLO BARNEVELD!
Vortex® moves to new headquarters in Barneveld, WI and launches an expanded apparel line.

2019

VORTEX EDGE® OPENS ITS DOORS
Offering content and personalized instruction to every level of shooter, our incredible team of instructors begins taking C.A.R.E. to a whole new level, thanks to the construction of a world-class indoor shooting facility.

2022

VORTEX® WINS US ARMY'S N.G.S.W. FIRE CONTROL CONTRACT
Vortex® is selected by U.S. Army to produce and deliver the Next Generation Squad Weapons – Fire Control (NGSW-FC) systems over a 10-year production period.

2024

VORTEX DOES GOLF
Vortex® brings C.A.R.E. to golf, with the launch of three golf laser rangefinders.

EAGLE OPTICS SPREADS ITS WINGS
Eagle Optics starts as a mail order company selling all major sport optics brands and would later go on to wholesale products to other Wild Birds Unlimited stores.

1987

EAGLE OPTICS MAKES ITS MARK
Eagle Optics starts to develop its own in house "Eagle Optics" brand and introduces the Eagle Optics Ranger binocular, the flagship piece in the lineup. The Lifetime, Unconditional Warranty (Platinum Class - the precursor to the VIP Warranty) is also born.

1999

WE MAKE OUR MARK
The Vortex® brand logo launches, along with branded products. Vortex® also shifts to a primary focus in the Hunting and Shooting markets.

2005

MADE IN AMERICA, THE SCONNIE WAY
Vortex® introduces the first product made in its Wisconsin facility, the Razor® HD AMG rifle scope.

2017

VORTEX NATION PODCAST LAUNCHES
Lovers of hunting, shooting and the outdoors gain a new way to interact with Team Vortex® – the rest is history.

2018

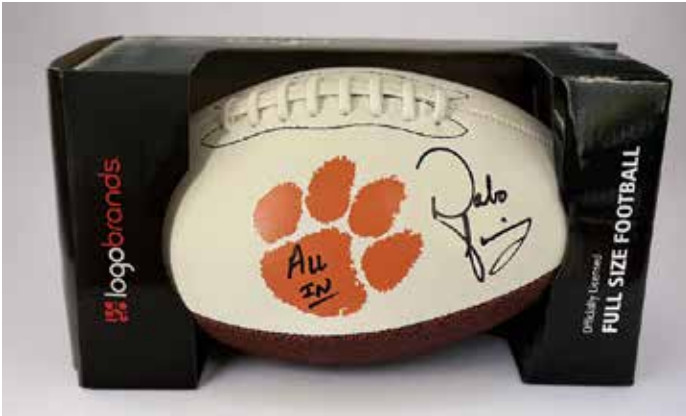
LITTLE BUFFALOS™ OPENS ITS DOORS
Vortex® opens its own daycare, Little Buffalos™, and classrooms begin to fill with Team Vortex®'s little ones!

2021

VORTEX® TRANSITION TO AN E.S.O.P. BECOMES OFFICIAL.
After years of planning, Vortex® embraces a future that belongs to all of us. (For more on the ESOP, head to Basecamp.)

2022

2025 USS MISSOURI ASSOCIATION RAFFLE INFO



Official autographed Clemson football, signed by Dabo Swinney



Clemson Golf hat, golf towel and box of Titleist golf balls

This is just a small sample of the items we will have available in our raffle. Many surprises, along with a few cash prizes, await all of those who attend the raffle. See you all there!

CUSTOM USS MISSOURI COINS AVAILABLE

The commemorative coins shown below were designed by Jeff Clemmer and David Ysaguirre and created by **SOS Custom Coins** of Perkinston, Mississippi, expressly for the servicemen who served onboard the USS Missouri. SOS Custom Coins, in business since 1998, is owned and operated by Retired Senior Chief Bill Dixon. Bill served 26 years as a Seabee.

Every shipmate who attends this year's reunion in Wilmington, NC will receive a complimentary coin. Additional coins will be available for purchase from the ships store and at the reunion.



Front



Back

SPONSORS SPOTLIGHT

Sponsors Spotlight is a new section of the newsletter that we have added to publicize and thank businesses who support the USS Missouri Association.

SOS Custom Coins

www.customcoins.com

Established in 1998 by Retired Senior Chief Seabee Bill Dixon. Bill served in the Navy for over 26 years. Bill's company is located in Perkinson, Mississippi. He does coins for all military and civilian organizations. He has designed coins for the *USS Cole* families and for the *Head of the Joint Chiefs*, to name but a few. He helped design the past two *USS Missouri Association* coins for our reunion. Bill is donating a coin this year for our auction that was made exclusively for Admiral Stanley McCraven (Seal) for the Osama Bin Laden raid. These coins were presented only to *Seal Team 6* members.



**Ret. Senior Chief
Bill Dixon, Owner of
SOS Custom Coins**

North Gaston Gun Shop

www.northgastongunshop.com

Established in 2014 by Robert and Vickey Laye of Dallas, North Carolina. This company is truly a family owned and run business with Curtis Lineberger (son-in-law) as the owner, Colby Lineberger (grandson) as salesperson and Jason Neill (son-in-law) as armorer/administration. The gun shop sells all types of rifles, pistols, revolvers and shot guns, as well as ammunition, cleaning supplies, holsters, targets, and a wide range of optics. North Gaston Gun Shop has been a sponsor of the USS Missouri Association Scholarship Auction and is supporting our 1911 Pistol Raffle.



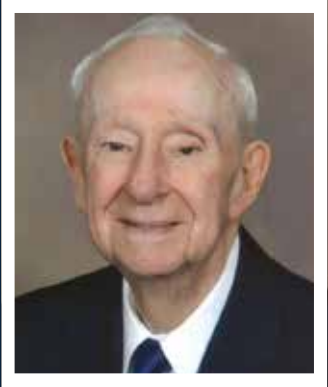
Twisted Southern Sisters

twisted-southern-sisters-company.square.site

Owners (and sisters) Brittany Laye and Erica Neill. Business formed in 2021 as an addition to The *North Gaston Gun Shop* to supply promotional t-shirts. The Sisters started small and have worked themselves into a full-time business supplying ball teams, schools, churches, cheerleading teams, and many more organizations with t-shirts, golf shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies to name a few items.

Twisted Southern Sisters have partnered with the USS Missouri Association to create and sell items for our organization with a portion of the sales being donated back. Items that can be purchased are found on the *USS Missouri Association* website.





Roland H. Bessinger

March 19, 1928 - February 26, 2025

Hailed from: Saginaw, Michigan



Rest in Peace Shipmate



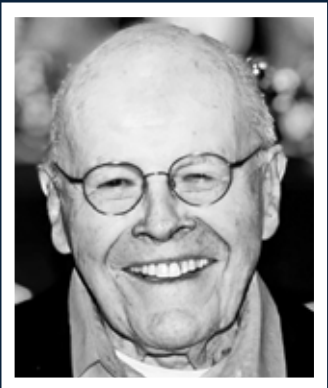
Richard George Reising

January 6, 1931 - March 18, 2025

Hailed from: Florence, Ohio



Rest in Peace Shipmate



John Joseph "Jack" Boyle, Jr.

July 6, 1930 - April 8, 2025

Hailed from: Belmont, Massachusetts



Rest in Peace Shipmate



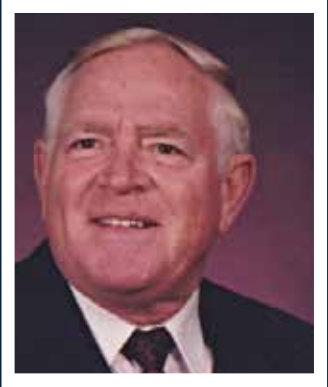
John A. Gonsorcik, Sr.

July 13, 1930 - April 14, 2025

Hailed from: East Douglas, Massachusetts



Rest in Peace Shipmate



Billy Ray Lyerly

April 19, 1931 - May 8, 2025

Hailed from: Dallas, North Carolina



Rest in Peace Shipmate



Thomas G. Weir

March 13, 1931 - May 17, 2025

Hailed from: Oak Park, Illinois



Rest in Peace Shipmate



Robert K. Murtha

March 12, 1931 - June 14, 2025

Hailed from: Central Falls, Rhode Island



Rest in Peace Shipmate



Harold E. Avery

January 2, 1933 - June 28, 2025

Hailed from: Overgaard, Arizona



Rest in Peace Shipmate



Francis M. Lima

March 25, 1932 - July 3, 2025

Hailed from: Fall River, Massachusetts



Rest in Peace Shipmate



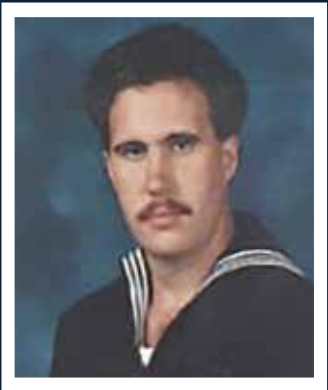
Stanley E. Bukowski, Jr.

Served Onboard Aug. 1948 - 1952

Hailed from: Buffalo, New York



Rest in Peace Shipmate



Michael Ramsey

Served Onboard 1985 - 1986

Engineering Department



Rest in Peace Shipmate

**"Anchors aweigh,
sailor,
your duty done.
Rest now,
your final voyage
has begun.
The ocean awaits,
your spirit
takes flight,
fair winds
and following seas,
day and night."**

