

The President's Corner By Dan Weber

As I write this, America has seemed to quiet down somewhat from the events of September 11th, 2001. I believe we Americans have and are continuing to show our resolve and greatness. Those military forces that have followed us are scattered around the world combating terrorism and each day we seem to hear good news about their activities. Let us hope and pray that it stays that way and that there will be no further U.S. casualties. Let us also hope and pray that by the time we troop through this country's airports on the way to the Tallyho in Tidewater that we will see less and less of our National Guard and other forces on patrol in the terminals.

Carel Humme and his Merry Men have finalized the activities for our reunion in the Tidewater Area and all indications are that it will be another smashing success. If you have not made reservations for air travel or the hotel it must be done now. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see the details of the reunion and if you need flyers with reunion info give Nate a call or an e-mail message so he can get the info to you. Also don't forget to sign up for the various tours and Don Smock's golf tournament.

Our Treasurer, Bo Ault, will unfortunately be unable to join us in Tidewater. He has been invited to Australia to attend an Aussie-U.S. reunion commemorating the 60th anniversary of The Battle of the Coral Sea. While we in the U.S. hear very little about this battle it is a very important World War II milestone in the Land of Oz because of its proximity and outcome. It is unfortunate that there is this scheduling conflict. Most of you do not know that Bo's father was the Air Group Commander aboard the USS Lexington and did not return from a mission to attack one of the Japanese carriers during the battle. Subsequently an airfield was named after Commander Ault (NAS Whidbey Island/Ault Field, WA) and a destroyer was built during World War II; the USS Ault, DD698. I hope that he has a most interesting time in Oz and will perhaps find some closure.

We will have a business meeting at the reunion and a couple of the items your officers have been talking about, for the membership to discuss include the election of officers for the next term and the location and date of the next reunion. We ask that you give that some thought.

Another item that needs discussion is notification procedures for the loss of a member or his spouse/

companion. What should the protocol be? Some items to be hashed out include when

are flowers required, when are cards required, what sort of notification would be proper after the email has gone out as not all members have access to e-mail.

Another item concerns dues. I know many of you are already Life Members and we all thank you for that. However, we seem to be spending an inordinate amount of time and postage collecting the \$10.00 every year. One suggestion is that we up the annual dues to \$20.00 (still a bargain as you know, if you belong to other reunion groups) and then have a three year rate of \$25.00. Many of us may opt for that and this would substantially reduce postage, phone calls, and time. We look forward to inputs from all the members.

Finally, a belated Happy New Year to all of you and Barb and I look forward to seeing you in Hampton.

Dan



Highlights of the Tidewater Reunion—May 1-5

- Wed. 5/1: Registration, Manager's Cocktail Reception. LIBERTY CALL Dinnertainment at the Historic Boxwood Inn
- Thurs. 5/2: Tour of Battleship Wisconsin, Hampton Roads Naval Museum and Lunch Cruise on board "The Spirit of Norfolk." Ron Webb's POW Presentation, Complimentary Reception with Dinner On Your Own in evening.
- Fri. 5/3: Tour of Hampton Air & Space Museum followed by a tour of Historic Ft. Monroe and the Casemate Museum OR Colonial Williamsburg Overview Tour. Golf Tournament at Langley AFB. Dinner On Your Own in evening.
- Sat. 5/4: Non-denominational Memorial Service in the Chapel at Langley AFB followed by Lunch at the LAFB "O" Club. Large Group Photos and TAC Tankers Business Meeting. Cocktails/Pay as you go Bar and Banquet. Keynote speaker: M/G Talbott, USAF Ret. (a former customer), Prizes & Dancing.
- Sun. 5/5: Free Continental Breakfast and Checkout.

Life Members

James Caddell, Ft. Worth TX -421
David Gruneisen, Belleville OH -429
Emory Morgan, Columbia MS-427
Don Smock, Hampton VA-420, 429

Welcome New Members

Gene Boles, Wyoming DE-421
Bill Goodwin, Denver NC-420, 427
Leonard Hills, Brazil, IN-421, 429
Donald Kane, Ligonier PA-420, 431
James E. Lane, Felton DE-429
Bryce Terrell, Melbourne FL-427
Dal-Jean Whitley, Sherrill's Ford NC-421

